

## **Inventory of United Nations system activities to prevent and eliminate violence against women**

**September 2009**

Prepared by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, on the basis of inputs provided by United Nations entities in July 2007, January 2008, September 2008, February 2009, and September 2009 as part of the activities of the Task Force on violence against women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality.

The inventory is available electronically at  
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw.htm>

## *Introduction*

In February 2008, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, launched his Campaign “UNiTE to End Violence against Women”, 2008-2015. Through the Campaign, the Secretary-General is spearheading the accelerated efforts of the United Nations system to address violence against women. The Framework for Action of the Secretary-General’s Campaign identifies five key outcomes to be achieved in all countries by 2015:

- The adoption and enforcement of national legislation in line with international human rights standards
- The adoption and implementation of multi-sectoral national action plans
- Establishment of data collection and analysis systems
- Establishment of national and/or local awareness-raising campaigns
- Systematic efforts to address sexual violence in conflict situations

This inventory gives an overview of past and ongoing activities on violence against women by the entities of the United Nations system, including those which will contribute to the achievement of the five key outcomes of the Secretary-General’s Campaign by 2015. It is compiled by the Division for the Advancement of Women, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as a contribution to the work of the Task Force on violence against women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality. It is intended to further the objective of the Task Force to pursue systematic and timely information exchange among entities of the United Nations system about existing and planned strategies, programmes and activities on violence against women, at global, regional and national level.

The inventory was first issued in July 2007, when departments and offices of the United Nations Secretariat, regional commissions, funds and programmes, specialized agencies, international financial institutions, as well as the International Organization for Migration, provided a baseline of their activities on violence against women. Subsequently, updates to the inventory were compiled in January 2008, September 2008, February 2009, and September 2009.

The inventory currently provides information on the activities of 36 UN entities, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and six inter-agency efforts. With regard to each entity, information is provided by the date of its submission, beginning with the baseline of July 2007. Where no information was provided by the entity at the baseline in relation to a particular heading, information is provided as of the first date on which relevant inputs were received.

### *Categories of activity used in the inventory*

The entities of the United Nations system address violence against women through research and analysis, as well as policy development. They support Member States and other stakeholders in their efforts and provide services and other assistance to victims/survivors of violence, undertake advocacy and awareness-raising activities, implement innovative projects, as well as provide funding to various stakeholders for their activities.

In this inventory information regarding the work of each United Nations entity is divided into the following seven categories:

*Background:* under this heading, the inventory provides a brief overview of the entity’s general area of responsibility.

*Policy framework:* under this heading, the inventory provides specific mandates – a resolution or decision, and/or policy statement(s) of an intergovernmental/governing body, or similar mandate that guides the work on violence against women of the respective entity, where these exist. General mandates on violence against women that guide the work of the entities of the United Nations system and which are listed below, are not repeated.

*Area(s) of focus:* under this heading, the inventory highlights the particular area(s) of focus of the entity concerned in regard to violence against women. This may cover particular forms of violence against women (for example domestic violence, or trafficking in women), or the particular contexts/situations where violence against women occurs (for example violence against women in humanitarian settings).

*Main activities:* under this heading, the inventory categorizes activities into three sub-headings:

- policy development/research
- operational activities, including capacity-building and training; and
- awareness-raising and advocacy.

*Future activities:* under this heading, the inventory gives an indication of planned or anticipated activities, in particular in follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 61/143 and 63/155 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate violence against women. The list of future activities for each entity is based upon information provided in the most recent update to the inventory of the entity concerned.

*Bibliography:* under this heading, the inventory lists major publications, including videos and films, on violence against women of the respective entity.

*Address/Websites:* under this heading, the inventory provides the entity's address, as well as a general website address, or links to the entity's specific, dedicated sites or pages on violence against women.

#### *Process of updating the inventory*

Information regarding each entity will continue to be updated, as appropriate, on a six-monthly basis, based on information received from United Nations entities.

#### *Policy framework for United Nations system activities*

A number of conventions, policy instruments and resolutions guide the work of the United Nations system in eliminating violence against women, some of which are listed below:

- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women defines gender-based violence as violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately. It recognizes that gender-based violence is a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men (see general recommendation no. 19 (1992)).
- The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) provides a definition of violence against women which was reaffirmed in the Beijing Platform for Action (1995), critical area of concern on violence against women.
- The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (2000), provides a definition of trafficking.
- The outcome document of the five-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in 2000, further expands on measures to eliminate violence against women.
- In the Millennium Declaration, Heads of State and Government resolved to combat all forms of violence against women.
- The United Nations 2005 World Summit (A/RES/60/1) places emphasis on the need to eliminate violence against women.

- Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security emphasizes the need to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict. Security Council resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888(2009) specifically address sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations.
- In past years, the General Assembly regularly addressed aspects of violence against women such as: traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls (A/RES/54/133); domestic violence against women (A/RES/58/147); crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour (A/RES/59/165); trafficking in women and girls (A/RES/63/156); all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" (A/RES/59/167); violence against women migrant workers (A/RES/62/132); eliminating rape and other forms of sexual violence in all their manifestations, including in conflict and related situations (A/RES/62/134); and the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women (A/RES/61/143, A/RES/62/133 and A/RES/63/155).
- Intergovernmental bodies, including the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Human Rights Council, likewise continue to deal with different aspects of violence against women.

Entities of the United Nations system are also guided by bulletins of the Secretary-General, and in particular:

- Bulletin of the Secretary-General on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13)
- Bulletin of the Secretary-General on promotion of equal treatment of men and women in the Secretariat and prevention of sexual harassment (ST/SGB/253).

#### *Note on terminology*

Violence against women, as defined in the 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (A/RES/48/104, 20 December 1993), refers to 'any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life'. This inventory covers work undertaken by the United Nations system on violence against women, whereby the term 'violence against women' is understood to mean any act of gender-based violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately. It does not address gender-based violence suffered by men. The inventory uses the term 'sexual and gender-based violence' where the entity concerned commonly uses this term – this is in particular the case with those working in humanitarian settings. Some entities use the term 'gender-based violence' interchangeably with the term 'violence against women'. The term 'women' is used to cover females of all ages, including girls under the age of 18.

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## Inter-agency mechanisms and activities

### SECRETARY-GENERAL'S CAMPAIGN "UNITE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, 2008-2015"

#### About the Campaign

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On 25 February 2008, the Secretary-General launched his campaign "UNITE to End Violence Against Women", 2008-2015. The campaign provides a collective platform for an unprecedented level of global mobilization to engage a wide range of stakeholders to end violence against women. The campaign focuses on three areas: global advocacy; strengthened efforts and partnerships at national and regional levels; and United Nations leadership by example. The Secretary-General is calling on Governments, civil society, women's organizations, young people, the private sector, artists, the media, the entire United Nations system and individual women and men to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women.

The Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI) serves as the Secretariat of the Campaign. Under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General, supported by a high-level steering committee and OSAGI, a framework for action and a communications strategy for the campaign have been elaborated. To further operationalize the framework, a campaign strategy has been prepared to provide the basis for mobilizing resources and for building alliances.

The framework for action provides an umbrella for activities by multiple stakeholders at global, regional, national and local levels in the course of the multi-year campaign. It identifies five key outcomes as benchmarks for the campaign, to be achieved in all countries by 2015: (a) adoption and enforcement of national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls, in line with international human rights standards; (b) adoption and implementation of multi-sectoral national plans of action that emphasize prevention and that are adequately resourced; (c) establishment of data collection and analysis systems on the prevalence of various forms of violence against women and girls; (d) establishment of national and/or local campaigns and the engagement of a diverse range of civil society actors in preventing violence and in supporting women and girls who have been abused; and (e) systematic efforts to address sexual violence in conflict situations and to protect women and girls from rape as a tactic of war and the full implementation of related laws and policies. United Nations entities are linking a growing range of activities to the campaign.

The campaign is contributing to renewed momentum for action to prevent and address all forms of violence against women. In its first year, 2008, the campaign focused on advocacy, awareness-raising and mobilizing resources to support various activities. At global level, a campaign logo and poster have been developed and a campaign website (<http://endviolence.un.org>) has been launched. Consultations with non-governmental organizations have been held to explore possibilities for partnerships in advancing the campaign, especially at the field level. *Mika*, a play written specifically in support of the campaign, was presented to the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters. The Secretary-General is creating a "network of men leaders" to spearhead advocacy and action at the community, national, regional and global levels. The network includes members from diverse backgrounds, including political, religious and civil society, as well as arts and sports celebrities.

The Secretary-General has encouraged the Heads of United Nations entities to actively contribute to the campaign, and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has invited Resident Coordinators to lead their country teams to further develop the campaign at the local level. The United Nations information centres, based in over 60 countries, are actively promoting the campaign through a diverse array of activities, such as media workshops, panel discussions, performances, photography and art exhibits, marches and film screenings.

**Future activities**

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The Secretary-General's Network of Men Leaders will be launched at United Nations Headquarters on 24 November 2009, as part of the global commemoration of the tenth International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November 2009).

The Terms of Reference for the campaign's regional components in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific are being defined by the Regional Commissions in close collaboration with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other United Nations agencies, leading intergovernmental partners and in consultation with women's and other civil society organizations.

**Address/website**

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<http://endviolence.un.org>

**INTER-AGENCY NETWORK ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY (IANWGE)  
TASK FORCE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**Background**

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The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) brings together the gender equality specialists of all United Nations offices, funds and programmes, and specialized agencies. The Network supports and monitors the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the United Nations General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century” (2000). The Network also supports implementation of gender-related recommendations emanating from other recent United Nations General Assembly special sessions, conferences and summits, especially by ensuring effective co-operation and coordination throughout the United Nations system. The Network acts as a catalyst for, and monitors the use of, the gender mainstreaming strategy in the programmatic, normative and operational work of the United Nations system.

**Policy framework**

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See main instruments above.

**Area(s) of focus**

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Through its Task Force on violence against women, the Network addresses all forms of violence against women, globally, regionally and at the country level. The Task Force will aim to: enhance support to States, at the national level, in their efforts to eliminate violence against women; strengthen systematic and timely information exchange among entities of the United Nations system about existing and planned strategies, programmes and activities on violence against women, at global, regional and national level; achieve an enhanced understanding of resources available from the United Nations system, at the national level, to support work by Governments and non-governmental organizations to prevent and respond to violence against women; and ensure leadership by senior officials of entities of the United Nations system to address violence against women.

In 2008, the Task Force began a joint programming pilot initiative to address violence against women in ten pilot countries: Burkina Faso, Chile, Fiji, Jamaica, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Paraguay, Philippines, Rwanda, Yemen. The initiative brings together all relevant stakeholders at the national level, including Government actors, the UN Country Teams, and civil society stakeholders to harmonize initiatives and budgets, and maximize each stakeholder’s comparative advantage, to end violence against women. The ten pilot countries were selected on the basis of a number of factors, including: support from UN entities for programmes on violence against women; evidence of substantial efforts and commitment at the national level to address and eliminate violence against women; existence of baseline data on violence against women; and a geographical balance of the countries represented. Countries in, or emerging from, conflict and Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Achievement Fund grantees were not considered for inclusion among the pilot countries, as UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict is implementing joint programming in the former and the latter are receiving funds for joint programming on violence against women and related initiatives.

The six steps in the joint programming pilot initiative are:

- **Step 1:** A baseline assessment is conducted to determine: existing initiatives addressing violence against women, including in the areas of law, service-provision, prevention, and data collection; stakeholders involved and their respective capacities and strengths;



existing data on violence against women; gaps and challenges to addressing this issue in a concerted manner; and identified priorities for action.

- Step 2: Based on the baseline assessment, a national multi-stakeholder workshop is held. These workshops are instrumental in developing a multi-sectoral framework that brings together UN system actions in support of national efforts to address violence against women, including in support of the implementation of national action plans on violence against women where such plans exist; or to assist in the development of such plans where they do not yet exist.
- Step 3: A joint national committee is formed, consisting of stakeholders from Government, the UN, and civil society.
- Step 4: The joint national committee drafts a multi-sectoral joint programme proposal which is submitted to various bodies for funding.
- Step 5: Joint programming activities are implemented based on availability of resources.
- Step 6: Monitoring and evaluation is undertaken to identify lessons learned and scale up efforts.

As part of the work plan of the Task Force, the Division for the Advancement of Women compiles and updates the Inventory of United Nations system activities on violence against women twice annually (in February and September) and posts it online.

### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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#### *February to September 2008*

The Task Force on violence against women, co-convened by UNFPA and UN-DAW, commenced implementation of the joint programming initiative on violence against women in the 10 pilot countries.

Between February and September 2008, baseline assessments were completed in Rwanda, and first drafts were completed in Fiji, Paraguay and Kyrgyzstan. National multi-stakeholder workshops to develop joint programming frameworks were held in Jordan, Philippines, Rwanda, Fiji, and Kyrgyzstan. These workshops are instrumental in developing a multi-sectoral joint programming framework that brings together United Nations system actions in support of national efforts to address violence against women, including in support of the implementation of national action plans on violence against women where such plans exist; or to help develop such plans where these plans do not yet exist. Joint national committees consisting of stakeholders from Government, the United Nations and civil society were formed in Rwanda, Philippines, Jordan Kyrgyzstan, Fiji. These committees are responsible for coordinating and providing technical support towards finalization of the joint programming proposals as well as for fundraising, implementation of the various activities, and monitoring and evaluation. Following the national multi-stakeholder workshop, joint programming proposals were developed by the joint national committees in Rwanda and Philippines. These two pilot countries submitted funding proposals in response to the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women 2009 call for proposals.

#### *March to September 2009*

Baseline assessments, as well as national multi-stakeholder workshops on joint programming to develop multisectoral joint programming frameworks, had been initiated or completed in all 10 countries. Joint national committees consisting of stakeholders from Government, the United

Nations and civil society had been formed in all 10 countries. In seven of these countries, joint programming proposals had been finalized by the national committees. Implementation of joint programming activities, led by UNFPA, had commenced in the Philippines and Rwanda. Activities of the joint programming initiative were increasingly linked to the Secretary-General's Campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" at the national level.

### **Future activities**

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Based on the lessons learned during the joint programming pilot initiative, work on a Manual/Guideline on joint programming on violence against women will be initiated in the final quarter of 2009.

### **Address/Websites**

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IANWGE  
2 United Nations Plaza, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, New York, NY 10017  
[www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/)  
[http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/taskforces/tf\\_vaw.htm](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/taskforces/tf_vaw.htm)

## **UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT (UN ACTION)**

### **Background**

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UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action) was launched in 2007 to intensify and better coordinate the UN system's response to sexual violence during and after conflict. It unites the work of 12 UN system entities (DPA, DPKO, OCHA, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, WFP and WHO) to speed up the response of the peacekeeping, humanitarian and development communities to rape and other violations of women's rights in conflict and post-conflict settings.

### **Policy framework**

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In June 2007, the Secretary-General's Policy Committee endorsed UN Action as a UN system-wide initiative to guide advocacy, knowledge building, resource mobilization and joint programming – supporting the recommendations of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security of April 2007.

### **Areas of focus**

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UN Action is (i) supporting a global advocacy effort to galvanize public concern about rape as a method of warfare, (ii) amplifying the UN system's efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence at country level, and (iii) building a knowledge hub. UN Action aspires to build upon existing collaborative efforts, including the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the humanitarian response "cluster system".

### **Policy development/research**

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#### *February to September 2008*

UN Action has published two documents to support the UN system's response to sexual violence in conflict settings. These are posted on UN Action's website:

- Do's and Don'ts: Reporting and interpreting data on sexual violence from conflict-affected countries
- Summary of Ethical and Safety Recommendations for researching, documenting and monitoring sexual violence in emergencies.

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

UN Action implemented DPKO-led research missions to UNMIL, Liberia (September 2008) and MONUC, Democratic Republic of Congo (January 2009), with the aim of finalizing and field-testing an *Analytical Inventory of Responses by Peacekeeping Personnel to War-Related Violence Against Women*. The Inventory catalogues examples of good practice in protecting women from sexual violence, and findings will inform training for uniformed peacekeepers and encourage the development of doctrine on sexual violence response.

UN Action convened a WHO-led experts meeting in Geneva, in December 2008, on "Sexual Violence in Conflict: Data and data-collection methodologies". The meeting resulted in an agreed research agenda and guidance on information-collection that meets ethical and confidentiality requirements, while providing a meaningful evidence-basis of prevalence data and trend analysis to inform effective interventions.

#### *March to September 2009*

Under the aegis of UN Action, WHO was spearheading efforts to develop a standardized instrument and methodology to collect data on the prevalence and trends of conflict-related sexual violence. UNICEF and WHO were leading a process to develop programmatic benchmarks for measuring progress in preventing and responding to sexual violence.

### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

UN Action's advocacy efforts focus on raising public awareness and outrage about rape in war, as well as generating political will from bodies such as the Security Council and Human Rights Council to address rape in war as an issue of international peace and security, and a war crime and gross violation of human rights.

UN Action is providing strategic and technical support to selected UN Country Teams and Peace Keeping Operations to strengthen their efforts to prevent sexual violence, protect women, respond to the needs of survivors, and ensure judicial redress. It is also training a cadre of senior GBV Coordinators.

UN Action is building a knowledge hub, mapping good practice and effective responses to the needs of survivors and their communities

#### *February to September 2008*

In April 2008, UN Action posted a Senior Advisor on Sexual Violence to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) for one year. The Senior Advisor is tasked, *inter alia*, with providing guidance on the development of mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the Government's national strategy on gender-based violence, facilitating and drafting a UN system-wide action plan on sexual violence and monitoring its implementation, leading the process of developing a central standardized information collection and analysis system for sexual and gender-based violence and managing information flows between the national government and the UN system at large.

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

In December 2008, UN Action created a Multi-Donor Trust Fund to pool resources, tightening accountability for joint UN system action against sexual violence in conflict.

UN Action's Senior Advisor on Sexual Violence in MONUC, DRC, developed a *Comprehensive Strategy on Combating Sexual Violence*, a UN system-wide action plan. The Senior Advisor also undertook a mapping exercise in August 2008 of existing and planned activities by international actors on sexual violence. The Senior Advisor collaborated with EUPOL to convene a "day of reflection" in November 2008 on strengthening the capacity of the Congolese National Police to prevent and respond to sexual violence.

UN Action supported the recruitment of a Programme Manager to coordinate the Joint Government-UN Programme on Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Liberia. The Programme Manager reports jointly to the Resident Coordinator and Minister of Gender and Development. UN Action also provided financial support to UNFPA for two UN system-wide gender-based violence coordinators in Darfur, Sudan. UN Action also provided financial support to UNFPA for the training of GENCAP (Gender Stand-by Capacity) Advisers in November 2008.

UN Action hired a recruitment specialist to conduct a global search for gender-based violence programme coordinators/advisers, and a roster of senior and mid-level professionals will be developed.

*March to September 2009*

The *Comprehensive Strategy to Combat Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)* developed by UN Action's Senior Adviser on Sexual Violence in MONUC, DRC, was launched by the UN and the Government of DRC in March 2009 and formally presented to the UN Security Council on 9 April 2009. The Comprehensive Strategy provides a clear framework for addressing sexual violence in the DRC. The Strategy is based on four interlocking pillars: 1) combating impunity for cases of sexual violence; 2) prevention of sexual violence as part of the broader protection of civilians agenda; 3) security sector reform; and 4) multi-sectoral response to improve access of survivors of sexual violence to a range of health, psycho-social, legal and socio-economic services. In April 2009, UN Action undertook an assessment of the effectiveness of its strategic support to addressing sexual violence in the DRC. The assessment concluded that the UN Action network should continue to provide strategic support to MONUC and the UNCT to help operationalize the Comprehensive Strategy.

UN Action continued to finance the Programme Manager for the Joint Government-UN Programme on Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Liberia. The Programme Manager worked to develop management and coordination systems as well as to establish benchmarks to monitor the implementation and impact of the Joint Programme.

The recruitment specialist hired by UN Action continued to develop a roster of senior and mid-level professionals who specialize in work on gender-based violence and are available for rapid deployment to conflict-affected countries.

### **Awareness raising and advocacy**

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*February to September 2008*

In June 2008, UN Action hired an Advocacy and Women's Rights Specialist to lead its advocacy efforts under the banner "Stop Rape Now" (see [www.stoprapenow.org](http://www.stoprapenow.org)).

In May 2008, UN Action co-sponsored a high-level conference at Wilton Park entitled, "Women targeted or affected by armed conflict: What role for military peacekeepers?" Government officials, military commanders, NGO representatives and other experts reviewed front-line military tactics to protect women from sexual violence in armed conflict. In July 2008, UN Action organized a briefing for Heads of military components of peacekeeping operations to discuss outcomes of the Wilton Park conference.

UN Action has developed a PowerPoint presentation on Security Council resolution 1820 (2008) on sexual violence in conflict, to heighten awareness of the implication of the resolution for the work of the UN system. The presentation is available at [www.stoprapenow.org](http://www.stoprapenow.org). In August 2008, UN Action organized a briefing in New York for NGOs around resolution 1820.

*October 2008 to February 2009*

A range of advocacy resources to advance understanding and dissemination of Security Council resolution 1820 (2008) were added to the UN Action 'Stop Rape Now' website.

In response to the use of sexual violence as a tactic of war in the context of the renewed conflict in Eastern DRC, UN Action issued and distributed a joint advocacy statement. In November 2008, UN Action organized a panel discussion on "Sexual violence against women and children in conflict" as part of the Inter-Parliamentary Union – UN Hearing, and prepared a concept note.

UN Action gave briefings to NGOs and to Missions on sexual violence data-collection, including proposals to generate more timely and reliable data, as well as benchmarks for measuring progress.

UN Action convened an OHCHR-led high-level panel on sexual violence in December 2008, as a follow-up to the conference “Women Seeking Justice – Getting Law”, co-financed by UN Action.

#### *March to September 2009*

UN Action continued to develop the *Stop Rape Now* website ([www.stoprapenow.org](http://www.stoprapenow.org)) into an interactive site to mobilize global opposition to rape as a tactic of war. New web features were developed, including an *Updates from the Field* page, which showcases UN Action country-specific efforts to combat sexual violence in Liberia and the DRC. The StopRapeNow site also now permits members of the public to add their image to a global photo montage demonstrating their solidarity with the Secretary-General’s “UNiTE” Campaign and global outrage against sexual violence in conflict. Significant support was garnered following the posting of a photo of UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman displaying the crossed-arm solidarity gesture, along with a personal message. UN Action is encouraging all UN member entities to contribute photos of their respective Goodwill Ambassadors displaying the crossed-arm gesture as a further means of outreach in relation to the initiative. UN Action also created a “Fans of SCR1820” page on Facebook, and a UN Action Twitter page, with links from both sites to the *News* hub on the StopRapeNow website. As at September 2009, there were over 1,380 fans of SCR 1820 on Facebook

As part of the StopRapeNow campaign, and in conjunction with the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, UN Action developed tools on Security Council Resolution 1820, including a poster, notebooks, pins and banner-pens. The poster highlights the Resolution’s demands and identifies five “advocacy asks”, namely: (1) supporting judicial measures to end impunity; (2) training the security sector in sexual violence prevention and response; (3) funding efforts to support services to survivors; (4) sending troops/police – including women – to peacekeeping missions; and (5) demanding women’s full and equal participation in peace-talks. In order to improve collaboration with NGO partners, UN Action chaired a session on sexual violence during the Consultation with Civil Society on the Secretary-General’s UNiTE Campaign on 3 March 2009. This generated a number of creative ideas to advance implementation of Campaign Outcome 5 which calls for: *the widespread and systematic use of sexual violence as a tactic of war to be condemned and systematically addressed by 2015.*

UN Action undertook a number of advocacy events throughout September 2009 to coincide with the presentation of Security Council resolution 1888 on sexual violence in armed conflict, which was adopted unanimously by the Security Council on 30 September 2009.

#### **Future activities**

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In November 2009, the UN Action network intends to launch a Public Services Announcement (PSA) in partnership with a leading New York advertising agency (Draft FCB), uniting UN Goodwill Ambassadors/Messengers for Peace with ‘everyday heroes’ to raise awareness about conflict-related sexual violence, and to popularize the message that sexual violence is unacceptable.

The UN Action network will organize its annual Strategic Management meeting in mid October 2009.

Strategic support is envisaged for Chad and CAR, and an assessment mission is anticipated to take place in late September 2009. A new Senior Adviser on Sexual Violence is under recruitment and should be deployed to the DRC by the end of October 2009.

**Address/website**

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The Secretariat for UN Action is based in UNIFEM – 304 E 45<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10017,  
[www.stoprapenow.org](http://www.stoprapenow.org).

## **UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND IN SUPPORT OF ACTIONS TO ELIMINATED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (UN TRUST FUND)**

### **Background**

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The UN Trust Fund is a leading multi-lateral grant-making mechanism that supports country-level efforts of governments, non-governmental organizations and UN Country Teams to end violence against women and girls. Since it began operation in 1997, the UN Trust Fund has supported 291 initiatives in 119 countries and territories with more than US\$44 million (as of August 2009).

Established in 1996 by UN General Assembly resolution 50/166, the UN Trust Fund is managed by UNIFEM on behalf of the UN system. The UN Trust Fund is governed by its 1996 terms of reference, as well as by multi-year UN Trust Fund strategies. In 1997, UNIFEM established an inter-agency Programme Appraisal Committee (PAC) comprised of UN agencies, leading experts and other stakeholders, as a “consultative mechanism in consideration of the UN Trust Fund’s activities, inter alia to enhance the effectiveness of UN system-wide efforts and aid in the mobilization of additional resources for the Fund”. Since 2005, in addition to convening global inter-agency PACs, UNIFEM has convened sub-regional PACs. There are currently some 20 UN agencies engaged in PACs at the global, regional and sub-regional levels.

The UN Trust Fund 2005-08 Strategy was approved by the global PAC in 2004, introducing measures to strengthen the Fund’s impact, outreach, knowledge base, efficiency and resources. Grant-making focuses on supporting implementation of existing laws, policies and action plans to address the multiple forms of violence against women and girls, helping bridge the accountability between existing commitments and realities on the ground. It also contributes to the achievement of the five key outcomes of the Secretary-General’s Campaign “*UNiTE to End Violence Against Women*”, 2008-2015 with regard to enforcement of national laws, implementation of multi-sectoral action plans, support to data collection systems, enhanced social mobilization and prevention strategies and addressing sexual violence in conflict situations. The UN Trust Fund aims to expand the global knowledge base on effective approaches to end violence against women and girls by supporting the piloting, testing, up-scaling, evaluation, documentation and dissemination of catalytic, innovative and promising initiatives.

The UN Trust Fund operates based on the voluntary contributions of UN Member states, non-profit organizations, foundations, the private sector and concerned individuals.

### **Operational activities, including capacity-building and training activities**

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#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

In November 2007, the UN Trust Fund awarded nearly \$5 million to 29 initiatives in 36 countries in support of effective implementation of national laws, policies and plans of action on ending violence against women, as well as to cutting-edge initiatives addressing the inter-linkages between violence against women and HIV/AIDS.

#### *February to August 2008*

The UN Trust Fund rolled out the 2008 Call for Proposals in April 2008 and disseminated it widely through global and regional networks in five UN languages. Grant applications were invited from governments and civil society organizations, as well as, for the first time, UN Country Teams (UNCTs). 2008’s Call for Proposals received a record number of concept notes and unparalleled funding requests. Technical review teams and fifteen global and sub-regional inter-agency PACs, comprised of UN agencies, leading NGOs and experts on ending violence against women, reviewed the concept notes and invited shortlisted applicants to submit full proposals. Selected



grantees were announced on November 25 2008, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, at a press conference at UN Headquarters.

As part of its' ongoing effort to enhance grantees' capacity in programming and monitoring and evaluation, the UN Trust Fund convened a second workshop on Program Design and Evaluation for seven grantees working on the 'twin epidemics' of violence against women and HIV/AIDS, in collaboration with Johnson and Johnson and with technical assistance from PATH,

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

The results of the 2008 grant cycle were announced on 25 November 2008, at an event with the Secretary-General and UNIFEM's Goodwill Ambassador, Ms. Nicole Kidman. A total of US\$22 million in grants to 28 initiatives in 38 countries and territories were approved, reflecting both multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder interventions. 2008 was the first time that grants reached up to US\$1 million. It was also the first time that United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) were invited to apply, along with the governments and NGOs.

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

In 2007, Member States, private-sector and other donors raised their contributions to the UN Trust Fund, resulting in more than a tenfold increase over the past four years. However, the demand for support continued to far outstrip its resource base, with more than \$105 million in requests received in 2007.

Donors to the UN Trust Fund in 2007 include the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States of America, and UNIFEM national committees in Iceland, Switzerland and the United States. In addition, the UN Trust Fund has benefited from partnerships with the private sector. With the support of Johnson & Johnson, a special window on the interlinkage between violence against women and HIV/AIDS was opened in 2005, and a knowledge cohort of select grantees was set up in 2007. In addition, there have been other modest contributions from private-sector partners such as TAG Heuer, Omega and the London-based advertising agency Leo Burnett. Contributors in 2007 also included non-profit organizations Zonta International and the Transition Network as well as many individual donors who contributed on the occasion of the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the UN Trust Fund.

#### *February to August 2008*

Contributions to the UN Trust Fund by member states, the private sector, foundations and NGO donors have also gained momentum. UNIFEM in collaboration with Avon Products, Inc. convened a global summit in March 2008 wherein Avon Products, Inc. committed \$1 million to the UN Trust Fund – the Fund's largest single, annual, private sector contribution ever.

### **Future activities**

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The Trust Fund issues an Annual Call for Proposals, and the 2009 call is expected to be issued in March 2009, with a deadline for submission of concept notes by mid-April 2009.

In accordance with the current Trust Fund Strategy, grants focus on closing the gap in the implementation of national laws, policies and action plans to address violence against women. In its forthcoming 2009 Call for Proposal, the UN Trust Fund also aims to contribute to the Secretary General's *UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign 2008-2015* specifically by supporting the five key outcomes of the Campaign, i.e. the enforcement of

national laws, the implementation of multi-sectoral action plans, support to data collection systems, social mobilization and prevention strategies, and addressing sexual violence in conflict situations.

Grants may cover policy-oriented analysis and research to identify challenges in the implementation of national laws, policies and action plans, as well as innovative approaches to address such challenges. Grants may also strengthen the capacity of the judiciary, law enforcement and health service providers to address violence against women. A focus is also placed on multi-sectoral partnerships to ensure the implementation and enforcement of national laws, policies and action plans.

## **Resources**

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Report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women - Note by the Secretary-General (A/HRC/10/43 - E/CN.6/2009/10)

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw53/OfficialDocuments.html>

*It's a Global Emergency*. 2008.

[http://www.unifem.org/resources/item\\_detail.php?ProductID=127](http://www.unifem.org/resources/item_detail.php?ProductID=127)

Activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women to eliminate violence against women - Note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2008/9 - A/HRC/7/53)

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw52/OfficialDocuments.html>

*A Life Free of Violence Is Our Right! The UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women*. 10 Years of Investment. 2007.

[http://www.unifem.org/resources/item\\_detail.php?ProductID=83](http://www.unifem.org/resources/item_detail.php?ProductID=83)

*A Life Free of Violence Is Our Right! – Trust Fund Testimonies* (Video), 2007.

Report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women - Note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2007/6)

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw51/OfficialDocuments.html>

Report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the elimination of violence against women (E/CN.6/2006/10)

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw50/documents.htm>

Note by the Secretary-General on Report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (E/CN.6/2005/7)

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw49/documents.html>

Report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the elimination of violence against women (E/CN.6/2004/8)

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw48/documents.html>

*Making a Difference: Strategic Communications to End Violence Against Women*. 2003.

[http://www.unifem.org/resources/item\\_detail.php?ProductID=6](http://www.unifem.org/resources/item_detail.php?ProductID=6)

*Not a Minute More: Ending Violence Against Women*. 2003,

[http://www.unifem.org/resources/item\\_detail.php?ProductID=7](http://www.unifem.org/resources/item_detail.php?ProductID=7)

Report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the elimination of violence against women - Note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2003/11-E/CN.4/2003/121)

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw47/documents.html>

Report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women - Note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2002/13)

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N02/251/89/PDF/N0225189.pdf?OpenElement>

Report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the elimination of violence against women - Note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2001/126)

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N01/241/07/PDF/N0124107.pdf?OpenElement>

*With an End in Sight: Strategies from the UNIFEM Trust Fund to Eliminate Violence Against Women*, 2000,

[http://www.unifem.org/resources/item\\_detail.php?ProductID=14](http://www.unifem.org/resources/item_detail.php?ProductID=14)

Report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the elimination of violence against women - Note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2000/6 )

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N00/282/89/PDF/N0028289.pdf?OpenElement>

Report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the elimination of violence against women - Note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/1999/6)

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N99/012/38/PDF/N9901238.pdf?OpenElement>

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/166 on the role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in eliminating violence against women - Note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/1998/9)

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N98/032/28/PDF/N9803228.pdf?OpenElement>

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/166 on the role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in eliminating violence against women - Note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/1997/8)

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N97/053/63/PDF/N9705363.pdf?OpenElement>

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/166 on the role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in eliminating violence against women - Note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/1996/11)

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N96/046/30/PDF/N9604630.pdf?OpenElement>

#### **Address/website**

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The Secretariat for the UN Trust Fund is based in UNIFEM:

866 UN Plaza, 5th Floor, Room 586-10

New York, NY 10017, USA

[http://www.unifem.org/gender\\_issues/violence\\_against\\_women/trust\\_fund.php](http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/violence_against_women/trust_fund.php)

## **INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE (IASC) SUB-WORKING GROUP ON GENDER AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION**

### **Background**

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The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) is a unique inter-agency forum for coordination, policy development and decision-making involving the key United Nations and non-United Nations humanitarian partners. Together with the Executive Committee for Humanitarian Affairs, the IASC forms the key strategic coordination mechanism among major humanitarian actors.

According to General Assembly resolution 46/182, the IASC is intended to be composed of all operational organizations and with a standing invitation to the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the International Organization for Migration. Relevant non-governmental organizations can be invited to participate on an ad hoc basis.

In December 2006, the IASC Principals converted the IASC Gender Task Force into a Sub-Working Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action and agreed to support the strategy for integration of gender as a crosscutting issue into the Cluster Approach and into other elements of the humanitarian reform. The IASC Sub-Working Group addresses gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, and in humanitarian settings. It is co-chaired by OCHA and WHO. The members of the Task Force are: CARE, FAO, INEE, ICRC, IFRC, IMC, IOM, IRC, NRC, OCHA, OHCHR, Office RSG/IDPs, OSAGI, OXFAM, UNDAW, UNDESA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNMAS, WFP, WHO, and the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. Attempts will be made to broaden partnerships and expand membership.

### **Policy framework**

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See main instruments above. The IASC was established in response to United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/182 on the strengthening of humanitarian assistance. General Assembly resolution 48/57 affirmed its role as the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance.

### **Area(s) of focus**

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The work of the IASC Sub-Working Group on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance focuses on the implementation of a 5 point strategy which is reviewed yearly and revised as needed.

The 5 key objectives for 2008 were to:

- Implement gender and gender-based violence (GBV) standards contained in guidance documents produced by the SWG.
- Build capacity of humanitarian actors on gender issues including gender-based violence (GBV) and deploy experts on gender and GBV in emergencies.
- Get the right data by encouraging the collection and use of sex and age disaggregated data for decision-making.
- Build partnerships with NGOs for increased and more consistent gender equality programming in crises.
- Strengthen accountability systems on gender and GBV in humanitarian action.

The following key objectives were identified for the work of the IASC SWG in 2009:

- Continuation of roll out of key Sub-Working Group Documents, including the “Women, Girls, Boys and Men, Different Needs – Equal Opportunities” Handbook and Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings in a coordinated manner and in several languages.

- Build capacity of humanitarian actors on gender issues, including gender-based violence.
- Support collection and use of sex and age disaggregated data (SADD) for decision-making
- Build partnerships with non-governmental organizations for increased and more consistent gender equality programming in crises.
- Strengthen accountability systems on gender and gender-based violence in humanitarian action
- Strengthen mechanisms for integrating gender and gender-based violence into the work of relevant clusters and other coordination mechanisms including at the regional level

### **Operational activities, including capacity-building and training activities**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

In 2005, the IASC Task Force on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance published Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Emergencies: Focusing on Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence. The Guidelines are a tool for actors in the field to establish a multi-sectoral coordinated approach to gender-based violence programming in emergency settings.

#### *February to September 2008*

Inter-agency regional workshops were held in Bangkok, Nairobi, and Johannesburg to facilitate roll-out of the Gender Handbook.. The Gender-Based Violence Guidelines were translated into Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, French, Spanish, Portuguese

#### *March to September 2009*

The IASC Gender Sub-Working Group (SWG) on Gender and Humanitarian Action, in collaboration with InterAction, developed an e-learning course to help humanitarian workers mainstream gender strategies into their work. This course will provide illustrative examples to teach users how to develop programming that ensures the needs and capacities of women, girls, boys and men are met in humanitarian situations. This course draws on important IASC handbooks, including:

- Women, Girls, Boys and Men, Different Needs – Equal Opportunities
- Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

The IASC Task Force on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance issued a statement of commitment on actions to address gender-based violence, re-emphasizing members' individual and collective responsibility to undertake concerted action aimed at preventing gender-based violence, ensuring appropriate care and follow-up for victims/survivors of sexual violence and working towards holding perpetrators of sexual violence accountable.

### **Resources**

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*IASC Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Emergencies: Focusing on Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence.* 2005

[http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/pageloader.aspx?page=content-subsidi-tf\\_gender-gbv](http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/pageloader.aspx?page=content-subsidi-tf_gender-gbv)

*Women, Girls, Boys and Men - Different Needs, Equal Opportunities: Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action.* 2006

[http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/pageloader.aspx?page=content-subsidi-tf\\_gender-genderH](http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/pageloader.aspx?page=content-subsidi-tf_gender-genderH)

*Broken bodies, broken dreams: Violence against women exposed* (Book of photography on violence against women)

*Our bodies, their battlegrounds* (video)

**Address/Websites**

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IASC

[http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/pageloader.aspx?page=content-subsidi-tf\\_gender-default](http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/pageloader.aspx?page=content-subsidi-tf_gender-default)

## **ECHA/ECPS UN AND NGO TASK FORCE ON PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE**

### **Background**

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The Executive Committees on Humanitarian Affairs and Peace and Security (ECHA/ECPS) United Nations (UN) and Nongovernmental Organization (NGO) Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse was established in February 2005 with the aim of preventing acts of sexual exploitation and abuse and improving response to it when it occurs. OCHA and DFS co-chair this task force that includes more than 35 UN and non-UN entities. This Task Force took up the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises.

### **Policy framework**

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In October 2003, the Secretary-General issued a Bulletin entitled *Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse* (SGB). The SGB stipulates that any acts of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse committed by UN staff members or persons under contract with the UN “constitute acts of serious misconduct and are therefore grounds for disciplinary measures, including summary dismissal.” It also notes that Heads of Departments, Offices and Missions are responsible for “creating and maintaining an environment that prevents sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.” Through the Task Force, members seek to implement this obligation with the benefit of inter-agency collaboration.

### **Areas of focus**

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The work of the Task Force is divided into four focus areas: 1) engagement with and support of local populations, 2) prevention, 3) response systems, and 4) management and coordination.

### **Main activities**

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The Task Force supports the establishment of UN and NGO policies and develops tools so as to assist the humanitarian community in protecting from sexual exploitation and abuse. It has produced, for example, a *Statement of Commitment on Eliminating Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN and non-UN Personnel*, an awareness-raising video *To Serve with Pride: Zero Tolerance for Sexual Exploitation and Abuse*, and a UN strategy on assistance to victims, adopted by the General Assembly in December 2007. Future outputs will include guidance on developing complaints mechanisms, training modules for managers and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) focal points and guidance for implementing the Secretary-General’s Bulletin.

The Task Force also provides strategic and technical support to selected UN Country Teams and peacekeeping operations. In this context, it builds capacity through training, strengthens inter-agency collaboration on PSEA activities, provides guidance on developing victim assistance programmes, and undertakes other related work.

### **Address/website**

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The Task Force’s website is soon to be launched at [www.un.org/sea](http://www.un.org/sea). In the meantime, it can be found at <http://ochaonline.un.org/sea>. The Task Force can be contacted at [seatf@un.org](mailto:seatf@un.org).

## **Secretariat of the United Nations**

### **DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS (DPA)**

#### **Background**

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The mission of the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) is to provide advice and support on all political matters to the Secretary-General in the exercise of his global responsibilities under the Charter relating to the maintenance and restoration of peace and security.

#### **Policy framework**

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See main instruments listed above, in particular Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

#### **Area(s) of focus**

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DPA addresses the issue of violence against women both during and after conflict as part of its overall efforts to achieve gender equality within its conflict prevention, peacemaking and peace-building mandate. The Department also ensures that staff at Headquarters and field missions are informed of and report on the Secretary-General's special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

In April 2007, the Executive Committee on Peace and Security (ECPS), chaired by DPA, discussed the issue of violence against women in the context of conflict, under the lead of UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict. ECPS members endorsed the proposed coordinated approach and stated their commitment to further the work of UN Action. The meeting agreed that Violence against Women in the context of conflict should also be considered a peace and security issue. DPA will soon become a member of the Group on UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict.

#### **Policy development/research**

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##### *February to September 2008*

In July 2008, the Executive Committee on Peace and Security (ECPS), chaired by DPA, discussed the issue of sexual violence in conflict and Security Council Resolution 1820 (2008). ECPS was briefed by the Chairperson of the Steering Committee of UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict on the activities carried out to date, and it was agreed that ECPS would continue to receive regular briefings. The Under-Secretary-General of DPA subsequently sent a note to all ECPS members and relevant field presences requesting them to include a paragraph on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1820 (2008) in their reporting to the Security Council.

#### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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##### *July 2007 to January 2008*

On 25 November 2007, the United Nations Peace-building Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA) Gender Team gave a 2-hour presentation on sexual and gender-based violence to police officers during a workshop on women's rights organized by the Mission's Human Rights Section, in cooperation with UNHCR and UNICEF. The aim of the presentation was to sensitize national police officers on gender-based violence. BONUCA's Civilian Police Section also



conducted training for national gendarme officers on human rights issues and gender-based violence, focusing on their role in eliminating such violence in the Central African Republic.

As part of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) Gender Group, BONUCA contributed to the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) with a proposal focusing on sexual and gender-based violence. BONUCA will be part of a task force on gender-based violence in humanitarian interventions, which was put in place following a workshop, organized by UNFPA, in cooperation with UNICEF, the Inter-agency Standing Committee (IASC) and the Ministry of Social Affairs and National Solidarity, on guidelines for gender-based interventions in humanitarian settings.

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

DPA collaborates with other UN entities in seeking ways to raise awareness of and advocate for the elimination of violence against women. Its peace-support missions work with local NGOs, women's groups and the UN system on the ground in their efforts to raise awareness on this issue at the national level. Violence against women and girls is addressed by the local NGOs and government ministries with whom DPA field missions engage, as one of many issues related to women's empowerment and achievement of gender equality. It covers the spectrum from domestic violence to gender-based violence during conflict. DPA does not have projects or programmes focused on violence against women but works with NGOs in support of their sensitization programmes. The human rights sections of field missions monitor and report on cases of human rights abuses, which may include violence against women.

The United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau's (UNOGBIS) human rights section has regular meetings with local NGOs and women's groups to discuss various issues, including violence and other forms of abuse directed against women. One such meeting was an informal forum with the national network fighting against gender and child violence. UNOGBIS also participated in the first national conference on violence against women organized by this Network on 4 December 2006. The aim of the conference was to sensitize national authorities and the population on social values and violence against women in general, the causes and how to eliminate such violence in the local communities.

DPA peace-support missions hold workshops for government officials, NGOs and women's groups on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol. The missions also assist governments in preparation for reporting under the Convention. UNOGBIS assisted the Government of Guinea-Bissau with the preparation of, and advised on the content of, its initial report under the Convention.

UNOGBIS has broadcast a programme on the Convention on national, private and community radio stations.

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

BONUCA, in cooperation with UNIFEM, carried out sensitization efforts as part of the campaign "16 days of activism against gender violence", in November/December 2007. Radio Ndeke-Louka broadcast an interview conducted with BONUCA's Gender Affairs Officer on 24 November on the objectives and activities of the sensitization campaign. The radio station carried daily reports and interviews with women and men participants at the sensitization meetings, which were held in Bangui and in the three provinces where BONUCA has regional human rights offices (Bouar, Bossangoa and Bambari) to raise awareness among military personnel and civil society. One of the meetings was attended by the First Lady, Mrs. Monique Bozize. In total, more than 2000 persons attended these meetings. During the meetings, a sketch dealing with violence against women was performed, followed by a discussion on ways to reduce and eliminate gender-based

violence in the Central African Republic. Banners, posters and T-shirts with sensitization messages were also used as part of the campaign.

The United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) liaised with other United Nations entities (OHCHR, UNFPA and UNIFEM) on issues relating to women's rights, including violence against women. The Mission also participated in various forums such as the sexual and gender-based violence-Network, chaired by OHCHR, Security Council Resolution 1325 Peace Support Working Group, chaired by UNFPA and the Embassy of Norway, as well as in information sharing and strategy discussions on way to advise and support national mechanisms to address violence against women and girls.

#### *February to September 2008*

In December 2007, the Under-Secretary-General of DPA drew the attention of the heads of all DPA field missions to the initiative – UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, and to the Security Council's Presidential Statement calling on the Secretary-General to include in his reporting to the Council information on violence against women and girls. He noted the Department's commitment to the principles on which UN Action was based, and requested staff's compliance with the Security Council's request.

#### **Future activities**

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DPA will continue to collaborate with other United Nations entities at Headquarters and in the field, and with national authorities, local NGOs, women's groups and the media to sensitize them, and raise awareness about the issue of violence against women and girls.

Field missions will continue to organize training programmes for police, which will include gender sensitivity training and cover the issue of sexual violence against women and girls.

#### **Address/websites**

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DPA  
United Nations, New York, NY 10017  
[www.un.org/Depts/dpa](http://www.un.org/Depts/dpa)

## **DEPARTMENT OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS (DPKO)**

### **Background**

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The mission of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) in the United Nations Secretariat is to plan, prepare, manage and direct United Nations peacekeeping operations so that they can effectively fulfil their mandates under the overall authority of the Security Council and General Assembly, and under the command vested in the Secretary-General. DPKO is a member of UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict.

### **Policy framework**

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See main instruments listed above, and in particular Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

### **Area(s) of focus**

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DPKO works to address all forms of gender-based violence against women, including sexual exploitation and abuse by civilian and uniformed peacekeeping personnel, within in Department's overall mission.

As each functional unit of peacekeeping has direct responsibility for supporting prevention and response to gender-based violence against women, activities vary from mission to mission. Furthermore, many gender units/advisers are building collaboration with partners from the United Nations system for the promotion of gender equality, and on addressing gender-based violence against women.

### **Policy development/research**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

DPKO contributes to policy development in the area of gender-based violence against women through its support to intergovernmental processes, in particular the Security Council. It also works to ensure that adequate policies are in place to prevent and respond to gender-based violence against women in armed conflict, and to protect women against sexual abuse and exploitation.

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

Gender Advisers are making efforts to ensure that regular reports of the Secretary- General to the Security Council highlight steps taken to combat sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). They also support the adoption and implementation of laws to address SGBV at national level. Working in partnership with United Nations Country Teams (UNCT), Gender Advisers are also supporting national partners to develop and adopt national action plans as well as build capacity of national actors to address sexual and gender-based violence.

#### *February to September 2008*

On 19 June 2008, the Security Council adopted resolution 1820 (2008) on women, peace and security, which recognizes the use of sexual violence as a threat to international peace and security.

The DPKO/DFS Policy Directive on Gender Equality in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (November 2006) highlights DPKO/DFS obligation and commitment to address and prevent

sexual and gender-based violence against women in post-conflict contexts, including sexual exploitation and abuse committed by civilian and uniformed personnel.

### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

Gender units in peacekeeping missions increasingly participate in country-based United Nations inter-agency initiatives and mechanisms to address gender-based violence against women, for example in Haiti, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Sudan and Burundi.

Gender units support regional and national initiatives to respond to gender-based violence, for example by working with national machineries for the advancement of women as is the case in Haiti, Timor-Leste, Kosovo and Burundi. A number of gender units/advisers contribute to, or support legal reform processes in the countries concerned. In Sierra Leone, Liberia, Burundi and Haiti, gender units contribute to national consultative processes on reform and adoption of legislation on violence against women generally, or on issues such as rape or domestic violence. Such units/advisers provide support and can serve as key resource persons to national authorities, including ministries of gender equality or justice, or to law reform commissions who spearhead reform processes.

Gender units/advisers collaborate and partner with different units within a peacekeeping mission to combat violence against women, in particular those dealing with human rights, conduct and discipline, children, or HIV/AIDS, as is the case in Burundi. Gender units/advisers work to ensure that women's non-governmental organizations are included in common efforts to combat violence against women, including trafficking, as is the case in Kosovo. Gender advisers encourage increased collaboration between the police, national victim-support organizations and the judicial system, as is the case in Sierra Leone.

Civilian police advisers in missions assist local police in crime prevention and investigation. Gender units/advisers in a number of missions are actively working with civilian police advisers to enhance attention by local police to gender-based violence against women. Successful collaboration has resulted in the establishment of special units within police stations to deal with violence against women, provision of private spaces for women to report gender-based violence, and establishment of safe houses for women victims of violence. Drawing from the experience in Sierra Leone, family support units have been established in Liberia, and similar efforts are under way in Burundi. A pilot project is being finalized in Haiti to create private spaces in police stations for women.

Several missions have supported, or implemented training activities for mission personnel and other stakeholders on gender-based violence against women, as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste.

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

In the field, DPKO Gender Advisers are involved in advocacy, in ensuring United Nations leadership on the issue of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) as well in strengthening national and regional efforts towards combating SGBV. Gender Advisers in peacekeeping missions serve as catalysts to support efforts to address gender-based violence within the work of mission components such as the UN Police (UNPOL), human rights, rule of law and public information, as an important part of their gender mainstreaming strategy. For example, they have partnered with UNPOL to highlight gender-based violence in training for National Police. Working with peacekeeping missions' public information units particularly radio stations, they have also supported national organizations to spearhead campaigns on SGBV. In West Africa, Gender Advisers from missions in Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Liberia (ONUCI, UNIOSIL and UNMIL)

have attended a regional meeting to share best practices and lessons learnt for addressing SGBV.

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

Police advisers in missions study crime trends and assist in creating awareness of the local police and societies through seminars, workshops and targeted training. Gender units have put in place information sharing strategies to enhance knowledge about the status of women in the country and better coordinate support to women, as is the case in Burundi and Cote d'Ivoire, also in collaboration with non-governmental organizations.

Gender units/advisers implement, or support measures to raise awareness about gender-based violence, both within mission personnel and the societies where the mission is stationed. This has included support for campaigns, workshops, meetings and conferences on violence against women. Such efforts have been implemented in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kosovo, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Sudan.

#### *February to September 2008*

In February 2008, DPKO/DFS sent a Code Cable to all DPKO/DFS Field Offices on improved and systematic reporting on sexual violence to the Security Council, as had been requested during the 2007 open debate on resolution 1325 (2000). A further Code Cable was sent in June 2008, following the adoption of Security Council resolution 1820 (2008).

In May 2008, DPKO/DFS partnered with UNIFEM and UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict and organized a conference at Wilton Park on the theme "Women targeted or affected by armed conflict: what role for military peacekeepers?" In June 2008, DPKO/DFS developed Guidelines for integrating gender perspectives into the work of United Nations Police in peacekeeping missions and a checklist of gender equality considerations in addressing sexual and gender-based violence. In August 2008, DPKO/DFS briefed Heads of military components of peace-keeping during their annual meeting at United Nations Headquarters in New York on Security Council resolution 1820 (2008) and the role of the military in its implementation.

### **Future activities**

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In response to Security Council resolution 1820 (2008), DPKO/DFS intends to develop guidance and improved standards for training for all peacekeepers, improved response to sexual violence in conflict and clarity and guidance on the role of United Nations military peacekeepers in protecting women and girls against sexual violence. It will report to the Security Council on progress in implementation.

DPKO/DFS will review and update training materials for pre-deployment training of peacekeepers. In collaboration with UNIFEM, DPKO/DFS will finalize the "Analytical inventory of responses by peacekeeping personnel to war-related violence against women". DPKO/DFS Field Missions will continue collaborating with partners in efforts towards combating violence against women.

### **Address/Websites**

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DPKO  
United Nations, New York, NY, 10017  
[www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko](http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko)  
<http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/CDT/index.html>

## **UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (OCHA)**

### **Background**

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The mission of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors in order to alleviate human suffering, advocate for the rights of all people in need, promote preparedness and prevention and facilitate sustainable solutions. OCHA is a member of UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict.

### **Policy framework**

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See main instruments listed above.

### **Area(s) of focus**

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OCHA is active in coordination, policy setting, information management and advocacy on issues of gender-based violence against women as well as men. Among OCHA's priority activities in the field of protection from sexual exploitation and abuse in humanitarian settings are: monitoring security, defining protection strategies, providing protection and advocating for the implementation and compliance with international instruments, and ensuring accountability and redress. OCHA liaises with security personnel to ensure physical protection of displaced populations, and to ensure that security patrols are initiated to prevent gender-based violence, including sexual violence when displaced women seek to meet their basic needs.

### **Policy development/research**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

As the secretariat for the Humanitarian Coordinator at field level, OCHA ensures attention to gender-based violence and facilitates the implementation of appropriate solutions. When appropriate, OCHA acts as co-chair of the coordinating agencies in regard to prevention of and response to gender-based violence.

OCHA places emphasis on ensuring that its' staff is sensitized to the need to prevent gender-based violence, and that all partners and staff are informed about applicable codes of conduct. The Office implements confidential complaints mechanisms on gender-based violence, including sexual violence against women and is responsible for managing the sexual exploitation and abuse focal point network.

OCHA is a co-chair of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) Task Force on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance. OCHA's role has been to provide support for the development and use of the IASC Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings: Focusing on Prevention of and Response to Sexual Violence in Emergencies. The Office is facilitating the production of an IASC document on members' policies in addressing gender-based violence in order to establish a coordinated programme built on the expertise and capacities of the IASC members.

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

The Secretary-General's report to the Security Council on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (S/2007/643) of 28 October 2007 placed considerable focus on the problem of gender-based violence in conflict as well as highlighted ways for all actors to strengthen their actions based on their mandates. The report called on states to investigate, prosecute and punish

perpetrators. In the case of the armed forces and the police, this should include the commanders under whom they serve if the commanders failed to take measures to prevent the violations. The report also called on humanitarian actors to strengthen and better coordinate their work.

*October 2008 to February 2009*

Following an open debate on 14 January 2009, the Security Council adopted the third edition of the Aide Memoire on the protection of civilians, annexed to the Presidential statement (S/PRST/2009/1), as the result of consultation between the Security Council and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as well as between OCHA and concerned United Nations departments and agencies, and other relevant humanitarian organizations. Intended to facilitate the Council's consideration of protection of civilians, it highlights primary objectives for Security Council action; and offers specific issues for consideration in meeting those objectives. The revised document includes substantive sections on sexual violence; protection of and assistance to women in conflict situations; and the equal and full participation of women in conflict prevention and resolution.

On the occasion of the open debate, the Emergency Relief Coordinator highlighted the significant progress made by United Nations actors in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to develop a comprehensive strategy to combat sexual violence, but also noted that the absence of similar strategies in other contexts where sexual violence was widespread raised important questions of consistency.

The Office is the co-chair of the ECHC/ECPS UN and NGO Taskforce on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. It led the development of field-guidance for the implementation of a victim's assistance programme in accordance with GA resolution 62/214.

### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

*July 2007 to January 2008*

On behalf of the IASC Sub-working group on Gender, OCHA led a pilot workshop in Nairobi for seven country teams from the East African region to build their capacity to implement multi-sectoral gender-based violence programmes in humanitarian settings and to use the Guidelines for gender-based violence interventions in humanitarian settings and the Gender Handbook of the IASC.

OCHA is a founding member of the IASC Steering Committee for the Gender Standby Roster (GenCap) which deploys senior gender advisors to work in humanitarian situations. OCHA supported the GenCap Standby capacity to deploy nine senior gender advisors to the offices of Humanitarian Coordinators to ensure strengthened coordination on programmes to address gender-based violence in conflict and displacement. OCHA participated in inter-agency efforts to develop a standard gender-based violence incident reporting system. OCHA spearheaded efforts along with other members of UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict to pay special attention to the problem of gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as well as follow-up to the UN Action mission to Darfur, Sudan.

*October 2008 to February 2009*

Since 2008, 25 advisors have been deployed through GenCap to 18 humanitarian emergencies.

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

*Baseline 2007*

OCHA's Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN) has produced a number of publications and videos on violence against women in war, and on female genital mutilation.

OCHA contributes to awareness-raising and outreach by informing communities about the availability and value of support services for victims of gender-based violence, including sexual violence. It disseminates information on international humanitarian law to arms bearers.

*July 2007 to January 2008*

The Emergency Relief Coordinator went on mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in September 2007 and placed considerable attention on the problem of gender-based violence. He followed this up with reports to the Security Council and external media coverage. He hosted the meeting of the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and gender-based violence in December 2007 which further directed the United Nations system to support the field operations (MONUC and the UNCT) to accelerate and strengthen their actions to prevent gender-based violence and respond to survivors. Collective efforts also resulted in an improved mandate for MONUC to address gender-based violence.

*October 2008 to February 2009*

OCHA's Policy Development and Studies Branch organized a one-day experts meeting in June 2008 bringing together 27 academics and practitioners in the field of gender-based violence and protection. The meeting reviewed current research on, and identified gaps in relation to two priority topics: 1) Sexual violence in armed conflict: understanding the motivations; and 2) The nature, scope and motivation for sexual violence against men and boys in conflict. Key outputs of the meeting were: 1) Identification of research priorities for the two topics, focusing on areas where improved understanding would facilitate the design of better-informed and more effective strategies for preventing sexual violence in armed conflict; and 2) Identification and agreement on next steps to build on the current knowledge-base and establish communities of practice.

**Future activities**

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OCHA will continue to bring situations of sexual violence in conflict to the attention of the Security Council and support reporting to the Security Council in the framework of resolution 1820 (2008) on women, peace and security.

OCHA will follow up on the results of the expert meeting and in particular will look at strengthening protection and prevention of gender-based violence.

GenCaps will continue to provide coordination and capacity building in humanitarian situations.

**Address/Websites**

OCHA

1 United Nations Plaza, 18<sup>th</sup> floor New York, NY 10017

<http://ochaonline.un.org/>

[www.irinnews.org/](http://www.irinnews.org/)

Inter Regional Information Network, provides news and analysis about sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia for the humanitarian community.



## **DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

### **I. OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ADVISER ON GENDER ISSUES AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (OSAGI)**

#### **Background**

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The Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women (OSAGI), established in 1997 and located within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, supports the Special Adviser in promoting and strengthening the effective implementation of: the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly held in 2000; Economic and Social Council Agreed Conclusions 1997/2 on gender mainstreaming; Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security; and the Millennium Declaration.

#### **Policy framework**

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See main instruments listed above.

#### **Area(s) of focus**

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Within its overall efforts to support and promote the development of new strategies, programmes, policies, methodologies and practical tools and guidelines within the United Nations system to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women in all sectors, OSAGI promotes and participates in inter-agency collaboration to eliminate violence against women.

The Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women (OSAGI) continued to support the development of new strategies, programmes, policies, methodologies and practical tools and guidelines within the United Nations on gender equality and the empowerment of women. OSAGI chairs the Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE).

Since the launch of the Secretary-General's Campaign, "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" in February 2008, OSAGI has served as the Secretariat for the Campaign and is responsible for coordinating core activities and fundraising efforts. (See below on the Campaign).

#### **Policy development/research**

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##### *Baseline July 2007*

OSAGI prepares regular annual reports of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which also addresses the question of violence against women. It coordinated the preparation, and now supports the implementation of a United Nations system-wide action plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). The plan includes steps to prevent and respond to gender-based violence against women in armed conflict.

As part of its work on women, peace and security, OSAGI carries out research and analysis on gender-based violence against women in armed conflict, especially with a view to preparing reports for the Security Council. In collaboration with the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE), OSAGI coordinated the preparation of the Secretary-General's Study on Women, Peace and Security (2002), which also covers violence against women.

##### *October 2008 to February 2009*

OSAGI prepared the annual report of the Secretary-General (S/2008/622) to the Security Council in follow-up to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). OSAGI continued to chair the Inter-Agency Task Force on women, peace and security, which supports the full implementation of resolution 1325. The Office serviced the open debate of the Security Council on 29 October 2008 and organized side events in partnership with other United Nations entities, Member States and NGOs. A photo exhibition “*A Global Crescendo: Women’s Voices from Conflict Zones*” at United Nations Headquarters from 21-31 October 2008 addressed violence against women and girls during armed conflict.

In collaboration with the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), OSAGI organized a virtual dialogue on best practices in national implementation of resolution 1325, in regard to violence against women in conflict and post-conflict situations. As part of its effort to create an online training course on development of national action plans on resolution 1325 for Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa, OSAGI carried out research and analysis of gender-based violence in the relevant regions.

OSAGI continued to work on developing a common set of indicators for monitoring the implementation of resolution 1325 at the international and national levels, and participated in consultations with key United Nations system entities on the development of indicators on gender-based and sexual violence.

OSAGI participates in the work of the task force responsible for preparation of the Secretary-General’s report on Security Council resolution 1820 (2008).

OSAGI, in collaboration with UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNIDO, UNICEF and UNDP, participates in the organization and support of the “International Colloquium on Women’s Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security”, scheduled to take place in Monrovia, in Liberia, from 7 to 8 March 2009.

OSAGI provided substantive contributions to the consultations organized by Member States and United Nations entities on the situation in Democratic Republic of Congo regarding the increase of sexual violence.

OSAGI is collaborating with the Council of Europe to prepare a “Joint study on trafficking in organs and tissues, including trafficking in human beings for the purpose of removal of organs”. A second round of consultations with partners was held in October 2008 in Strasbourg.

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

The Special Adviser raises the question of violence against women in various forums, meetings and during missions, and brings serious and massive violations of women’s human rights to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. OSAGI developed a Leaders’ Advocacy Kit to combat gender-based violence, in collaboration with several entities of the United Nations system.

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

On 25 November 2008, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, OSAGI and UNFPA organized a panel discussion with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. The panel reviewed 15 years (1994-2009) of work of the mandate. OSAGI coordinated the performance of a play, “MIKA”, which highlighted the far-reaching impact of violence against women on individuals and communities. A second performance of MIKA took place at United Nations Headquarters on 1 December.

### **Future activities**

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OSAGI will intensify work to ensure better coordination of initiatives and activities within the United Nations system aimed at addressing violence against women, with the aim of bringing these under the umbrella of the Campaign.

### **Resources**

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*Report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security, S/2005/636. 2005*

*Report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security, S/2004/814. 2004*

*Report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security, S/2002/1154. 2002*

*Women, Peace and Security.* Study submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), United Nations, 2002.

### **Address/Websites**

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OSAGI  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
2 United Nations Plaza, 12th Floor,  
New York, NY 10017  
[www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/)

## **II. DIVISION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (DAW)**

### **Background**

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The Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) advocates for the improvement of the status of women and the achievement of their equality with men. DAW supports the work of United Nations inter-governmental bodies in relation to the promotion of gender equality, such as the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, including through servicing agenda items and discussions on violence against women. DAW was responsible for the preparation of the Secretary-General's in-depth study on violence against women (2006) and undertakes follow-up to General Assembly resolutions adopted pursuant to the study, including General Assembly resolutions 61/143, 62/133 and 63/155.

### **Policy framework**

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See main instruments listed above.

### **Area(s) of focus**

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DAW undertakes research and analysis, and prepares policy recommendations on all forms of violence against women. It also organizes expert group meetings in order to identify best practices in addressing violence against women. DAW acts as co-chair of the IANWGE Task Force on violence against women, along with UNFPA, and functions as the secretariat of the Secretary-General's database on violence against women. As a member of the Working Group on the Secretary-General's Campaign "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women", chaired by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, DAW contributed to a number of aspects of the campaign. Since October 2008, DAW has produced a quarterly newsletter, "Words to Action" designed to disseminate information about measures undertaken to address violence against women by: intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations; expert bodies, including the human rights treaty bodies; entities of the United Nations system; and States at the regional or sub-regional level. DAW continues to promote and disseminate the Secretary-General's in-depth study on violence against women, which is now available in book form in English, French and Spanish, and online in mimeographed form in Arabic, Russian and Chinese.

### **Policy development/research**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

DAW conducts research and analysis and regularly prepares reports of the Secretary-General, in response to inter-governmental mandates, seeking inputs from governments and other stakeholders on progress made and obstacles encountered, and on good practices and lessons learned. Reports cover all forms of violence against women, as well as particular aspects such as trafficking in women, traditional practices harmful to women and girls, and violence against women migrant workers. DAW was responsible for the preparation, and now supports the follow-up to the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women (A/61/122/Add. 1 and Corr.1). These reports, including policy recommendations, serve as basis for discussion and action by Governments, in particular the Commission on the Status of Women and the General Assembly.

DAW organizes expert group meetings on violence against women. Recent examples include:

- Expert Group Meeting on "Elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child", Florence, Italy, September 2006 (in collaboration with UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre);

- Expert Group Meeting on “Violence against women: a statistical overview, challenges and gaps in data collection and methodology and approaches for overcoming them”, Geneva, Switzerland, April 2005 (in collaboration with ECE and WHO);
- Expert Group Meeting on “Good practices in combating and eliminating violence against women”, Vienna, Austria, May 2005 (in collaboration with UNODC);
- Expert Group Meeting on “Trafficking in women and girls”, Glen Cove, USA November 2002 (in collaboration with UNODC).

*July 2007 to January 2008*

DAW prepared reports of the Secretary-General to the sixty-second session of the General Assembly on intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women (A/62/201) and violence against women migrant workers (A/62/177); as well as reports of the Secretary-General to the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women on ending female genital mutilation (E/CN.6/2008/3) and forced marriage of the girl child (E/CN.6/2008/4).

In follow-up to General Assembly resolution 61/143, DAW, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE) and the United Nations Statistics Division, organized an expert group meeting on “Indicators to measure violence against women”, Geneva, Switzerland, October 2007. DAW and UNSD are supporting a joint dialogue of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Statistical Commission, on 28 February 2008, to discuss the outcomes and proposed indicators of the expert group meeting. DAW has initiated work for the development of a coordinated database on violence against women, as requested by the General Assembly (A/RES/61/143, para. 19).

*February to September 2008*

DAW prepared reports of the Secretary-General to the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women (A/63/214), trafficking in women and girls (A/63/215), and eliminating rape and other forms of sexual violence in all their manifestations, including in conflict and related situations (A/63/216).

In September 2008, DAW sent a questionnaire to Member States on measures undertaken to address violence against women, for the purpose of obtaining information for the Secretary-General’s database on violence against women (A/RES/61/143, para. 19).

In collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), DAW organized an expert group meeting on good practices in legislation on violence against women at the United Nations Office at Vienna, from 26 to 28 May 2008. The report of the expert group meeting includes a model framework for such legislation with detailed recommendations and explanatory commentaries containing examples of good practice.

*October 2008 to February 2009*

DAW worked to finalize the development of the Secretary-General’s database on violence against women and the website for the database, as well as to coordinate the launch of the database. It also followed up with Member States in order to obtain further responses to the questionnaire for inclusion in the database. DAW identified experts and undertook research in preparation for an expert group meeting on legislation on harmful practices.

*March to September 2009*

The Secretary-General’s database on violence against women was launched by the Deputy Secretary-General at an event convened by DAW on 5 March 2009. The database provides the first “one-stop site” for information on measures undertaken by Member States to address

violence against women, including their: legal frameworks; plans, strategies and policies; institutional mechanisms; preventative measures, including awareness-raising, and training; and services for victims/survivors. As at September 2009, 81 responses to the questionnaire, which provides the primary source of information for the database, had been received, and DAW was working to input further information based on Member States' responses to the questionnaire on the occasion of the fifteenth review of the Beijing Platform for Action.

In collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), DAW organized an expert group meeting on legislation on harmful practices, which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 May 2009. The report of the meeting will supplement the model framework for legislation developed in 2008 with specific recommendations and commentaries in relation to legislation on the forms of violence against women referred to as "harmful practices", including child and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, and so-called "honour" crimes.

DAW released the advance version of its' Handbook for legislation on violence against women (2009). The Handbook, which contains a foreword by Deputy Secretary-General, Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, intends to provide all stakeholders with detailed guidance to support the adoption and effective implementation of legislation which prevents violence against women, punishes perpetrators, and ensures the rights of survivors everywhere. It is specifically hoped that the Handbook will be of use to government officials, parliamentarians, civil society, staff of United Nations entities and other actors in their efforts at ensuring that a solid legal basis is in place for tackling the scourge of violence against women. DAW also uploaded three videos on its' website containing discussions on legislation on violence against women.

DAW prepared reports of the Secretary-General to the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly on intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women (A/64/151) and violence against women migrant workers (A/64/152).

### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

#### *Baseline July 2007*

DAW convenes training activities and workshops on women's human rights for government officials, judicial officers and representatives of civil society, at national and regional level. For example, DAW has convened judicial colloquia on the application of international human rights law at the domestic level in Santiago, Chile, 2005, Nassau, The Bahamas, 2004, Arusha, Tanzania, 2003, Bangkok, Thailand, 2002 and Vienna, Austria, 1999, which have addressed the issue of violence against women. In addition, a recent regional training workshop conducted in Bangkok, Thailand, 2006 on follow-up to concluding comments of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, included violence against women as one of the three areas of focus. Events such as the foregoing serve to highlight legislative and judicial approaches in addressing violence against women, provide opportunities for exchanging experiences and enhancing cooperation among different stakeholders in efforts to eliminate violence against women. DAW also has a programme of support to countries emerging from conflict (Sierra Leone, Liberia, Haiti and Afghanistan) to enhance their capacity for implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Beijing Platform for Action. Violence against women is regularly addressed under the framework of this programme.

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

DAW, in cooperation with ESCWA's Centre for Women, convened a regional capacity building workshop on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women for judges and parliamentarians from 13 countries in Western Asia, in Amman, Jordan, in October 2007. The meeting focused on follow-up to the Secretary-General's study on violence against

women and General Assembly resolution 61/143, and on family law. DAW participated in a regional conference on legal reform on domestic violence in Sofia, Bulgaria, in February 2008.

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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#### *Baseline 2007*

DAW made available information on violence against women through its website, especially in relation to the Secretary-General's in-depth study on violence against women and its follow-up, provided briefings on the work of the United Nations in the field of violence against women, and organized panel discussions and other outreach activities. DAW widely disseminated the Secretary-General's study, including at the national level to national machineries for the advancement of women and to United Nations resident coordinators/ representatives. DAW had organized several panels on violence against women, including a panel to launch the study in October 2006; a panel discussion on "Galvanizing action towards ending violence against women" to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, November 2006; and an interactive panel on "Elimination of all forms of violence against women: follow up to the Secretary-General's in-depth study at national and international levels", during the 51<sup>st</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women, March 2007.

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

DAW compiled information about recent activities of the entities of the United Nations system in follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 61/143 and 62/133, to complement the Inventory of United Nations system activities on violence against women, which was uploaded on the DAW website in July 2007.

#### *February to September 2008*

DAW co-sponsored, together with the Permanent Missions of Canada and of Finland to the United Nations, the presentation of the book "Violence against Women: An International Perspective" which presents comparative results for nine of the countries which have implemented the International Violence Against Women Survey (IVAWS).

DAW completed the first issue of *Words to Action*, a quarterly newsletter designed to disseminate information about measures undertaken to address violence against women by: intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations; expert bodies, including the human rights treaty bodies; entities of the United Nations system; and States at the regional or sub-regional level.

DAW produced a brochure on the database on violence against women and the related questionnaire, which was distributed to Member States during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly and is available online.

DAW participated in the closing conference of the Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence, in Strasbourg, France, in June, and in the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Violence, Abuse and Trauma in California, United States of America, in September 2008.

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

DAW continued to promote and disseminate the 'Model Framework for Legislation on Violence against Women', developed by an expert meeting it convened in May 2008, including through presentations at: UNICEF's Expert Consultation on 'Legislative Reform to Achieve Human Rights', held in New York, on 18 November 2008; the Third Conference for Members of Parliamentary Committees on the Status of Women and other Committees Dealing with Gender

Equality, convened by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva, from 2 to 4 December 2008, on 'A parliamentary response to violence against women'; the OSCE Experts' Seminar on 'Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence against Women', held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, from 20 to 22 October 2008; and a round table discussion on domestic violence legislation in Tajikistan, held at the United Nations Office in Tajikistan on 23 October 2008.

Issue # 2 of *Words to Action*, DAW's quarterly newsletter on violence against women, was produced with a feature article on legislation.

On 4 March 2009, during the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women, DAW organized a joint dialogue of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on "*Addressing violence against women through legal reform*".

Issues # 3 and 4 of *Words to Action* were produced, with feature articles on the Secretary-General's Campaign "UNiTE to end violence against women" and the IANWGE Task Force's joint programming pilot initiative, respectively.

### **Future activities**

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DAW will continue to undertake activities to promote comprehensive legislation on violence against women, including through convening technical cooperation workshops, in collaboration with ECE, for six countries in Africa in December 2009.

DAW will finalize the report of the expert group meeting and supplement to the Handbook for legislation on violence against women, on legislation to address harmful practices. DAW will then publish the Handbook for legislation on violence against women, along with the supplement, in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian.

DAW will continue to update the Secretary-General's database on violence against women with information provided by Member States, as well as information available through UN entities.

### **Resources**

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*Handbook for legislation on violence against women* (2009).  
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/v-handbook.htm>

*Secretary-General's database on violence against women*: [www.un.org/esa/vawdatabase](http://www.un.org/esa/vawdatabase)

*Ending violence against women: from words to action*. Study of the Secretary-General. United Nations Publication, Sales No. E.06.IV.8, 2006.

*Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women* (A/62/201, A/63/214, A/64/151), Reports of the Secretary-General

*Violence against women migrant workers* (A/60/137 and A/60/137/Corr.1, A/62/177, A/64/152), Report of the Secretary-General

*Trafficking in women and girls* (A/59/185, A/63/215), Reports of the Secretary-General

*Eliminating rape and other forms of sexual violence in all their manifestations, including in conflict and related situations* (A/63/216), Report of the Secretary General



*Good practices in combating and eliminating violence against women.* Report of the expert group meeting  
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/vaw-gp-2005/docs/FINALREPORT.goodpractices.pdf>

*Violence against women: a statistical overview, challenges and gaps in data collection and methodology and approaches for overcoming them.* Report of the expert group meeting  
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/vaw-stat-2005/docs/final-report-vaw-stats.pdf>.

*Trafficking in women and girls.* Report of the expert group meeting  
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/trafficking2002/reports/Finalreport.PDF>.

*Elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child.* Report of the expert group meeting  
[http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/elim-disc-viol-girlchild/EGM%20Report\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/elim-disc-viol-girlchild/EGM%20Report_FINAL.pdf)

*Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century (E/CN.6/2005/2).* Report of the Secretary-General

#### **Address/Websites**

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Division for the Advancement of Women  
United Nations New York, NY, 10017  
General email: [daw@un.org](mailto:daw@un.org)  
Secretary-General's database on violence against women email: [vawdatabase@un.org](mailto:vawdatabase@un.org)

DAW website on violence against women: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw>

Secretary-General's database on violence against women: <http://www.un.org/esa/vawdatabase>

### **III. UNITED NATIONS STATISTICS DIVISION (UNSD/DESA STATISTICS)**

#### **Background**

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The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) has four main functions: 1) the collection, processing and dissemination of statistical information; 2) the standardization of statistical methods, classifications and definitions; 3) implementation of the technical cooperation programme; and 4) the coordination of international statistical programmes and activities.

#### **Policy framework**

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The Beijing Platform for Action invited national, regional and international statistical services to develop improved data on the victims and perpetrators of all forms of violence against women (para. 206 (j)).

#### **Area(s) of focus**

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UNSD contributes to strengthening the knowledge base on violence against women through statistical analysis and dissemination. Its five-yearly publication, *The World's Women 2000: Trends and Statistics*, contains a section on violence against women. The 2005 edition, *The World's Women: Progress in Statistics*, describes the current state of statistics on violence against women and identifies gaps and challenges. Since February 2008, UNSD has supported the work of the United Nations Statistical Commission to develop an agreed set of indicators on violence against women.

#### **Policy development/research**

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##### *February to September 2008*

The United Nations Statistical Commission, at its thirty-ninth session held in February 2008 in New York, approved the formation of a "Friends of the Chair" group to conduct an in-depth technical review of proposed indicators to measure violence against women, and requested the group to report back to the Commission at its fortieth session. The work of the group is based on the proceedings of the Expert Group Meeting on Indicators to Measure Violence against Women, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 8-10 October 2007. The group consists of representatives from eight Member States (Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Ghana, Italy, Mexico and Thailand), and is chaired by Mexico. Observers include representatives from United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the World Health Organization. The Statistical Division is providing substantive and technical support to the Group.

##### *March to September 2009*

UNSD commenced a trial compilation of national statistics on violence against women, pursuant to the Statistical Commission's request in its decision 40/110 on gender statistics (2009).

#### **Future activities**

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UNSD will provide substantive and technical support for a meeting of the Friends of the Chair group in December 2009, at which members of the group will further discuss the set of indicators adopted as an interim set by the Statistical Commission in March 2009.

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## Resources

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*The World's Women 2005: Progress in Statistics*. Social Statistics and Indicators Series K No. 17 (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.K/17), United Nations New York, NY, 2006, with a section on violence against women. The publication is available for download at:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/indwm/wwpub2005.htm>.

*The World's Women 2000: Trends and Statistics*. Social Statistics and Indicators Series K No. 16 (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.K/16), United Nations New York, NY, 2000, with a section on violence against women. The publication's main findings are available for download at:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/indwm/wwpub2000.htm>.

*Manual for the Development of a System of Criminal Justice Statistics*. Studies in Methods Series F No.89 (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/89) United Nations, New York, 2003. The manual is available for download at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?mysearch=criminal>.

## Address/Websites

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Statistics Division  
United Nations New York, NY, 10017  
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/>

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION (DPI)**

### **Background**

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The mission of the Department of Public Information (DPI) is to help fulfil the substantive purposes of the United Nations by strategically communicating the Organization's activities and concerns to achieve the greatest public impact. To achieve this goal, DPI holds close consultations with some 50 United Nations departments and offices and 26 field missions, which are identified as its clients.

### **Policy framework**

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See main instruments listed above.

### **Area(s) of focus**

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DPI's work on ending violence against women can be divided by its three divisions, Outreach, News and Media, and Strategic Communications.

The Outreach Division provides services to delegations, liaises with civil society and facilitates events and activities for the general public. UN Chronicle has prepared features on violence against women; CyberSchoolBus has a briefing paper on the girl child; UN Works has created a series profiling women activists, many of which relate to work on violence against women.

The News and Media Division delivers timely, accurate, objective and balanced news to the world media. Its Internet Service, which encompasses the Internet language units, is one of the most heavily visited areas of the United Nations site. The United Nations News Centre covers the Commission on the Status of Women and other relevant events, and promotes statements of all high-level officials on violence against women, in addition to statements in the field by humanitarian or human rights officials. The Radio and Television Service produces programming on violence against women, relating to sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women or the Commission on the Status of Women, special events such as the anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), or International Women's Day, with a focus on violence against women.

The Strategic Communications Division devises and disseminates United Nations messages around priority themes and designs and executes issue-driven promotional campaigns. The Peace and Security Section places emphasis on women during the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process by peacekeeping missions; it supports the public information components of individual missions in their communications work on women affected by armed conflict, pointedly publicizing that rape during conflict is a war crime, and advocating against human trafficking. Public information components also engage in campaigns against sexual exploitation and abuse by UN personnel. The Development Section works directly and regularly with the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women on promoting their activities, which include those on violence against women. Promotional efforts may be associated with the observance of International Women's Day, the launch of reports, such as the Secretary-General's in-depth study on violence against women, or sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. On occasion, the Section may assist UNIFEM, as it did in 2006 in distributing materials on the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence campaign. The Palestine and Human Rights Section works directly with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, including the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, as well as the New York Office. The Section is the focal point for issues relating to Palestinian women.

## Awareness-raising and advocacy

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### *July 2007 to January 2008*

In November 2007, to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, DPI's Development Section worked in collaboration with UNIFEM to produce an e-mail campaign with electronic cards which aimed to engage new audiences. The UN Information Centres mobilized civil society partners to focus on the issue, particularly around the International Day and the campaign '16 days of activism against gender violence'. Several Information Centres, including those in Asunción, Bogotá, Baku, Cairo, Lima, and Lusaka, developed special campaigns and radio and television programmes, and held press conferences, seminars and educational forums. Africa Renewal magazine issued an article on the realities faced by millions of African women, also noting grassroots work being undertaken to address violence against women; this article is also being offered for placement in regional newspapers. UNTV produced several stories that were offered to broadcasters through their series "UN in Action" and "21<sup>st</sup> Century", including features on honour killings in Turkey, domestic violence in Nepal and the prevalence of rape in Burundi. UN Radio produced various stories which included attention to violence against women, including in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Iraq. A dozen stories were featured on the high-traffic UN NewsCentre website, with headlines ranging from "*When women are empowered, all of society benefits – Migiro,*" to "*Sexual violence against women in DR Congo amounts to war crime: UN expert*". Several press releases highlighted the seriousness of the issue, including the visit of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Yakin Ertürk, to the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Outreach Division, through the New York Festival/UN DPI Awards, has been encouraging filmmakers to publicize this issue by granting awards to several films highlighting women's conditions globally.

### *February to September 2008*

DPI provided communications support for the launch of the Secretary-General's Campaign "UNiTE to end violence against women", on 25 February 2008, including generating awareness about the role of the United Nations in efforts to end violence against women. DPI coordinated an inter-agency communications group and produced multimedia information materials on the issue. Guidance on the campaign was disseminated to field offices to ensure that the communications campaign is prioritized and adapted at the country level in the months to come, in close collaboration with UN Country Teams. The Department's network of UN Information Centres (UNICs), based in over 60 countries, participated in promoting the launch. DPI also developed a visual identity and slogan. It created a website in the official languages for the launch ([www.endviolence.un.org](http://www.endviolence.un.org)), with inter-agency information and links to United Nations documents, webcasts and resources. The Department issued press releases for the launch and produced several radio stories for the campaign, and highlighted inter-agency efforts to address violence against women. The *News Centre*, a website for journalists worldwide, issued multiple stories which were picked up by the press. DPI provided live coverage of the launch of the campaign, along with the noon press briefing and the lunchtime panel discussion. The i-Seek Intranet site highlighted the Secretary-General's Campaign and violence against women issues.

Substantial media coverage was generated by the launch of the campaign in the international and regional press, including the on-line editions of *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Fox News* and *San Francisco Chronicle* among US media, and the *International Herald Tribune*, *The Guardian* (UK), *De Standaard* and *El Mundo* internationally. The launch was covered extensively by influential wire services and national media as well.

Along with the broadcast network HBO, DPI co-sponsored film screenings at New York's New School on 12 April 2008, and included a panel discussion on sexual violence. UNTV produced several television stories that were offered to broadcasters through its series "UN in Action" and "21<sup>st</sup> Century", including features on violence against women in Nepal, women's rights in Rwanda

and female infanticide in India. DPI's quarterly journal *UN Chronicle* published a story on UNIFEM's partnership with Avon in order to raise money to fight violence against women. *Africa Renewal* carried in-depth stories on violence against women focusing on Africa. More than 30 stories were also featured on the high-traffic UN News Centre website, including "[Ban leads call for greater efforts to end 'silent war' of sexual violence in conflict](#)" and "[Time to turn commitment to ending gender-based violence into action – Migiro](#)"

*October 2008 to February 2009*

On 17 November 2008, the Secretary-General appointed Academy Award-winning actress Charlize Theron as United Nations Messenger of Peace, tasked with promoting efforts to end violence against women. DPI facilitated a press conference in New York to announce the appointment, in which Ms. Theron participated. Resulting media coverage included pieces in *The Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, *Reuters*, *Pretoria News*, *The Times of India*, *Xinhua*, *People Magazine*, and *Marie Claire Magazine*.

DPI undertook activities to promote the campaign on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November 2008).

*March to September 2009*

During the reporting period, DPI worked to promote the Secretary-General's Campaign, "UNiTE to End Violence against Women". Following the launch of the Campaign, DPI's efforts focused on: raising awareness of violence against women globally; mobilizing public opinion to urge decision-makers to implement or change policies, in order to end violence against women; and generating awareness about the role of the United Nations in efforts to end violence against women. DPI's network of UNICs actively participated in promoting the Campaign at the national and regional levels, including through work with governments, students and civil society. UNICs organized diverse activities such as media workshops, panel discussions, performances, photography exhibits, art exhibits, and film screenings. DPI also worked to further develop a visual identity for the campaign, as well as a campaign slogan, a campaign poster, a campaign ideas brochure, and a brochure setting out the campaign's *Framework for Action*. The campaign website was updated on a regular basis in the six official UN languages.

A segment on domestic violence, entitled *Austria: Showing the Red Card*, was completed for the "21<sup>st</sup> Century" television series, and over 20 new radio programmes related to the themes of ending violence against women and promoting gender equality were produced.

The International Women's Day (8 March 2009) was used to highlight the campaign, with the theme of "Women and Men United to End Violence against Women and Girls." DPI carried out promotional activities and media outreach to promote the day at UN Headquarters and around the world, including through the dissemination of information materials and the organization of press conferences. DPI also facilitated the placement of op-eds by the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights for International Women's Day; these were published in major publications in all regions, particularly Europe, North America and Latin America. The Secretary-General's message for International Women's Day was picked up in articles carried in *Xinhua*, *Associated Press*, *Agence France Press*, *Voice of America* and *Al-Jazeera*.

## **Resources**

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*21<sup>st</sup> Century television series*

Austria: Showing the Red Card (domestic violence)

[http://www.un.org/av/unfamily/21stcentury\\_27.html](http://www.un.org/av/unfamily/21stcentury_27.html)

### *UN Radio (selected stories)*

The following radio stories on aspects of violence against women are available for downloading in MP3:

- 8 April 2009: Engaging men and boys in gender equality  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/detail/72597.html>
- 26 November 2008: On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, a renewed commitment to ending abuse of women and girls:  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/detail/35305.html>
- 21 November 2008: Charlize Theron becomes the newest United Nations Messenger of Peace <http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/detail/35343.html>
- 26 February 2007 - Gender equality must remain the mandate of the entire UN family: DSG
- 24 November 2006 - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women: UNIFEM Director Says There Is a Big Increase in Laws Against Domestic Violence
- 25 November 2005 - International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- 08 March 2007 - UNIFEM Links Development to Ending Violence against Women
- 10 October 2006 - Public Service Providers and Government Institutions Join Forces in Combating Violence Against Women
- 13 September 2006 - Preventing Sexual Violence Against Women
- 28 June 2006 - Violence Against Women, A Human Rights Issue
- 03 March 2006 - Sudanese Women on Violence against Women in Darfur
- 27 February 2006 - Top UN Agency Officials Urge End to Violence in DRC
- 28 October 2005 - Security Council Condemns Sexual Violence against Women
- 10 October 2006 - Congolese Armed Forces Remain Main Human Rights Violators in DRC: UN
- 24 November 2005 - WHO Report on Domestic Violence
- 15 May 2007 - Arbour Urges DRC Authorities to Fight Against Impunity
- 11 October 2006 - UN Report Shows Most Member States Without Laws to Protect Women from Violence.

### *UN News Centre*

Examples of DPI's coverage of violence against women include:

- 24 November 2006 -- UN joins in 16-day campaign to fight violence against women
- 15 January 2007 -- Women and girls must be protected from violence, UN official tells rights committee
- 26 October 2006 -- Security Council highlights women's role in peace process, urges more involvement
- 8 March 2007 -- UN must take lead in eradicating violence against women, Ban Ki-moon says
- 7 March 2007 -- Security Council reaffirms key role of women in conflict prevention and resolution
- 5 March 2007 -- UN officials press for urgent action to end human trafficking, a 'modern-day slave trade'
- 24 February 2007 -- UN's all-female formed police unit can help maintain peaceful Liberia – envoy
- 16 February 2007 -- UN marks 10th anniversary of fund to end violence against women with call for action
- 18 October 2006 -- Sexual violence against women and children remains a major concern in Liberia:
- 15 September 2006 -- Spotighting 'cancer' of sexual abuse in DR Congo, UN aid chief calls for global pressure

- 10 October 2006 -- UN officials urge global backing for Annan's report on violence against women
- 9 October 2006 -- Annan calls for more political will to combat scourge of violence against women
- 7 September 2006 -- UN humanitarian chief promises justice for victims of sexual violence in DR Congo
- 5 May 2006 -- UN joins inquiry into reported sex abuse by African Union troops in Darfur
- 28 April 2006 – UN Security Council strongly condemns violence against civilians in wartime
- 10 April 2006 -- Granted Seville culture award, Annan donates proceeds to project helping women (victims of violence in DRC)
- 17 March 2006 -- AIDS scourge in Africa shows urgent need for new women's agency: US envoy
- 6 February 2006 – UNICEF hails progress toward ending female genital mutilation

*Links to special events organized by United Nations Information Centres (selected)*

UNIC Accra: [http://accra.unic.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=69&Itemid=73](http://accra.unic.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=69&Itemid=73)  
 UNIC Ghana: [http://accra.unic.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=69&Itemid=73](http://accra.unic.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=69&Itemid=73)  
 UNIC Lagos:  
<http://lagos.unic.org/content/view/56/76/>  
 UNIC Tripoli: [http://tripoli.unic.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=59&Itemid=73](http://tripoli.unic.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=59&Itemid=73)  
 UNIC Yaounde:  
<http://unic.un.org/imu/recentActivities/category/Yaounde.aspx>

**Address/Websites**

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Website for the Secretary-General's Campaign *UNite to End Violence against Women*:  
<http://endviolence.un.org>  
 International Women's Day: <http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2009/>  
 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women:  
<http://www.un.org/events/women/violence/2008/index.shtml>



## **OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR)**

### **Background**

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The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), guided by the mandate provided by General Assembly resolution 48/141, works to promote and protect the enjoyment and full realization, by all people, of all rights established in the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights instruments. It also undertakes, inter alia, to follow-up the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (1993), the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (2001) and the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document.

As reflected in the OHCHR Strategic Management Plan for 2006-2007 and in her Plan of Action, the High Commissioner for Human Rights is committed to placing gender and women's rights at the core of the work of the Office as a whole. To this end, a Women's Human Rights and Gender Unit was established in 2006.

Institutionally, OHCHR is committed to strengthening the United Nations human rights programme and to providing it with the highest quality support. OHCHR is committed to working closely with its United Nations partners to ensure that human rights form the bedrock of the work of the United Nations.

### **Policy framework**

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See main instruments listed above, as well as gender-related resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, Security Council and Human Rights Council, and relevant subsidiary bodies.

### **Area(s) of focus**

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The mission of OHCHR is to work for the protection and promotion of all human rights for all people; to help empower people to realize their rights; and to assist those responsible for upholding such rights in ensuring that they are implemented. In carrying out its mission with respect to violence against women, and within the overarching strategies to ensure country engagement, leadership, partnership, and support and strengthening of the Office and the human rights machinery, OHCHR is focusing on:

- Gender sensitive administration of justice, through the provision of expert legal analysis of international (and, where appropriate, regional and national) jurisprudence with commentary, relating to the effective prosecution of gender-based violence as well as legal analysis of obligations in relation to social and economic rights and the impact of the enjoyment of such rights for women on access to justice for victims of sexual violence.
- Piloting of integrated and thematic gender strategies for country engagement, including on violence against women.
- Mainstreaming gender and women's human rights in OHCHR and with UN system partners.

OHCHR is an active member of UN Action against sexual violence in conflict. Since August 2008, the Coordinator for UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, previously based with UNIFEM in New York, is hosted on OHCHR premises in Geneva. Since 2009, OHCHR has chaired the Resource Management Committee of the UN-Action Multi-Donor Trust Fund.

OHCHR services the Human Rights Council and its special procedures, including the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, as well as human rights treaty bodies, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

In its' work, the Committee on the Elimination on the Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) urges States parties to give priority attention to eliminating all forms of violence against women and to adopt comprehensive measures to address it in accordance with the Committee's general recommendation No. 19.

## **Policy development/research**

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### *Baseline 2007*

OHCHR commissions and conducts research and analysis on access to justice for victims of sexual violence, clarifies and draws attention to this issue, and develops materials to assist the development of policy and advocacy strategies. One of the mechanisms for so doing is through the development of legal analyses, guidelines and principles based on human rights, which address issues of critical importance for women. These will be developed in response to regional priorities but the aim is to ensure global resonance, with a focus on the current jurisprudence relating to the prosecution of rape, both under international humanitarian law and human rights law, and on the inter-linkages between access to justice and the protection of women's economic, social and cultural rights, with the aim to influence legal standard-setting and subsequently policy development. In addition OHCHR conducts research and analysis of all forms of violence against women and girls.

### *July 2007 to January 2008*

The Women's Rights and Gender Unit established in 2006 continued its work related to legal analysis with respect to access to justice for victims of sexual violence. An Expert Group Meeting on 'Prosecution of rape and other forms of sexual violence' was held in September 2007, with the aim to finalize an OHCHR legal position paper on the subject.

In September 2007, OHCHR organized a seminar on women and torture, for United Nations and civil society representatives, with the aim of providing input for the thematic report of the Special Rapporteur on Torture, on strengthening the protection of women from torture (A/HRC/7/3), to be presented to Human Rights Council at its seventh session. The report is aimed at ensuring that the torture protection framework is applied in a gender-inclusive manner.

In September 2007, the Office ensured support in the organization of and participation in the discussion, at the sixth session of Human Rights Council, on gender integration, where an expert panel considered ways to ensure the integration of a gender perspective into the work of the Council. During its resumed sixth session in December 2007, the Council adopted a resolution on integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system in which it decided to incorporate into its programme of work as a minimum an annual full-day meeting, to discuss the human rights of women. A first such meeting should take place in the first half of 2008, and include a discussion on violence against women, as mandated by the General Assembly.

The responsibility to provide support to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was formally transferred to the OHCHR as of 1 January 2008. In addition to logistical and over-all support, discussions were held with the Committee on the provision of analytical assistance on specific thematic issues, such as sexual violence, honour killings, domestic violence and the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325.

OHCHR continued to commission and conduct research and analysis on access to justice for victims of sexual violence with the aim to assist the development of policy and advocacy strategies.

### *February to September 2008*

OHCHR commissioned a study on laws that discriminate against women which was prepared by Dr. Fareda Banda and launched in March 2008.

In March 2008, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, submitted to the Human Rights Council her reports on indicators on violence against women and State response, and on her country missions to Algeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Ghana. She also addressed the Council within the framework of the review, rationalization and improvement of the mandate on violence against women, renewed by resolution 7/24. The Special Rapporteur conducted two official visits, in May 2008 to the Republic of Tajikistan, and in July 2008 to Moldova, the latter jointly with the Special Rapporteur on Torture. At the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, presented a report (A/HRC/11/2) which, inter alia, focused on the issue of ongoing practice of killing of “witches”.

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

OHCHR supported the first annual discussion of the Human Rights Council on the integration of a gender perspective into its work, during the ninth session in September 2008.

OHCHR finalized an analytical study on the current jurisprudence relating to the prosecution of rape, both under international humanitarian law and human rights law, which was published under the title “*Prosecution of Rape under the Formal Justice Mechanisms*”. This and another expert paper on “Women’s Economic, Social and Cultural Rights” were launched during a panel debate on 15 December 2008, in Geneva, with the participation of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. A case study, “*The Bosnian Experience*”, which analyzes the experience of women victims of violence accessing justice in a post-conflict society was prepared.

#### *March to September 2009*

In 2009, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, of the Human Rights Council focused her annual report to the Council on the “Political Economy of Women’s Human Rights”. The report flags how the current political economic order profoundly affects both the prevalence of violence against women and efforts to eliminate it. The report provides recommendations to governments and non-state actors on ways to enhance women’s enjoyment of the full range of their rights, as a key strategy for the prevention, the protection and prosecution of violence against women. The Special Rapporteur also submitted to the Council her reports on missions undertaken to Tajikistan, Saudi Arabia, and the Republic of Moldova in 2008.

In its General Recommendation No. 26 on Women Migrant Workers, adopted at the forty-second session, the Committee on the Elimination of Violence against Women (CEDAW) urged States parties to closely monitor recruiting agencies and prosecute them for acts of violence, coercion, deception or exploitation (article 2 (e)).

OHCHR reviewed existing training material, as well as tools under development, to ensure the integration of a gender and women’s rights perspective.

### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

OHCHR has the responsibility to provide support and advice to country and thematic special rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council, including the Special Rapporteur on violence against women. In addition to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, over the past year the

following special procedures have addressed issues related to violence against women in their reports, including from field missions, to human rights bodies:

- The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons (trafficking for the purposes of forced labour, particularly in factories and domestic work; forced marriage; and/or for purposes of sexual exploitation including in conditions of slavery and debt bondage);
- The Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child pornography and child prostitution (violence against girls pertaining to abduction and rape practices; sale of girls forced to marry; domestic labour or sexual exploitation of girls; and domestic violence);
- The Special Rapporteur on the right to education focused his annual report of 2006 on the girl child's education (the socio-cultural context of gender discrimination under a patriarchal society, underpinning discriminatory behaviour, and domestic work by children as a major cause of exploitation and violence);
- The Special Rapporteur on adequate housing has received an explicit mandate by the Commission on Human Rights to specifically study the issue of women, adequate housing and land. From 2002 to 2006 regional consultations were held with grass root women in Eastern Africa; Asia; Latin America and Caribbean; Central-Asia/Eastern Europe; and Euro-Mediterranean. Based on the regional consultations, the Special Rapporteur has regularly drawn the attention to linkages of lack of adequate housing with violence against women (domestic violence; impact on forced evictions accompanied by violence; and vulnerability of homeless women to violence);
- The Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (so-called "honor killings"; executions of women accused of adultery; and allegations of a pattern of killings affecting women or femicidio);
- The Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons (sexual and gender-based violence against internally displaced women and girl-children);
- The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) consistently includes visits to detention centres for women, in the course of its country visits.

OHCHR field presences address violence against women at the national or regional levels, notably, through the provision of technical assistance in law reform, monitoring of Government and other stakeholders compliance with their international commitments, and organization of training activities for Government officials and civil society organizations. At times, OHCHR extends legal assistance to victims of violence and members of their families. On an ad hoc basis, OHCHR has initiated a series of high visibility activities on the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights of women as a tool to empower them in their efforts against gender-based violence, as is the case in Côte d'Ivoire.

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

OHCHR provided training for representatives from human rights organizations in the occupied Palestinian territories, on women's rights in general and violence against women in particular. OHCHR also issued grants to non-governmental organizations to undertake human rights activities: since July 2007 this has included a grant to fund a legal assistance project in Tajikistan for women subjected to domestic violence.

In December 2007, the OHCHR conducted a feasibility mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo to determine the most effective manner for contributing to ensuring accountability for crimes of sexual violence against women and the added value of its active participation in on-going or planned United Nations activities in this regard.

#### *February to September 2008*

OHCHR entered into a partnership with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in order to contribute to shaping policy in the areas of addressing violence against women, the promotion of gender equality and ensure respect of individual gender identity.

OHCHR contributed to the elaboration of a pilot project in the Democratic Republic of Congo to enhance access to justice for survivors of sexual violence. Other countries, such as Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Haiti and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which are also experiencing acute violence against women were being considered as further locations for the project.

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

The URGENT ACTION FUND, in collaboration with the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, convened "Regional Consultations on Violence against Women in the Context of Conflict in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa Region", in Nairobi, Kenya, in December 2008. The consultations which brought together women human rights activists and advocates, regional networks, policy makers and researchers provided an opportunity for participants from conflict and post conflict countries to share experiences and develop strategies for more effective networking and partnership with the special mandate holders.

In December 2008, a week-long consultation was convened that brought together staff from UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Legal Counsel to the Great Lakes Conference, MONUC and relevant units within the OHCHR, to develop a coherent strategy for 2009 to address to sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

OHCHR examined the feasibility of deploying gender advisors, including on violence against women, to regional offices, and completed one needs assessment mission to the Regional Office in Beirut in October 2008. OHCHR continued to develop a gender strategy for Colombia, including sub-strategies related to violence. A consultant was recruited to work with the OHCHR Colombia Office in the implementation phase.

In the Middle East and North Africa region, OHCHR worked to develop a strategy to combat crimes committed in the name of "honour", following up on training for Palestinian NGOs in 2007. Training activities on women's rights and a human rights-based approach that also addressed violence against women were implemented for Arab-speaking NGOs; Iraqi NGOs; judges from the United Arab Emirates; NGOs and parliamentarians from Bahrain. Gender-based violence in Sudan was also covered.

#### *March to September 2009*

OHCHR's country offices in Bolivia, Colombia, Russia and Uganda were part of UN Inter-Agency Groups working on gender issues in support of national and local authorities, the judiciary and civil society to develop projects proposal, policies and strategies, as well as legal frameworks, on combating sexual and gender-based violence.

OHCHR worked in a number of countries in relation to legal reform. OHCHR's country office in Guatemala assisted State institutions and, in coordination with the Interagency Group on Women's Rights, provided technical advice to State officials for the elaboration of policies based on international and national human rights standards in order to accelerate and strengthen the implementation of the Law against femicide and other forms of violence, as well as to reform the law to prevent domestic violence. OHCHR's country office in Guatemala also provided assistance to the Gender Unit of the Police in order to strengthen the abilities of law enforcement personnel to address violence against women. In Sudan, OHCHR worked with the human rights component of UNMIS to propose amendments to existing rape laws. OHCHR's country office in Uganda spearheaded discussions with regard to reviewing the current policy in relation to the Police Form

3 (PF3). The law requires “a competent/qualified health professional” to collect and document evidence of sexual violence as per PF3. This has generally been interpreted to mean that only a doctor can carry out this process, while doctors are scarce in most health centers and districts. The strategy being devised will call for relevant government sectors to provide clarification/additional guidance on extending the category of medical personnel competent to complete the PF3. In the Occupied Palestinian Territories, OHCHR participated in a special session of the legal Working Group of the Palestinian Legislative Council during which 12 lawmakers, the deputy of Minister of Woman Affairs and representatives of civil society organizations discussed and commented on the draft decree-law against Honour Killings. The draft decree-law was subsequently approved by the members of the committee.

OHCHR country offices continued capacity-building for the monitoring and investigation of cases of violence against women. In 2009, OHCHR’s country office in Colombia, in coordination with the OHCHR’s Women’s Rights and Gender Unit, undertook several training sessions to strengthen the capacity of the Attorney General’s Office, as well as specialized NGOs, to prosecute crimes of sexual violence in the context of the armed conflict. The project foresees the elaboration of recommendations for a prosecution strategy. In addition, a consultant is implementing the second phase of a pilot country gender strategy aimed at mainstreaming a gender approach in all of the Office’s programming and activities, focusing on capacity to identify and analyze cases of gender-based violence and women’s rights violations. In Sudan, OHCHR’s technical cooperation programme focused on sexual and gender-based violence, including awareness-raising workshops, the implementation of a workplan to combat violence against women through the Unit for Combating Violence against Women of the UNMIS, support activities of three Darfur state committees on this issue, and trainings for female police officers, as well as investigative officers of the Family and Child unit. OHCHR, through the Human Rights section of UNAMID, conducted a series of workshops on skill-building for interveners who deal with victims of rape in El fasher and Nyala during May and June 2009. Participants included medical doctors, prosecutors, lawyers and midwives. A workshop on human rights and rape counseling was organized in August 2009 for 25 male and female police officers in North Darfur, and for 18 male police investigators in South Darfur. UNAMID Human Rights staff also organized a workshop in August 2009 for the Central Reserve Police in West Darfur on application of international human rights law in their daily work, including the importance of laws and regulations regarding sexual and gender-based violence in their daily work. OHCHR Uganda (Lira) organized on 28 May 2009 a human rights training for 30 members of the Unit Disciplinary Committee, the UDC is the lowest court in the hierarchy of the administration of justice in the UPDF. Training topics included gender-based violence. In August 2009 in Bukedea district, northeastern Uganda, OHCHR met with 36 Local Council Courts members to stress the right to equality before the law, as well as protection for gender-based violence survivors by the Local Council Courts.

On 30 March 2009, OHCHR’s country office in Uganda carried out an investigation into cases of SGBV and other crimes in Moroto district (Karamoja), including the alleged rape of women by armed Karimojong civilians and physical assault of five other persons. Human rights components in United Nations Peace Missions in Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone continued to monitor human rights violations with a special focus on gender-based violence including rape, female genital mutilation and domestic violence.

OHCHR participated in Northern Uganda and Karamoja in the IASC GBV Sub cluster (Protection) where the IASC clusters were beginning to hand over their work to the Government. In this context, OHCHR Kitgum and Gulu participated in the drafting of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for programmes targeting Gender Based Violence in August 2009.

OHCHR offices allocated small grant to groups of women and human rights NGOs to provide legal aid for victims of domestic violence. OHCHR Colombia financially supported follow-up to the 2008 Constitutional Court’s order on assistance to female internally displaced persons who are victims, investigation of sexual violence, and prevention of sexual violence, as well as the

reformulation of the Government's and Attorney General's Office's programmes for the protection of victims and witnesses. OHCHR's Regional Office in Central Asia, based in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan funded a 10-month project on legal aid to victims of domestic violence through the allocation of a small grant to the Association of Crisis Centers of Kyrgyzstan. The Regional Office also funded an NGO project on legal aid to victims of domestic violence in Tajikistan, including awareness-raising among government officials and general public and the opening of a telephone hotline for victims of violence.

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

Awareness-raising activities addressing violence against women are a key feature of OHCHR strategic management plan. The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and the International Day for the Elimination of Racism and Racial Discrimination are additional opportunities to advocate for a stronger position of the international community in combating all forms of violence against women and girls, whether domestic, or in a conflict or post-conflict setting. In order to ensure gender mainstreaming, OHCHR works directly with a range of UN partners in the areas of development cooperation, humanitarian affairs, and peace and security to ensure that human rights principles, norms and standards relating to gender equality and women's rights are integrated into their work, including as it relates to violence against women. In February 2007, OHCHR formally joined the UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict. In the area of humanitarian affairs, OHCHR participates in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Sub-Working Group on Gender Mainstreaming in Humanitarian Assistance. OHCHR is contributing to various UN initiatives intended to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse by UN personnel with a view to placing such acts within the framework of violations of human rights, trying to push specifically for UN accountability in this area.

Cooperation continues with various agencies such as UNICEF, UNIFEM and WHO on the development of particular guidance and tools (e.g. Manual on Caring for Survivors of Sexual Violence in Conflict-Affected Areas with UNICEF; a new Joint Statement on Female Genital Mutilation with WHO in October 2006 and Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Researching, Documenting and Monitoring Sexual Violence in Emergencies in 2007).

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

The OHCHR in general and the High Commissioner for Human Rights in particular have continued to raise the issue of violence against women on various occasions, including in connection with the discussion, by the Security Council, of follow up to resolution 1325, in October 2007.

#### *February to September 2008*

In March 2008, OHCHR facilitated interactive expert panel discussions on the question of violence against women, and on maternal mortality as a human rights issue, respectively.

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

A number of stories related to violence against women were posted on the *How We Make a Difference* section of OHCHR's home page throughout 2008 and 2009. On International Women's Day 2008, OHCHR's home page featured a story on the launch of the Secretary-General's UNiTE Campaign. Later in the year, another story focused on Security Council resolution 1820. In December 2008, a story focused on the search for justice in post conflict situations. The story is based on two major OHCHR-commissioned studies to examine the effectiveness of international post-conflict accountability mechanisms in prosecuting sexual violence and on women's

economic, social and cultural rights. The Office also proposed and contributed a story on violence against women to DPI's 2008 "Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About" web page.

As a contribution to the Secretary-General's Campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women", OHCHR financially supported and participated in a conference organized by the NGO *Medica Mondial*, entitled "*Women Seeking Justice - Getting Law*", in September 2008. Over forty women from twenty-six mostly conflict or post conflict countries attended. The meeting took stock of achievements in terms of access to justice for women victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence, of what has worked and has not worked, and what needed to be done to overcome women's inequality.

#### *March to September 2009*

A number of stories related to violence against women were posted during the Durban Review Conference, held from 20-24 April in Geneva, on both the OHCHR and the Conference sites. One of the articles featured the story of a female albino Tanzanian Member of Parliament who explained the violence faced by albinos who are sometimes even hunted down and killed. Another web article told the story of a woman who suffered from physical and psychological abuse, including sexual abuse, while working as a domestic worker in Brazil. Another story focused on the side event "Double Odds: Women Overcoming Multiple Discrimination," which included a presentation by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. Other stories were posted in 2009 in relation to human trafficking.

On 26 March 2009, the OHCHR Women's Rights and Gender Unit co-organized a side event during the Human Rights Council on the issue of so-called "Honour Killings". On the occasion of the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, on 23 September 2009, UNHCR and the OHCHR Women's Rights and Gender Unit organized a side event entitled "A Modern day "Crucible" - Witchcraft accusations against women and children in the 21st Century" to draw attention to modern day witchcraft accusations which often target marginalized groups, including refugees and IDPs.

OHCHR undertook efforts to promote awareness of violence against women at the national level. OHCHR's Regional Office in Central Asia printed 10,000 colour leaflets in Kyrgyz and Russian languages with information on the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, including the template individual communications form. This leaflet will be distributed across Kyrgyzstan through the Association of Crisis Centers. In order to celebrate International Women's Day and the anniversaries of the adoption of the CEDAW Convention (30 years) and its Optional Protocol (10 years) in 2009, the OHCHR Country Office in Uganda featured an article in Uganda's main daily newspaper on 31 March 2009. The article called for speedy enactment of pending bills, including the Domestic Relations Bill, the Sexual Offences Bill and Domestic Violence Bill. OHCHR's country office in Uganda, in cooperation with Pader NGO Forum and the Civil-Military Coordination Centre (CMCC), sensitized internally displaced persons (IDP) community leaders on the human rights of women, focusing on ending sexual and gender-based violence, forced and early marriages, and promoting inheritance and property rights. At a workshop held from 15 to 16 February 2009, in Kitgum District Local Government, the Office facilitated a session on concepts and standards related to sexual and gender-based violence. The Country office also gave a presentation on the role of international organizations and civil society organizations in preventing sexual and gender-based violence during week long activities organized by the Refugee Law Project. From 22–24 July 2009, OHCHR Uganda (Kitgum) facilitated sessions on the general concepts of human rights and gender-based violence for three community groups in Omiya Anyima Sub County in Kitgum District (38 persons). OHCHR participated in the organization of an awareness-raising workshop on basic concepts of human rights and national laws related to women's rights in May 2009 for an Arab settlement in Zeina, Kerenek locality east of El Geneina in Sudan. On 6 February 2009, the



OHCHR Regional Office for Eastern Africa commemorated the International Day of Zero Tolerance of Female Genital Mutilation by organizing through a range of activities. On 18 March 2009, it participated in the launch of the “Leave No Woman Behind Project”, a tripartite project implemented by the Ethiopian and Spanish Governments and UNFPA, which includes elements focused on ending violence against women.

OHCHR arranged trainings of media professionals with regard to gender-based violence. Within the framework of the “Defending and Protecting Women’s Human Rights in Mexico” project, OHCHR’s country office in Mexico organised a training programme for journalists on “Human Rights and the Violence against Women in the Media” from 18 to 20 February 2009. In Uganda, OHCHR Teso Region (Soroti) organized a training of 25 media professionals on how to conduct respectful interviews of victims/survivors of gender-based violence, as well as on the media can be positively engaged in educating communities on gender-based violence as a serious human rights issue.

OHCHR also provided financial support for awareness-raising and advocacy programs implemented by the human rights components of various United Nations Peacekeeping Missions. On International Women’s Day 2009, the human rights component in the United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire organized training and sensitization sessions through its nine regional offices in close cooperation with other UNOCI components, several Ministries, local administrative authorities, civil society organizations, embassies, and national and international NGOs as well as the UN Country Team. The mission has focused on raising awareness of gender-based violence in Côte d’Ivoire such as rape and female genital mutilation, early and/or forced marriages, as well as of the legal provisions contained in the Ivorian Penal Code. The Human Rights and Protection Section of the United Nations Mission in Liberia, in collaboration with County Gender Coordinators and women’s organisations, continued to raise awareness of women’s rights, female genital mutilation and sexual and gender-based violence. Traditional leaders were specifically targeted to participate in awareness-raising sessions.

### **Future activities**

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The recruitment of gender advisors for the regional offices in Fiji, Lebanon, Panama and Senegal is underway.

In follow-up to the “Seeking Justice” conference which was organized by NGO Medica Mondiale and supported financially by OHCHR, a consultant is being recruited to ensure follow-up, including through the analysis of decisions and judgments on sexual violence handed down in international and regional courts, and the establishment of an internet information-sharing network.

OHCHR will continue to monitor and investigate incidences of sexual and gender-based violence at the national level. For example, at the human rights and rule of law sub-cluster meeting in Uganda in September 2009, a participant reported that in the month of August, 2009 two men were allegedly reported by the community members in Lolachat sub-county of committing sexual abuse of women and threatening them with reprisals if they reported the matter to the police. During the meeting OHCHR and UHRC agreed to investigate the matter and make sure that those responsible for such acts are brought to justice and made accountable.

### **Resources**

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Report on laws discriminatory to women, prepared by Dr. Fareda Banda, 2009:  
[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/laws\\_that\\_discriminate\\_against\\_women.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/laws_that_discriminate_against_women.pdf)

Compilation of General Comments and General Recommendations Adopted by Human Rights Treaty Bodies, U.N. Doc. HRI/GEN/1/Rev.6

<http://www.unhcr.ch/pdf/wcargender.pdf>

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/women/rapporteur/index.htm>

Fact Sheet No.23, Harmful Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children

<http://www.unhcr.ch/html/menu6/2/fs23.htm>

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/children/rapporteur/index.htm>

Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Economic and Social Council, E/2002/68/Add.1.

<http://www.unhcr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/>

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/trafficking/index.htm>

Violence against women

- <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/women/rapporteur/>
- <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/rapporteur/index.htm>
- <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/housing/index.htm>
- <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/housing/women.htm>
- <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/idp/index.htm>
- <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/detention/index.htm>
- <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/executions/index.htm>
- <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/minorities/expert/index.htm>

#### **Address/Websites**

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OHCHR

Palais Wilson, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

<http://www.ohchr.org>

OHCHR Women Human Rights and Gender Unit webpage:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/women/>

## **UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)**

### **Background**

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The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is mandated to assist Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism. In the Millennium Declaration, Member States resolved to intensify efforts to fight transnational crime in all its dimensions, to redouble efforts to implement the commitment to counter the world drug problem and to take concerted action against international terrorism. UNODC develops tools, manuals, handbooks and guides to support countries in criminal justice reform efforts to strengthen the rule of law and the reform of criminal justice institutions, including post-conflict reconstruction. These efforts also target the needs of women and children.

### **Policy framework**

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See main instruments listed above. In addition, UNODC's policy framework for addressing violence against women is contained in the following six documents: (i) Economic and Social Council resolution "Violence against women in all its forms" (1993/26); (ii) General Assembly resolution "Crime prevention and criminal justice measures to eliminate violence against women" (52/86); (iii) Economic and Social Council resolution "The rule of law and development: strengthening the rule of law and the reform of criminal justice institutions, with emphasis on technical assistance, including in post-conflict reconstruction" (2004/25); (iv) "Custodian of the Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners", which has a gender dimension; (v) Economic and Social Council resolution "Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime" (2005/20), which is pertinent to girls; and (vi) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

### **Area(s) of focus**

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UNODC works to address domestic violence and trafficking in human beings, as well as to develop policies in support of women victims of violence, and women in prisons. UNODC integrates gender dimensions and the question of violence against women into its efforts to build the capacity of criminal justice systems.

The Office supports policy development in the justice sector, including in relation to violence against women and girls. It supports and undertakes research related to trafficking in persons, including on the nature of trafficking and national and regional responses to trafficking. UNODC implements technical assistance projects, produces and disseminates public service announcements to counter trafficking in persons, and conducts outreach activities.

### **Policy development/research**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

UNODC was a partner in the roll-out of the International Violence against Women Survey, which was carried out in 11 countries worldwide. It prepared reports for intergovernmental bodies on criminal justice aspects of violence against women.

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

Recent and upcoming publications included: Handbook on Female Offenders and the Management of Women in Prison (expected in June 2008); Handbook for Effective Police Responses to Violence Against Women (expected in June 2008); child-friendly version of the

Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime (published in February 2008); Handbook for Female Prison Staff on Responding to the Specific Needs of Women Prisoners in Afghanistan (published in December 2007 in Dari; publication in English subject to availability of resources).

#### *February to September 2008*

Within the framework of its thematic debate on 'Aspects of violence against women that pertain directly to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice', the Commission, at its seventeenth session from 14-18 April 2008, considered the report of the Secretary-General on crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women and girls. The Commission, in decision 17/1, requested UNODC to convene an intergovernmental group of experts, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, to review and update the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

In May 2008, the UNODC, in collaboration with DAW, convened an Expert Group Meeting on good practices in legislation on violence against women. The report of the meeting contained a model framework for legislation on violence against women.

UNODC continued to support, and conducted research related to trafficking in persons, including on the nature of trafficking and national and regional responses to trafficking.

UNODC acted as an observer to the work of the Friends of the Chair Group on violence against women indicators, established by the thirty-ninth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

#### *March to September 2009*

In March 2009, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held a joint dialogue on addressing violence against women through legal reform on the occasion of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The joint dialogue was organized by DAW, in collaboration with UNODC.

Pursuant to decision 17/1 adopted by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventeenth session (Vienna, 14-18 April 2008), UNODC convened an Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting (IEGM) to review and update the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in Bangkok, Thailand from 23 to 25 March 2009. In accordance with decision 17/1, the IEGM reviewed and updated, as appropriate, the Model Strategies and Practical Measures, adopted by the General Assembly with its resolution 52/86 in 1997, taking into account current developments, research, tools.

### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

#### *Baseline July 2007*

UNODC's global project aims to build non-governmental support structures for victims of violent crime, including victims of trafficking in persons.

As part of its regional efforts to strengthen governmental capacity to deal with trafficking in persons in West and Southern Africa, UNODC has provided legislative assistance, trained officials, and supported regional coordination.

UNODC's technical assistance projects at the national level have supported One-Stop Centres for victims of domestic violence, particularly for women and children, in South Africa. The Centres bring under one roof all government services (social development, justice, police, correctional services, education) and community-based organizations concerned with the issue of violence against women in a coordinated and mutually reinforcing manner. A sub-regional project on juvenile justice that covers Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt includes components that target girl victims of crime. National projects in Colombia, Brazil, Lebanon, Vietnam, Philippines, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Moldova, Albania, Benin, Togo, Nigeria and South Africa assist Member States in implementing the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, including training initiatives.

*July 2007 to January 2008*

In Afghanistan, UNODC completed phase I of a project aimed at improving post-release opportunities for women and girl prisoners in Kabul with a focus on educational and vocational training to better equip them for release back into the community. Training was also carried out for prison staff on the special needs of preparing women and girls for release and several tools developed. During phase II, similar activities will be extended to the provinces.

Ongoing and planned UNODC projects on juvenile justice in Afghanistan, Burundi, Egypt, Haiti, Jordan, Lebanon and Yemen pay particular attention to the situation of girls and to awareness raising and training on the special needs of girls. A global project on implementation of the Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime is ongoing and gives special consideration to the situation of girl victims and witnesses of crime.

In Rajasthan, India, UNODC contributed to an initiative together with MIT's Poverty Action Lab, to train police officers to respond effectively to violence against women. The programme aimed at improving public perception and trust of the community as well as overall quality, efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of over 2000 police personnel posted in police stations, including four women police stations.

As part of a programme to assist the process of prison reform in Southern Sudan, UNODC has developed, together with UNMIS, a training programme to build leadership capacity within the prison service and address the circumstances of prisoners with special needs. As part of this initiative, training on the special needs of women prisoners will be held, using the forthcoming UNODC Handbook on Female Offenders and the Management of Women in Prison.

*February to September 2008*

The Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) has been focusing on ways of improving the coordination of efforts – at the national, regional and global levels – against trafficking in persons, especially women and children, as well as strengthening gender-sensitive approaches in all anti-trafficking efforts.

A project, funded by the UN Development Account, to establish Women Police Stations to deal with gender-based violence cases is being implemented in Brazil and Southern Cone countries, using the Brazilian model.

In the Southern African region, under the framework of the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security and in close collaboration with other UN agencies, UNODC supports activities aimed at strengthening capacity to address gender-based violence as a human rights violation, and empowering survivors, inter-alia, through training. The project also includes counselling and establishment of support groups for male perpetrators and potential perpetrators in order to break the cycle of violence.

UNODC is carrying out training of law enforcement officials in Colombia and India, concentrating on investigation and punishment of trafficking in persons with a gender perspective. Regular training for military officials, including NATO, focusing particularly on trafficking for sexual exploitation is also being provided.

*March to September 2009*

At the end of September 2009, UNODC in Viet Nam held a five-day training course to equip law enforcement officers with the necessary tools and knowledge to effectively deal with cases of domestic violence. This first train-the-trainers session focused on the principles of gender equality, common characteristics of domestic violence and best practices in dealing with victims, witnesses and perpetrators. The training was carried out as part of a One-UN project on violence against women.

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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*Baseline July 2007*

The One-Stop Centres for victims of domestic violence, referred to above and supported through UNODC's technical assistance projects, also carry out outreach programmes and awareness-raising. Similarly, national projects contain elements of raising awareness and advocacy.

*July 2007 to January 2008*

An awareness-raising pamphlet for women prisoners in Afghanistan using drawings and cartoons is being published in cooperation with UNIFEM. The pamphlet aims to inform women in prison about their rights and takes into account newly approved regulations of penitentiary law.

UNODC country projects include components of awareness-raising and advocacy on violence against women.

### **Future activities**

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The deliberations of the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting (IEGM) to review and update the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its nineteenth session to be held in 2010.

### **Address/Websites**

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UNODC  
Vienna International Centre, PO Box 500,  
A-1400 Vienna, Austria  
<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/index.html>.

## **REGIONAL COMMISSIONS**

### **I. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA)**

#### **Background**

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As the regional arm of the United Nations in Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is mandated to support the economic and social development of its 53 Member States, foster regional integration, and promote international cooperation for Africa's development. The African Centre for Gender and Development, a Division of ECA, is mandated to orient the policies of the ECA into areas concerning gender equality and to advise the ECA on the implementation of appropriate strategies for the economic and social advancement of women in Africa.

#### **Policy framework**

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See main instruments listed above. In addition, ECA's mandate and policy framework on violence against women derives from the Dakar Platform for Action (1994) and the outcome and way forward-document of the Seventh African Regional Conference on women (2004). Its policy framework is also rooted in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and its Additional Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa.

#### **Area(s) of focus**

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ECA through the African Centre for Gender and Development undertakes policy development and research activities, as well as operational activities and awareness-raising activities in relation to violence against women.

#### **Policy development and research**

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##### *Baseline July 2007*

ECA supports inter-governmental processes, including those that result in policy instruments for the advancement of women, and the elimination of violence against women. It supports the work of the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices on fight against traditional practices that are harmful to women and girls including genital mutilation.

ECA supported 12 countries to undertake field studies using the African Gender and Development Index. The 12 pilot countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Egypt, Ghana, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda) have collected qualitative data on domestic violence, harmful practices, rape, sexual harassment and trafficking in women. They assessed the extent to which governments have ratified international conventions, met all reporting requirements, passed national laws, developed plans with specific targets, set institutional mechanisms, allocated sufficient financial and human resources, undertaken research, collaborated with civil society organizations, disseminated information and set monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for each type of violence against women. The project has been extended during 2007 to five countries, Cape Verde, Senegal, the Gambia, Namibia, and Botswana.

##### *February to September 2008*

ECA, in partnership with the African Union (AU) and development partners, has set up the Network on Gender-Based Violence/Violence against Women (GBV/VAW), in Addis Ababa. This initiative recognizes the need for a coordinated effort to respond to, and act on violence against women. The Network is co-chaired by ECA and AU, and its members include: Regional

Economic Communities, the Swedish, Finnish, Danish and South African Embassies, United Nations agencies and civil society organizations.

The Network is undertaking the following activities:

- Review global and regional legal commitments on GBV/VAW and analyse obligations by States
- Review and recommend for strengthening, AU reporting frameworks to facilitate monitoring progress and improve performance in implementation of commitments
- Compile good practices in addressing GBV/VAW in Africa.

ECA's African Center for Gender and Social Development (ACGSD/UNECA), in collaboration with UNDP regional gender programme for Africa, developed the African Women's Rights Observatory (AWRO) website. Violence against women is one of the three thematic areas covered by the AWRO. The AWRO was officially launched on 28 August 2008, at the Conference of Ministers of Gender and Women's Affairs in Addis Abba.

*October 2008 to February 2009*

The African Centre for Gender and Social Development supported the Sixth African Development Forum (ADF) on *Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment and Ending Violence Against Women in Africa*, which took place from 19 to 21 October 2008. One of the issues for discussion and action was violence against women. Participants from Member States, research institutions, academia, civil society, donor communities and other stakeholders discussed ways for tackling this issue and to find practical solutions. The ADF adopted a Consensus Statement with and Plan of Action with 3 pillars, one of which is on violence against women.

(see: <http://www.uneca.org/adfvi/ConsensusStatement.asp>).

In follow-up to the ADF Consensus Statement and Plan of Action, ECA is designing a methodology to collect data on violence against women. Once completed, the methodology will first be tested in selected countries, before being used throughout the continent.

*March to September 2009*

UNECE, in collaboration with DAW, convened an expert group meeting on legislation to address harmful practices in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 May 2009.

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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*Baseline July 2007*

To raise awareness on human rights issues and specifically on violence against women, ECA launched in April 2007, with the collaboration of the UNDP Regional Gender Programme, the African Women's Rights Observatory (AWRO). The AWRO is expected to contribute to strengthening of tracking and monitoring protection/violations of women's rights in African countries. One of the thematic areas of the observatory will be violence against women. This will provide the status on the African continent in curbing violence against women.

*February to September 2008*

In February 2008, the Economic Commission for Africa organized a high-level policy dialogue in Addis Ababa on national implementation of the Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) in Africa, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women. Ministers and high-level representatives from 18 countries of Africa, representatives from the Regional Economic Communities, and observers from national and regional non-governmental organizations and United Nations entities attended the meeting.



ECA collaborated in the organization of a seminar by the African Union Commission, held from 4 to 5 April 2008 in Addis Ababa, to commemorate the fourteenth anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide, on the theme “Ending violence against women in conflict situations: lessons drawn from the Rwandan Genocide”.

*October 2008 to February 2009*

As a member of the “Gender is my agenda campaign” (GIMAC), ECA participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> Pre-Summit African Union Heads of State Consultative Meeting on gender mainstreaming where participants recognized the need to intensify measures in response to the Secretary-General’s campaign “UNiTE to end violence against women”.

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### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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*Baseline July 2007*

ECA supports training workshops on women’s human rights, in collaboration with partners from governments, United Nations entities and civil society. These events also include a focus, or segment on violence against women. Examples include a regional training workshop on women’s human rights in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in 2003; and a national training workshop on gender mainstreaming in Uganda, in 2004.

ECA supports Member States, at their request, and undertakes capacity-building activities for non-governmental organizations on women’s human rights.

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### **Future activities**

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None currently reported.

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### **Resources**

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Africa Women’s Rights Observatory: <http://awro.uneca.org/>

The African Gender and Development Index – African Women’s Progress Scoreboard  
[http://www.uneca.org/eca\\_programmes/acgd/Publications/AGDI\\_book\\_final.pdf](http://www.uneca.org/eca_programmes/acgd/Publications/AGDI_book_final.pdf)

12 AGDI country reports will be posted in the next few months in the cited website.

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### **Address/Websites**

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ECA  
Menelik II Ave. P.O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
<http://www.uneca.org/>

## **II. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (ECE)**

### **Background**

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The UNECE Statistical Division implements the work of the Conference of European Statisticians which is the main body dealing with the coordination of official statistics in the region. The work on violence against women relates to the improvement of the availability and quality of data. Recognizing the limitations of measuring gender-based violence through administrative data, UNECE focuses its efforts on improving the measurement of violence against women through population-based surveys.

### **Policy framework**

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See main instruments listed above.

### **Area(s) of focus**

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Under the framework of the Conference of European Statisticians and its work on gender statistics, a UNECE Task Force on Gender-based Violence aims to improve the measurement of violence against women through national surveys. The main objectives of the task force are to:

- exchange and promote methods for specialized violence against women surveys;
- promote training for National Statistical Offices and users in the field of violence against women; and
- define common concepts, identify a methodology and minimum set of questions for a short module that can be incorporated into appropriate on-going surveys.

### **Policy development/research**

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#### *Baseline 2007*

UNECE organizes regional and sub-regional meetings and workshops where experts from national statistical offices, users of statistics and international organizations can discuss the value of surveys on violence against women and can develop guidelines on how to improve them. Through the Conference of European Statisticians Task Force, an inventory of methods used to measure violence against women through population-based surveys was carried out for the region. The Task Force is currently analyzing the results of this survey with the aim of providing an overview of the differences and commonalities in measuring violence against women through surveys (through specialized surveys or as an ad-hoc module). The analysis of the inventory will provide a better understanding of the areas that need further work.

UNECE has collected countries' experiences in the implementation of national violence against women surveys with a view of encouraging the implementation of national violence against women surveys under the framework of official statistics.

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

ECE's work on violence against women focuses on the improvement of survey methodology and the development of common indicators and survey instruments for measuring violence against women. The work is undertaken by a Task Force that operates under the framework of the Conference of European Statisticians.

The Task Force prepared an assessment of existing surveys and methodology on measuring violence. In 2007 the Task Force hosted the "Expert Group Meeting on Indicators to Measure Violence Against Women" organized jointly with the UN Division for Advancement of Women, the

UN Statistical Division and in collaboration with other UN Regional commissions. This Expert Group Meeting convened with the objective to commence work on a global list of indicators.

During 2006-2007, ECE completed the following:

- Inventory of surveys undertaken in the region to measure violence against women
- Comparative analysis of 25 National Surveys carried out by 17 Member countries<sup>1</sup>, which highlighted the differences and commonalities of the methodology used to measure violence against women. A common basis from where it would be possible to develop standard methodology was also identified.
- Eight indicators were identified for sexual, physical and intimate partner violence, and harmful practices while other areas were identified for the development of new indicators. These include sexual harassment, killing of women by intimate partners, psychological and economic intimate partner violence.

Preparatory work for establishing a website on the measurement of gender-based violence through population-based surveys.

*March to September 2009*

UNECE participated in the "International Conference on a Joint Approach to Family Violence: legislation, indicators, enforcement" organized by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, European Commission, Soros Foundation, UNECE, World Bank Institute (WBI) and the Center for Research of Democratic Processes. UNECE provided a presentation on international initiatives to develop indicators on violence against women.

### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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*March to September 2009*

UNECE conducted a one-day workshop on measuring violence against women for users and producers of statistics in the Kyrgyz Republic. The workshop included 32 participants from the national statistical system, crisis centres and gender machineries.

UNECE convened an expert group and began development of questions and methodology to measure physical, sexual and intimate partner violence using a short survey module, as part of the United Nations Development Account project led by ECLAC.

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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*August 2008 to February 2009*

UNECE, together with the World Bank Institute, published a 15 minute video on gender-based violence and issues in its measurement ([www.unece.org/stats/video/violence.htm](http://www.unece.org/stats/video/violence.htm)).

UNECE launched its website on violence against women ([www.unece.org/stats/gender/vaw/](http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/vaw/)). The site includes copies of national surveys and publications, an overview of terms and definitions, general resources and reports, statistical data and useful links.

### **Future activities**

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UNECE is coordinating the development and testing of a survey module to measure the interim set of violence against women indicators agreed at the February 2009 meeting of the United

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2006.09.gender.htm>

Nations Statistical Commission (physical violence, sexual violence and intimate partner violence). This activity is part of a global United Nations Development Account project being led by ECLAC and involving all Regional Commissions, the Division for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Statistical Division. The module is being developed through an expert group that will meet on 28-30 September 2008 and 17-19 February 2010. The testing of the module questions and methodology is planned to take place in up to 10 countries across the world during late 2009/early 2010. A report on the outcomes of this work will provide recommendations for developing an international standard in measuring violence against women through a short module that can be incorporated in appropriate population-based surveys.

Training of users and producers of statistics on violence against women, and technical assistance to countries, continues to be a feature of the joint UNECE/WBI project on engendering national statistical systems.

UNECE will co-facilitate a sub-regional expert group meeting on "Collecting and Using Data to Demand Effectiveness of Policies against Violence against Women", which is being organized by UNIFEM for the countries in South East Europe. This meeting is being held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 23-24 November 2009.

### **Resources**

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*Special Issue: Violence against women.* Statistical Journal of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Vol. 22, Numbers 3 and 4, 2005.

### **Address/Websites**

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ECE  
Statistical  
Palais des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 10  
[www.unece.org/stats/gender/vaw/](http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/vaw/)  
[www.unece.org/stats/video/violence.htm](http://www.unece.org/stats/video/violence.htm)  
[www.unece.org/stats/documents/2007.10.gender.htm](http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2007.10.gender.htm)  
[www.unece.org/stats/archive/01.0b.e.htm](http://www.unece.org/stats/archive/01.0b.e.htm)

Division

### **III. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC)**

#### **Background**

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As the regional arm of the United Nations in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC/CEPAL) contributes to the economic and social development of Member States in the region, coordinating actions directed towards this end, and reinforcing economic relationships among the countries and with the other nations of the world. In the last decade, the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in its projects and programmes has increasingly become a clear part of its mandate.

#### **Policy framework**

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See main instruments listed above. In addition, ECLAC's mandate and policy framework in the area of violence against women derive from the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean (1994), confirmed by the Lima Consensus, adopted by the Eighth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (2000), and the Mexico Consensus, adopted by the Ninth Regional Conference (2004).

ECLAC's mandate and policy framework in the area of violence against women has been further strengthened by the recommendations of the Quito Consensus, adopted by the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (August 2007) and the bi-annual meetings of its Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference. At their forty-second meeting (Santiago, Chile 4-5 December 2008), the Presiding Officers and other member countries reported on measures being taken in their respective countries to eliminate gender-based violence, particularly at the institutional level as well as through the media and campaigns to unit with men against violence.<sup>2</sup> In their final agreement, they "condemn(ed) violence against women, in all its forms, including violence in conflict situations, request(ed) the support of international cooperation to strengthen efforts to eradicate such violence, and ask(ed) that specific budgets be approved to support national action plans for the prevention and punishment of gender-based violence and the provision of care to people affected by it" (par. 26 and 27).

#### **Area(s) of focus**

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ECLAC addresses all forms and manifestations of violence against women. It undertakes research and policy development and the identification of good practice examples; it implements operational activities and contributes to awareness-raising and outreach on these issues. ECLAC aims to strengthen the capacity of countries in the region to produce knowledge on gender-based violence, including the measurement of its incidence and trends.

#### **Policy development/research**

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*Baseline July 2007*

The main focus of ECLAC's activities in addressing violence against women is research. Efforts have included: development of a theoretical and methodological framework aimed at the construction of indicators; collection of available statistical data and information on existing legislation, programmes and public policies; analysis of good practices; and understanding the relationship between gender-based violence and poverty.

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<sup>2</sup> Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, México, Paraguay, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands and Uruguay presented reports on their progress in relations to legal instruments, programmes and media campaigns to prevent, sanction and eradicate violence against women.

In 2001, ECLAC convened an International Meeting on Gender Statistics and Indicators for Measuring the Incidence of and Trends in Violence against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The meeting was convened through the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Statistical Conference of the Americas. Subsequently, ECLAC convened an Inter-agency Coordination Meeting on Gender Statistics (2002) to harmonize the methodology for technical assistance on gender indicators used by the organizations of the United Nations system, with specific attention to violence against women.

In 2004, ECLAC completed research on good practices in preventing and eliminating violence against women, based on an extensive survey of national mechanisms for the advancement of women in the region and a number of non-governmental organizations active in the field.

In September 2005, eleven entities of the United Nations system based in the region established an inter-agency working group on violence against women in all its manifestations, coordinated by ECLAC, to work collectively to strengthen, coordinate and integrate current programmes, studies, technical cooperation, training, information and monitoring activities carried out by the organizations of the United Nations in Latin America and the Caribbean in the area of violence against women. The working group prepared a regional contribution to the Secretary-General's in-depth study on violence against women and an integral regional report that will be distributed to the Tenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Quito, Ecuador, August 2007).

ECLAC is presently collaborating with the regional Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights to establish ways of linking follow-up of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará).

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

In November 2007, ECLAC published the regional report on violence against women. The Spanish version was launched at simultaneous interagency press conferences in Santiago and New York, on 26 November 2007, under the title "¡Ni una más! El derecho a vivir una vida libre de violencia en América Latina y el Caribe". The English version will be launched under the title "No more! The right of women to live a life free of violence in Latin America and the Caribbean."

In December 2007, ECLAC published a report on the follow-up to Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals, which included a chapter on violence against women and demonstrated the importance of this issue in reaching the MDGs.

#### *February to September 2008*

Based on the mandate received in the Quito Consensus, adopted by the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (August 2007), ECLAC initiated the development of a *Gender Observatory*, as a tool to support governments in analysing regional realities, monitoring gender equality policies and international agreements, and providing technical support and training to national mechanisms for the advancement of women, as well as to national statistical agencies in countries that request such support. Violence against women is one of four main issues of concern of the Observatory.

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

In order to define the basic set of indicators necessary for the functioning of the Gender Observatory, two technical meetings were organized, with representatives from National Machineries for the Advancement of Women/Gender Affairs and National Statistical Offices of Latin America (Aguascalientes (Mexico), 2-3 October 2008) and the Caribbean (Port-of-Spain, 6-

7 December 2008). Reports of both meetings were presented and approved at the Forty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 4-5 December 2008).

#### *March to September 2009*

Implementation of the project "Enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women" was commenced following reception of the first allotment of the 6<sup>th</sup> tranche of the United Nations Development Account. The project is being coordinated by ECLAC in collaboration with the four other regional commissions, with the UN Division for the Advancement of Women and the UN Statistics Division as observers. A meeting was held at the end of May in Geneva in order to coordinate the main activities of the project, particularly the preparation of a training kit for the collection and use of statistical information on violence against women, the development and testing of a short module on violence against women to be integrated in population-based surveys, the presentation of a new technology tool to build an interregional web portal, and the preparation of national studies in the five regions. The objective of the project is to strengthen national and regional capacity to prevent, sanction and eradicate violence against women through enhanced statistical data and indicators on violence against women, as well as to create or reinforce knowledge-sharing networks at the regional and interregional levels. The project recognizes the importance of collaboration, participatory action and the sharing of good practices, including the need for Regional Commissions to promote active participation of national machineries for the advancement of women as well as national statistical institutions and civil society.

ECLAC contributed to the proposal on indicators on violence against women which was put forward in the report of the Friends of the Chair to the United Nations Statistical Commission and adopted as an interim set of indicators at the Commission's 40<sup>th</sup> session.

Work continued on the Gender Observatory. This Observatory is coordinated by ECLAC in collaboration with INSTRAW, PAHO, UNDP, UNIFEM and UNFPA together with the technical assistance of the Spanish Agency for International Co-operation (AECID) and the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB). In addition to creating a database, based on information collected through the project described below, the Observatory will carry out two expert meetings in 2009 to increase the knowledge base on gender-based violence: one to define the concept of good practices, and the other to prepare recommendations on developing indicators on other forms of violence, such as femicide.

#### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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##### *March to September 2009*

Technical cooperation was carried out with the Ministry of Health in Chile to elaborate a new clinical guide for health services' attention to adult victims of domestic violence.

#### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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##### *Baseline July 2007*

ECLAC's awareness-raising activities aim to disseminate knowledge and information on the issue of violence against women, including through presentation of papers and provision of training as requested by Member States. ECLAC is now initiating contacts to coordinate a special interagency campaign to widely disseminate the Secretary General's in-depth study on violence against women and regional reports.

### *February to September 2008*

At the Fifteenth Meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System on the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Bogotá, 23 April 2008), the UN organizations agreed to organize a regional working group to define the regional strategy toward the implementation of the Secretary-General's UNiTE Campaign. ECLAC is acting as the link between the regional and global levels for the Secretary General's campaign to eliminate all forms of violence against women. Activities are being carried out in the inter-agency and intergovernmental frameworks. A regional interagency working group has been established to define the strategy and ways to implement the Secretary-General's campaign. Member States of the Regional Conference on Women have agreed to develop a proposal for the regional campaign, in coordination with the interagency working group.

### *March to September 2009*

The regional working group for the Secretary-General's UNiTE Campaign, in addition to UNIFEM, UNFPA and ECLAC, expanded to include the Interamerican Commission for Women (ICW), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), ILO, OHCHR, PAHO, UNAIDS, UNDP and WFP.

### **Future activities**

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ECLAC is preparing a regional study, to be published before the end of 2009, which will analyze the information available in Latin America and the Caribbean in relation to the set of indicators proposed by the Friends of the Chair together with an additional indicator on intimate femicide. The situation of women will be analyzed in light of this statistical information and existing legislation. The report will also review information in the Secretary-General's database on violence against women in order to establish a list of the countries of other regions that would have the capacity to calculate these indicators. Concrete recommendations will be formulated on the basis of this information regarding the need for training, technical assistance and further cooperation to improve measurement and the quality of public policies to eradicate, prevent and punish violence against women.

### **Resources**

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AlmÉRas, D.; Bravo, B., Milosavljević, V., Montañó S. and Rico, M.N. (2004), *Violence against women in couples: Latin America and the Caribbean. A proposal for measuring its incidence and trends*, Mujer y Desarrollo Series No 40, ECLAC (LC/L.1744-P) (original Spanish version, 2002).

ECLAC (2002), *Report of the international meeting on gender statistics and indicators for measuring the incidence of and trends in violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean*, La Paz, Bolivia, 21-23 November 2001 (LC/L.1734).

ECLAC (2004), "Policies against domestic violence" in: *Roads towards Gender Equality in Latin America and the Caribbean*, position document presented to the Ninth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico City, Mexico, 10-12 June 2004 (LC/L.2114 (CRM.9/3), pp.66-70).

Rioseco, L. (2005), *Buenas prácticas para la erradicación de la violencia doméstica en la región de América Latina y el Caribe*, Mujer y Desarrollo series No 75, ECLAC (LC/L.2391-P).

Women and Development Unit (2005), "Violence against women: a human rights and development issue" in: Machinea, J.L, Bárcena, A. and León, A. (eds.), *The Millennium Development Goals: a Latin American and Caribbean perspective*, Chap. IV "Gender Equality



and Women's Empowerment", Interagency report coordinated by ECLAC, Santiago, Chile (LC/G.2331), pp. 131-135.

ECLAC (2006), "Indicadores de género: Violencia contra la Mujer" en *Guía de asesoría técnica para la producción y el uso de indicadores de género*, Santiago de Chile. Produced with the financial support of UNFPA and technical collaboration of UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNICEF, OIT, UNESCO, OPS and FLACSO (LC/R.2136).

ECLAC (2007), *The right to live a life free of violence in Latin America and the Caribbean (¡¡¡Ni una más! El derecho a vivir una vida libre de violencia en América Latina y el Caribe)*, Interagency report coordinated by ECLAC, Santiago, Chile (forthcoming).

ECLAC (2007), "Gender based violence and women's autonomy", in Women and Development Unit (eds.), *Promote gender equality and empower women*, Interagency report coordinated by ECLAC, Santiago, Chile (forthcoming).

ECLAC's website provides access to non-comparable surveys on violence against women carried out in the region between 1990 and 2001 (Bolivia 1997/98; Chile 1993, 1996, 1997, 2001; Colombia 1995; Costa Rica 1994; Guatemala 1990; Haiti 1996; Mexico 1996, 1997, 1999; Nicaragua 1996, 1997, 1998; Paraguay 1995/96; Peru 1997, 2000; Uruguay 1997) (at: <http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/proyectos/perfiles/beijing/BEIJING24.HTM>). More recently it has also been able to provide a smaller set of comparable information for a wide array of indicators that have been processed from the Demographic Health Surveys of Bolivia 2003; Colombia 2000 and 2005; Dominican Republic 2002; Haiti 2000 (2004/2005 will be posted soon) and Peru 2004 (at: [http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/proyectos/perfiles/comparados/comp\\_violencia.htm](http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/proyectos/perfiles/comparados/comp_violencia.htm)).

#### **Address/Websites**

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ECLAC

Av. Dag Hammarskjöld, 3477 Vitacura, Santiago, Chile

[www.eclac.org/mujer](http://www.eclac.org/mujer)

A special banner on Violence against Women is available on the portal of the webpage of the Women and Development Unit both in English and Spanish. It gives access to the Secretary-General's in depth-study on violence against women, the studies and gender indicators developed by ECLAC, international instruments and studies produced by the international community (to be updated shortly), detailed information on national legislation adopted by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean as well as documentation produced by civil society organizations (to be updated shortly).

#### **IV. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)**

##### **Background**

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The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is the main economic and social development forum within the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region.

##### **Policy framework**

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See main instruments listed above. In addition, ESCAP's mandate and policy framework in the area of violence against women derive from the Bangkok Communiqué adopted at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and its Regional and Global Outcomes in Bangkok (2004).

##### **Area(s) of focus**

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ESCAP focuses on the elimination of violence against women, trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, and the commercial sexual exploitation of children. It undertakes advocacy and policy dialogue to facilitate policy formulation and implementation of commitments; engages in awareness-raising through information sharing and outreach within countries and internationally; builds and strengthens action networks; builds linkages and partnerships between governments, civil society and other stakeholders; and undertakes capacity-building and training activities.

##### **Policy development /research**

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###### *Baseline July 2007*

ESCAP helps to catalyze gender analysis and policy-making among Member States at the governmental level through ESCAP subsidiary bodies. It serves as a coordinating body and forum for discussion and policy development on gender-based violence issues through the organization of expert group meetings, intergovernmental meetings, and thematic seminars. Recent examples include an expert group meeting on violence against women, focusing on harmful cultural and traditional practices and strengthening the role of national machineries (2007); an expert group meeting on the promotion and implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, with particular emphasis on violence against women and trafficking in women (2005); an expert group meeting on strategic planning for the intensification of regional, sub-regional and inter-regional cooperation to combat trafficking in women and children (2003); and a sub-regional seminar on using legal instruments to combat trafficking in women and children (2001).

ESCAP conducts research and publishes documents on various topics related to violence against women. Specific examples include a toolkit for implementing and monitoring the East Asia and Pacific Regional Commitment and Action Plan against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) (2006); a resource guide on international and regional instruments, political commitments and recommended practices for combating human trafficking (2003); discussion papers on: the elimination of violence against women in partnership with men (2003), women, violence, human rights and armed conflict (2000), regional research on South Asia (2000), and national research on violence against women in Bangladesh (1999).

In April 2007, the Gender and Development Section of the Emerging Social Issues Division organized an expert group meeting at ESCAP addressing "Regional Strategies for Implementing the Recommendations from the Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Women with Particular Emphasis on Harmful Traditional and Cultural Practices and the Role of National

Machineries". The meeting was attended by experts from the region and several representatives from the national machineries for the advancement of women from selected Member States. The final outcome of the meeting included recommendations for priority action in the region to give greater momentum to the implementation of the recommendations of the Secretary-General's study. It recommended in particular the need to identify and document the many hitherto unknown and undocumented forms of harmful traditional and cultural practices of violence against women and girls in the Asian and Pacific region.

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

In follow-up to ESCAP's April 2007 expert group meeting on regional strategies for implementing the recommendations from the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women, 2 studies documenting harmful traditional and cultural practices as forms of violence against women in South Asia and the Pacific have been commissioned for completion in the first quarter of 2008. A handbook based on the regional expert group discussion and recommendations on violence against women is being prepared for dissemination to a wider audience in the region.

In July 2007, ESCAP held an expert group meeting for senior law-making officials and national machineries for women to review the concluding comments of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and integration of the Convention in domestic law. The meeting focused, as one major issue, on strategies for policy reform in the area of violence against women, including on such issues as recognition of marital rape, mechanisms to enforce existing laws - particularly on domestic violence, and personal or religious law that condones violence against women.

As part of its project to build the capacity of the Pacific Islands to adopt and implement the Stockholm Agenda for Action and the Yokohama Commitments to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth, a Regional Stakeholders' Consultation and Planning Workshop for government officials and NGOs based on situational analysis studies on the commercial sexual exploitation of children and child sexual abuse in the Pacific also addressed violence and abuse of girls and adolescents. The meeting, on 19-21 November 2007 in Suva, Fiji, was co-organized with ECPAT International and Save the Children Fiji.

#### *February to September 2008*

In follow-up to an April 2007 expert group meeting on regional strategies for implementing the recommendations from the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women, a sub-regional study has been prepared which documents harmful traditional and cultural practices as forms of violence against women in South Asia. The study covers Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

ESCAP held an expert group meeting on "Gender statistics and the use of violence against women indicators in support of the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA)", from 1 to 3 October 2008. The meeting was co-organized by ESCAP's Social Development Division/Gender Equality and Empowerment Section and Statistics Division. It aimed at building partnerships between national statistical offices (NSOs) and national women's machineries (NWMs) in the development and use of statistics in policymaking, implementation and monitoring.

In follow-up to an expert group meeting of April 2007 on regional strategies for implementing the recommendations from the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women, ESCAP posted on its website a subregional study documenting harmful traditional and

cultural practices as forms of violence against women in South Asia. The study covers Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

*March to September 2009*

ESCAP issued a publication on commercial sexual exploitation in the Pacific region entitled “Pacific Perspectives on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of Children and Youth”, which provides an analysis of the cultural, political, economic and social aspects of the commercial sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children and considers its root causes and consequences in the Pacific.

### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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*Baseline July 2007*

ESCAP undertakes capacity-building activities for more effective programme planning by governments and civil society organizations for achieving gender equality and health promotion, including addressing HIV/AIDS issues, human trafficking, and combating commercial sexual exploitation of children in Asia and the Pacific. It promotes strengthening of women’s national machineries at the governmental level and serves as a facilitator in building linkages among government, civil society and development partners. ESCAP also undertakes training activities, such as the sub-regional training workshop on elimination of violence against women in partnership with men, New Delhi (2003).

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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*Baseline July 2007*

ESCAP disseminates information about prevention of violence against women and trafficking, and encourages stakeholder participation in such efforts. It organizes panel discussions, film festivals and screenings to increase awareness among different stakeholders. For example, ESCAP has facilitated the production and screening of a short film on five young men speaking about violence against women and gender equality, called Young Men Speak Out, available in VCD format.

At the third session of UNESCAP’s Committee on Emerging Social Issues, 12 to 14 December 2006, the Executive Secretary emphasized the importance of advancing gender equality and women’s economic empowerment and called attention to the Secretary-General’s in-depth study on all forms of violence against women. Copies of the study were circulated to all Member States and Observers. The Committee considered the document entitled “Emerging issues and challenges related to gender and development” (E/ESCAP/CESI (3)/3) which covered the key findings of and recommendations of the Secretary-General’s study.

On the occasion of International Women’s Day 2007, the United Nations system celebrated with a panel presentation and discussion, exhibition, and film screening on the global theme of ‘Ending impunity for violence against women’. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP and Executive Director of UNAIDS called for universal respect for women’s human rights and an end to all forms of violence against women and impunity. Copies of the Secretary-General’s study were widely distributed.

### **Future activities**

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ESCAP, along with other regional commissions, is finalizing preparations for the project “Enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women”, funded through the Development

Account. ESCAP activities planned for 2009 include: preparation of three national studies on the feasibility and use of violence against women indicators, covering the Pacific, South-East Asia and South Asia sub-regions. These pilot studies will inform a subsequent regional meeting of national women's machineries, women's organizations, gender and development institutes and statistical offices.

## **Resources**

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*Toolkit for implementing and monitoring the East Asia and Pacific Regional Commitment and Action Plan against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)*, 2006, available at: [http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Publication/2388\\_toolkit\\_csec.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Publication/2388_toolkit_csec.pdf)

Recommendations adopted at Expert Group Meeting on the "Promotion and Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) with Particular Emphasis on Violence against Women and Trafficking in Women", 3-5 October, 2005, Thailand, available at: <http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Issues/Trafficking/EGM%20adopted%20recommendations.pdf>

Discussion paper on *Trafficking and the Human Rights of Women: Using the CEDAW Convention and Committed to Strengthen National and International Responses to Trafficking in Women and Girls*, 2005, available at: <http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Issues/Trafficking/Discussion%20Paper-EGM2005.pdf>

Report of the Expert Group Meeting on "Strategic Planning for the Intensification of Regional, Sub-regional and Inter-regional Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Women and Children" 18-19 December 2003, Thailand, available at: <http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Issues/Trafficking/index.asp>

*Combating Human Trafficking in Asia: A Resource Guide to International and Regional Legal Instruments, Political Commitments and Recommended Practices*, 2003, available at: <http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Publication/Trafficking-File1.pdf>, <http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Publication/Trafficking-File2.pdf>

Discussion Paper on *Elimination of Violence against Women in Partnership with Men*, 2003, available at: <http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Publication/DiscussionPapers/15/series15-main-text.pdf>

Discussion Paper on *Women and Violence, Human Rights and Armed Conflict*, 2000, available at: <http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Publication/DiscussionPapers/07/series7.pdf>

Discussion Paper on *Violence against women in South Asia - Subregional overview, Violence against women in Bangladesh*, 1999, available at: <http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Publication/DiscussionPapers/03/series3.pdf>

Report of the Regional Conference on *Trafficking in Women*, 3-4 November 1998

## **Address/Websites**

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ESCAP  
Gender and Development Section, Emerging Social Issues Division,  
United Nations Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Rajadmnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand  
[www.unescap.org](http://www.unescap.org)  
<http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Issues/Violence/index.asp>  
<http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Issues/Trafficking/index.asp>

<http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Issues/Humansecurity/index.asp>  
<http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Issues/CSEC/index.asp>  
<http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Issues/Humanrights/index.asp>

## **V. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (ESCWA)**

### **Background**

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As the regional arm of the United Nations in Western Asia, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) promotes the economic and social development of its Member States through regional and sub-regional cooperation and integration. ESCWA has a general mandate to carry out regional reviews of progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of international conferences and summits. The ESCWA Centre for Women was established in 2003 to improve the status of women by empowering them economically, socially and politically. The Centre also services the Committee on Women, an inter-governmental body.

### **Policy framework**

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See main instruments listed above.

### **Area(s) of focus**

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ESCWA addresses issues related to violence against women at the regional level within the overall context of economic and social development, and their close links to peace and security. It aims to enhance inter-agency coordination and collaboration among United Nations entities working on women's issues, including on violence against women, in the Western Asia/Arab region. ESCWA/Centre for Women is a member of the Steering Committee of the OXFAM-UNIFEM joint project on "Strategies and approaches of working with men and boys to promote gender equality project". From 2009 – 2012, ESCWA in collaboration with the other Regional Commissions will implement a sixth Tranche Development Account Project to Enhance Capacities to Eradicate Violence against Women. The project seeks to strengthen national and regional capacity to take action, prevent sanction and eradicate physical and sexual violence against women. The strategy will rely on enhancing the production of statistical data and indicators of these forms of violence as well as knowledge sharing at the regional and inter-regional levels.

### **Policy development/research**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

ESCWA supports the work of intergovernmental bodies, including the Arab Regional Conference Ten Years after Beijing: A Call for Peace in Beirut (2004), which resulted in the five-year work programme that includes women's rights and violence against women among its five priority areas. In 2004, ESCWA conducted the Arab regional ten-year review and appraisal of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, which included attention to violence against women.

ESCWA contributes to the Secretary-General's reports on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women. To that end, ESCWA analyses the close links between increased poverty and social burdens and increased domestic violence against women.

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

The Third Session of the Committee on Women of ESCWA was convened in Abu Dhabi, 14- 5 March 2007 and focused on the theme of women and armed conflict in the Arab region, including multiple manifestations of violence against women.

ESCWA convened an expert group meeting in March 2007 on the impact of armed conflict on women, and the advancement of women living under conflict conditions. Topics included gender-based violence during armed conflict and other manifestations of violence against women under conflict conditions.

ESCWA contributed to the Secretary-General's report on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2008/3) and published *Social and Economic Situation of Palestinian Women 2000-2006*, which analyses the close links between increased poverty and social burdens and increased domestic violence against women. Also in 2007, ESCWA published the *Report on Women in the Arab region: Achievements, Obstacles and Prospects for Advancement*, which reviewed the status of Arab women and their achievements in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, The Arab Plan of Action and the Beirut Declaration, a five year plan which includes women's rights and violence against women among its five priority areas.

*October 2008 to February 2009*

ESCWA is part of the steering committee of the OXFAM-UNIFEM joint project on "Strategies and approaches of working with men and boys to promote gender equality".

### **Operational activities including capacity-building and training activities**

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*July 2007 to January 2008*

ESCWA undertook two advisory missions in 2007 to strengthen capacity for the full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, including legal reform and application of existing law in line with the Convention, as a pre-requisite for eradicating violence against women in the region. In October 2007, ESCWA also held a regional capacity-building workshop on the Convention, for judges and parliamentarians, in collaboration with DAW, which focused on violence against women.

*October 2008 to February 2009*

In November 2008, ESCWA held the second regional workshop on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women for Judges and Parliamentarians. A major area of discussion was the role of judges and parliamentarians in preventing and responding to violence against women.

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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*Baseline July 2007*

ESCWA undertakes awareness-raising efforts through meetings, regional conferences and seminars. The ESCWA Centre for Women devoted the March 2007 issue of its newsletter to the subject of violence against women in the ESCWA region; the newsletter was distributed on International Women's Day 2007 as part of the global effort to call attention to this important issue.

*July 2007 to January 2008*

The ESCWA Centre for Women devoted the first issue of its newsletter to the subject of women and armed conflict. The newsletter examined gender-based violence against women in conflict settings in the Arab world. The March 2007 issue was devoted to the subject of violence against women in the ESCWA region and was distributed on International Women's Day 2007 as part of the global effort to call attention to this important issue.



*October 2008 to February 2009*

ESCWA participated in a meeting entitled “ The effect of violence on women and family“, organized by the Doha International Institute on Family Studies and Development, 19 to 20 November 2008.

### **Future activities**

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In 2009, ESCWA will produce two publications that relate directly to implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/143, namely: the flagship report entitled “The Status of Arab Women: Means to strengthen the role of women in conflict resolution and peace-building”. A second study which will be conducted in cooperation with UNHCR, will be entitled “Guidelines on the protection of the rights of women in the ESCWA region through the proper use of UN resolutions and international protocols on war and armed conflict”.

The Fourth session of the Committee on Women and the regional review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action will take place in October 2009, supported by ESCWA. Achievements, gaps and challenges in the Arab region in all 12 areas of concern, including violence against women, will be reviewed.

### **Resources**

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Arab regional ten-year review and appraisal of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/3 dated 1 July 2004

### **Address/Websites**

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ESCWA  
P.O. Box 11-8575, Riad El-Solh 1107 2812, Beirut, Lebanon  
[www.escwa.org.lb](http://www.escwa.org.lb)  
<http://www.escwa.org.lb/ecw/index.asp>

## **OFFICE OF INTERNAL OVERSIGHT SERVICES**

### **Background**

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The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) is the internal oversight body of the United Nations. Established in 1994 by the General Assembly, the Office assists the Secretary-General in fulfilling his oversight responsibilities in respect of the resources and staff of the Organization through the provision of audit, investigation, inspection, and evaluation services.

### **Policy framework**

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General Assembly resolutions 48/218B, 54/244 and 59/272 on the establishment and the review of functions and reporting procedures of OIOS.

### **Area(s) of focus**

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OIOS undertakes a number of activities to support the commitment of the Organization to gender mainstreaming, including oversight of United Nations gender mainstreaming efforts. In addition, the Office assists the Organization in achieving better results by determining the factors affecting the efficient and effective implementation of programmes in accordance with, inter alia, the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992.

### **Policy development/research**

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*March to September 2009*

OIOS recently commenced a thematic evaluation of the start-up phase of the Secretary-General's Campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women". The evaluation will also consider the broader framework in which the campaign is carried out, namely the UN's work on gender mainstreaming and gender equality.

As part of a review of the efficiency of the implementation of the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), OIOS surveyed 1,200 Colombians from different regions and socio-economic groups. Two thirds of all respondents, and even higher proportions of women and young people, indicated respect for human rights as the most important issue to them on a list that also included economic development, environmental protection and international relations. The rights to live in freedom and safety and to equal treatment under the law were considered most important. Women reported significantly higher levels of interest in human rights and significantly lower levels of knowledge concerning human rights mechanisms in Colombia than did men. (A/64/203, Box, Knowledge of human rights among the population of Colombia, pp. 9-10). Seventy two per cent of respondents felt violence and civil unrest were definitely human rights issues and a further 13 per cent felt that they were to some extent. There was no significant difference between the responses of men and women to this question. Staff of the OHCHR and its partners (including government agencies, non-government organizations, and other UN entities who work with the Office at both headquarters and field levels) was interviewed as part of the evaluation. They indicated that the OHCHR had contributed to increased protection of potential victims, reductions in the occurrence of human rights violations and more measures to improve access to human rights by marginalized and discriminated groups, including women.

### **Operational activities, including capacity-building and training**

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*March to September 2009*

OIOS is providing support to the building of capacity and specialized skills for investigating SEA, including advanced training techniques involving victims of sex crimes. The anticipated training module for SEA investigations to be promulgated by OIOS throughout the UN system raises awareness and enhances capacity in investigative techniques to address issues of sexual abuse.

OIOS issues contingent reports that request confirmation of follow-up by Member States contributing troops for peacekeeping operations in order to ensure that allegations of SEA are not treated with impunity.

**Address/Websites**

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OIOS  
380 Madison Ave.  
New York, NY 10017  
[www.un.org/Depts/oios/](http://www.un.org/Depts/oios/)

## **United Nations Funds, Programmes, Specialized Agencies and Financial Institutions**

### **UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)**

#### **Background**

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The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP works with countries to build their own solutions to global and national development challenges and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. UNDP helps developing countries attract and use aid effectively and encourages the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women in all its activities. UNDP chairs the UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict.

#### **Policy framework**

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See main instruments listed above.

#### **Area(s) of focus**

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UNDP focuses on all types of violence against women, including vulnerabilities arising out of trafficking in women and children, HIV/AIDS, disaster, conflict and post-conflict situations.

#### **Policy development/research**

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*July 2007 to January 2008*

Policy influence has been a major component of UNDP's assistance in supporting governments to address gender-based violence in Mozambique, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Mexico, Zimbabwe, and Maldives. In Cambodia, for example UNDP's policy advocacy and support for the development of monitoring indicators on gender equality has resulted in the adoption by the Cambodian government of four Monitoring Indicators on gender equality, one of which relates to domestic violence. In Rwanda, UNDP's support to women parliamentarians has contributed to the drafting of a Bill to criminalize gender-based violence which has been submitted to the Parliament for approval.

UNDP supports action research for policy development, the collection of data disaggregated by sex and the development of databases on gender issues.

With UNDP's support, policy debates and dialogues backed by research on women's security and citizenship in Lebanon, Egypt, Syrian Arab Republic, Morocco, and Bahrain were held to promote women's human rights and draw attention to violence against women. Similarly, research carried out on domestic violence with UNDP support has contributed to policy development and promotion of women's human rights in Mexico, Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, Jamaica, Croatia, and Belarus. For example, in Equatorial Guinea, the findings and the recommendations of the study on violence against women and children have been integrated in the draft bill on family law. In Jamaica, the findings of a research on gender-based violence were fed into the development of a national action plan, including the identification of school based initiatives and the role of the family to address gender-based violence. In Belarus, the findings of an in-depth gender analysis of the situation of commercial sex workers helped to integrate issues related to human rights of commercial sex workers including prevention of violence against them into an on-going project.

*October 2008 to February 2009*

As Chair of *UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict*, UNDP/Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) advocated with Security Council members for the adoption of Security Council resolution 1820 (2008).

Throughout 2008, UNDP supported policy dialogues with Parliamentarians and Councilors in Zimbabwe on the country's 2007 Domestic Violence Act. UNDP held policy dialogues with senior bureaucrats on gender-based violence in Kuwait. In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UNDP supported work to improve the legal framework for protection of victims of violence. In Mexico, UNDP is supporting the harmonization and implementation of the Equality between Men and Women Act and the Act on Women's Access to a Life Free of Violence in three States, namely Guerrero, Estado de México and Zacatecas.

In December 2008, UNDP undertook a scoping exercise to document the range of gender-based violence interventions its country offices support. The exercise aims to specify UNDP's role in this area.

#### *March to September 2009*

UNDP held its Global Conference on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Caracas, Venezuela, in order to better identify entry points for UNDP's work on gender-based violence.

### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

UNDP supports the development of national strategies on protection for victims of domestic violence, and the development of legislation addressing domestic violence. UNDP's 2006-2007 Plan of action for mainstreaming gender perspectives in crisis prevention and recovery addresses violence against women in the context of conflict and post-conflict situations.

UNDP supports and undertakes the development of training modules for policy makers, law enforcement agencies and communities aimed at addressing violence against women, and contributes to capacity development at national and local levels. UNDP supports the provision of free legal service, counselling, mediation and rehabilitation, as well as micro-enterprise activities.

UNDP has developed gender equality and crisis prevention and recovery training materials for technical staff of its Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery. UNDP has trained 13 UNDP offices in conflict and post-conflict situations on gender mainstreaming for country programming.

UNDP supports research for policy development, the collection of data disaggregated by sex and the development of databases on gender issues.

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

UNDP supports the development of training modules for policy makers, law enforcement agencies and communities aimed at addressing violence against women, and contributes to capacity development at national and local levels. UNDP supports the provision of free legal service, counseling, mediation and rehabilitation, as well as micro-enterprise activities for survivors of gender-based violence.

In Honduras, a violence prevention programme was signed between the Instituto Luis Bogran, the Ministry of Education and UNDP for training teachers, parents and students to become change agents in preventing violence. In Samoa, a Human Rights Small Grants Scheme has contributed greatly to increasing the knowledge of community men and women on protection and promotion of human rights especially prevention of domestic violence against women and children. In

Nicaragua, a pilot project on domestic and sexual violence is being implemented in two municipalities in partnership with the National Police. In Afghanistan, UNDP is supporting the implementation of a project to strengthen the Police Force's family violence unit in Kabul. The project will be expanded to cover the 5 regional provinces. Through its "Addressing Gender-based Violence in Darfur" project, UNDP undertook a project on gender-based violence from 2006 to 2008. The project: established a Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Working Group that served as a forum for coordination and collaboration; conducted SGBV awareness raising sessions for over 700 beneficiaries, including paralegals, judges, lawyers and the judiciary; provided technical support to the SGBV committees in compiling a national plan on SGBV, in collaboration with other UN entities; established women's committees/centres that were trained in dealing with SGBV; established a partnership with the Chief Justice, the Chief Prosecutor, the Chief Attorney-General in El Fasher, in raising awareness on SGBV and on addressing it; referred several SGBV cases to the UNDP-supported Legal Aid Network; conducted a series of Sufi Workshops on Violence Against Women in El Geneina and El Fasher; conducted training on women's rights under the Sudanese law and psychosocial needs of SGBV victims for 25 paralegals and lawyers; and conducted awareness raising trainings on SGBV among the local communities by organizing discussion forums for approximately 20 Omdas and Sheikhs.

*October 2008 to February 2009*

In 2008, UNDP/Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery began the roll-out in 19 countries of the global programme *Strengthening the Rule of Law in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations*. In eight conflict/post-conflict countries (including Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Guinea Bissau, Kosovo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Timor Leste), the programme has strong components on gender-based violence.

In Cambodia, an estimated 2,485 villagers participated throughout 2008 in community conversation sessions organized by village facilitators to promote the communities' understanding of social and legal issues related to domestic violence.

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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*Baseline July 2007*

UNDP advocates for the elimination of violence against women and raises awareness by promoting national and local campaigns, including the "16 days of activism against gender violence" and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. At country level, UNDP supports radio and TV shows that address violence against women, as well as production of posters and other public announcements.

The GenderNet forum on UNDP's website helps to disseminate, develop and manage knowledge on elimination of violence against women. Topics discussed on GenderNet include: comparative experiences in the development of a national strategy for the protection of victims of domestic violence (10 November 2004), and comparative experiences on violence against women (20 April 2004).

*July 2007 to January 2008*

UNDP advocates for the elimination of violence against women and raises awareness by promoting multi-media national and local campaigns, including the "16 days of activism against gender violence" and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November).

*October 2008 to February 2009*

In 2008, UNDP supported multi-media national and local campaigns, including during the “16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence”, in Kuwait, Iraq, Syria, Zimbabwe, Niger and Myanmar.

### **Future activities**

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In collaboration with the UNDP/Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, 11 country offices will implement projects on violence against women in 2009. The countries are DRC, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Uganda, Kenya, Liberia, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Jamaica, El Salvador and Guatemala. The Bureau will deploy twelve Senior Gender Advisors to Liberia, South Sudan, Haiti, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea, Iraq, Nepal, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Kosovo, South Africa and Senegal.

### **Resources**

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Webpage containing information on UNDP’s Global Conference on Gender-based Violence, 2009: [http://www.pnud.org.ve/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=190](http://www.pnud.org.ve/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=190)

UNDP Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Issue 2 2009, focusing on sexual and gender-based violence: [http://www.undp.org/cpr/newsletters/2009\\_2\\_spring/index.html](http://www.undp.org/cpr/newsletters/2009_2_spring/index.html)

### **Address/Websites**

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UNDP  
One United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017  
<http://www.undp.org/women/>  
<http://www.undp.org/rblac/gender/>

## **I. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN (UNIFEM)**

### **Background**

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The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programmes and strategies to foster women's empowerment and gender equality. Placing the advancement of women's human rights at the centre of all of its efforts, UNIFEM focuses its activities on four strategic areas: (1) reducing feminized poverty, (2) ending violence against women, (3) reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls, and (4) achieving gender equality in democratic governance in times of peace as well as war. UNIFEM works on several fronts towards ending violence against women and girls. This includes tackling its main root: gender inequality. Efforts are multiplied through advocacy campaigns and partnerships with governments, civil society and the UN system. Initiatives range from working to establish legal frameworks and specific national actions, to supporting prevention at the grassroots level, including in conflict and post-conflict situations. UNIFEM has also supported data collection on violence against women, facilitating new learning on the issue. UNIFEM's work on violence against women is based within a human rights framework.

### **Policy framework**

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See main instruments listed above. General Assembly resolution 50/166 on the role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in eliminating violence against women, establishing the Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women and subsequent resolutions (A/RES/52/94, A/RES/54/136, A/RES/56/130, A/RES 60/137) also support UNIFEM's work in this area.

### **Area(s) of focus**

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Under UNIFEM's 2004-2007 Multi-Year Funding Framework, programming to end violence against women was undertaken at the macro, meso and micro levels. Specific areas of focus for UNIFEM's programming varied according to regional context with, for example, heightened attention to sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict in sub-Saharan Africa, including Rwanda, Uganda and DRC, or trafficking in women in the South Asian region.

Building on its partnerships and programming experience under the multi-year funding framework 2004-2007, and seizing on the unprecedented momentum exemplified at international and national levels to end violence against women and girls, UNIFEM developed a new strategy, *A Life Free of Violence: Unleashing the Power of Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality*. The Strategy, in line with UNIFEM's strategic plan for 2008-2013, deepens UNIFEM's ongoing work in advocacy and awareness-raising, as well as policy and legal reform. It addresses the linkages between violence against women and HIV and AIDS, and provides for further developing capacity to increase access to services and justice for survivors. At the same time, UNIFEM has identified emerging areas for intensified future programming, such as incorporating violence against women and girls in leading policy and funding frameworks; aligning informal and formal justice systems with international human rights standards; addressing sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations; and developing targeted prevention approaches, especially with key groups such as men and adolescents.

UNIFEM plays a key role in inter-agency initiatives on violence against women. It is the administrator of the UN Trust Fund, a founding and active member of UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, active member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for humanitarian assistance Gender Sub-Working Group, Task Force on Violence against Women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, and Inter-Agency Task Force on Adolescent Girls, and one of the six UN entities on the High-Level Steering Committee of the Secretary-



General's Campaign "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women", 2008-2015. UNIFEM also serves as a lead or partner agency in relation to several joint UN initiatives on violence against women, including the Spanish Government's MDG Achievement Fund sponsored programmes in Bangladesh, Colombia and Morocco; the Asia Pacific Regional Joint Programme "Partners for Prevention: Working with Boys and Men to Prevent Gender-based Violence"; and the One UN pilots in Albania, Rwanda and Uruguay, whose programmes include components to address violence against women.

## **Policy development/research**

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### *Baseline July 2007*

In every sub-region, UNIFEM provides support to efforts to introduce and strengthen legislation and policies against gender-based violence, including domestic and sexual violence, trafficking in women and forced marriage, and to ensure that all forms of violence against women are criminalized. UNIFEM also assists efforts to implement these instruments, including through the allocation of sufficient budgetary resources to end violence against women.

### *July 2007 to January 2008*

UNIFEM, in partnership with national counterparts, ministries, civil society and UN sister agencies, provided support to introduce and strengthen legislation and policies against gender-based violence, including the adoption of laws against domestic and sexual violence, rape and family law provisions in, for instance, Cameroon, Colombia, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, Vietnam and Zimbabwe and the development of national strategies and plans in Albania, Algeria, Ecuador, Guyana, Kazakhstan and Slovakia. In Bolivia (Municipality of Cochabamba) and Ecuador, UNIFEM supported advocacy for increased allocations for services for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence, resulting in the Government of Ecuador committing \$2 million for implementation of the national plan of action.

UNIFEM supported initiatives for better data collection and national statistical monitoring on gender-based violence, including in Afghanistan, Algeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Mexico, Morocco, Senegal, and Venezuela. In Afghanistan, UNIFEM supported the development of a database to collect and track service-based data to monitor the 'Strategic Framework for Eliminating Violence against Women'. Under the UNIFEM-supported Safe Cities Programme in the Southern Cone of Latin America, a protocol is under development to guide the Urban Municipal Guard in Rosario, Argentina, in responding to gender-based violence, which is stimulating policy reforms in Santa Clara, Chile, and lessons are being shared with local authorities in Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay.

### *February to September 2008*

UNIFEM continued to support the development, reform and implementation of violence against women legislation and policy at global, regional and national levels. Examples include: legislative reform support to the Alliance on the elimination of violence against women in Pakistan; support to the Regional Rights Training Team and UNDP in advocating for the passage of sexual and gender-based violence bills in Fiji and Vanuatu; and advocacy for the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1820 (2008) on sexual violence in conflict.

UNIFEM contributed to the development of national strategies and plans on gender-based violence in Afghanistan, Liberia and Ecuador. In June 2008, UNIFEM, in cooperation with UNICEF, OHCHR, UNFPA and the UN Peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, held a regional consultation towards the creation of the regional action plan to eradicate sexual violence and end impunity in the Great Lakes Region.

UNIFEM, through its gender-responsive budgeting programme in South East Europe, supported civil society, which led to increased regional and municipal budget allocations in 2008 for domestic violence shelters in Bosnia and Herzegovina and amendments to the domestic violence law to ensure co-financing for shelter operations.

As part of its inter-agency cooperation in Burundi, UNIFEM worked with UNDP, UNESCO and UNICEF to provide training and reporting assistance for civil society organizations and police to improve statistics and data collection on cases of gender-based violence. UNIFEM and DFID supported a conference organized by the Rwandan Defense Forces in Kigali in March 2008 on women's participation in peacekeeping missions, as part of prevention of gender-based violence. In collaboration with UNFPA and UNDP, UNIFEM organized a satellite session "From acknowledgement to action: Intersections between violence against women and HIV/AIDS", at the International Conference on AIDS in Mexico City, in August 2008.

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

UNIFEM's support in the formulation, reform and implementation of legislation to address violence against women and girls, in partnership with various national government, bi-lateral government (donor), non-governmental and United Nations partners included: domestic violence laws and bills in Indonesia and Thailand; a workshop for ASEAN Member States to review domestic violence legislation and best practices (October 2008); a regional workshop on coordinated community responses to domestic violence with local government representatives and civil society organizations (CSOs) (including UN Trust Fund grantees) from Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (October 2008); and a workshop on female genital mutilation/ cutting with Christian and Muslim leaders from West Africa (November 2008).

In Venezuela, UNIFEM supported gender-responsive budgeting work that resulted in the earmarking of funds for gender-justice courts, women's prisons and shelters, in selected municipalities.

UNIFEM provided support to national surveys on gender-based violence in Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Uganda, as well as the second iteration of the Cambodian Gender Assessment, including in regard to violence against women.

#### *March to September 2009*

UNIFEM continued to supported: the incorporation of violence against women in the National Development Plan of Cape Verde (within the One UN programme); the development of specific national action plans on violence against women in Pakistan, in coordination with Pakistan's Ministry of Women's Development, and in Mozambique, through an inter-agency programme with national partners; the development of a strategy on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Burundi, in collaboration with the Government of Burundi; the review of Cameroon's Penal Code to remove discriminatory provisions; the advancement of laws against femicide in Latin America (with UNFPA and other regional partners); the drafting of a Declaration on Sexual Violence against Women in Huehuetenango, Guatemala; the inclusion of a regional Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target on addressing gender-based violence by the Caribbean Community Secretariat; and the use of gender-responsive budgeting to secure budget lines for violence prevention, survivor assistance and access to justice in Mexico City and Burundi.

### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

UNIFEM facilitates the strengthening of knowledge bases by supporting efforts to improve the generation and use of data, including through supporting research studies and the creation of databases on violence against women, to build more effective institutions and improve the access of women survivors to services.

In its programming to end violence against women UNIFEM works to support and build the capacity of duty bearers to fulfil their responsibilities to promote and protect women's human rights, including the right to be free from violence, with primary focus on the judiciary, law enforcement officials, parliamentarians, government ministries, legal practitioners, and departments of statistics. It also supports the creation of specialised institutions, such as police gender desks, and facilitates the efforts of gender advocates, including networks of women parliamentarians, to advocate for the creation and implementation of laws and policies to end violence against women. UNIFEM facilitates the creation and/or strengthening of strategic partnerships among governmental and civil society stakeholders and provides support to build the capacity of women's organizations to spearhead innovative responses to violence against women at the country level.

Under the guidance of General Assembly resolution 50/166, UNIFEM is the administrator of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (the Trust Fund), which identifies and supports innovative and catalytic projects around the world that aim to break new ground, create new models and mobilize constituencies to eliminate violence against women in all its manifestations. The Trust Fund generates lessons and good practices that inform larger programmes of UNIFEM and its civil society, governmental and United Nations partners at the national, regional and global levels. In 2005, UNIFEM also launched a regional replication of the Trust Fund in the Arab region for a period of three years. (See also the entry on the Trust Fund in this inventory.)

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

UNIFEM supported the Kosovo Police Service (KPS) and Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) to establish a gender working group in the Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Investigation section. In China, UNIFEM support to the Xuzhou Domestic Violence Shelter is being considered for nation-wide scale-up by the Ministry of Civil Affairs. In Grenada, St. Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago, UNIFEM is supporting implementation of a court-based batterer intervention programme. In Rwanda, over 2,000 defence force members and local leaders have been trained and support provided to the national police in drafting training manuals for investigating sexual and gender-based violence. In 2007, UNIFEM launched a six-country programme designed to build community capacity to prevent sexual and gender-based violence and to build peace in post-conflict countries in Afghanistan, Haiti, Liberia, Rwanda, Timor Leste and Uganda.

#### *February to September 2008*

UNIFEM provided capacity development to the Burundian police and judiciary to improve protection mechanisms for survivors of violence against women. It supported the development of a training course, "Empowerment, HIV and violence against women in the Caribbean." As part of the *Safe Cities* Programme, UNIFEM and Red Mujer y Habitat supported an online learning course, "Urban violence, insecurity and discrimination". UNIFEM strengthened the capacity of civil society partners working on violence against women in Indonesia, Thailand, Timor-Leste and the Philippines. In June 2008, UNIFEM organized a workshop with representatives from Afghanistan, Haiti, Liberia, Rwanda, Timor-Leste and Uganda as part of a programme on *Supporting Women's Engagement in Peace-Building and Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict: Community-Led Approaches*.

UNIFEM leads or partners on several joint United Nations initiatives on violence against women, including programmes in Bangladesh, Colombia and Morocco; the Asia Pacific Regional Joint

Programme Partners for Prevention: Working with Boys and Men to Prevent Gender-based Violence; and the One UN pilots in Albania, Rwanda and Uruguay, which include violence against women in their programming.

*October 2008 to February 2009*

UNIFEM continued to support implementation of commitments to address violence against women through major pillars of its work, such as the UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women; and the “Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women”, in collaboration with UN-HABITAT.

In partnership with various national government, bi-lateral government (donor), non-governmental and United Nations partners, UNIFEM supported: a police training on violence against women and human trafficking in Nigeria (December 2008); a gender and sexual and gender-based violence training for all police recruits in Uganda; the military in Sudan and Burundi to address sexual and gender-based violence, by contributing to the establishment of gender coordinating desks within the Defense Forces, including focal points that are positioned at the brigade and battalion levels; provided technical inputs to the African Union’s Committee of Inquiry in Allegations of Sexual Misconduct in Sudan; trainings of Gacaca judges in Rwanda dealing with sexual and gender-based violence cases; training of 100 Vietnamese National Assembly deputies on the implementation of the Family Violence Prevention Law; legal aid to women survivors in the North of Uganda; training for Rwandan women survivors on handicraft, health and financial skills; the establishment of two referral centres in Afghanistan; and support for efforts addressing post-election rape, including the development of guidelines to prepare women’s court testimonies in Kenya. UNIFEM also established funds for community-based organizations working to prevent and respond to violence against women in Afghanistan, the Pacific and Haiti.

UNIFEM contributed as lead or partner agency in country-level joint United Nations initiatives, such as the “One UN” pilots. UNIFEM established formal partnerships with strategic groups in preventing violence against women, including MenEngage and Religions for Peace.

*March to September 2009*

UNIFEM continued to support capacity development and programming, including with regard to: the establishment of the Kacyriu Police Hospital One Stop Centre for survivors in Rwanda (with UNFPA and UNICEF); activities to improve government and community police responses to sexual and gender-based violence in Darfur (with UNAMID); identification of linkages between violence against women and HIV/AIDS by Caribbean National AIDS Councils; the work of an Albanian network of non-governmental organizations to better coordinate responses to domestic violence with municipal authorities; a national mapping of organizations providing services for survivors of gender-based violence in Kenya; training on gender and trafficking for teachers and adolescents in Thailand; partnership with a National Commission in Mexico to provide financial and technical resources to indigenous women’s organizations and networks addressing violence against women; [and developing an integrated protection plan for victims and witnesses of human rights violations in Colombia (with the Swiss Program for the Promotion of Peace).]

UNIFEM also continued to provide technical and other support in the context of joint United Nations efforts, including: in Macedonia, developing capacity of non-governmental organizations to provide legal services to survivors of domestic violence; in the Asia-Pacific region, engaging men and boys to prevent violence against women; and in Venezuela, strengthening referral networks, increasing access to services, and conducting psychological care and legal workshops. UNIFEM signed a Memoranda of Understanding with UN-HABITAT, to formalize collaboration on the Global Safe Cities initiative; and with UNODC, to implement trafficking programmes in South Asia.

**Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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### *Baseline 2007*

UNIFEM supports advocacy and communication strategies to stimulate awareness and commitment to end violence against women. A key feature in this area is supporting coordinated efforts by NGOs, governments and UN organizations during the annual campaign of 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence (25 November – 10 December). In a number of countries, UNIFEM has also cooperated with partners in the White Ribbon Campaign, an international campaign that seeks to encourage participation of men in the struggle to end violence against women.

### *July 2007 to January 2008*

In partnership with Gender Links, UNIFEM in its capacity as Chair of the Southern African Gender and Human Rights Advisory Group, promoted the development of score-cards to measure progress in ending violence against women in the context of the SADCC Gender and Development Protocol. UNIFEM supported a regional radio network (ALER) to train community radio staff in Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, working among indigenous communities. In Southeast Asia and the Pacific, as elsewhere, UNIFEM, as part of joint UN efforts, supported campaign efforts on ending violence against women.

The UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador launched a global internet-based campaign ([www.sayNOtoviolenace.org](http://www.sayNOtoviolenace.org)) in consultation with UN sister agencies, NGOs and private sector. UNIFEM is a founding member of and hosts the Secretariat for the UN Action to End Sexual Violence in Conflict Situations.

### *February to September 2008*

UNIFEM facilitated the Wilton Park conference of May 2008 on the role of military peacekeepers in addressing sexual violence during armed conflict, and contributed to the dissemination of the results.

UNIFEM supported issuance of two publications to raise awareness about the linkages between violence against women and HIV, namely “The Multiple Faces of the Intersections Between HIV and Violence Against Women” and “Women, Violence and HIV&AIDS: Exploring Interfaces”. UNIFEM collaborated with several agencies to support “Women on the Frontline”, a seven-part series of the BBC aired in April 2008 that profiled forms of violence against women around the globe.

The *Say NO to violence* campaign ([www.sayNOtoviolenace.org](http://www.sayNOtoviolenace.org)) continued with a significant expansion in signatures from individuals, public figures, state officials, private sector entities and governments.

### *October 2008 to February 2009*

UNIFEM supported or co-organized a number of meetings, workshops and conferences in partnership with various national government, bi-lateral government (donor), non-governmental and United Nations partners, including: on Security Council resolution 1820 and Peacekeeping (September 2008); on Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820 with respect to the EU’s Security and Defense Policy missions (October 2008); on financing domestic violence courts with senior African judges; on cross-border female genital mutilation, with West African First Ladies (October 2008); on trafficking in South Asia for media, lawyers and police; and provided technical support for an Economic Community of West African States one day summit on trafficking and other trans-border issues (December 2008).

UNIFEM supported awareness-raising efforts, including: radio education on violence against indigenous women in the Andean Region; gender-based violence community sensitization in Rwanda, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam; and the 16 Days of activism against gender violence campaign in many countries.

From its *Say NO to Violence against Women Campaign*, UNIFEM delivered over 5 million signatures, including from Heads of State and Ministers from 60 governments and more than 600 Parliamentarians from over 70 countries to the UN Secretary-General, on 25 November 2008, in support of his Campaign *UNiTE to End Violence Against Women*.

#### *March to September 2009*

UNIFEM, as part of UN Action, contributed to the organization of a high-level colloquium on conflict-related sexual violence and peace negotiations, which shared its conclusions at a United Kingdom-hosted Security Council Arria formula meeting related to the Secretary-General's report on Security Council Resolution 1820.

UNIFEM supported public events and information dissemination on ending violence against women through various mediums, including: International Women's Day in India, Nigeria and Viet Nam; youth conferences on sexual harassment in Egypt and on support to sexual and gender-based violence survivors in Tanzania; a Zimbabwe television series to highlight trafficking issues; a documentary on good practices in ancestral justice for indigenous women in Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador; and a youth rock concert in Colombia. Within an interagency programme in Haiti, UNIFEM supported the dissemination of information regarding special to sexual and gender-based violence protection measures through media and schools (in collaboration with the Ministry for the Status of Women and Women's Rights).

In support of the Secretary-General's Campaign *UNiTE to End Violence Against Women*, UNIFEM coordinated inter-agency efforts towards the launch of the UNiTE: Africa and UNiTE: Latin America and the Caribbean regional components of the Campaign, and organized a civil society consultation in relation to the Campaign, with OSAGI and the Center for Women's Global Leadership.

#### **Future activities**

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UNIFEM will continue to advance the programming to end violence against women and girls global support site, to be launched in 2010. It will finalize the selection of sites participating in the Global Safe Cities Programme and impact evaluation. It will also launch a second phase of the **Say NO to violence against women initiative, under the banner "Say NO – UNiTE", which will focus on** social mobilization in order to advance the Secretary-General's Campaign *UNiTE to End Violence Against Women*.

#### **Resources**

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*A Life Free of Violence Is Our Right! The UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women*. 10 Years of Investment 2007, United Nations Development Fund for Women, [http://www.unifem.org/resources/item\\_detail.php?ProductID=83](http://www.unifem.org/resources/item_detail.php?ProductID=83)

*A Life Free of Violence Is Our Right! – Trust Fund Testimonies* (Video), 2007, United Nations Development Fund for Women

*Let's End Violence Against Women* (Public Service Announcement) 2007, Leo Burnett and United Nations Development Fund for Women: [http://www.unifem.org/resources/item\\_detail.php?ProductID=87](http://www.unifem.org/resources/item_detail.php?ProductID=87)

*Creating Economic Opportunities for Women in Albania: A Strategy for the Prevention of Human Trafficking* 2006, Gender Alliance for Development Center with support from United Nations Development Fund for Women, <http://www.unifem.sk/uploads/doc/Albania%20report%20final.pdf>

*Uncounted and Discounted: A Secondary Data Research Project on Violence against Women in Afghanistan*, United Nations Development Fund for Women:  
[http://afghanistan.unifem.org/PDF\\_Documents/Uncounted%20\\_Discounted.pdf](http://afghanistan.unifem.org/PDF_Documents/Uncounted%20_Discounted.pdf)

*Not a Minute More: Ending Violence Against Women* 2003, United Nations Development Fund for Women, [http://www.unifem.org/resources/item\\_detail.php?ProductID=7](http://www.unifem.org/resources/item_detail.php?ProductID=7)

*War and Peace: The Independent Experts' Assessment on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Women's Role in Peace-building*. Elisabeth Rehn & Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Women, 2002, United Nations Development Fund for Women:  
[http://www.unifem.org/resources/item\\_detail.php?ProductID=17](http://www.unifem.org/resources/item_detail.php?ProductID=17)

*Picturing a Life Free of Violence: Media and Communications Strategies to End Violence Against Women* 2001, United Nations Development Fund for Women:  
[http://www.unifem.org/resources/item\\_detail.php?ProductID=8](http://www.unifem.org/resources/item_detail.php?ProductID=8)

*With an End in Sight: Strategies from the UNIFEM Trust Fund to Eliminate Violence Against Women*, 2000, United Nations Development Fund for Women:  
[http://www.unifem.org/resources/item\\_detail.php?ProductID=14](http://www.unifem.org/resources/item_detail.php?ProductID=14)

#### **Address/Websites**

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UNIFEM, 304 East 45<sup>th</sup> Street  
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New York, NY, 10017  
[www.unifem.org](http://www.unifem.org)

## **II. UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS (UNV)**

### **Background**

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The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme was established by the UN General Assembly in 1970 and is administered by UNDP. Free will, commitment, engagement and solidarity are the foundation of volunteerism. Volunteerism serves the cause of peace and development by enhancing opportunities for participation by all, particularly women. Since the start of its operations, UNV has supported the UN system by mobilizing volunteers for peace and development all over the world. Almost 8,000 volunteer assignments were undertaken in 2008. In its resolution 63/153 of February 2009, the UN General Assembly reaffirmed the significance of volunteerism for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the importance of marking the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV +10) in 2011.

### **Policy Framework**

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See main instruments listed above. UNV works within the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) framework for Empowerment and Equality (UNDP, 2008) which is based on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (as well as other human rights treaties) to promote equality, peace and development.

### **Area (s) of focus**

In partnership with governments, civil society organizations and UN agencies, UNV contributes to gender equality by raising awareness as well as the prevention and elimination of violence against women through advocacy, integration and mobilization of volunteers.

### **Policy development/research**

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#### *Baseline 2007*

UNV carried out a corporate review of gender mainstreaming (Norrish, 2006) which made recommendations for strengthening performance in this area. As a result, UNV set up a Gender Action Team.

#### *March to September 2009*

The UNV Gender Action Team and senior management initiated exploratory research on “Gender and Volunteerism” in order to support gender-related policy discussion, planning and implementation that can serve a range of partners in terms of making progress towards development goals and gender equality.

### **Operational activities, including capacity-building and training**

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#### *March to September 2009*

In **Darfur**, UNV volunteers mobilized a paralegal aid network comprised of attorneys, professors and speakers to volunteer their services. They provide seminars and training to internally displaced persons (IDPs), community members, women and men, youth, and traditional community leaders on gender-based violence, and how to best provide support to survivors and families. Volunteer attorneys also accompany UNDP on field missions with the Mobile Legal Aid Clinics to provide legal assistance to survivors.



In **Egypt**, UNV is working with the UN system and the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) to delineate the role of volunteerism in the FGM-Free Village initiative. National UNV volunteers are involved as youth leaders at the village level to raise awareness about the health related consequences of female genital mutilation (FGM), and to advocate against the social pressure on young girls and women. Several villages have made public declarations renouncing FGM.

In **Sudan**, UNV's unique approach to combating FGM capitalizes on volunteerism and local community action. Working closely with UNFPA, the Ahfad University for Women and other stakeholders, UNV engaged local volunteers to tackle these issues from within their own communities. This led to greater openness to consider collective abandonment of the practice. By involving males and youths in peer education, engaging midwives and mothers in sexual education, and working with schools to raise the awareness of children, UNV and community volunteers were able to challenge practicing FGM from a community perspective. The holistic approach of this pilot project has been crucial to its success. A combination of innovative information materials, entry into the community through schools, and reaching the families of pupils through public events has led to engaging a greater number of people. To ensure sustainability, UNV and partners supported the creation of a new non-governmental organization comprising the community volunteers it mobilized.

An initiative was underway in **Guatemala** to enhance national capacity to address gender-based violence in all its forms. The Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM) has been at the forefront of the initiative, which seeks to a) design a comprehensive action strategy, b) ensure implementation of the strategy, focusing on government and civil society efforts, and c) increase the political and operational strength of the SEPREM. UNV supports the three pillars of this strategy jointly with UN agencies such as FAO, UNDP, WFP, UNFPA and UNIFEM.

In **Sri Lanka**, the **Volunteer Information and Coordination Centre (VOICE)** has been extended into 2008-2010 to include a Legal Empowerment Volunteers Scheme. This pilot project mobilizes university volunteers to support legal empowerment activities. Legal aid is provided to migrant women workers by 30 volunteers in seven locations. Through the empowerment scheme, the legal volunteers learn about marginalisation and vulnerability in their own society. The legal aid pilot project also concentrates on those affected by gender-based violence to help them attain equal access to justice. The VOICE project is supported by one national and five international UNV volunteers.

In **Honduras**, the joint programme for the **Support of Human Security** contributes to gender equality and youth development through volunteerism for peace and development. UNV promotes a "culture of peace" at the community level in a context where incidences of sexual and domestic violence are high. So far, the programme has encouraged over 500 youth, chosen from at risk areas/contexts, to voluntarily participate in activities.

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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Through the joint project, **Partners for Prevention: Working with Boys and Men to Prevent Gender-Based Violence in Asia-Pacific**, UNV and UNFPA, together with their partners, are mobilizing boys and men as allies for ending violence and discrimination against women and girls as well as advancing gender equality. With public education campaigns, UNV is generating broad participation at the country and local level, involving boys and men in preventing gender-based violence. UNV is also reaching out to communities across the region to increase awareness, capacity and understanding of the roles and potential of boys and men as partners in advancing gender equality. Women's advocates and women empowerment groups are further strengthened in their participatory capacities and leadership skills to enhance the effectiveness of their efforts.

The ***Liberia National Youth Volunteer Service*** has 67 national volunteers working in health centres, hospitals and schools to promote reconciliation and peace education. Volunteers have included gender equity in schools and raised awareness of it in the health sectors. In one district, the local women's organization has found major supporters in male national UNV Volunteers (NUNVs); in another, the NUNVs have teamed up with and supported a local programme ("men and women as partners to end violence against women"), and community members report that the occurrence of gender-based violence and rape has significantly decreased. Working alongside existing structures, or strengthening local organizations and movements, has proved to be an effective strategy to move forward in discussing sensitive or "unpopular" subjects such as traditional gender inequality. Together the volunteers have enormous capacity and potential to promote positive change as they associate with women's and youth organisations in the region.

### **Future activities**

Every year, UNV convenes an annual workshop for Programme Officers and Programme Managers, and gender mainstreaming is given prominence on the agenda. For 2009, this training workshop will be held in October at UNV Headquarters in Bonn.

A major focus of UNV's work in the coming years will be devoted to awareness-raising and advocacy.

*United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*

**Background**

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The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

**Policy framework**

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See main instruments above.

**Area(s) of focus**

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UNEP undertakes awareness-raising among staff members on the Secretary-General's Bulletins. It has circulated and encouraged discussions on these policies

**Future activities**

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UNEP plans to hold yearly briefings on the Secretary-General's bulletins.

**Address/websites**

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UNEP  
United Nations Avenue, Gigiri, P.O. Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya  
[www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)

## **Background**

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The Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is mandated to provide international protection to refugees and to promote durable solutions for them. UNHCR also works in partnership with other agencies to help internally displaced persons, stateless persons and others who are in a refugee-like situation as well as returnees. UNHCR defines protection as “all actions aimed at ensuring the equal access to and enjoyment of the rights of women, men, girls and boys of concern to UNHCR, in accordance with the relevant bodies of law (international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law)”, and as such views the prevention and response to sexual violence as an integral component of its mandate.

## **Policy framework**

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See main instruments listed above. Furthermore, UNHCR’s Policy on Refugee Women (1989) highlights the organizational goal of providing protection appropriate to the specific needs of women, including the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The 1997 UNHCR Policy on Harmful Traditional Practices also provides guidance on addressing SGBV. In 2001, UNHCR made five commitments to refugee women, one of which is to “[d]evelop integrated country-level strategies to address violence against refugee women”<sup>3</sup>. The “Guidelines on International Protection: Gender-Related Persecution within the content of Article 1 A(2) of the 1951 Convention and /or its 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees” 2002, also provide guidance in the context of determining refugee status under the 1951 Convention.

UNHCR’s policy framework is further elaborated in the Agenda for Protection (2004) and in several of the Conclusions of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner’s Programme. The most recent is Conclusion No. 105 (LVII) 2006 on Women and Girls at Risk which recommends specific actions for UNHCR, States and other relevant agencies and partners regarding the identification of women and girls at risk, prevention strategies and individual responses and solutions.

An internal memorandum on the implementation of an accountability framework on age, gender and diversity mainstreaming issued in 2007, has established clear responsibilities and commitments/activities for the mainstreaming of age, gender and diversity concerns into all UNHCR’s work and has a section addressing SGBV. To address the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse of people of concern, UNHCR’s Code of Conduct, drawn up in 2004, incorporated the Secretary-General’s Bulletin on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13). It provides a specific policy and framework to prevent, report and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers.

## **Area(s) of focus**

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UNHCR’s approach to SGBV is situated within a wider framework of mainstreaming gender equality, and women’s rights and empowerment. Within this framework, UNHCR aims to prevent and respond to all forms of sexual and gender-based violence affecting persons of concern during displacement and return. Its primary focus is on establishing a multi-sectoral inter-agency framework for prevention and response, in partnership with the communities of concern, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), other United Nations agencies and governments. The Office strives to achieve this by establishing standard operating procedures for the prevention of, and response to, SGBV in each country operation.

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<sup>3</sup> Report on the Dialogue with Refugee Women, Geneva, 20-22 June 2001.

## **Policy development/research**

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### *Baseline July 2007*

UNHCR formulated Guidelines for the Protection of Refugee Women in 1991. In 2003, it released Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against Refugees, Returnees, and Internally Displaced Persons: Guidelines for Prevention and Response, which was an update of its existing 1995 guidelines. The guidelines have been published in the six United Nations languages and in 13 other languages, and have been distributed to persons of concern, government counterparts, and implementing and operational partners. In addition, a Handbook on the Protection of Women and Girls was provisionally released in 2006. The handbook will be finalized and published in 2007.

UNHCR supports qualitative participatory child-centred approaches to SGBV prevention and response which include workshops that allow children to share their experiences, coping strategies, and suggestions to prevent and respond to violence in their communities.

UNHCR's system for measuring progress in operations includes standards and indicators on SGBV, and offices are required to report on their performance in relation to meeting the standards. In addition, the UNHCR's global strategic objectives and measurable targets include a requirement that all UNHCR operations will have in place standard operating procedures for SGBV prevention and response by the end of 2007.

### *February to September 2008*

*UNHCR's Handbook for the Protection of Women and Girls* (March 2008) describes the protection challenges faced by displaced woman and girls and explains how UNHCR and partners work together to promote gender equality, in particular, to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence through a rights and community-based approach.

UNHCR is leading the development of guidelines on establishing community-based complaints mechanisms for sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian personnel and peacekeepers (through the Executive Committees on Humanitarian Action and Peace and Security (ECHA/ECPS) UN NGO Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA).

### *October 2008 to February 2009*

In October 2008, UNHCR finalized a three-year Strategic Plan to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence. The plan focused on the findings of an independent evaluation of its work in this area.

UNHCR has developed a Strategic Plan for Reproductive Health (2008-2012), which includes key sexual and gender-based violence strategies on the establishment of policies, guidelines and programmes to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence; clinical management and protocols for rape survivors; access to early diagnosis; and care and treatment for rape survivors.

### *March to September 2009*

In July 2009, UNHCR held a seminar with the CEDAW Committee on promoting the use of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* to protect women affected by forced displacement and statelessness. The problem of sexual violence and discrimination against displaced women and girls was at the centre of this seminar. The seminar

strengthened cooperation between the two entities and the meeting conclusions will provide elements for a general recommendation by the CEDAW Committee.

UNHCR published a *Guidance Note on Refugee Claims* relating to Female Genital Mutilation. The note affirms that Female Genital Mutilation is a form of gender-based persecution and can constitute grounds for asylum according to the 1951 Refugee Convention. The guidance will be used by states and UNHCR to facilitate asylum.

In Jordan, UNHCR and UNFPA coordinated a mapping of existing sexual and reproductive health and sexual and gender-based violence services available to Iraqi refugees. A matrix was developed and shared with the sub-group on Reproductive Health, the health group and other key actors providing services to mobilize improved services.

In Ethiopia and Djibouti, HIV/AIDS vulnerability assessments were conducted for high risk groups in refugee camps. The assessments substantiated that survival sex takes place in the refugee camps, and identified hotspots such as bars, video shops and local residences where this takes place. The recommendations included immediate protection measures for children who have been sexually exploited and abused, as well as setting up peer led systems, HIV/AIDS and health education to targeted groups.

In Serbia, a Report on “Domestic Violence - Protection and Prevention” was presented in March 2009, providing an analysis of the legislative framework and a recommendation for the adoption of a *Law on Domestic Violence*, ensuring a coordinated and effective response to instances of domestic violence.

### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

#### *Baseline July 2007*

UNHCR works on refugee status determination during which procedures take into consideration gender-based persecution. In addition, in seeking durable solutions to the problems of refugees, specific attention is paid to the needs of survivors of SGBV and those at risk. Depending on the circumstances, one of the durable solutions available to them is resettlement to a third country.

UNHCR organizes training on SGBV to enable the organization to meet standards in prevention and response. The Office supports technical missions to meet country-specific needs and collaborates with implementing partners to deploy specialists to the field. Specific attention is paid to involving more male staff and refugees, including youth, in understanding, preventing and addressing sexual and gender-based violence.

UNHCR collaborates with health partners to ensure that survivors of violence have proper access to services including access to post-exposure prophylaxis and emergency contraception. Such collaboration with UNFPA and other partners includes training on clinical management of rape survivors for health professionals.

Other operational activities include establishing and maintaining drop-in centres to facilitate access to health and psychosocial service providers, safe shelters, and legal justice for survivors.

UNHCR has assigned country-level focal points in each of its offices to carry out the recommendations of the Secretary-General’s Bulletin on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13). The Office continues to promote and report on the implementation of the Bulletin and provides annual refresher sessions for staff on its Code of Conduct. UNHCR’s Code of Conduct includes a section on sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers. All agreements with implementing partners include a mandatory appendix (2) on “Standards of Conduct – Ensuring protection from sexual exploitation and abuse”.

### *February to September 2008*

In 2008, UNHCR allocated an additional USD 1.5 million for prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence. Projects include: creating a manager post on sexual and gender-based violence and community outreach teams in the Central African Republic; hiring an expert in Chad; signing agreements with implementing partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo; raising awareness through home visits in Bangladesh; sports and cultural activities in Uganda, Panama and Venezuela. People of concern also benefited from capacity building workshops for women in Panama, psychological counseling in Venezuela and Turkey, distribution of sanitary materials in India and Thailand, improved access to health facilities and income-generation activities in India, allocation of subsistence allowances to unaccompanied children in Egypt, language classes in Malta, vocational training in Bosnia, and the establishment of safe houses in Yemen and Turkey. The impact of the projects will be evaluated in 2009.

UNHCR promotes the implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in all field operations. In June 2008, the IASC Sub Working Group on Gender released a SOP template for prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence in IDP settings, based on the UNHCR template.

UNHCR expanded the provision of Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) following rape to prevent transmission of HIV. It organized training courses using the WHO/UNHCR Clinical Management of Rape Guidelines in East Africa and Asia. In collaboration with WHO and UNFPA, UNHCR is working on the development of an e-learning programme for clinical staff to improve skills to provide appropriate care and support to rape survivors.

UNHCR is working with UNFPA and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to develop a gender-based violence information management system (GBVIMS) to improve and systematize data collection and information sharing. In 2008, technical consultations were conducted to support the roll-out of GBVIMS in Kenya and Northern Uganda.

In relation to the safe school initiative, UNHCR has conducted assessment missions with Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) to Malawi, Namibia and Rwanda, to ensure safe learning environments and addressing sexual and gender-based violence in schools. A training module was prepared for testing.

### *October 2008 to February 2009*

UNHCR organized a regional workshop on masculinities in South Africa, in cooperation with Sonke Gender Justice and the Refugee Women's Commission, to promote the positive involvement of men and boys in addressing sexual and gender-based violence. Multifunctional teams from nine countries in the Great Lakes, Eastern and Southern Africa regions participated, and the event resulted in the development of country-level work plans. As a follow up, three trainings for men and boys were conducted in Kenya: in the IDP hosting areas of Eldoret, Nakumo and Kitale, as well as a training of the police in Nyahururu. Two digital stories were developed on the involvement of men and boys in addressing sexual and gender-based violence.

UNHCR continued to work on the development of an Information Management System to improve data collection and information sharing on sexual and gender-based violence (GBVIMS). UNHCR and UNFPA jointly conducted technical support missions to Uganda and Kenya. UNHCR has included a section in the Health Information System (HIS) to collect data on injuries reported at health centers, disaggregated by age and sex.

UNHCR has conducted in-depth assessments on vulnerabilities and at risk groups in refugee camps in Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania. Protection interventions have been

developed to combat sexual exploitation of children. Community services and health services staff were trained to improve their response to sexual violence and exploitation, to ensure safe access to services and to develop peer HIV prevention programmes for vulnerable groups.

UNHCR continued to work in the Inter-agency Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. During 2008, all offices were required to view and discuss the film "To Serve with Pride", produced by the Task Force. UNHCR has also taken the lead in developing succinct, user-friendly guidance for field offices in setting up community-based complaints mechanisms for sexual exploitation and abuse.

#### *March to September 2009*

In Syria, UNHCR and the Syrian Women Union are supporting a new centre for Iraqi refugee women at risk, particularly female teenagers who are involved in commercial sex work. In Liberia, UNHCR, the government and other partners, was involved in drafting the *Sexual Assault and Abuse Prosecution Handbook* for the Criminal Court in Monrovia, which has concurrent jurisdiction to prosecute sexual and gender-based violence cases throughout the country. UNHCR also assisted with the establishment of a Sex Crimes Unit at the Ministry of Justice and sponsored a four-day training for its staff and prosecutors in Liberia.

UNHCR, in a joint endeavor with UNODC and IOM and in close co-operation with the Serbian Government, has developed a comprehensive and multi-year anti-human trafficking project in Serbia. This project will inform a Balkan-wide project and in the process contribute to prevention of trafficking and facilitate access to asylum procedures for trafficked women and girls in South-East Europe.

The Women's Refugee Commission and UNHCR hosted a workshop for NGOs and UN agencies on the guidance produced by the *IASC Task Force on Safe Access to Alternative Fuel and Firewood*. The guidance has also been disseminated to field operations where access to firewood is a protection concern for women and girls.

In Liberia, UNHCR and its partners supported the establishment of a new community health department and organized community health committees and volunteers. The volunteers participated in awareness-raising sessions on primary health care, reproductive health, sexual and gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS. Strong coordination on sexual and gender-based violence is also on-going between UN agencies, the government and NGOs, and response mechanisms to sexual and gender-based violence are being put in place and strengthened.

#### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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##### *Baseline July 2007*

UNHCR focuses its awareness and outreach programmes on people of concern, UNHCR staff and partners. UNHCR also uses theatre and other community-based mechanisms to increase awareness about sexual and gender-based violence. Specific programmes have been initiated to mobilize men and boys on preventing and responding to SGBV. UNHCR operations in different regions actively participate in the annual campaign "16 days of activism against gender violence".

##### *February to September 2008*

In May 2008, UNHCR and Sonke Gender Justice launched the project, "*Embracing Men and Boys as Partners in Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence*". The key objectives are to integrate men and boys, and to train staff, partners and people of concern in addressing sexual and gender-based violence. Training workshops have been held in refugee camps in Burundi, Uganda and Kenya, with the goal of further roll-out in the region.



*October 2008 to February 2009*

UNHCR marked the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence with activities at Headquarters, including an art exhibition on female genital mutilation and a workshop on the involvement of men and boys in addressing sexual and gender-based violence; and the collection and display of handprints of UNHCR staff members as part of the “Hands United against Harm” project, to show their individual commitment to eliminate sexual and gender-based violence. Events in field operations included: roundtable discussions, traditional dances, songs, theatre plays, children’s drawing competitions, film screenings and training sessions to raise awareness on sexual and gender-based violence.

*March to September 2009*

Following the release of UNHCR’s *Handbook for the Protection of Women and Girls* in March 2008, four community-based films have been produced which encapsulate key issues addressed in the Handbook and will act as a supplement and facilitate the communication of information to the staff of UNHCR and its’ partners, as well as to persons of concern to UNHCR. The Handbook has been translated into Spanish, French, Arabic and Russian.

During reproductive health and HIV field missions to MENA and West African countries, UNHCR health staff advocated with stakeholders for the strengthening of sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response and for the integration of reproductive health, including sexual and gender-based violence, into community-based outreach activities and awareness-raising campaigns.

### **Future activities**

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UNHCR’s future activities include facilitating a multi-country workshop on masculinities for Eastern and Central Africa; conducting a multi-country workshop on Standard Operating Procedures and the Gender Based Violence Information Management System; conducting a prevalence survey on sexual and gender-based violence; finalizing and disseminating a three-year Strategy on sexual and gender-based violence; and commemorating the 16 Days of Activism to end violence against women.

### **Resources**

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*Respect Our Rights: Partnership for Equality, Dialogue with Refugee Women*, UNHCR, 2001.  
<http://www.unhcr.org/protect/3b83a48d4.html>

*UNHCR Policy on Refugee Women and Guidelines on Their Protection: An Assessment of Ten Years of Implementation*, UNHCR, 2002.

*Guidelines on International Protection: Gender-Related Persecution within the content of Article 1 A(2) of the 1951 Convention and /or its 1967 Protocol relating to the status of Refugees*, UNHCR, 2002.

*Introductory Training Manual: Building a Common Conceptual Understanding among Humanitarian and Development Workers on Gender, Women’s Rights and Gender Based Violence (including Sexual Abuse and Exploitation)*, UNHCR, 2003.

*Gender Training Kit on Refugee Protection and Resource Handbook*, UNHCR 2003

*Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons. Guidelines for Prevention and Response*. UNHCR, 2003.

<http://www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/3f696bcc4.pdf>

*Clinical Management of Rape Survivors* (Revised Edition), WHO/UNHCR, 2004  
<http://www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/403a0b7f4.pdf>

*Study on Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Selected Locations in Sri Lanka*, UNHCR, 2004

*Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Women and Girls in West Africa*, UNHCR and Save the Children, UK, 2002

*Combating Human Trafficking: Overview of UNHCR's Anti-Trafficking Activities in Europe*. UNHCR 2005

*Refugee and Returnee Children in Southern Africa: Perceptions and Experiences of Violence: A qualitative study of refugee and returnee children in UNHCR operations in Angola, South Africa, and Zambia*. UNHCR June 2005

*UNHCR Handbook for the Protection of Women and Girls. Provisional Release for Consultation Purposes*. June 2006

#### **Address/Websites**

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UNHCR  
Case Postale 2500 CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland  
[www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)

## **Background**

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The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was founded in the aftermath of the Arab-Israeli conflict of 1948 to support the needs of Palestine refugees. Today, it provides education, primary health, relief, social and microfinance services to a population of 4.3 million registered Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Agency also delivers emergency assistance at times of conflict, including the occupied Palestinian territory since 2000, and Lebanon during the conflict of summer, 2006.

## **Policy framework**

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See main instruments listed above.

## **Area(s) of focus**

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UNRWA's services in education, health and social services provide women and girls the basic elements for sound human development and social safety. UNRWA is working on developing a gender mainstreaming strategy to ensure that all programme activities undertaken fully incorporate the objective of gender equality, including combating gender-based violence. UNRWA has developed various initiatives in its fields of operations to end violence against women. Its' objective for 2010 is to consolidate a comprehensive framework including prevention of violence and services for victims.

## **Policy Development/research**

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*July 2007 to January 2008*

UNRWA adopted a Policy on Gender Equality, in June 2007.

*February to September 2008*

UNRWA has developed guidelines, a referral system and a training course for health staff on handling cases of violence against women and children in UNRWA clinics.

*October 2008 to February 2009*

In January 2009, UNRWA implemented its sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) policy "Prohibition of discrimination, harassment - including sexual harassment and abuse of power", supported by agency-wide training. The Agency researched initiatives to address violence against women within the region to determine best practice.

*March to September 2009*

UNRWA revised the technical guidelines for the health department in April 2009, including the detection, counseling and referral of women victims of violence.

## **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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*Baseline July 2007*

UNRWA supports women's programme centres in all refugee communities. These centres provide awareness-raising and support sessions for women on gender-based violence. Some centres also provide legal advice. Women's programme centres have kindergartens where staff can detect possible situations involving abuse of children and women in the home. Counselling and advice are provided if abuse is suspected. Violence against women and children is also addressed more indirectly through theatre and role playing.

In the context of armed conflict and the ongoing crisis in the occupied Palestinian territory, UNRWA supports women with the provision of temporary employment, with psycho-social support to family members, provision of shelter and emergency food and cash support. This emergency support is critical considering the drastic economic and social decline being experienced by Palestinians in the occupied territory, and that has been a major contributing factor to increased levels of social violence, including gender-based violence.

*July 2007 to January 2008*

UNRWA provided legal aid and counseling through Women Programme Centres.

*February to September 2008*

UNRWA held weekly discussion groups for women (127 participants), men (53 participants), girls (109 participants) and families (125 participants), on how to deal with domestic violence.

*October 2008 to February 2009*

In partnership with Women Programme Centers (WPCs), the Agency launched the "Campaign to Combat Violence Against Women", throughout the region with events and training sessions on the sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) policy and workshops for field staff.

UNRWA held workshops on domestic violence, including 16 for Gaza staff, a two-day workshop for 37 health staff on addressing major gender-based violence issues, a four-day workshop on advocacy and campaigning in Lebanon, and two in the West Bank for regional staff. The West Bank field office produced a draft brochure on domestic violence for health clinics. Protection clusters in North Lebanon were set up to train frontline staff on gender-based violence. UNRWA also implemented awareness sessions at 65 WPCs on human rights and domestic violence for refugee women and volunteers. In Gaza, the Agency held a 12-week discussion group for girls, women and families, and a four-week discussion group for men, on domestic violence. In Lebanon, the Agency led 41 awareness sessions in camps with over 800 participants, of which over 90 percent were female.

The Agency's legal department in the Syrian Arab Republic provided refugees with access to legal and counseling services to combat gender-based violence.

*March to September 2009*

A workshop for UNRWA health gender focal points on lessons learned in detecting women victims of violence in health centers was held in Damascus on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2009. This exercise highlighted the need for an internal and external referral system in partnership with host country stakeholders.

During the reporting period, UNRWA's 21 Legal Advice Bureaus counseled 2213 women victims of discrimination.

UNRWA Lebanon field office developed their field intervention on violence against women in a workshop the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2009. A referral system was drafted coordinating services for women victims of violence.

UNRWA Syria Field Office trained 30 midwives in detecting women victims of violence.

UNRWA Gaza and West Bank Field offices continued the running of individual and group counseling sessions for victims of gender-based violence through the Community Mental Health program (CMHP).

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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*July 2007 to January 2008*

UNRWA undertook awareness-raising on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, including gender-based violence, for refugee community members through Women Programme Centres. UNRWA's Gaza Field Office undertook a gender equality initiative on domestic violence, including identifying prevention and protection measures through fostering understanding and discussion, enhancing the quality of psychosocial support services, developing a hotline and creating a radio station for and by women.

*February to September 2008*

Approximately 5000 refugee women attended awareness-raising sessions on domestic violence.

*March to September 2009*

The Community Mental Health program in West Bank and Gaza continued psycho-educational workshops and lectures in all camps addressing topics such as sex education, equality between both sexes in the family, violence against women and children. The workshops targeted both women and men (whenever possible). In West Bank there is an ongoing program with 2 groups of male abusers.

On International Women's Day, UNRWA Lebanon Field Office organized, in collaboration with KAFA a Lebanese NGO, awareness-raising sessions on "Women and men united to end violence against women and girls". The sessions were attended by 782 members of the community and 213 staff.

UNRWA's 65 Women Program Centers organized sessions on the use of the CEDAW Convention and Human Rights tools in advocacy. These sessions were attended by 4433 women during the last 6 months.

### **Future activities**

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UNRWA will take further steps to develop an UNRWA framework on Violence against Women. UNRWA will participate from 25 November to 10 December in the "16 days of activism campaign against gender violence: Commit • Act • Demand: We CAN End Violence Against Women".

### **Addresses/Websites**

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UNRWA HQ Gaza  
c/o P.O. Box 140157, Amman 11814, Jordan  
[www.un.org/unrwa/](http://www.un.org/unrwa/)

## **Background**

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The United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) is mandated to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. UNICEF is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and strives to establish children's rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behaviour towards children.

## **Policy framework**

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See main instruments listed above. UNICEF is also guided by the Mid-Term Strategic Plan 2005-2010, which prioritizes promotion of gender equality and programming to protect children from violence.

## **Area(s) of focus**

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UNICEF works on different manifestations of gender-based violence, depending on the particular country or context. These include: female genital mutilation/cutting, early marriage, trafficking, sexual exploitation, sexual violence, domestic violence, and violence in schools. UNICEF has been particularly focused on violence against women and girls in armed conflict. UNICEF engages in capacity building and development of holistic strategies to end gender-based violence, as well as the training of staff and partners. UNICEF's strategy to end gender-based violence includes continuous support to the strengthening of law enforcement on violence, sexual exploitation and trafficking of children; work with judicial systems to prevent re-victimization of children and adolescents victims; strengthening of child protection systems at national and local levels to prevent, protect and care for children victims of violence, abuse and exploitation and work with education and health sectors to raise awareness on how to detect and report violence, exploitation and abuse of children.

## **Policy development/research**

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### *Baseline July 2007*

In October 2006, together with OHCHR and WHO, UNICEF launched the UN Secretary-General's study on violence against children. The study examined violence against children in a range of settings including: home and family, schools, workplace, institutions, and in the community. The study identifies violence against girls as a priority issue and acknowledges that girls face greater risks of neglect and sexual violence than boys.

At the global level, UNICEF is actively involved in efforts to develop policies aimed at the protection of women and girls from sexual abuse and exploitation by United Nations staff and related personnel. UNICEF is working for the adoption of a comprehensive policy and strategy for victims of abuse and exploitation.

Many UNICEF country offices support the development of legislation pertinent to violence against women, including on trafficking, domestic violence and sexual offences. UNICEF also works with the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen legislative responses to violence against women and children. UNICEF recently published a guide for Members of Parliament on addressing violence against children

UNICEF supports the follow-up to Stockholm/Yokohama commitments on commercial sexual exploitation of children.

In 2007, UNICEF's State of the World's Children report was entitled "Women and Children: The Double Dividend of Gender Equality". The publication argued that investment in women's rights will ultimately produce a double dividend: advancing the rights of both women and children. The report included analysis on the impact of violence against women on children.

UNICEF's Innocenti Research Centre conducts research on UNICEF's priority areas, including on violence against women and girls. UNICEF recently published a report and strategy for the abandonment of FGM/C within one generation.

UNICEF's current round of Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys provides data for 50 countries on child marriage, for over 30 countries on attitudes towards domestic violence, and for 10 countries on FGM/C. The Secretary-General's study on violence against children includes as one of its principal recommendations that states develop and implement systematic national data collection and research, calling for the disaggregating of data by sex and emphasising this as a factor in strengthening child protection.

UNICEF, together with the Body Shop published a report "Behind Closed Doors", on the impact of domestic violence on children.

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

As a follow up to the Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children, in December 2007, UNICEF supported the development of a new publication on violence against girls. The publication, *From Invisible to Indivisible*, focuses on violence against girls and highlights the recommendations of the Study on Violence against Children and the Secretary-General's study on violence against women.

At the global level, UNICEF contributed extensively to the work of the General Assembly on a comprehensive policy and strategy for victims of abuse and exploitation by United Nations staff and partners. The policy, which was adopted by the General Assembly in resolution A/RES/62/214 in December 2007, explicitly notes the vulnerabilities of women and girls and seeks remedy for harm done to them.

UNICEF country offices continued to support the development of legislation pertinent to violence against women and girls, including on trafficking, domestic violence and sexual offences. UNICEF also continued to work with the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen legislative responses to violence against women and children.

UNICEF continued to support the follow-up to Stockholm/Yokohama commitments on commercial sexual exploitation of children.

#### *February to September 2008*

Following the launch of the UN Interagency Statement 'Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation', by the UN Deputy Secretary General in February 2008, efforts were made to implement the approach described therein in national policies.

UNICEF is currently a member of the Central Organizing Committee of the 'World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents', to be hosted by the Government of Brazil, from 25-28 November 2008. This Congress follows previous Congresses on commercial sexual exploitation of children in Stockholm and Yokohama.

UNICEF country offices continued to support the development of legislation pertinent to violence against women and girls, including on trafficking, domestic violence and sexual exploitation and

violence. Many country offices in 2008 have focused on exposing violence against women and girls, utilizing television and radio campaigns and capitalizing on international awareness days to publicize this issue.

UNICEF's MICS 3 (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey) collected in 2007 for the first time information on attitudes towards domestic violence and child disciplining. MICS also includes modules on female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage (information is available at [www.childinfo.org](http://www.childinfo.org)). UNICEF Swaziland, in partnership with the Centres for Disease Control, published a study on sexual abuse of girls, which will be replicated in other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The West and Central Africa Regional Office produced an analysis on gender-based violence and its effects on HIV. The report provides strong evidence that chronic violence can lead to HIV risk behaviours which are not necessarily chosen in a conscious way.

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

The World Congress III (after Stockholm, 1996 and Yokohama, 2001) against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, which took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 25 to 28 November 2008, was organized jointly by UNICEF, the Government of Brazil, ECPAT and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It resulted in the "*Rio de Janeiro Pact to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents*".

UNICEF continued to work with the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen legislative responses to violence against women and children, and provided support at regional and national level to legal reform on violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, sexual offences and trafficking.

In follow up to the recommendations of the UN Study on Violence against Children, and in preparation of the World Congress III, UNICEF continued to support research, studies and data collection on different forms of violence against girls, including in collaboration with other stakeholders, such as ILO-IPEC, IOM, ECPAT, and Save the Children.

#### *March to September 2009*

During the reporting period, UNICEF undertook in-depth research into the social dynamics of abandonment of harmful practices and social norms, in collaboration with partners. This research provided important new insights and increased the understanding of social norms in perpetuating different forms of harmful traditional practices including Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C), child marriage, household violence and to a certain degree other forms of violence such as sexual exploitation and trafficking.

### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

#### *Baseline July 2007*

Much of UNICEF's work on gender-based violence focuses on capacity-building, with all regions increasingly prioritizing this aspect, as well as the development of a protective environment. Emphasis is placed on training those who can address violence against girls and women, such as the police, the judiciary, and teachers. For example, both the West and Central Africa region and the East and Southern Africa region have developed strategies on gender-based violence and are working on capacity-building of UNICEF staff, partners and other actors to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.



Training materials have been developed for UNICEF staff and partners on gender-based violence, and the provision of care and support for survivors of rape, especially in conflict situations.

UNICEF hosted a region-wide workshop on best practices to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in South Africa which brought together representatives from more than 20 UNICEF offices in Africa, along with government partners to learn from the South African experience of addressing gender-based violence and share experiences to prevent and respond to it.

UNICEF has developed a new manual for football coaches, designed to encourage coaches to talk to boys about violence against women and girls, in order to promote a culture of non-violence and non-discrimination.

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

UNICEF continues to engage in capacity-building and the development of holistic strategies on gender-based violence, including training, education and provision of advice. UNICEF facilitates the establishment of partnerships with governments and non-governmental organizations, and places emphasis on the development of national action plans on gender-based violence. For example, in June 2008 in Uganda, 35 schools received support to form child rights clubs. A series of trainings for Parents/Teachers Associations (PTAs) and School Management Committees (SMCs) on child rights and sexual abuse were conducted to improve safety and security in the learning environment.

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

In 2008, on the basis of the Coordinated Strategy to Abandon FGM/C in One Generation, UNICEF in collaboration with local partners supported programmes to FGM/C in 21 countries, including through data collection, public awareness-raising, training of community members, health workers, traditional leaders and decision makers. Part of these activities was carried out in partnership with UNFPA under the framework of the Joint Programme for the Accelerated Abandonment of FGM/C within One Generation (2008 -2012) in 17 countries in Africa, with initial implementation in 8 countries.

At global level UNICEF co-led the gender-based violence area of responsibility of the Protection Cluster Working Group and participated in the ECHA/ECPS UN and NGO Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and the working group on victims' assistance developing a guide to support the implementation of the General Assembly Resolution "United Nations Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and related Personnel".

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

A network of gender focal points in regional and country offices work with UNICEF's Gender Equality and Human Rights Unit in promoting gender issues and awareness at the national and local level. Many country offices focus on raising awareness on violence against women and girls, utilizing television and radio campaigns.

UNICEF has played a major role in the new initiative UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, as co-chair of the advocacy working group.

In line with the Secretary-General's study on violence against children, several country offices have led campaigns on violence against children, with an emphasis on violence against girls.

*July 2007 to January 2008*

UNICEF has played a major role in the new UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict initiative, as Co-Chair of the advocacy working group. Under the auspices of UN Action, UNICEF, together with the women's rights NGO V-Day is leading a global campaign against sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The Campaign, *Stop raping our Greatest Resource: Power to the Women and Girls of DRC* was launched in Bukavu, DRC, in November 2007 and is designed to raise awareness, funds and political commitment to end violence against women and girls in DRC.

*October 2008 to February 2009*

UNICEF continued to support social mobilization efforts at global, regional and country levels to change attitudes and behaviour on the different forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual violence and exploitation, trafficking and female genital mutilation. At regional and country levels a network of gender focal points work with UNICEF in promoting awareness of gender issues at national and local level.

Within the framework of the campaign *Stop Raping our Greatest Resources: Power to the Women and Girls of DRC*, which was launched by UNICEF and the Women's Rights NGO V-Day, in collaboration with local and international NGOs and the Minister of Gender, Women and Children in November 2007, a series of activities aiming to raise awareness, funds and political commitment to end violence against women and girls in the DRC were implemented from July to December 2008.

### **Future activities**

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UNICEF will continue to focus on: follow up to the recommendations of the UN Study on Violence against Children, ensuring attention to violence against women and girls; follow up to the *Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Call for Action to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents*; work to change social norms and practices harmful to children including FGM/C and child marriage; participation in the UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict initiative, including support the *Stop Raping our Greatest Resources: Power to the Women and Girls of DRC* campaign, and participation in the Gender Based Violence Area of Responsibility of the Protection Cluster Working Group, and the ECHA/ECPS UN and NGO Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

### **Resources**

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The Body Shop and UNICEF, *Behind Closed Doors: The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children*, 2006

Hayward, Ruth Finney. *Linkages between Violence against Women and Girls and UNICEF's Medium Term Strategic Plan, 2002-2005 Priorities*, Working paper, 2003

Hayward, Ruth Finney. *Addressing Gender-Based Violence and UNICEF's Five MTSP Priorities: Some Elements for Planning and Action*, Working paper, 2004

Kaufman, Michael. *The Aim Framework - Addressing and Involving Men and Boys: To Promote Gender Equality and End Gender Discrimination and Violence*, Working paper, 2003

*Domestic Violence Against Women And Girls*, Innocenti Digest No 6, UNICEF, June 2000

*Early Marriage: Child Spouses*, Innocenti Digest No 7, UNICEF, March 2001

*Changing A Harmful Social Convention: Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting*, Innocenti Digest No 12, UNICEF 2005

*Early Marriage: A Harmful Traditional Practice*, UNICEF, 2005

*The Impact of Conflict on Women and Girls in West and Central Africa and the UNICEF response*, UNICEF, 2000

**Address/Websites**

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UNICEF House, 3 United Nations Plaza, New York, New York 10017  
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## **Background**

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The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is mandated to promote the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA extends assistance to countries at their request to ensure that reproductive health needs are met; population issues are addressed; and awareness of these issues is enhanced in all countries.

## **Policy framework**

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See main instruments listed above. In addition, UNFPA is guided by and promotes the principles of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (1994), which also calls for the elimination of violence against women as cornerstones for population and development policies.

## **Area(s) of focus**

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In recent years, UNFPA has institutionalized the implementation of violence against women (VAW) and gender-based violence (GBV) programming initiatives. The agency's work on gender-based violence and violence against women is now shaped by the UNFPA Strategy and Framework of Action for Addressing Gender-Based Violence: 2008-2011. UNFPA co-chairs the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) Task Force on violence against women, with DAW. It is the lead programming agency for the Task Force's joint programming pilot initiative and funds the work of the Task Force coordinator. UNFPA is a founding member of the inter-agency initiative - UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict; is an active member of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security at the global level; is a member of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse; and, co-chairs (with WHO) the IASC's Gender and Humanitarian Action Sub-Working Group. UNFPA is also an active member of the Inter-agency Task Force on Adolescent Girls and the Inter-agency Working Group of the Secretary-General's Campaign "UNiTE to end violence against women". In all its interventions, UNFPA strives to involve men and boys in the development of reproductive health information and services. The Fund is a member of the Steering Committee of the Men Engage Alliance and is a UN core partner in the men and boys regional violence prevention programme in the Asia-Pacific.

UNFPA focuses on the following forms of violence against women throughout different life cycle phases:

1. Prenatal: Prenatal sex selection, battering during pregnancy, coerced pregnancy (rape during war)
2. Infancy: Female infanticide, emotional and physical abuse, differential access to food and medical care
3. Childhood: Genital cutting/mutilation, incest and sexual abuse, differential access to food, medical care, and education, child prostitution
4. Adolescence: Dating and courtship violence, early marriage, economically coerced sex, sexual abuse in the workplace, rape, sexual harassment, forced prostitution
5. Reproductive: Abuse of women by intimate partners, marital rape, dowry abuse and murders, partner homicide, psychological abuse, sexual abuse in the workplace, sexual harassment, rape, abuse of women with disabilities
6. Old age: Abuse of widows, elder abuse (which affects mostly women).

## **Policy development/research**

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*Baseline July 2007*

UNFPA undertakes research and studies, for example on the socio-cultural context of violence against women, on masculinity, fatherhood, men as offenders and as protectors including religious leaders and military personnel.

UNFPA convened a workshop on the findings of case studies from 8 countries on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) (Bucharest, October 2005). UNFPA worked closely with UNIFEM during preparation of the independent experts' study on women, war and peace; and jointly hosted an expert meeting on sexual violence in humanitarian situations to strengthen inter-agency collaborative action to combat sexual violence in crisis.

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

In 2007, UNFPA developed a draft corporate strategy on gender-based violence to identify priority areas of focus for investing its resources strategically at country, regional and global levels, based on its comparative advantages and experience. The draft strategy also lays out the organization's capacity development initiatives, resources and partnerships for an effective approach to addressing gender-based violence.

UNFPA organized a meeting in Addis Ababa on addressing female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) in August 2007 for more than 70 participants from UN entities, governments, faith-based organizations, NGOs, law enforcement agencies, donors and research institutions. A resulting roadmap for eliminating FGM/C within a generation is expected to be published and discussions for its implementation are expected to be held in 2008. UNFPA and UNICEF launched, at the end of 2007, a joint Trust Fund that aims at reducing FGM/C by 40 per cent in 17 countries by 2015.

In December 2007, UNFPA published *A Holistic Approach to the Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting*. This document describes the holistic approach utilized by UNFPA - such legal and policy reform, national capacity building and working at the community level - in its FGM/C abandonment programmes, and gives a brief sampling of the organization's country level experiences.

In December 2007, UNFPA co-hosted the Africa Regional Forum on strengthening partnerships with faith-based organizations (FBOs) for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and violence against women, with the World Conference of the Religions for Peace, in Durban, South Africa. Preparations for the upcoming Asia Regional FBO Forum in April-May 2008, and the Global FBO Forum in October 2008 are under way.

In 2007, UNFPA, in collaboration with the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW), developed model for costing violence against women, to be used for Bangladesh, Uganda, and Morocco. Data collection has commenced and workshops are planned for 2008.

UNFPA commissioned a follow up volume to its 2006 publication *Programming to Address Violence Against Women: Ten Case Studies*. The volume will contain 8 new case studies, and will be published in 2008.

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

UNFPA supported the preparation of a research study "*Costing intimate partner violence in three identified countries*", conducted by the International Center for Research on Women. The study will be published in early 2009.

UNFPA published the technical report of the Global Consultation on female genital mutilation/cutting, held in Addis Ababa, in 2007. The Fund is working on a road map towards

abandonment of FGM/C, as agreed during the Global Consultation, expected to be finalized in 2009.

UNFPA country offices in Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Macedonia, the Dominican Republic and Peru developed national policies in 2008 to support efforts to end gender-based violence.

#### *March to September 2009*

The research study supported by UNFPA and conducted by the International Center for Research on Women on “*Costing Intimate Partner Violence in 3 identified countries*” was finalized and a colloquium was organised in Washington DC in May 2009 at the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) to make the findings of the study public.

### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

At the global level, UNFPA employs a wide range of operational strategies to address violence against women, including the development of guidelines and tools, capacity-building and training. As such, UNFPA has supported sensitivity training of medical professionals to meet the health needs of women affected by violence. Pilot interventions have been tested in 10 countries—Cape Verde, Ecuador, Guatemala, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mozambique, Nepal, Romania, Russia and Sri Lanka. It has also supported an international consultation on programming to address gender-based violence.

At the national level, UNFPA has supported the development of a national strategy to combat gender-based violence in several countries. For instance in Morocco, UNFPA supported the development of a comprehensive strategy to address several aspects of gender-based violence, from prevention to shelters for victims. In 2004, UNFPA supported a campaign on honour killings in Turkey. In Kenya, UNFPA advocates for and provides counselling services for rescued girls who escaped from FGM/C or forced marriages to help them to return home without risking their health and well-being. UNFPA is working jointly with UNICEF on the prevention and treatment of sexual and gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

UNFPA promotes availability of services to victims of violence, including counselling for affected groups such as young people, pregnant women, the displaced and refugees. This entails strengthening referral networks, infrastructure and local capacity, including shelters, safe houses and legal and psychological services.

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

Gender-based violence constitutes an integral part of UNFPA’s mandated work in gender equality, women’s empowerment and reproductive health and rights. As such, UNFPA is continually working in collaboration with governments, other UN agencies, donors and civil society on a number of fronts to address gender-based violence. These include policy and legal reforms; data collection and analysis; health, legal and other support services for survivors; outreach work with men on prevention; training of uniformed personnel, health workers and law enforcement; sensitization of populations at large; and addressing sexual violence in emergency and post-emergency humanitarian responses.

As the co-conveners of IANWGE’s Task Force on violence against women, UNFPA and UNDAW drafted a proposal for joint programming on violence against women in 10 pilot countries. The planning and assessment phase of the initiative is underway in 8 of the 10 pilot countries.

As a member of UN Action, UNFPA co-organized inter-agency trainings on violence against women for coordinators in humanitarian settings in 2007, and plans to implement similar intensive courses in 2008; provided strategic assistance to the UNCT in Darfur (Sudan) and DRC in 2007; and is planning undertake missions and provide support to Haiti, Burundi, Chad and Central African Republic in 2008. UNFPA hosted a workshop in Tunisia during the summer of 2007, on the topic of displaced women in conflict and post-conflict situations. Recommendations from the workshop focused on ways to engage in efforts to accelerate implementation of Security Council 1325.

#### *February to September 2008*

The UNFPA and UNICEF Trust Fund and Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) aims at reducing FGM/C by 40 per cent in 17 countries by 2012. Over the last six months, achievements included:

- Work plans finalized in eight countries and funds disbursed for programme implementation
- Quarterly monitoring tool developed: A monitoring tool aimed to capture achievements of each output under the Joint Programme, the lessons learned and challenges, as well as the contribution of each output towards achievement of the outcomes in the Joint Programme was developed
- Baseline matrix drafted: A baseline matrix to guide the collection of baseline information was developed and circulated to all countries for adaptation
- Djibouti and Guinea Bissau Launch: Launched in Djibouti and Guinea Bissau, the events created a forum for advocacy and policy dialogue towards accelerated abandonment of FGM/C within a generation, with the Government, Parliament, the Judiciary and with religious leaders, international and national NGOs, development partners and their embassies and the private sector
- Policy discussions in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Sudan, and Egypt: Policy discussions were held in four Country Offices of UNFPA and UNICEF and with partners. The aim was to clarify issues related to the operation of the Joint Programme and Trust Fund. In Sudan, the Trust Fund supported media advocacy capacity for partners implementing the Joint Programme.

The Gender-based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) in humanitarian and recovery settings, a joint effort of UNFPA, UNHCR and the IRC, is a first attempt to systematize management of reported data related to gender-based violence, with a focus on humanitarian and recovery contexts. A technical consultation was undertaken by the inter-agency team (UNFPA, the IRC and UNHCR) to pilot test the GBVIMS system in Uganda in May 2008.

As part of UNFPA's collaboration with the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) on costing violence against women, workshops were conducted during this reporting period in Bangladesh, Uganda, and Morocco, to test the domestic violence costing model developed under the partnership.

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

The UNFPA and UNICEF Trust Fund and Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) aims at reducing FGM/C by 40 per cent in 17 countries by 2012, and activities under the Trust Fund are ongoing.

UNFPA, in collaboration with World Education, held an expert workshop to develop a curriculum to address gender-based violence and violence against women in humanitarian/conflict/post-conflict settings. This workshop was held in Boston, from 16 to 18 December 2008, and work on the curriculum will continue in 2009.

During 2008, UNFPA's Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO) undertook an initiative aimed at improving access of victims of sexual violence to justice through the design of public policies on sexual violence, and the strengthening of legal protection systems and health services in Central America (*Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua*). The initiative will develop pilot prevention and care models, to be linked to public security, legal, medicine, health and justice institutions.

In Turkey, more than 2 million soldiers were trained by UNFPA-supported capacity development initiatives on gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health. Also in Turkey, by the end of 2008, 250 police facilitators were trained on domestic violence prevention who, in turn, trained 40,000 of their peers.

#### *March to September 2009*

UNFPA country programmes undertook various technical assistance and training activities, including support for the development of gender-based violence manuals, standards and protocols, and ordinances from ministries. UNFPA Madagascar supported centers and legal advice for victims of violence. Training and capacity development initiatives in gender-based violence were supported in several countries such as Swaziland, Cambodia, Sudan, Turkey, Romania and Nicaragua. In Paraguay, UNFPA supported the institutional strengthening of the Gender Unit of the Human Rights Division of the Supreme Court, which is responsible for the monitoring of the violence against women policy.

UNFPA country programmes supported the strengthening of the health sector response to gender-based violence, and reported a higher percentage rate of inclusion of gender-based violence issues in pre- and in-service training of health service providers as compared to 64 per cent in 2007. Working with a number of partners, initiatives included: (i) development of manuals, protocols, guidelines and curriculum on gender based violence in Rwanda, Botswana, Uganda, Albania, and China; (ii) training of service providers in Cote D'Ivoire, Mongolia, Nepal, South Africa, and Zambia; and, (iii) development of medical kits to treat survivors of gender-based violence in Guatemala. In Honduras, a model of integrated care for gender-based violence victims was developed and implemented in 26 centers. In Romania, UNFPA and the National Agency for Family Protection (NAFP) assisted the East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH) to develop centralized data collection – the Integrated Information System (IIS) - which allows confidential access to gender-based violence services for survivors.

UNFPA – via its Country Offices - was involved in implementing various components of Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820 in humanitarian settings, including programming to address the needs of survivors of gender-based violence.

#### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

##### *Baseline July 2007*

UNFPA advocates for keeping gender-based violence in the spotlight at the global level as a major health and human rights concern. It supports and advocates for (i) the implementation of international agreements and conventions and of laws and policies related to gender-based violence as well as government accountability; (ii) the integration of action to address gender-based violence into policy frameworks; (iii) attention to the macro-economic impact of gender-based violence and the costs of interventions to prevent it; (iv) the inclusion of the costs of gender-based violence in gender equality and health accounts and the provision of more resources for such efforts; (v) public education campaigns; (vi) the mapping of existing programmes and projects and the sharing of good practices to address violence against women across regions; and (vii) the integration of training on gender-based violence into the curricula of schoolteachers, healthcare providers, the police, the judiciary, planners and statisticians. UNFPA



advocates for the elimination of violence against women with parliamentarians and women's national networks. UNFPA supports the Global Call to Action to End Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict, to improve effectiveness and accountability in this area.

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

UNFPA hosted an internal high-level meeting on sex selection from 8 to 9 October 2008 in New York, to initiate the development of the Fund's strategy on this issue.

On 25 November 2008, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, UNFPA in collaboration with OSAGI organized a panel discussion with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. The panel reviewed 15 years (1994-2009) of work of the mandate.

The "*UNFPA Strategy and Framework of Action to Addressing Gender-based Violence, 2008-2011*" has been widely disseminated. A booklet entitled "*Gender Snapshot: UNFPA Programming at Work*" has been published. It includes a chapter on gender-based violence prevention and response.

The initiative by LACRO on sexual violence in select Central American countries included communication and advocacy strategies at country and sub regional level, in close partnership with sub regional mechanisms, national governments, civil society organizations and implementing partners.

#### *March to September 2009*

UNFPA continued its advocacy work on elimination of violence, abuse and discrimination against women and girls, with a special focus on vulnerable and marginalized groups of women and girls (especially older women, sex workers, migrant workers, indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities and so on). It collaborated with Help Age International, the Global Action on Aging and the NGO Committee on Ageing in advocating for the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and contributed to UNAIDS's guidance note on *HIV and sex work*. Other instances of work with such groups includes the new UNFPA-AECID Latin America initiative - "Strengthening Indigenous Women's Organizations and Health Systems to Promote Maternal Health, with an Intercultural and Human Rights-Based Approach". In Viet Nam and the Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic, UNFPA has worked at the policy level with the Ministries of Health and relevant partners to advocate for appropriate health care policies and resources for ethnic minority regions.

In Bolivia, UNFPA's advocacy efforts led to the inclusion of sexual and reproductive health and rights and the elimination of violence against women in the five-year Plan for Women's Equality. In Jordan, UNFPA undertook advocacy and policy dialogues on the importance of integrating gender-based violence issues in health plans and programmes. In *Jamaica*, in partnership with the government, UNFPA support the launching of the campaign "Sister to Sister", using popular icons and messages.

UNFPA sent a high-level delegation participate in the March 2009 international colloquium that was held in Liberia on "Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security". UNFPA was invited to undertake a presentation on "Developing Linkages for Collaboration on the SG Campaign on VAW" at the UNDP global annual gender meeting that was held in Caracas, Venezuela, in April 2009.

UNFPA undertook numerous activities to engage men and boys in its work to end gender-based violence. It participated in the March 2009 Rio Global Symposium on Engaging Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality; developed a toolkit on Engaging Men and Boys in Gender Equality

and sexual and reproductive health (with Instituto Promundo); developed case studies of Engaging Men and Boys in Gender, Sexuality and reproductive health in Asia and Africa (with ICOMP); and, documented good practices on Engaging Men and Boys in Gender Equality and HIV and AIDS. UNFPA represented the UN Team in the drafting committee of the Rio Call to Action and continues its commitment to the issue in collaboration with the “Men Engage Alliance” as well as respective partners.

During the Commission on the Status of Women, UNFPA hosted various events and side-events that explored the inter-sectionality of HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence/violence against women.

UNFPA and WHO jointly hosted a meeting on the subject of “Prenatal Sex Selection for Non-Health Reasons” at WHO HQ, Geneva, in June 2009. The purpose was to build a common understanding that will lead to the issuance of a joint UN inter-agency statement on the subject.

### **Future activities**

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The first draft of the inter-agency statement on “Prenatal Sex Selection for Non-Health Reasons” is being worked on by UNFPA, in collaboration with WHO, UNIFEM, UNICEF and OHCHR).

UNFPA is working on the development of a toolkit on engaging men and boys in ending violence against women; a compendium of case studies on engaging men and boys in programmes in Africa and Asia; and, a report that looks at the intersection of men and boys programmes that work towards advancing gender equality and preventing HIV. UNFPA will host a Consultation on Engaging Men and Boys in Gender Equality and ending HIV. The aim of the consultation will be to share promising practices between UNFPA staff and partners, while identifying ways of strengthening and institutionalizing this area of work, particularly at the policy level.

Starting September 2009, UNFPA, UNIFEM and OSAGI will undertake capacity development workshops in Uganda, Sierra Leone, Nepal and Cote d'Ivoire to address the capacity gaps in designing new indicators and in refining the existing sets as are stated under existing National Action Plans on Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820 on issues relating to women, peace, security and gender-based violence/violence against women.

UNFPA will host a multi-city exhibition globally commemorating ICPD+15 and raising awareness of gender-based violence issues, commencing in October 2009. This exhibition will bring together the Congo Women's Exhibit and the “Women in the Frontline” video series. The first exhibit will take place in the UN Secretariat, New York. The Secretary-General's Campaign “UNiTE to end violence against women” will feature in this exhibit.

UNFPA will partner with the Center for Diseases Control (CDC), the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI), UNICEF, UNAIDS and UNIFEM in a multi-country multi-stakeholder initiative on addressing sexual violence against girls. The initiative will begin by collecting rigorous in order to inform service delivery and advocacy efforts to address the urgent needs of girls who are impacted or are victims of sexual violence in 4 select pilot countries (Kenya, Tanzania, Papua New Guinea and Thailand).

### **Resources**

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*Programming to address violence against women, 10 case studies, UNFPA 2006*

State of World Population 2005, *The Promise of Equality: Gender Equity, Reproductive Health & MDGs*, UNFPA, 2005

*Beijing at Ten: UNFPA's Commitment to the Platform of Action*, UNFPA, 2005

*Training Workshop on Leadership, Media & Conflict Management for Women in Afghanistan*, UNFPA, 2004

*Addressing Violence against Women: Piloting and Programming*, UNFPA/AIDOS, 2003

*The Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Girls*, UNFPA, 2002

*A Practical Approach to Gender-Based Violence: A programme Guide for Health Care Providers and Managers*, UNFPA, 2001 (translated into seven languages)

**Address/Websites**

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United Nations Population Fund, 220 East 42nd St. New York, NY 10017

[www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org)

<http://www.unfpa.org/gender/violence.htm>

## **Background**

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The World Food Programme (WFP) provides food aid to meet emergency needs and support economic and social development, and provides the necessary logistical support. WFP also works to put hunger at the centre of the international agenda, promoting policies, strategies and operations that directly benefit the poor and hungry.

## **Policy framework**

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See main instruments above. In addition, WFP's Executive Director issued three Circulars (ED2003/005; ED2004/001; ED2005/004) for the implementation of the Secretary-General's Bulletin on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13) that cover specific responsibilities for staff at both national and local level.

## **Area(s) of focus**

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WFP's main focus is on violence that occurs in the context of food distribution and in key phases of its programme cycle (i.e. registration, distribution, collection and transportation of food). WFP contributes to preventing and responding to all forms and manifestations of violence against women, such as FGM/C and sexual violence, exploitation and abuse, including in conflict and post-conflict situations, and rape, wherever there is a capacity to do so. In February 2009, the WFP Executive Board approved the new WFP Gender Policy "Promoting Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in Addressing Food and Nutrition Challenges". It includes specific measures to address gender protection challenges in accordance with Secretary Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women and Peace and Security. Within the framework of the new policy, WFP will involve men and boys in activities to protect women and children from violence.

## **Policy development/research**

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### *Baseline July 2007*

WFP contributed to the development of the guidelines for the Secretary-General's Bulletin on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13).

WFP has developed a concept paper that examines protection and gender issues related to WFP's operations in both conflict and post-conflict situations, with particular attention to gender-based violence.

In 2004, WFP collected data in 28 country offices in the framework of its Enhanced Commitment to Women Baseline Survey Initiative, and qualitative data to complement the surveys in 6 more countries, of which some were conducted in collaboration with UNHCR. The surveys determined the awareness levels of male and female beneficiaries of: the fact that they are not to provide any favour in exchange for receiving food; and the channels available to them to report cases of abuse linked to food distribution.

In collaboration with FAO, WFP prepared action sheets for the food security sector of the IASC Guidelines for the prevention of sexual violence.

## **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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### *Baseline July 2007*

The project “Building capacity to enhance humanitarian protection in the context of food assistance in emergencies, 2005-2006” is part of WFP’s ongoing effort to address violence against women. The project aims to enhance WFP staff’s understanding of gender issues and how to address them adequately.

WFP, in collaboration with UNICEF and Save the Children/UK designed, developed and implemented a regional training initiative in Southern Africa in 2002/2003 on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse for almost 5,000 staff from the United Nations, non-governmental organizations, government, and commercial partners, including truck drivers involved in food distribution. The training materials were reviewed in 2004 to reflect lessons learned and feedbacks from country offices.

Activities on prevention and response to violence against women vary from country to country. Examples of WFP’s country-level efforts include the following:

- In collaboration with Relief International, WFP implemented a food-supported training programme on fuel-efficient stove-making that aimed at tackling sexual and gender-based violence in North Darfur by reducing the need for, and the time women spend outside camps collecting firewood.
- The issue of violence against women was thoroughly investigated during the last Food Security and Nutrition assessment in Darfur, Sudan, and a specific section on physical insecurity and gender-related violence was added into the final assessment report.
- In Northern Uganda, WFP works with formerly abducted children (particularly targeting the girl child) providing support for counselling and facilitating their reintegration in the community of origin.
- In Cote D’Ivoire, WFP supports young girls raped by military groups and children born out of rape.

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

WFP scaled up its integration of gender and protection into field operations and programming. By the end of 2008, 500 staff members and partners were trained on protection issues. The training included the use and implications of international law, humanitarian principles and negotiations in protecting the rights of beneficiaries and communities. The training also included prevention and response to gender-based violence during food distributions.

#### *March to September 2009*

WFP has been actively involved in joint UN initiatives to deliver services to victims of gender-based violence. WFP provides food assistance for medical rehabilitation of victims and, through income-generating activities, supports the victims/survivors to become economically independent.

In Rwanda, WFP supports the national response in fighting GBV through the One UN framework. WFP is active in the UN Gender Task Force and the National Gender Cluster, co-chaired by the Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office in Charge of Gender and Family promotion (MIGEPROF) and DFID, which work to harmonize and coordinate responses to sexual and gender-based violence. Rwanda has established two Gender Desks: one in the National Police and one in the Ministry of Defence. The primary task of these units is to assist Concerned National Institutions and other stakeholders to address issues related to gender-based violence.

In Chad, WFP has become part of a coordinated response addressing issues related to the collection of firewood faced by the beneficiaries in the camp. In response to sexual exploitation and abuse of women who venture outside of the camp for firewood, WFP provided women with fuel efficient stoves, increased access to firewood and improved roads through food for work programmes.

In response to the increasing trend of sexual gender based violence (SGBV) in Liberia, and acting under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Liberia 2008-2012, the WFP Country Office is midway through the first stage of a UN Joint Programme to reduce SGBV.

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

In Djibouti, Eritrea and Ethiopia, WFP has taken an active role in promoting the rights of women and girl victims of FGM/C through awareness-raising campaigns and information sharing at all levels, including regional initiatives. WFP also contributed to the policy dialogue with government counterparts and key stakeholders during the sub-regional conference on FGM/C held in Djibouti.

#### *March to September 2009*

WFP used International Women's Day 2009 as an opportunity to raise awareness and plan activities to prevent gender-based violence. In Burkina Faso, celebrations focussed on raising awareness of gender-based violence through a film screening, panel discussions and workshop. In Afghanistan, WFP and partners signed a declaration as part of the launch of the National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan, which included a commitment to "Fast track the enactment of the proposed law to combat violence against women".

### **Future activities**

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WFP is finalizing a two year Gender Action Plan with realistic and measurable targets which will provide details of the institutional measures to support gender-related protection challenges. WFP will continue to implement training workshops and field studies as part of protection projects. WFP will also continue to foster partnerships to expand research on the prevention of gender-based violence in its operations.

### **Resources**

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*WFP Gender Policy "Promoting Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in Addressing Food and Nutrition Challenges"* WFP, 2009:  
<http://home.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/resources/wfp195024.pdf>

*Protection and Gender Issues in Conflicts and Post-Conflicts Situations*, WFP, November 2005.

*Women's Control of Food in Relief. Good Practices Case Study Project*, WFP, December 2004.

*Enhanced Commitments to Women 2004 Baseline Survey*. Global Report, WFP, December 2005.

### **Address/Websites**

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WFP  
Via C.G.Viola 68, Parco dei Medici, 00148, Rome, Italy  
[www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)

## **Background**

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The mission of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all. Its activities contribute to the overall objective of the United Nations system to reduce urban poverty and promote sustainable development within the context of the Millennium Development Goals and the challenges of a rapidly urbanizing world.

## **Policy framework**

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See main instruments above. In addition, UN-Habitat's work is guided by the Habitat Agenda, which also addresses women's safety (article 123).

## **Area(s) of focus**

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The key focus of UN-Habitat's work in the area of violence against women is on the role and rationale for local government interventions and policy. UN-Habitat's work on violence against women is conducted within the framework of its Safer Cities Programme, which aims to build capacities at city level to adequately address urban insecurity and thereby to contribute to the establishment of a culture of prevention.

## **Policy development/research**

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### *Baseline July 2007*

In order to better understand violence against women and its causes, UN-Habitat undertakes surveys under the umbrella of the Safer Cities Programme, and assesses four types of violence against women: (a) economic abuse; (b) physical abuse; (c) emotional abuse; and (d) sexual abuse. These surveys have been developed in South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Cameroon and Papua New Guinea, with the aim of assisting policy development and advocacy at local level, as well as at national and international levels.

### *July 2007 to January 2008*

In October 2007, the International Conference on the State of Safety in World Cities took place in Monterrey, Mexico. The Conference developed an international framework to support cities in their efforts to address issues of violence and crime, including violence against women; outlined strategies and approaches to address violence against women; and built partnerships between United Nations, Governments, Local authorities, Civil society and women's organizations and regional bodies to address urban crime and violence.

UN-Habitat has created a database of over 200 institutions, local authorities and grassroots initiatives covering women's safety tools. It will create a global network on safety including violence against women.

### *October 2008 to February 2009*

UN-HABITAT has commissioned the preparation of a publication "Using Planning to Combat Violence Against Women", geared towards stakeholders dealing with women's rights, urban planning and human settlements. A global assessment of women's safety is being finalized, to support progress in efforts to promote women's safety. A research project is under preparation, in partnership with Women in Cities International, to undertake a comparative evaluation study of

women's safety audits.

*March to September 2009*

UN-HABITAT published "*Women's Safety Audits: What Works and Where?*" which provides an international comparative assessment of existing safety audits. Results are intended to influence the development of a set of guidelines for local authorities to refer to, when considering the use of the women's safety audit tool. This report examines best practices, local adaptations, positive and negative outcomes and suggestions for future use of the women's safety audit tool based on a review of the literature as well as surveys and interviews with organizations around the world that have used the tool.

UN-HABITAT also published the "*Global Assessment on Women's safety.*" This assessment was completed in collaboration with the Huairou Commission, Women in Cities International and Red Mujer y Habitat. It is an extensive review of tools and strategies promoting women's safety at the global, regional, national and local levels. This has resulted in the creation of a database of close to 200 institutions, local authorities and grassroots initiatives working on women's safety, thus facilitating information sharing and building of global and regional networks.

### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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*Baseline July 2007*

UN-Habitat emphasizes programmes and strategies aimed at preventing violence against women and, to that end, promotes partnerships between all concerned stakeholders under the coordinating role of local government, women's groups, community, social institutions, and the police. It encourages the consultation and participation of women at each phase of a project or activity.

Through the Safer Cities Programme, women safety audits and exploratory walks are implemented, aimed at proposing corrective action to make the urban environment safer for all its inhabitants. Participants, mainly women, identify areas where the potential for crime is high or where women or other persons may feel unsafe. Based on the Canadian experience, safety audits were adapted to the reality of many cities in Africa, Latin America and Asia and the Pacific. At the national level, UN-Habitat has developed tools for, and implemented, women's safety audits in several cities, and developed partnerships at city level to enhance women's safety.

*February to September 2008*

UN-HABITAT and UNIFEM held a joint workshop during the International Seminar "Cities without Violence, Safe Cities for Women's and Girls", from 23 to 25 July 2008 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and presented a joint training initiative on women's safety audits for cities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

*October 2008 to February 2009*

A first pilot training on conducting women's safety audits for the Caribbean was held in Kingston, Jamaica, in mid-November 2008, with 30 participants from Jamaica, Grenada, St Lucia, and Haiti. As a follow-up, UNDP and UN-HABITAT submitted to the *Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund* a concept note for up-scaling this programme to cover other municipalities in Jamaica. This concept note has been accepted.

*March to September 2009*



On 3 June 2009, UN-HABITAT and UNIFEM joined efforts to make cities free from violence against women and girls with the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding regarding a global programme to tackle violence against women and girls in the world's cities. The highlight of the joint Safe Cities programme will be the development, testing and delivery of a new global model for safer cities, based on proven strategies and best practices that can be replicated in different cities around the world. Strategies will include campaigns to help change attitudes or behaviour that condone or perpetuate violence against women. They will also include practical measures that local authorities can use to make the physical environment of cities safer.

UN-HABITAT has forged a partnership with the UNIFEM South Asia Sub Regional Office and an NGO Jagori in developing a framework for a Safer New Delhi, with women's safety being the entry point. Also in collaboration with Jagori, UN-Habitat initiated a *Youth and Safety Project in slums* in New Delhi. The project is implemented in the relocated community of Madanpur Khadar, located near South East Delhi at the border of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. The project focuses on gender-based safety by involving young men and young women, in order to enhance security in the slum for the most vulnerable. The programme reaches approximately 2355 households.

The UN-HABITAT Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) was adopted by the 22 Governing Council in April 2009, with actions on women's safety and security, specifically focusing on rolling out the women's safety audit tool to other cities and training of local government's in adopting this approach; developing guidelines for local authorities on how planning can combat women's insecurity in public spaces; and developing a capacity building programme for local authorities on women's safety in public spaces.

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

The Safer Cities Programme promotes the documentation and exchange of practices and lessons learnt. It also promotes the Women City networks at the regional and international level and between regions. Examples include: seminars and international conferences organized in Frankfurt, Naples, Nairobi, Antananarivo, Johannesburg, Montreal and Kampala; and the replication of tools and training sessions carried out in Johannesburg, Frankfurt, Montreal, Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam.

UN-Habitat co-organized the first international conference on "Women's Safety: Making the links" (Montreal, 2002). Direct outcomes of this conference were the development of networks on women and cities and the Women's Safety Awards.

In the Eastern Africa Region, Safer Cities collaborated with the non-governmental organization Raising Voices to co-organize a regional dialogue in 2003, which brought together non-governmental organization leaders and representatives of local authorities to discuss the current state of prevention, to explore key themes and challenges and to develop strategies for moving forward to implement stronger programmes to prevent violence against women.

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

UN Habitat launched awards and competitions on "Safety and Security for Women and Girls in Cities" for Latin American and the Caribbean for 2007/2008 in November 2007.

#### *February to September 2008*

UN Habitat held two panel discussions during Kenya's National Youth Forum in February 2008 on preventing gender-based violence. An award ceremony was held in March 2008 in Costa Rica, as part of the "IV Safer Cities Competitions for Women and Girls - Safety and Security for Women

and Girls in Cities”, with the following municipalities receiving awards: San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina; Maipú, Chile; and Solidaridad, Mexico.

*October 2008 to February 2009*

UN-HABITAT and UNIFEM Latin America and Caribbean jointly held a workshop on “Women’s Safety”, at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Colloquium on Crime Prevention of the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime in Querétaro, Mexico, from 12 to 14 November 2008, to present the training and capacity building programme to partners and key stakeholders. UN-Habitat and Women in Cities International, an NGO based in Montreal, launched the evaluation report “Women’s Safety Audits – What Works and Where?” UNIFEM, UN-HABITAT and Women in Cities International and Red Mujer also organized a session entitled “Women and Safety in Urban Spaces”.

*March to September 2009*

A one-week National Youth Crime and Violence Prevention Conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya with providing safe spaces for young women and girls as one of the thematic areas. Recommendations were made to local government to be proactive in providing these spaces, especially in disadvantaged communities.

### **Future activities**

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A publication *Using Planning to Combat Violence Against Women*, which is geared towards stakeholders dealing with women's rights, urban planning and human settlements, is under preparation.

### **Resources**

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*Violence against Women in Urban Areas*, UMP Working Paper 17, April 2000, by Soraya Smaoun, co-sponsored by SC and UMP (English and French)

*Crime in Dar es Salaam: Results of a City Victim Survey*, ISS and UN-Habitat, January 2001

*Survivors speak, a snapshot survey on violence against women in Nairobi*. UN-Habitat, Safer Cities Series 3, April 2002

*Preventing Gender-based violence in the Horn, East and Southern Africa, A regional Dialogue*, Raising Voices and UN-Habitat, 2004

*Rethinking Domestic Violence, A training process for community activists*, Raising Voices, Dipak Naker and Lori Michau, 2004

### **Address/Websites**

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UN-Habitat  
P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya  
[www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)  
[www.unhabitat.org/safercities](http://www.unhabitat.org/safercities)

*United Nations University (UNU)*

**Background**

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United Nations University's (UNU) mission is to contribute, through research and capacity building, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems that are the concern of the United Nations, its peoples and Member States. The UNU acts as an international community of scholars; a bridge between the United Nations and the international academic community; a think-tank for the United Nations system; and a builder of capacities, particularly in developing countries

**Policy framework**

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See main instruments above.

**Areas of focus**

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Violence against women has been addressed in projects under UNU's Peace and Governance Programme, including studies on women and children in post-conflict peace-building and on trafficking.

**Address/Websites**

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UNU  
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8925  
[www.unu.edu](http://www.unu.edu)

## **Background**

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The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) provides training to assist countries in meeting economic and social challenges; conducts research to explore effective training and capacity building approaches; and forms partnerships with other United Nations agencies, governments and non-governmental organizations for the development and implementation of training and capacity building programmes to meet the needs and requests of Member States, particularly developing countries and countries in transition.

## **Policy framework**

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See the main instruments above.

## **Area(s) of focus**

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UNITAR addresses violence against women in conflict and post-conflict situations.

## **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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*Baseline July 2007*

Within the framework of its training initiative, UNITAR conducts courses of a few days' duration in the mission area of peacekeeping operations, tailored to the specific circumstances of the targeted mission. These seminars provide training on the special needs of women and children in conflict situations, enhance the professional preparedness of peacekeepers dealing with societies in and after armed conflict, and promotes the incorporation of gender perspectives into multilateral peacekeeping operations. By December 2005, a total of 25 seminars had taken place since the programme's inception in December 2001.

## **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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*Baseline July 2007*

UNITAR's training programme supports the United Nations' efforts to raise awareness for the rights and needs of children in situations of armed conflict.

## **Address/Websites**

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UNITAR  
Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
[www.unitar.org](http://www.unitar.org)  
<http://www.unitar.org/wcc/>

## **Background**

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The United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW) carries out and promotes research and training programmes to contribute to the empowerment of women and the achievement of gender equality worldwide. By stimulating and assisting the efforts of inter-governmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations, UN-INSTRAW plays a critical role in advancing the global agenda of gender equality, development and peace.

## **Policy framework**

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See main instruments listed above.

## **Area(s) of focus**

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INSTRAW's Gender, Peace and Security Programme promotes gender equality and women's full and equal participation in the realms of peacekeeping, peace processes, post-conflict reconstruction and the reform of security institutions. INSTRAW's research and capacity-building initiatives focus specifically on security sector reform, violence against women and the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

## **Main activities**

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Working with other UN bodies, international and regional organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia and the media, INSTRAW prioritizes initiatives that ensure the right to peace and security for women, men, girls and boys in three main areas:

- Promoting gendered security sector reform – INSTRAW has developed a conceptual framework and concrete tools on gender and security sector reform (SSR) that aim to guide an analysis of security institutions, policies and processes (including the military, the police, border guards, private security firms, civil society and other actors), facilitate effective mainstreaming of women's issues, and ensure an effective and appropriate response to gendered insecurities, including violence against women. In 2006, INSTRAW, in collaboration with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), established the Gender and Security Sector Reform Working Group, which brings together key groups and individuals working on gender and reform of security institutions, and serves as an initiator, resource and facilitator for efforts to mainstream gender issues into SSR initiatives, policies and tools.
- Contributing to the eradication of violence against women - In 2001, INSTRAW commissioned 6 working papers on ending men's violence against women, which explore different partnerships for ending violence against women, and men's roles and responsibilities within these partnerships. In 2003, the Institute launched a collaborative research programme and online seminar/discussion to encourage a more holistic and collective response to violence against women by focusing on masculinities and male roles. In collaboration with UNDP's Sub-Regional Resource Facility for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC-SURF), INSTRAW developed a manual and training tool for improving the response to violence against women provided by public security institutions, including government, the police, the judiciary and other relevant actors. The tool aims to help users assess the existing response to violence against women, and design, implement and monitor more effective and appropriate policies and programmes.

- The tool also generated a training module that has been implemented with security-sector actors in El Salvador and the Dominican Republic.
- Supporting the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) – INSTRAW has produced *Securing equality, engendering peace: A guide to policy and planning on women, peace and security (SCR1325)*. This guide concentrates on the creation of action plans on women, peace and security in order to ensure the full, effective and sustainable implementation of Security Council resolution 1325. The purpose of this guide is to help facilitate the development of realistic action plans on women, peace and security through the provision of good practices, specific recommendations and a six-step model process. The guide is designed as a resource for governments, United Nations and regional organizations as well as non-governmental organizations. Based on a review of existing action plans in countries such as Canada, Norway, and the United Kingdom, among others, the manual provides concrete guidelines and processes for reaching agreement at the national and institutional levels.

### **Policy development/research**

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*July 2007 to January 2008*

INSTRAW prepared the Gender and Security Sector Reform Toolkit, and towards this end, undertook extensive research into the current response of security sector actors to gender-based crimes such as violence against women, evaluation of that response, and the development of recommendations based on identified gaps in research and training.

*February to September 2008*

In May 2008, UN-INSTRAW undertook an assessment of gender-based violence in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Noel in the Dominican Republic. The study revealed that there was very little attention to, or provision in post-disaster reconstruction efforts to address gender-based violence, particularly among residents of temporary shelters.

### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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*July 2007 to January 2008*

In August 2007, INSTRAW in collaboration with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), hosted an expert workshop on gender and security sector reform, which brought together a number of experts in different areas of the security sector (police, military, border management, private security companies, etc.) to discuss issues such as gender training, gender mainstreaming, and an appropriate response to the specific insecurities faced by women, including physical and sexual violence.

The workshop was part of the development of the *Gender and Security Reform Toolkit*, a comprehensive capacity-building tool that aims to improve the integration of gender issues in specific security sectors (police, justice, penal system, etc.), and the capacity of security personnel to better respond to such human rights abuses as violence against women. The toolkit includes 12 tools and corresponding practice notes on gender and police reform, gender and border management, gender and justice reform, and gender training for security personnel, among other topics.

*February to September 2008*

In February 2008, UN-INSTRAW, in collaboration with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), published the *Gender and Security Reform Toolkit* that aim to support gender

mainstreaming and the participation of women in different institutions of the security sector (the justice sector, defence, the police, border guards, private military and security firms, parliamentarians and civil society, among other actors) in order to build the capacity of the security sector to respond to gendered insecurities and human rights abuses as violence against women. The toolkit includes 12 tools and corresponding practice notes on gender and police reform, gender and border management, gender and justice reform, and gender training for security personnel, among other topics.

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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*July 2007 to January 2008*

INSTRAW will launch the Gender and SSR Toolkit on 3 March 2008, during the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women. It will carry out advocacy efforts targeting Member States and other relevant stakeholders for its use in security sector reform processes.

*February to September 2008*

The Gender and SSR Toolkit was launched during the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Advocacy is being carried out among Member States and other stakeholders to encourage the use of the toolkit in ongoing security sector reform processes.

### **Resources**

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*Partners in Change: Working with Men to End Gender-Based Violence* (INSTRAW/Ser.B/57). Santo Domingo: United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, 2003. (ISBN 92-1-127058-8)

Grieg, Alan. *Political Connections: Men, Gender and Violence*: INSTRAW Working Paper Series on Men's Roles and Responsibilities in Ending Gender Based Violence (no.1), 2001.

Rashid, Maria. *Giving Men Choices: A Rozan project with the Police Force in Pakistan*: INSTRAW Working Paper Series on Men's Roles and Responsibilities in Ending Gender Based Violence (no.2), INSTRAW, 2001.

Hautzinger, Sarah. *The Crowing of the Rooster: Violence and Changing Masculinity in Northeast Brazil*: INSTRAW Working Paper Series on Men's Roles and Responsibilities in Ending Gender Based Violence (no.3), 2001.

Tonkin, Bernard. *Men Reinventing Themselves - Recovery from the Hegemonic Masculinity*: INSTRAW Working Paper Series on Men's Roles and Responsibilities in Ending Gender Based Violence (no.4), INSTRAW, 2001.

Moffett, Helen. *Entering the Labyrinth: Coming to Grips with Gender War Zones - The Case of South Africa*: INSTRAW Working Paper Series on Men's Roles and Responsibilities in Ending Gender Based Violence (no.5), INSTRAW, 2001.

Funk, Rus Ervin. *A Coordinated Collaborative Approach to Address and Combat Teen Dating Abuse*: INSTRAW Working Paper Series on Men's Roles and Responsibilities in Ending Gender Based Violence (no.6), INSTRAW, 2001.

INSTRAW. *Herramienta para la programación de una respuesta eficaz y apropiada ante la violencia contra las mujeres*. In Manual para la Reforma del Sector de la Seguridad en América Latina. Panama: Sub-Regional Resource Facility, United Nations Development Programme, 2005.

Valasek, K. and K. Nelson. *Securing Equality, Engendering Peace: A guide to policy and planning on women, peace and security*. Santo Domingo: UN-INSTRAW, 2006.

**Address/Websites**

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INSTRAW  
Calle César Nicolás Penson 102-A, Santo Domingo  
Dominican Republic  
<http://www.un-instraw.org>



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## **Background**

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UNRISD engages in multidisciplinary research on the social dimensions of contemporary problems affecting development. UNRISD stimulates dialogue and contributes to policy debates on key issues of social development within and outside the United Nations system.

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## **Policy framework**

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See main instruments above.

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## **Area(s) of focus**

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In the 2000-2004 Research Programme, violence against women was addressed in the Social Policy and Development and Democracy, Governance and Human Rights research programmes. In the new research programme for 2005-2009, violence against women is being addressed under the Gender and Development Programme.

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## **Policy development/research**

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### *Baseline July 2007*

UNRISD undertook research on violence against women in conflict and post-conflict situations as part of its report on the occasion of the ten-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

### *July 2007 to January 2008*

In the research programme for 2005-2009, violence against women is being addressed under the Gender and Development Programme. The Programme has recently launched an edited volume series, co-published with Routledge, the second of which is *Gendered Peace: Women's Struggles for Post-War Justice and Reconciliation*, edited by Donna Pankhurst, 2008. This volume makes a contribution to the literature on women, conflict and peace-building. Its particular focus is on the period after a peace accord, or some other official ending of a conflict, often denoted as "post-conflict" or "post-war".

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## **Resources**

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*Gender Equality: Striving for Justice in an Unequal World*, part four. UNRISD, 2005

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## **Address/Websites**

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UNRISD

Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

[www.unrisd.org](http://www.unrisd.org)

<http://www.unrisd.org/research/gender/report>

Contains links to all research, commissioned papers and contacts related to UNRISD's work on gender equality

## **Background**

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The mandate of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) is to contribute, through research, training, field activities and the collection, exchange and dissemination of information, to the formulation and implementation of improved policies in the field of crime prevention and control, due regard being paid to the integration of such policies within the broader policies for socio-economic change and development, and the protection of human rights.

## **Policy framework**

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See main instruments above.

## **Area(s) of focus**

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UNICRI's activities are developed in accordance with the priorities indicated by the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Recently, UNICRI has devoted specific attention to the issue of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, for the purpose of sexual exploitation. In the past, UNICRI has also carried out activities in the field of domestic violence prevention and control. UNICRI regularly updates the following databases:

- Human Trafficking Bibliography database:  
<http://www.unicri.it/www/trafficking/bibliography/index.php>
- International Legal Repository on Human Trafficking:  
[http://www.unicri.it/www/trafficking/legal\\_framework/index.php](http://www.unicri.it/www/trafficking/legal_framework/index.php)
- International Repository of Institutions against Sexual Exploitation of Minors (IRISEM):  
<http://www.unicri.it/www/trafficking/irisem/index.php>

## **Policy development/research**

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### *Baseline July 2007*

UNICRI's anti-trafficking projects include a specific assessment component aimed at the collection and analysis of information and data on trafficking patterns and modalities, routes and flows and existing counter-trafficking measures. In 2003, UNICRI carried out research in Italy and Nigeria on the trafficking of Nigerian women in Italy for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Similar research on trafficking in women for sexual exploitation has been carried out in the Philippines (2002), Czech Republic (2004), the Balkans (2004 and 2006), Poland (2005), Germany and Romania (2005). Under the programme of action against trafficking in minors for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation, research was also conducted in Thailand, Ukraine, and Costa Rica.

### *March to September 2009*

Action-oriented research on successful intervention modalities for Nigerian minor victims of trafficking was carried out in various Italian regions. Current modalities of services and assistance towards minor victims were assessed and evaluated in Italian regions that are mostly affected by trafficking for sexual exploitation for the development of successful interventions.

In the framework of capacity building and technical co-operation with Nigerian Institutions, and with the aim to support the Nigerian National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP), and in particular the National Monitoring Centre on Trafficking in Persons (NMC), UNICRI adapted the Italian National Antimafia Bureau (DNA) database – SIDDA 2000 – an

innovative software for investigation and prosecution of trafficking which was an in kind contribution from the Italian to the Nigerian Government, and was adapted to the Nigerian legal framework and local context of the country. Carefully selected technical staff and users of database of NAPTIP were trained to become conversant and operative with the software in Italy in April 2009 and in Nigeria in July 2009. Participants included NAPTIP HQs and staff from 6 Zonal Offices: Sokoto, Lagos, Enugu, Benin, Uyo, and Kano.

### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

The Institute carries out technical cooperation and capacity building activities, including the training of law enforcement and justice administration personnel; support in the creation of cooperation mechanisms between institutions of different countries; and support to non-governmental organizations and associations involved in assisting trafficking victims in origin and destination countries.

Throughout 2003-04, technical cooperation activities (e.g. training of law enforcement officials and NGO staff, creation of National Monitoring Center on Trafficking in Human Beings, pilot police cooperation activities, signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Italian National Anti-mafia Bureau and the Nigerian Attorney General, to establish and improve cooperation through exchange of information and documents on trafficking in persons and other related organized crimes) were implemented within the framework of the Programme of Action against trafficking, targeting the trafficking of women from Nigeria into Italy for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

In 2004 UNICRI prepared and tested a training manual to combat trafficking in human beings in peace operations, which targeted peace support operations' personnel deployed in the Balkans. In 2006, within the framework of the project "Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) and Peace-Support Operations (PSOs): Pre-Deployment/ In-Service Training Programme for International Law-Enforcement Personnel", UNICRI updated the training manual and on its basis carried out three training sessions, targeted in particular to police officers deployed or to be deployed in peace-support missions through the South-East European region. The courses involved a total of 35 participants from 17 countries (Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands and United Kingdom).

UNICRI developed a database in Costa Rica, in 2005-06, that collected and analyzed judicial cases of trafficked minors for use by the 8 Offices of the Specialised Prosecutors on Sexual Crimes and Domestic Violence in charge of cases of trafficking in human beings. UNICRI also developed training courses for immigration and border police to strengthen the capacity of immigration personnel and border police in Costa Rica to address cases of trafficking in children for sexual exploitation. In addition, it produced a website on trafficking in minors and commercial sexual exploitation of children, with a special focus on sex tourism and code of conduct for tourism operators.

In 2005-06 UNICRI developed a template database collecting and analyzing judicial cases of trafficked minors in Thailand that became part of a broader trafficking database developed at the national level. Furthermore, UNICRI developed a multi-disciplinary training manual for all the stakeholders involved in preventing and tackling trafficking in minors in Thailand. Three major training courses took place in provinces (Ayutthaya, Chiang Mai and Song Khla) particularly exposed to the phenomenon of trafficking.

In Ukraine, in 2005-06, UNICRI focused especially on training and prevention/awareness-raising activities. In particular, UNICRI developed training courses for specialists working for the national hotline on trafficking dealing with children.

As a follow-up to the programme of action against trafficking in minors for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation, UNICRI is currently carrying out in Costa Rica specialized training for judges and prosecutors on techniques for conducting interviews and assessing testimony of child victims and witnesses. Within the same context and in collaboration with Fundaci6n Paniamor, UNICRI is also currently providing training for hotline operators on the specific issues of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Furthermore, as follow-up of the activities carried out in Costa Rica, the programme is expected to be expanded to the regional level and UNICRI is currently contacting possible interested donors.

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

In Costa Rica, UNICRI carried out specialized training for 35 law-enforcement professionals, including judges, prosecutors, judicial police and migration officials, between July and August 2007 at the Judicial School of San Jos6, Costa Rica. It provided training for Hotline and Information Call Centers operators on the issue commercial sexual exploitation of children; the extension of the Information System for specialized public prosecutor offices to the Prosecutor's Office of Liberia and Jac6 and related training of personnel. It also undertook the production and distribution of information material for child sex crime victims

#### *February to September 2008*

In 2008/2009, UNICRI is implementing a second programme to counter trafficking in human beings from Nigeria to Italy. Towards this end, an agreement was signed in February 2008 between Nigerian Government and UNICRI. The programme includes empowerment activities, action-oriented research aimed at assessing and disseminating good practices in assistance to victims of trafficking, awareness raising campaigns and education activities. These will be implemented in Nigeria, in close cooperation with local NGOs.

So far, a specialized training for representatives of the Edo State NGO Coalition against Human Trafficking and NAPTIP (the Nigerian National Agency against Trafficking) has been carried out, and women's empowerment activities will be launched in September 2008. Work is under way for the creation of an information system/database for the investigation of trafficking cases, to be set up within the National Monitoring Center in NAPTIP. An information exchange mechanism between Italian regions most affected by the trafficking of Nigerian girls and women for the purpose of sexual exploitation will also be established, and a coordination platform will be created as a forum for discussion of strategies; exchange of information, experiences, best practices and contacts; and coordination of possible joint actions in the field of assistance and reintegration programmes.

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

UNICRI continued to implement a second programme to counter trafficking in human beings from Nigeria to Italy, 2008/2009. As part of this programme, UNICRI has commissioned a research team to conduct a 9-months research, from September 2008 to June 2009, to analyze the social interventions carried out in favor of the Nigerian minor victims of trafficking in Italy. The Institute has started to work on the establishment of a cooperation platform between the regional institutions in Italy dealing with the issues of human trafficking. A long-distance learning component of the training programme, which aims to increase and improve on-the-ground

research, local and international networking and capacity for preparation of grant proposals, started in August 2008 and will continue until April 2009.

UNICRI has approved the project proposal on “Action against Human Trafficking from Nigeria to Europe”, submitted by Edo State (Nigeria) NGO Coalition against Human Trafficking (ENCATIP) and NAPTIP (the Nigerian National Agency against Trafficking). Under this project, women’s empowerment activities started in December 2008. Awareness raising campaigns in Edo State have been designed.

#### *March to September 2009*

A Cooperation Platform was launched at the Interregional Meeting held in March 2009 for the Italian regions most affected by trafficking of Nigerian girls and women for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Another joint forum for discussion of strategies, exchange of information and experiences took place in June 2009 at UNICRI HQ with the participation of an official from the Nigerian Embassy. This interactive seminar focused on setting up coordination and cooperation contacts between the Italian network and Nigerian Embassy for consular procedures for Nigerian women victims of trafficking.

In Nigeria, UNICRI provided the NGO Coalition against Human Trafficking a week-long training on “Providing Services to and Case Management of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings in Nigeria”, held in July 2009 in Edo State.

UNICRI continued to carry out activities related to women’s empowerment in Nigerian Edo State as a preventive measure against trafficking of women. As part of these activities, a second lot of 30 beneficiaries was selected in July 2009 to receive training, micro-credit and all necessary equipment to start small business activities.

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

UNICRI has carried out awareness campaigns on the issue of trafficking in women and minors for the purpose of sexual exploitation with the aim to sensitize potential victims, political and religious leaders, public institutions, and the general public on the issue, in addition to raising awareness of the services available to victims.

In Nigeria, in 2003, UNICRI implemented three awareness campaigns in the Edo State, making use of radio and TV spots, market campaigns, advocacy meetings and school visitations.

In Italy, in 2004, for four months a video spot “Let’s help them to get free from slavery” was broadcasted on three national TV channels.

In Costa Rica, UNICRI produced: TV and radio spots; billboards at the borders to sensitize/inform the public on the issue; a bookmark to raise awareness in the population at risk; a set of three different stickers posted up in the windows of all immigration offices; 14 movable billboards, which circulated on buses for four months in the areas identified by the project as the most vulnerable trafficking routes.

In Ukraine, in 2006, awareness-raising campaigns were conducted through: the creation and dissemination of brochures advertising the free hot-line number and for specialists about national legislation; the dissemination of information through the La Strada website; the organization of 26 multi-disciplinary round tables; and a television spot to raise public awareness.

#### *February to September 2008*

As part of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (PNI), UNICRI published the proceedings of a PNI workshop on "Eliminating violence against women: forms, strategies and tools" on the occasion of the seventeenth session of the United Nations Commission On Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna, 14 April 2008). The publication is available at the following link:

[http://www.unicri.it/wwk/publications/books/docs/eliminating\\_violence.pdf](http://www.unicri.it/wwk/publications/books/docs/eliminating_violence.pdf).

UNICRI compiled a bibliography and a repository of legal instruments which are accessible on databases at: <http://www.unicri.it/wwd/trafficking/bibliography/index.php>; and [http://www.unicri.it/wwd/trafficking/legal\\_framework/index.php](http://www.unicri.it/wwd/trafficking/legal_framework/index.php). The International Legal Repository (ILR) contains relevant international, regional and sub-regional legal instruments. The International Repository of Institutions against Sexual Exploitation of Minors (IRISEM) <http://www.unicri.it/wwd/trafficking/irisem/index.php> contains information on institutions and organizations working to reduce and prevent trafficking and sexual exploitation of minors around the world.

### **Future activities**

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A conference will be organized at the end of the second programme to counter trafficking in human beings from Nigeria to Italy in order to present and assess the final project results and outputs. The conference will serve as a forum for discussion on the best practices assessed and on policy recommendations based on the needs and findings of the project.

### **Resources**

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International Legal Repository

[http://www.unicri.it/wwd/trafficking/legal\\_framework/index.php](http://www.unicri.it/wwd/trafficking/legal_framework/index.php)

International Repository of Institutions against Sexual Exploitation of Minors

<http://www.unicri.it/wwd/trafficking/irisem/index.php>

Bibliography on Trafficking in Human Beings

<http://www.unicri.it/wwd/trafficking/bibliography/index.php>

*Trafficking in Human Beings and Peace-Support Operations*. Pre-deployment in-service Training Programme for International Law Enforcement Personnel Training Manual. UNICRI Publications, 2006

*Trafficking of Nigerian girls to Italy*. UNICRI Publications, 2004

*Anti-THB to and within peace support operation area: Building up knowledge and strategies for awareness and training*. UNICRI Publications, 2004

UNICRI, *Trafficking in women: The Czech Republic perspective*. ICSP Publications, 2004

### **Address/Websites**

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UNICRI

Viale Maestri del Lavoro, 10, 10127 Turin, Italy

[www.unicri.it](http://www.unicri.it)

Information on counter-trafficking activities

## **Background**

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The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) is the main advocate for accelerated, comprehensive and coordinated global action on the epidemic. UNAIDS aims to lead, strengthen and support an expanded response to HIV and AIDS that includes preventing transmission of HIV, providing care and support to those already living with the virus, reducing the vulnerability of individuals and communities to HIV and alleviating the impact of the epidemic. The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS is a partnership between United Nations agencies and civil society organizations seeking to call attention and spur action to address the increasing HIV infection rates among women and girls.

## **Policy framework**

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See main instruments above. In addition, UNAIDS policy position paper: Practical guidelines for intensifying HIV prevention (2007) draws specific attention to the fact that strategies to reduce violence against women are essential to a comprehensive HIV prevention strategy for women.

## **Area(s) of focus**

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UNAIDS pays particular attention to the intersections between violence against women and the threat of violence, and HIV prevention, treatment and care for women and girls. The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS strategy covers policy development, research and awareness-raising. UNAIDS co-sponsors also take a lead on violence against women, particularly WHO, UNFPA, and UNICEF. In May 2009, UNAIDS issued a policy document -- *Joint Action for Results: the UNAIDS Outcome Framework 2009-2011* -- which outlines priority action areas in the AIDS response and opportunities to link the AIDS agenda to broader development goals and the MDGs. One of the priority areas identified for concerted action by UNAIDS and cosponsors is reducing violence against women. The document commits UNAIDS to use its convening role, advocacy and programming resources to reduce sexual and intimate partner violence through appropriate entry points in the AIDS response. UNAIDS is an active partner in the inter-agency initiative UN Action against sexual violence in conflict.

## **Policy development/research**

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### *Baseline July 2007*

UNAIDS works closely with its co-sponsors (WHO, UNPFA, UNICEF), and partners (UNIFEM, Amnesty International, the Centre for Women's Global Leadership, and others) to better understand and document the linkages between violence against women and AIDS. Regional teams in Southern and Eastern Africa have explored how health services can be improved for women who experience sexual and physical violence during crisis and conflict situations (supported by the Global Coalition, WHO, UNDP and UNAIDS).

### *July 2007 to January 2008*

In August 2007, UNAIDS convened a technical consultation on social change communication aimed, among other things, at examining the role of social change communication in HIV prevention, with a specific focus on tackling the drivers of the epidemic. Resulting follow up actions will include country-level campaigns on zero-tolerance for gender-based violence as a social norm.

The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS has actively provided technical and financial support to regional coalitions of women leaders. The Regional Coalition of First Ladies and Women Leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean Coalition of Women Leaders are working with networks of women living with HIV in putting forward action plans to address gender-based violence.

#### *February to September 2008*

In April 2008, UNAIDS presented “Gender Guidance for National AIDS Responses” to its Programme Coordinating Board (PCB). This guidance document contains strategies to strengthen attention to gender issues within national AIDS programmes, including increased attention to combating violence against women in the context of AIDS.

UNAIDS, together with WHO, completed technical and policy guidance to support the integration of gender issues into national proposals to the Global Fund on AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) for Round 8, with emphasis on better integrating programmes aimed at combating violence against women with AIDS services.

UNAIDS undertook two reviews with an emphasis on violence against women and AIDS: (1) a review of the gender policies of the three major AIDS financing institutions – the World Bank, PEPFAR and the GFATM – with a view towards strengthening harmonization and coordination of approaches; and (2) a review of over 50 national strategic plans on AIDS to ascertain the degree to which gender issues were integrated.

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

The Gender Guidance for National AIDS Responses developed in April 2008 and presented to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) was distributed throughout the reporting period to field offices. This document addresses strategies to strengthen attention to gender issues within national AIDS programmes, including increased attention to combating violence against women in context of AIDS.

### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

As follow-up to Security Council resolutions 1308 and 1325 (2000), the UNAIDS Office of Security and Humanitarian Response is providing support to strengthen HIV/AIDS education within international peacekeeping operations, as well as to assist countries to strengthen their HIV/AIDS responses for national uniformed services, targeting young recruits in particular. A training manual to encourage countries to strengthen their HIV/AIDS responses for national uniformed services has been developed as a peer education kit, which includes a section on gender issues, such as coercion and sexual violence.

UNAIDS is also working with partners to clarify linkages and effective programmes on violence and HIV in emergency affected populations. This work, funded by DfID (UK), includes a focus on scaling up HIV programmes for populations of humanitarian concern, and implementation of a number of activities, including:

- A review, in collaboration with WHO, of epidemiological evidence of the links between HIV and gender-based violence in emergency settings
- Participation in UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, a global initiative on gender-based violence in emergency settings
- Support to regional task forces on gender-based violence in emergency settings



- Collaboration with WHO in building capacity in the clinical management of sexual violence in emergencies
- Collaboration with FAO on building the capacities for addressing underlying causes of transactional sex.

Recent fundraising efforts by UNAIDS and the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS helped establish a window in the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, managed by UNIFEM, to support and document promising interventions on violence against women and AIDS. Private sector donations have contributed towards year two of the HIV window in the Trust Fund.

UNAIDS, together with WHO, the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS and other partners, has also formed a technical working group on violence against women and AIDS to propose recommendations on how to improve attention to violence within the national AIDS response and how to strengthen the linkages between AIDS programmes and programmes and services focusing on women's rights and violence against women.

UNAIDS is also working with leading experts at the London School of Tropical Medicine and the technical working group on violence against women to develop costing estimates for integrating programmes that address violence against women into AIDS programmes, where appropriate.

*July 2007 to January 2008*

In collaboration with leading experts at the London School of Tropical Medicine, UNAIDS together with WHO and the Global coalition on women and AIDS developed costing estimates for integrating programmes that address violence against women into national AIDS programmes. As a result of this work, interventions on violence against women that can be easily added to existing national AIDS programmes were included in the 2007 UNAIDS "Financial Resources Required to Achieve Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support".

*February to September 2008*

In June 2008, UNAIDS, together with the University of Witwatersrand Reproductive Health Research Unit, convened a meeting "Stopping the HIV epidemic – young women, girls and HIV in southern Africa. What must be done!" to assess why young women and girls in HIV hyper-endemic countries of southern Africa continue to be so vulnerable to HIV infection. Three research papers relevant to violence against women were presented: intergenerational sex; sexual violence; and risk perception, knowledge and behaviour. These papers will be published in September 2008.

*October 2008 to February 2009*

In November 2008, UNAIDS established a US\$3 million dollar window in the UNAIDS Programme Acceleration Fund (PAF) mechanism to assist Joint UN AIDS Teams to catalyze country level action on gender and AIDS, including programming on violence against women and its intersections with HIV.

*March to September 2009*

Since the establishment of a window in the UNAIDS Programme Acceleration Fund (PAF) mechanism to assist UN Joint AIDS Teams to catalyze country level programming on gender and AIDS, 8 countries have received funding to undertake programming on violence and HIV:

- Panama: will provide services in two border towns, focusing on sex workers, sensitizing the border patrol/police force and communities on HIV, STI and violence prevention.
- Guinea: will conduct a study on sex work and gender-based sexual violence.

- Malawi: will implement the Stepping Stones methodology in 6 districts.
- Mali: will undertake HIV prevention advocacy to “fight against gender inequalities, violence, and harmful traditional sexual practices”
- Fiji: will conduct qualitative and quantitative research with networks of people living with AIDS, including issues of violence in intimate partnerships.
- Guinea Bissau: will strengthen community-based groups, faith-based networks, and youth networks to stop gender-based violence, including FGM, and promote women’s rights.
- Rwanda: will implement a project on land rights and HIV/AIDS education which recognizes links between knowledge of the law and vulnerability to gender-based violence and HIV infection.
- Serbia: will conduct qualitative research among most at risk populations to analyze the relationship between vulnerability to HIV/STIs and gender-based vulnerabilities, including violence.
- Sudan: will use the Stepping Stones methodology to integrate HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence risk reduction in Darfur

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### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

#### *Baseline July 2007*

As one of its key action areas, the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS advocates for strategies to halt violence against women and to address the linkages between violence and HIV transmission and access to services; promotes the right of women to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, free of coercion, discrimination and violence; and calls for greater action to address the issue of gender-based and sexual violence, including in conflict and post-conflict settings.

The link between violence against women and HIV has been featured as an important part of UNAIDS advocacy messages and was the subject of the November 2005 Issues Brief for use with policy makers.

#### *February to September 2008*

The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS has provided technical and financial support to the Regional Coalitions of First Ladies and Women Leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean Coalition of Women Leaders, who are working with networks of women living with HIV and policy makers in their regions to put forward action plans and advocacy campaigns to address gender-based violence.

UNAIDS participated in several workshops and fora at the International AIDS Society Meeting in Mexico which presented new information on violence against women.

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

The findings of the meeting "Stopping the HIV epidemic – young women, girls and HIV in southern Africa. What must be done!" convened in June 2008 by UNAIDS with the University of Witwatersrand Reproductive Health Research Unit, were presented at ICASA in December 2008 along with communication material put together by Soul City to engage communities and decision makers. They were published in a special supplement of *AIDS* that was distributed at ICASA.

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### **Future activities**

Preparations are underway for a technical meeting in October 2009 bringing together practitioners and leading researchers working on the intersection of violence against women and HIV. The meeting will lead to the development of programming guidance to strengthen national AIDS programmes in the area of violence and HIV. WHO is the lead cosponsor in organizing this technical meeting on behalf of the United Nations Joint Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS).

## **Resources**

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*Joint Action for Results: the UNAIDS Outcome Framework 2009-2011:*  
[http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2009/jc1713\\_joint\\_action\\_en.pdf](http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2009/jc1713_joint_action_en.pdf)

*Gender Guidance for National AIDS responses:*  
[http://data.unaids.org/pub/InformationNote/2008/20080308\\_item\\_2\\_gender\\_guidance\\_and\\_costed\\_action\\_plan\\_fi\\_en.pdf](http://data.unaids.org/pub/InformationNote/2008/20080308_item_2_gender_guidance_and_costed_action_plan_fi_en.pdf)

*Facing the Future Together: Report of the Secretary-General's Task Force on Women and Girls*  
<http://womenandaids.unaids.org/regional/default.html#1>

*Global Coalition on Women and AIDS – Violence against women and AIDS: Issue Brief #2*  
<http://womenandaids.unaids.org/themes/docs/UNAIDS%20VAW%20Brief.pdf>

## **Address/Websites**

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UNAIDS  
20, avenue Appia, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland  
[www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)  
[http://womenandaids.unaids.org/themes/theme\\_2.html](http://womenandaids.unaids.org/themes/theme_2.html)

## **Background**

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The International Labour Organization (ILO) formulates and monitors implementation of international labour standards in the form of policies, conventions and recommendations, and provides technical assistance.

## **Policy framework**

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See main instruments above. In addition, ILO's work on violence against women is guided by the 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Rights and Principles at Work; Convention 111 on Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) of 1958; Convention 29 on Forced Labour of 1930; and Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour of 1999; Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97); Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143); Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169). The International Labour Conference Resolution and Conclusions concerning gender equality at the heart of decent work of June 2009 address violence against women in several places.

## **Area(s) of focus**

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ILO works on violence against women at work including sexual harassment, forced labour and trafficking, and child labour. It undertakes policy development, supervision of the application in law and practice of the relevant international labour, research, operational activities and awareness-raising activities.

## **Policy development/research**

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### *Baseline July 2007*

ILO's Labour Standards Department undertakes research and analysis of national legislation, case law and practice on sexual harassment in ILO Member States. The ILO also addresses the issue of violence against migrant workers, in particular female migrant domestic workers, and against indigenous and tribal women. The Conditions of Work and Employment Programme (TRAVAIL) conducts research on violence, including violence against women, at work including on laws, workplace policies and other initiatives to prevent and respond to it.

Under the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour, ILO has carried out analyses of the situation of girl child labour in agriculture, domestic work and in situations of sexual exploitation.

## **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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### *Baseline July 2007*

ILO's Labour Standards Department, in cooperation with ILO's field offices, provides technical advice on policy and legislation, and conducts training on sexual harassment legislation and policies for constituents. Recently work has been undertaken in this area in the Asian region, in particular Malaysia, China and Pakistan, as well as in the context of the annual training at the ILO training centre in Turin on international Labour standards and gender equality. ILO also implements technical cooperation projects on child labour, migration, trafficking and forced labour in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

In 2001, ILO established a broad-based technical cooperation programme, the Special Action Programme to combat forced labour, to spearhead ILO activities against forced labour, including trafficking, irregular migration and bonded labour. The Special Action Programme aims to address all aspects of forced labour, from the lack of good jobs in the communities where many of the victims of trafficking originate, to support for victims. It recognizes the need for effective national laws and strengthened enforcement mechanisms, including legal sanctions against employers using forced labourers; as well as the need to raise public awareness and understanding of the problem and related human and labour rights violations. Under this programme, projects have been implemented in Ghana, Nigeria, Brazil, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, the Russian Federation, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Hong Kong SAR, and Nepal.

A technical cooperation project to address trafficking in human beings covering Albania, Moldova and the Ukraine provides assistance and guidance to ministries and relevant public services in the formulation of gender-sensitive and regulated migration policies as a key preventive strategy, while also strengthening migration and employment management capacity aimed at reducing trafficking in women. The project is also providing social, economic and psychological support to victims of trafficking.

ILO's approach to violence against migrant women is based on a strategy of preventing exploitation and abuse through promoting gender-sensitive regulated and managed migration policies, bi-lateral and multilateral agreements and promotion of labour standards for migrant workers within a Decent Work framework. Important standards to specifically promote the protection and welfare of migrant workers, including women, are the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised) 1949 (No.97), Migrant Workers Supplementary Provisions Convention 1975, (NO.143) and the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (NO.181). In 2005, a tripartite Meeting of Experts formally adopted a key framework document for promoting a rights-based strategy for migration policy, ie the non-binding Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration. This document provides guidance to constituents on strengthening migration policies within a normative framework, while also giving examples of good practices from around the world, including a number that address the vulnerability of migrant women workers.

The ILO has developed tools specifically dealing with the protection and the promotion of the rights of migrant women. The ILO Guide on Preventing Discrimination, Exploitation and Abuse of Migrant Women Workers covers the full migration cycle from pre-departure to reintegration in the country of origin, including a specific module on trafficking. The Guide has been used extensively to build the capacity of ILO constituents in protecting migrant women workers and preventing abusive situations. It is currently available in 10 languages. ILO through its International Migration Branch has specific technical cooperation activities on trafficking.

ILO's SafeWork programme addresses the issue of sexual harassment and other violence at work by means of an interactive programme known as SOLVE, which is designed to assist in the development of policy and action to address psychosocial issues at the workplace.

### **Future activities**

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ILO will continue working with governments and social partners to improve laws and strengthen approaches to dealing with violence at work including sexual harassment. ILO plans to continue research on other forms of violence at work including mobbing and bullying; strengthen data gathering on workplace violence and harassment in developing countries; and work to ensure that all aspects of violence against women are addressed at the country level through Decent Work Country Programmes.

### **Resources**

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Gloria Moreno-Fontes, *Female Domestic Workers in the Middle East: Little Protection for the Underpaid*. International Migration Programme, ILO, 2005

Simel Esim and Monica Smith ed., *Gender and Migration in Arab States: The case of domestic workers*. Regional Office for Arab States, ILO, 2004

Ray Jureidini, *Women migrant domestic workers in Lebanon: International Migration Papers, IMP 48*. International Migration Programme, ILO, 2002

Sabika al-Najjar, *Women migrant domestic workers in Bahrain: International Migration Papers, IMP 47*. International Migration Programme, ILO, 2002

Lin Lean Lim, Katerine Landuyt, Minawa Ebisui, Mary Kawar and Sriani Ameratunga. *An Information Guide - Preventing Discrimination, Exploitation and Abuse of Women Migrant Workers*, ILO, 2004 ([available at: http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/gems/advocacy/protect.htm](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/gems/advocacy/protect.htm))

Chappell, Duncan and Vittorio Di Martino, *Violence at Work* (3rd edition). (ILO, 2006) (available at <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/support/publ/violence3ed.htm>)

*Sectoral Activities Programme working papers on violence in services sectors* (available at <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/dialogue/sector/themes/violence.htm>)

Deirdre McCann, *Sexual harassment at work: national and international responses*. ILO, 2005 (at <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/condtrav/publ/2cwe.htm>)

N. Haspels, Z. Mohamed Kasim, C. Thomas and D. McCann, *Action against sexual harassment at work in Asia and the Pacific* (ILO, 2001) (available at: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/library/pub4.htm>)

Rogers, Kim and Duncan Chappell, *Preventing and responding to violence at work*. ILO, 2003 (at <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/condtrav/publ/hvs-kr-dc-03.htm>)

*Annotated bibliography on violence at work*, ILO, 1999 (at: [http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/condtrav/harassment/harassment\\_publ.htm](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/condtrav/harassment/harassment_publ.htm))

R. Terhorst and N. Haspels, *Trainers' manual: women workers' rights and gender equality: easy steps for workers in Cambodia*, ILO, 2004 (at: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/library/pub4.htm>)

*Girl Child Labour in Agriculture, Domestic Work and Sexual Exploitation; Rapid assessments and Comparative Analysis in Philippines, Ghana and Ecuador*. Girl Child Labour Studies Vols. 1 and 2, ILO, 2004

#### **Address/Websites**

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ILO  
4 Route des Morillons, CH-1211 Geneva 22 Switzerland  
[www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org)

ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Programme  
[http://www.ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DECLARATIONWEB.INDEXPAGE?var\\_language=EN](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DECLARATIONWEB.INDEXPAGE?var_language=EN)  
International Migration Programme, ILO  
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/migrant/projects/gender/index.htm>

Conditions of Work and Employment Programme (TRAVAIL) pages on workplace violence and harassment

[www.ilo.org/condtrav/harassment](http://www.ilo.org/condtrav/harassment)

ILO Sectoral Activities Programme (SECTOR) pages on workplace violence in services sectors

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/dialogue/sector/themes/violence.htm>

ILO InFocus Programme on Safety and Health at Work and the Environment (SafeWork) includes pages on violence at work

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/safework/violence/>

Addressing Psychosocial Problems at Work (SOLVE)

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/safework/whpwb/solve/index.htm>

International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/ipec/index.htm>

ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/library/pub4.htm>

## **Background**

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The mandate of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy.

## **Policy framework**

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See main instruments above.

## **Area(s) of focus**

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FAO seeks to promote gender equality and reduce discrimination against women through various activities which also support the elimination of violence against women. Activities focus on the reinforcement of food security and the economic rights of women, mainly by promoting their access to and management of economic resources, the reduction of women's workload, access to healthcare, education, training and information, and the promotion of women's participation in decision-making processes.

## **Operational activities/research**

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### *Baseline July 2007*

FAO supported the adoption of special action plans for rural women and gender mainstreaming strategies for the agriculture sector in more than 20 countries. It also supported the incorporation of gender perspectives in land legislation, agricultural censuses and surveys in several FAO Member countries.

### *July 2007 to January 2008*

As part of the United Nations system-wide work programme on scaling-up HIV/AIDS services for populations of humanitarian concern, FAO carried out research on HIV AND AIDS, gender inequality, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and equal property rights in Western Kenya (Busia District).

FAO drafted a fact sheet on agriculture, food security and gender-based violence. This document analyzes the main causes of vulnerability of the rural population and proposes some actions to prevent and reduce gender-based violence, with special attention to the human rights of women and youth.

### *February to September 2008*

Under the United Nations System-wide Work Programme on Scaling-up HIV/AIDS Services for Populations of Humanitarian Concern (PHC), in 2008 FAO analyzed the results of the research undertaken in 2007 in Kenya on the linkages between HIV/AIDS, gender inequality, and sexual and gender-based violence among populations of humanitarian concern (PHC); and refined the research tools to undertake a similar assessment in two provinces in the North of Uganda scheduled for September 2008. This assessment will concentrate specifically on understanding the impact of sexual and gender-based violence on people's livelihood options, particularly among PHC. The expected outcome of the assessment and further technical work with the Ministry of Gender in Uganda, UNFPA, WFP, WOUGNET (a network of Ugandan non-governmental organizations) and other relevant partners will be the development of livelihoods



guidelines and strategies to address sexual and gender-based violence and transactional sex in Uganda.

### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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*July 2007 to January 2008*

In follow-up to Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, FAO integrated gender analysis in emergency and rehabilitation programmes and addressed the specific needs of the socio-economic groups most at risk of violence.

FAO closely collaborated with the IASC Task Force on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance in mainstreaming a gender perspective in humanitarian settings and raising awareness on gender issues of humanitarian officers and policy and decision-makers.

*February to September 2008*

FAO is participating in the implementation of joint programmes in Guatemala and Morocco, under the One-UN initiative. The multisectorial joint Programme in Morocco focuses on the elimination of violence against women and the empowerment of women and girls. The programme aims at protecting women and girls against all forms of violence (economic, physical, verbal, psychological, sexual and trafficking) and addresses the linkages with poverty and vulnerability. The joint Programme will also include a series of capacity building and awareness raising activities.

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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*July 2007 to January 2008*

FAO collaborated with the members of the IASC Task Force in the dissemination of "Guidelines for gender-based violence interventions in humanitarian settings: focusing on prevention of and response to sexual violence in emergencies" and the handbook "Women, girls, boys and men: different needs - equal opportunities", which also includes some specific actions to address gender-based violence.

*February to September 2008*

FAO's Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division continued to raise awareness and build the capacity of FAO emergency officers and local partners in gender equality and HIV/AIDS mainstreaming in emergency and rehabilitation programmes. It also encouraged the disaggregation of data by sex and age in the agricultural and rural sectors.

### **Address/Websites**

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FAO  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy  
[www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

## **Background**

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The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) functions as a laboratory of ideas and a standard-setter to forge universal agreements on emerging ethical issues. The Organization also serves as a clearinghouse – for the dissemination and sharing of information and knowledge – while helping Member States to build their human and institutional capacities in diverse fields. UNESCO is working to create the conditions for genuine dialogue based upon respect for shared values and the dignity of each civilization and culture.

## **Policy framework**

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See main instruments above.

In its new Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013, UNESCO accords priority to gender equality in all its fields of competence supported by a dual approach, gender specific programming and gender mainstreaming, in Member States and within the Organization (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001499/149999e.pdf>).

## **Area(s) of focus**

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UNESCO primarily addresses the following types of violence against women: inter-personal violence in and out of schools; trafficking in women; women in conflict and post-conflict situations (including the use of rape as a weapon of war). Activities cover various fields of education; the natural sciences; the social and human sciences; culture; and communications and information.

UNESCO has a two-pronged approach to violence against women:

- A behavioural approach. Through education and with the help of ICTs, UNESCO seeks to build commitment to peace and non-violence in the minds of men and women. This includes the promotion of gender-sensitive human rights education and non-violent conflict resolution approaches. UNESCO's Human Rights Education programme seeks to bring about a profound reform of education in order to transform attitudes and behaviours that condone violence. It touches upon curriculum development, in-service and pre-service training, textbooks, methodology, classroom management, and the organization of the education system at all levels.
- A structural approach. Notably through its Social and Human Sciences and Culture Sector programmes, UNESCO looks at the structural causes of violence against women and seeks to encourage holistic and culturally appropriate policy responses towards their elimination.

## **Policy development/research**

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*Baseline July 2007*

UNESCO (Social and Human Science Section) undertakes research on the causes and social structures that foster violence against women. As part of its research activities for the ten-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, UNESCO produced a conceptual framework for qualitative and quantitative information on women's empowerment. One of the 7 sets of indicators pertains to women's bodily integrity and health, including data on the prevalence of female genital mutilation; sexual abuse of women; and physical abuse against women by an intimate partner.

In implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325, UNESCO, in collaboration with partners from the University of Hull (UK) and the Center for Human Rights, University of Pretoria (South Africa), launched a research programme on women's rights for peace and security in post conflict democracies in Africa. The aim of this program is to develop policy recommendations that address obstacles, such as violence against women, to women's full participation in and contribution to peace and security in post conflict countries in Africa.

In the framework of its project to fight human trafficking in Africa, UNESCO carries out research on factors leading to human trafficking in 6 pilot countries (Benin, Nigeria, Togo, Lesotho, Mozambique and South Africa) and proposes concrete recommendations. UNESCO collects and disseminates best practices in combating human trafficking in Africa in order to bridge the gap between knowledge and policy.

*July 2007 to January 2008*

UNESCO has signed the Interagency Statement on Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation (February 2008) and will develop a multi-sectoral initiative to act upon the commitments made.

*February to September 2008*

UNESCO's Culture Sector compiles and maintains a trafficking statistics database focusing on Asia and other regions, available on-line at: <http://203.146.233.12/culture/WebTraffickingV2/>. It has linked databases with information related to trafficking, rates of HIV/AIDS incidence, interventions and their coverage, and the distribution of at-risk populations (migration, population in sex work) to discover, record and map related trends. Many of the maps from this project are available on-line.

UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector has undertaken a programme of research on women's rights for peace and security in post conflict democracies in Africa. Researchers from 11 countries of the Great Lake Region, Sierra Leone and South Africa submitted papers on violence against women and the relationship between women's human rights, peace and security in post conflict context, as well as recommendations for the way forward to be addressed to policy- and decision-makers.

*March to September 2009*

UNESCO is involved in several research projects related to violence against women as a member of UNAIDS. Examples include a research project to consolidate existing evidence from the peer-reviewed literature on the intersections between gender-based violence and AIDS epidemic (led by UNFPA in cooperation with the Harvard School of Public Health). UNESCO also participates in another research project led by WHO, which focuses on the relation between HIV and intimate partner violence as well as sexual violence against women.

UNESCO's Regional Office in Santiago was involved in the development of the baseline assessment conducted in Chile as part of the UN joint programming pilot initiative.

### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

*Baseline July 2007*

In the area of education, UNESCO has produced peace education kits and training in non-violent conflict resolution, which also aim to reduce violence against women (e.g: Education for a Culture of Peace in a Gender Perspective (training manual) in English (2001) and French (2003).

UNESCO seeks to promote gender equality in primary and secondary education through curriculum reform. The main focus of this work is on identifying gender biases and stereotypes in curricula and textbooks and developing strategies to address them. These efforts address hidden/structural forms and causes of violence against women. In this context and on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, UNESCO organized an International Round Table “School related gender-based violence (SRGBV): role and responsibility of stakeholders” (Nov 2006), with the presence of Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, independent expert for the Secretary-General's study on violence against children. The conclusions of the roundtable were widely disseminated, particularly within the African region. As a follow up to the conference, SRGBV is being integrated in the work currently undertaken in Western and Central Africa in the context of UN Girls' Education Initiative. A module on SRGBV was added to the training of trainers guide developed by UNESCO on the mainstreaming of gender in education systems for the 6 countries of the Economic Community of West African States (CEDEAO).

In the area of social and human sciences, UNESCO organized, in 2005, a consultation in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, that focused on the status of women in the Great Lakes region of Africa, covering a range of issues including violence against women, especially sexual violence. Participants included academics, representatives of non-governmental organizations and policymakers.

In January 2006, UNESCO, in collaboration with the Palestinian Ministry of Women's Affairs, established a Palestinian Women's Research and Documentation Center. The first of its kind in an Arab country, outside North Africa, this institution serves as both a documentation and resource centre and as an observatory. It is devoted to research on gender equality and human rights with an emphasis on women's rights legislation, the causes and consequences of poverty among women, violence against women and women's participation in political life. Furthermore, the Centre will develop online databases, produce publications, organize training courses and provide information to ministries, NGOs, students and researchers.

In the area of communication and information, UNESCO created a digital library in Kazakhstan as an important step towards the promotion of human rights education for all through the opening of public information services. The library exists in Kazakh and Russian and gives women free access to databases which contain more than 1000 legal documents related to human rights issues. The library has a particular focus on rural population and vulnerable groups. There is also an online legal service which answers questions related to domestic violence, marriage and family, gender policy issues, and maternity. The digital library was designed to serve as an awareness-raising and educational tool to promote the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

In the area of culture, and within the context of its project “Culturally appropriate approaches to HIV/AIDS”, UNESCO is undertaking activities in order to raise public awareness on traditional attitudes and practices that are harmful to women's health or put them at risk of infection, such as domestic violence (notably in Central Asia and the Caucasus).

*July 2007 to January 2008*

In the area of social and human sciences, UNESCO is implementing projects which analyze the socio-cultural institutions, laws, norms, and practices that inhibit gender equality, such as a series of studies which examine the family laws in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

UNESCO is working on a campaign to fight human trafficking in Africa.

UNESCO is also implementing a project entitled “Gender, Culture, HIV and AIDS” which seeks to demonstrate that the HIV and AIDS pandemic is both fuelling and being fuelled by inequalities

based on gender, race, ethnicity, class and age. A publication will be released in 2008 tentatively entitled *“The Fourth Wave: an assault on women; Gender, Culture and HIV and AIDS in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”*.

#### *February to September 2008*

UNESCO’s Communication and Information Sector implemented a project in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, entitled “Training of female radio reporters to prevent violence” in association with the local NGO “Casa de la Mujer.” Two workshops were conducted with women and men on existing legislation against domestic violence, and forty 30-minute radio programmes (in various broadcasting formats) are being produced and will be broadcast by participating radio stations.

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

Within the framework of the commemorations of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UNESCO Doha Office with the collaboration of the Qatar Foundation for Child & Woman Protection organized a workshop on “The International Conventions for the Eradication of Violence and Discrimination against Women & their Reflection on the Qatari Legislations”.

#### *March to September 2009*

UNESCO developed a project on school-related gender-based violence in six post conflict countries in Africa. This project is a follow up to the United Nations Secretary-General’s Study on Violence against Children. The project consists of several stages: first, in-depth studies and national workshops will be organized to bring together key actors in each target country. Secondly, based on the results, agreed courses of action, solutions, and recommendations will be developed and applied at the regional level. At a later stage, the project will be further developed to cover South-South and international cooperation.

In June 2009, UNESCO held a policy dialogue in Mombasa on strategies for combating violence against women, as part of the second Forum of Ministers of Women’s Affairs from the Great Lakes Region. This policy dialogue aimed at discussing research recommendations in order to establish/strengthen specific national plans of action, and to create appropriate national mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of national measures taken for combating violence against women, inter alia, in the field of legislation, prevention, victim assistance and rehabilitation.

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

UNESCO participates in international and regional conferences/campaigns, including:

- Celebration of International Women’s Day 2007 at UNESCO Headquarters focused on “Women peacemakers”, their challenges and successes. (<http://www.unesco.org/women/iwd2007>). Among the speakers, Ms Mobina Jaffer, former Canadian Peace Envoy for Sudan spoke on the issue of violence against women as a major impediment to women’s active participation in peace processes. Final “Women Peacemaker’s Declaration” is available online.
- Celebration of International Women’s Day 2005 at UNESCO Headquarters: “Building a More Secure Future for Women Reporters” (Paris, 2005) that focused on the role of the media in the elimination of violence against women.
- UNESCO works in rural areas in Kyrgyzstan to raise awareness about bride abduction among rural communities as a violation of women’s rights.

UNESCO coordinates International Years and distributes Prizes and Awards that acknowledge men's and women's contribution to the fight against violence in all its forms, including violence against women. The below laureates of UNESCO prizes were acknowledged for their work in favour women's rights and the fight against violence against women.

- UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence: winner -Taslima Nasrin, October 12, 2004.
- UNESCO Prize for Peace Education - Ms Betty Reardon (Honourable Mention, USA, in 2001); Ms Christiana Ayoka Mary Thorpe (Honourable Mention, Sierra Leone in 2002).

UNESCO develops gender-sensitive information, education and communication materials and radio programmes for post/neo-literates addressing issues of violence against women:

- STOP This Violence! (Kenya)
- Minority language radio programming for trafficking prevention (Mekong region, expanding to southern China).

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

UNESCO is organizing awareness-raising activities on the elimination of all forms of violence against women, such as international conferences on the occasion of International Women's Day ("Gender Equality – Make it your Business" in 2008) and other conferences on relevant topics.

UNESCO's flagship initiative of community multimedia centers (CMC) provides access to information and communication resources in the areas of women's rights and development, and offers an opportunity for poor and marginalized women to use ICTs and media for their own development. UNESCO has over 130 CMCs in more than 25 countries.

#### *February to September 2008*

On 20 May 2008, UNESCO's Division for Gender Equality chaired a side event on female genital mutilation, organized by the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (IAC), in the context of the WHO World Health Assembly.

As part of its celebration of International Women's Day 2008, UNESCO's Division for Gender Equality, in collaboration with WHO, hosted the première of the documentary "Mutilation, Women's Cries", by the French-Gabonese association Kerciné. A UNESCO video spot to raise awareness and combat violence against women entitled "Being Fed Up" was posted online in April 2008 and is available at:

<http://www.unesco-ci.org/cgi-bin/media/page.cgi?g=Detailed/128.html;d=1>

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

In November 2008, UNESCO Addis Ababa organized a half-day workshop for over 100 filmmakers, development workers and media professionals during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ethiopian International Film Festival. The workshop provided a forum for identifying strategies for promoting greater awareness and positive behavioural change around key development issues such as HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence/discrimination and climate change through the medium of popular films.

Several UNESCO Offices, including those in Montevideo, Brasilia and Almaty, included violence against women as a focus in their activities.

#### **Future activities**

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The UNESCO office in Beijing, as a member of the UN country team, will participate in a project on "Preventing and Responding to Domestic Violence in China through a Multi-sectoral Approach". UNESCO is responsible for (i) identifying specific risks of increase in violence

against women in post-disaster areas in Sichuan Province; and (ii) developing a pilot programme for training community leaders in prevention of violence against women in post-disaster situations. The project is supported by the UN Trust Fund and is expected to start in early 2009.

Violence against women will be one of the main themes analyzed by a Research and Documentation Center for Women and Peace-building in the Great Lakes Region which is soon to be established by UNESCO in Kinshasa.

As part of an ongoing research study launched in April 2009 on the impact of the financial crisis, gender issues such as violence against women will be studied by UNESCO.

## **Resources**

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*Searching for Best Practices to Counter Human Trafficking in Africa: A Focus on Women and Children*, Thanh-Dam Truong and Maria Belen Angeles, UNESCO 2005

*Mixed Marriage, Law of Succession and International Conventions in the Countries of the Maghreb and in Egypt*. Forthcoming on-line as part of the SHS/GED Occasional Paper Series at <http://www.unesco.org/shs/gender>

Research papers prepared on "Women in the Conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo", (2004/2005); <http://www.unesco.org/shs/gender>

*Family Law in the Islamic Republic of Iran*. Forthcoming on-line as part of the SHS/GED Occasional Paper Series at <http://www.unesco.org/shs/gender>

*Corporal punishment in schools*, January 2005

"Femicides" in Chile, 2004

*Male roles, masculinities and violence*, 2004

*Women's rights and bioethics*, 2000 (includes a chapter on violence against women)

*Education for a Culture of Peace in a Gender Perspective*. Training manual, 2001 (English) and 2003 (French).

*Trafficking of women/Surveillance, tracking and analysis of the trade in girls and women from the Upper Mekong region into Thailand*

*Fighting human trafficking in Mozambique: policy recommendations* (English and Portuguese)

*Fighting human trafficking in Nigeria: policy recommendations*, February, 2006

*Fighting human trafficking in Benin: policy recommendations*, May 2007 (English and French)

*Fighting human trafficking in Togo: policy recommendations*, May 2007 (English and French)

Policy papers currently under preparation:

*Fighting human trafficking in Lesotho: policy recommendations*, July, 2007

*Fighting human trafficking in South Africa: policy recommendations*, July, 2007

## **Address/Websites**

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UNESCO

7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP France

1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15 France

[www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)  
[www.unesco.org/women](http://www.unesco.org/women)

UNESCO project to fight human trafficking in Africa  
[http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=4011&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-URL_ID=4011&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

Non-violence education  
[http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=1261&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=1261&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

Focusing resources on effective school health (FRESH)  
[http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=36790&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=36790&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

Education in situations of armed conflict and crisis – Women and Girls Education  
[http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=23014&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=23014&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)



## **Background**

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The World Health Organization (WHO) supports the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health. Health is defined in WHO's Constitution as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

## **Policy framework**

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See main instruments above. In addition, WHO's work on violence against women is based on several resolutions by its governing bodies: World Health Assembly Resolution WHA49.25, Prevention of violence: a public health priority (1996); World Health Assembly Resolution WHA50.19, Prevention of Violence(1997); World Health Assembly Resolution WHA56.24, Implementing the recommendations of the World report on violence and health (2003); African Regional Committee Resolution AFR/RC54/R6, Child sexual abuse: a silent health emergency (2004); and the European Regional Committee Resolution EUR/RC55/10, Prevention of injuries in the WHO European Region. In May 2008 the World Health Assembly, adopted a resolution against FGM, which urges all Member States to, among others, enact and enforce legislation, support and enhance community-based efforts, and develop and promote guidelines for care of victims.

## **Area(s) of focus**

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WHO supports and undertakes research, the formulation of policy, programmatic guidance and engages in advocacy on various forms of violence against women. Its efforts on violence against women are focused on addressing intimate partner violence, sexual violence and female genital mutilation (FGM), although it also undertakes work on child abuse and maltreatment, and violence against health workers, and collaborates with IOM on the health of trafficked people, including responding to violence. This work is being undertaken across a number of areas of work in WHO and by the different levels in WHO: at Headquarters, regional and country level.

## **Policy development/research**

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*Baseline July 2007*

- *Primary prevention of intimate partner violence and sexual violence*

In May 2007 WHO convened an international Expert Meeting on Primary Prevention of Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence to inform the direction of WHO's future work in this area. The purpose of the meeting was to review current evidence regarding the effectiveness of approaches for preventing new occurrences of intimate partner and sexual violence, to identify WHO's role for advancing primary prevention globally and within countries, and to identify potential activities and products for WHO. Participants discussed the evidence base for various strategies and focused on the feasibility of implementation in resource-constrained settings and obstacles and opportunities for scaling up.

The group agreed that WHO should issue guidance on how to implement primary prevention strategies and monitor their impact, process and guiding principles. WHO will make the meeting report and background paper publicly available. Over the next year WHO will develop both a conceptual framework to guide primary prevention efforts and advocacy materials designed to raise policy-makers' awareness about the importance and potential of primary prevention.

- *Violence against women and HIV*

WHO, with other partners, is developing a framework for identification and costing of interventions for prevention of intimate partner violence and sexual violence that can be integrated into HIV prevention activities. A consultation on addressing violence against women in HIV testing and counselling took place in January 2006 and a meeting report with recommendations and summarizing existing good practices in this area is available.

- *Multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence*

WHO has carried out a multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women, aimed at enhancing availability of reliable data on the root causes, magnitude, and consequences of violence against women and facilitating the search for solutions. A report summarizing initial data from Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, Japan, Namibia, Peru, Samoa, Serbia & Montenegro, Thailand and the United Republic of Tanzania was published in 2005; other countries are replicating the methodology (Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Maldives and New Zealand). WHO has also published 'Putting women first: ethical and safety recommendations for research on domestic violence against women' (2001), as well as a package of study materials, including the protocol, survey instruments and training manuals for implementing the Study. WHO, with PATH, has developed *Researching violence against women: A practical guide for researchers and activists* that will be used as the basis of regional training courses. Based on the experience gained with the Study, WHO is contributing to the development of indicators and survey methodology on violence against women.

- *Sexual violence research initiative*

The Global Forum for Health Research and WHO supported the development of the Sexual Violence Research Initiative. This Initiative aims to build a network of researchers, policy-makers, activists and other stakeholders to ensure that sexual violence is addressed from the perspective of different disciplines. A research agenda for sexual violence has been developed and reviews of evidence have been done on women's responses to sexual violence; and medico-legal responses to sexual violence.

- *Norms and guidelines*

The following are highlighted:

- *WHO's ethical and safety recommendations for interviewing trafficked women* – these guidelines contain recommendations for researchers, media, police and service providers who are new to working with trafficked women.
- *The Clinical management of rape survivors: developing protocols for use with refugees and internally displaced persons* (updated, 2005), developed in collaboration with UNHCR, UNFPA and the International Committee of the Red Cross – these guidelines provide practical guidance for those wanting to set up rape services in emergency settings. Following an expert consultation in December 2006, WHO is finalizing *Safety and ethical recommendations for data collection, monitoring and research on sexual violence in conflict*.
- *Guidelines for medico-legal care of victims of sexual violence*.
- *The Handbook for the documentation of interpersonal violence prevention programmes* provides useful guidance on how to document violence programmes as a basis for monitoring and evaluation of interventions to prevent and reduce violence.
- *Preventing child maltreatment: a guide to taking action and generating evidence* – this guide is intended to assist countries to design, deliver, and measure the impact of programmes for the prevention of child maltreatment by parents and caregivers.
- *Preventing injuries and violence: A guide for ministries of health* - this guide provides guidance to ministries of health for a public health approach to violence prevention. It covers policy development, data collection, advocacy work and capacity building.

- *Female genital mutilation*

WHO has carried out groundbreaking research on the obstetric sequelae of female genital mutilation and developed training packages on management of childbirth for women with FGM. It is continuing to support research on community interventions, decision-making, FGM and

sexuality, with the aim of informing policies and community action. It also supports Member States in their efforts to end FGM.

*July 2007 to January 2008*

WHO held an expert meeting on Primary prevention of intimate partner violence and sexual violence on 2-3 May in Geneva. The meeting report and a background paper summarizing the evidence is available in the WHO website.

WHO coordinated the preparation of the Inter-agency statement on the elimination of female genital mutilation (FGM) which will be launched and disseminated at the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women. A consultation was held to develop the WHO ethical and safety recommendations for researching, documenting and monitoring sexual violence in emergencies. This is now available in English and French, and translation into Arabic is under way.

WHO is continuing to do analysis from the database of the WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women. Results of research on the obstetric complications of female genital mutilation from 6 African countries were published, and other research is ongoing.

*February to September 2008*

WHO coordinated the preparation and publication of the Interagency statement on the elimination of FGM which was signed by 10 UN agencies in 2008. It reaffirms their commitment to the elimination of female genital mutilation within a generation. WHO continued to strongly condemn the practice of FGM by medical professionals, as this legitimizes the practice and can contribute to it being institutionalized.

WHO continued to analyse data from the WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women, specifically on emotional abuse and mental health issues, child sexual abuse and risk and protective factors for intimate partner violence.

Results of research on the obstetric complications of female genital mutilation from 6 African countries were published.

*October 2008 to February 2009*

WHO organized and hosted a meeting on data and data collection methodologies on sexual violence in conflict on behalf of UN Action in December 2008.

*March to September 2009*

WHO published, or was finalizing, several publications on violence against women.

- *Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence. Taking action and generating evidence* (forthcoming, November 2009), provides evidence and technical guidance on how to take action to prevent intimate partner and sexual violence and generate evidence about the impacts and outcomes of such actions.
- Analysis and publications have been completed on the basis of the *Multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence*.on: risk and protective factors for intimate partner violence across 15 settings, partner violence and reproductive health (associations with abortion, miscarriage and unintended pregnancy). Analysis is underway for new prevalence and burden of disease estimates for child sexual abuse, intimate partner violence and non partner sexual violence.

- WHO chaired the Scientific Committee for the 2009 *Sexual Violence Research Initiative* Forum which brought together almost 200 researchers and others from 78 countries to address: prevention, health response, including mental health, HIV and sexual violence and sexual violence in conflict.

Local teams in Kiribati and Solomon Islands, supported by AUSAID and others, successfully completed surveys using WHO methods and support and are using the results for policy and programmatic responses.

### **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

WHO has developed various training programmes, such as Teach-VIP that includes modules on intimate partner and sexual violence; a virtual course on comprehensive care for sexual and domestic violence victims (PAHO) ; and training programmes for health providers and technical support for the integration of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict settings (Burundi, Congo, Liberia and Sudan). WHO's guidelines for medico-legal care for victims of sexual violence have been pilot-tested in Jordan, Nicaragua and the Philippines.

Follow-up activities to the *WHO World report on violence and health, 2002*, include launches in over 50 countries, national reports on violence and health, and the appointment of focal points on violence in ministries of health in almost 100 countries. The Pan-American Health Organization has developed a model of laws and policies on domestic violence against women that has been validated by four countries in the region and will be implemented in 8 countries. WHO works with regional and national partners to develop policies on violence against women as a follow-up to its violence and health report and the multi-country study. WHO is working closely with UNICEF and other partners on follow up to the Secretary-General's study on violence against children--activities that will be essential to addressing violence against the girl child.

#### *July 2007 to January 2008*

WHO has continued to provide technical support to Member States on request, including on data collection and violence against women surveys, health sector response, and primary prevention. WHO co-chairs the IASC Subworking group on gender and humanitarian action and is actively involved, including as members of UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, in responding to sexual and gender-based violence in emergencies.

#### *October 2008 to February 2009*

In January 2009 WHO co-organized a workshop for humanitarian actions in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, to introduce existing guidelines and initiate the integration of gender-based violence prevention and response actions.

#### *March to September 2009*

Progress was made in relation to the *Guidelines for the health sector response to intimate partner and sexual violence*. A meeting held in March 2009 brought together international experts and providers to review the evidence and experiences of implementation and evaluation of health sector interventions, explore the strengths and weaknesses of different models of health sector response and their implications for replication and scale up, and develop an outline for guidance to the health sector with a focus on resource poor settings. Work on the guidelines is beginning, with systematic reviews of evidence for various interventions. A guide will be developed building on this review of the evidence and is planned to be available for 2010.

Under the project “*Violence against women and HIV/AIDS: what works?*” WHO, on behalf of UNAIDS, is organizing a review of programmatic interventions to address the intersections of violence and HIV, with a focus on intimate partner and sexual violence and violence against sex workers. Outcomes will include: a policy brief to inform national programs and make recommendations for the operationalization of the UNAIDS Outcome Framework; and an initial outline for a guidance document on Programming for violence against women in the context of HIV/AIDS.

## **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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### *Baseline July 2007*

WHO convenes the working group on violence against women of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS to promote advocacy and communication activities on the intersections of violence against women and HIV/AIDS. WHO has prepared briefs and guidance documents on various aspects of violence against women for advocacy and awareness-raising purposes. WHO undertakes sensitization activities on various forms of violence against women targeting multidisciplinary groups including journalists, civil servants, health providers and policy makers.

### *July 2007 to January 2008*

Within the framework of violence prevention, WHO emphasizes the role of public health in the prevention and response to violence against women. WHO is actively advocating against the medicalization of female genital mutilation.

### *October 2008 to February 2009*

The Violence Prevention Alliance and the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention supported by WHO aimed to strengthen the role of public health in the prevention and response to violence, including against women. As part of the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention, WHO is giving increased attention to the primary prevention of intimate partner violence and sexual violence. WHO also worked with professional associations such as the International Federation of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in order to advocate against the medicalization of FGM.

## **Future activities**

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WHO is preparing a technical guidance document on the primary prevention of intimate partner and sexual violence. The guide is designed to assist policy makers and programme planners in their efforts to design, implement and evaluate interventions to stop intimate partner and sexual violence from occurring in the first place, and its content has been informed by an April 2007 expert consultation on the topic. The guide will be published in the second half of 2009, and will be a joint publication of WHO, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

WHO is also preparing a technical guidance document on the health sector response to intimate partner and sexual violence. An expert consultation was held in March 2009 to review the existing evidence and country experiences – challenges faced and lessons learned - in order to develop some initial recommendations and inform the next steps of such a document. Related to this is an inter-agency initiative, with UNAIDS and other partners, that will specifically look at programmatic interventions to address violence against women in the context of HIV/AIDS programmes.

WHO is working with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to estimate the 'global burden of disease' attributable to intimate partner violence, sexual violence and child sexual abuse. It is also undertaking research into the psychological consequences and the immediate health complications of FGM. An intervention study entitled *Addressing violence in antenatal care*

is under development to identify and respond to women suffering abuse during antenatal care. The study will be implemented in 2 countries in sub Saharan Africa initially.

WHO, in collaboration with UNHCR and UNFPA, is developing an e-learning programme on the clinical management of rape in emergency settings.

## Resources

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*Preventing injuries and violence. A guide for ministries of health.* Geneva, World Health Organization, 2007.

Garcia-Moreno C., Jansen H., Ellsberg M., Heise L., and Watts C., *WHO Multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women.* Initial results on prevalence, health outcomes and women's responses. World Health Organization, 2005. A summary report and country fact sheets are available in English, French and Spanish and can be accessed on [http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who\\_multicountry\\_study](http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who_multicountry_study).

Addressing violence against women and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. World Health Organization, 2005.

Ellsberg, MC. and Heise, L., *Researching violence against women: a practical guide for researchers and activists.* World Health Organization and PATH, Washington DC, 2005.

Krug EG et al., eds. *World report on violence and health.* Geneva, World Health Organization, 2002. (In particular see: Heise L and Garcia-Moreno C, *Violence by intimate partners* (chapter 4) and Jewkes R, Sen P and Garcia-Moreno C, *Sexual violence* (chapter 6)). [http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/violence/world\\_report/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/en/index.html)

Clinical management of survivors of rape: a guide to the development of protocols for use in refugee and internally displaced person situations. World Health Organization/ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2nd edition, 2005 (WHO/RHR/02.08; [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2002/WHO\\_RHR\\_02.08.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2002/WHO_RHR_02.08.pdf)).

Guidelines for medico-legal care of victims of sexual violence. World Health Organization, 2003 (<http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2004/924154628X.pdf>).

Violence against women and HIV/AIDS: Critical intersections information bulletin series.  
No. 1 Intimate partner violence and HIV/AIDS. World Health Organization, 2004  
No. 2 HIV and Sexual violence in conflict settings. World Health Organization, 2004  
No. 3 Violence against sex workers and HIV prevention. World Health Organization, 2006

Preventing violence: a guide to implementing the recommendations of the World report on violence and health. World Health Organization, 2004  
<http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2004/9241592079.pdf>

Sethi D et al. Handbook for the documentation of interpersonal violence prevention programmes. World Health Organization, 2004 <http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2004/9241546395.pdf>

Ethical and safety guidelines for interviewing women who have been trafficked. World Health Organization, 2003. (Available also in Armenian, Bosnian, Croatian, Japanese, Serbian, Russian, and Romanian)

Putting women first: ethical and safety guidelines for research on domestic violence against women. World Health Organization, 2001 (WHO/FCH/GWH/01.1) (Available also in French and Spanish)

Violence against women and HIV/AIDS: setting the research agenda. World Health Organization, 2001 (WHO/FCH/GWH/01.08).

Waters H et al. The economic dimensions of interpersonal violence. World Health Organization, 2004 <http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2004/9241591609.pdf>

Schopper D, Lormand JD, Waxweiler R (eds). Developing policies to prevent injuries and violence: guidelines for policy-makers and planners. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2006. [http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/publications/39919\\_oms\\_br\\_2.pdf](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/publications/39919_oms_br_2.pdf)

### **Address/Websites**

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WHO, Avenue Appia 20, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland  
[www.who.int](http://www.who.int)  
<http://www.who.int/gender/violence>  
[http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/)

## **Background**

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The World Bank concentrates on building a climate for investment, jobs and sustainable growth so that economies will grow. It invests in and empowers poor people to participate in development in order to alleviate poverty. The Bank's gender and development policy is to assist Member Countries to reduce poverty and enhance economic growth, human well-being, and development effectiveness by addressing the gender issues that create barriers to development.

## **Policy framework**

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See main instruments above.

## **Area(s) of focus**

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The social and economic costs of violence against women; components in financed projects that address the immediate needs of battered women and their children, social and legal services to help women with issues such as domestic violence, sexual violence against children, and child support.

## **Policy development/research**

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*October 2008 to February 2009*

The World Bank's Post-Conflict Fund (FCF) is supporting a "*Risk Assessment of Schools in Afghanistan and Identification for Mitigatory Action*". The objective is to assess the specific local context of attacks on schools, teachers and students (attacks primarily target females) and to identify sustainable models for community involvement in protection of schools. This research is being conducted by CARE International.

## **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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*Baseline July 2007*

In November 2004, the World Bank held a workshop, The Development Implications of Gender-Based Violence, aimed to inform Bank staff about the issue of gender-based violence; provide them with the most current information pertaining to the causes and development impacts of gender-based violence; and spark debate and identify actions that the World Bank can take to address gender-based violence in its work. The workshop recommended that the Bank include gender-based violence in its core analytical and advisory work and that further evidence of the costs of gender-based violence be gathered in order to convince client governments to take action.

The World Bank is providing Uruguay with a US\$300,000 Institutional Development Fund grant to tackle domestic violence. The grant will support Uruguay's efforts to implement international, regional and domestic law pertaining to violence against women and improve access to justice for victims of domestic violence. It will also support implementation of the country's first national plan to fight domestic violence approved in 2004. Specific actions include: designing a comprehensive strategy aimed at identifying a broad range of policies and administrative measures to fulfill Uruguay's international commitments on gender equality; developing a national database of gender-disaggregated statistics to inform decision-makers of areas where services are required based on concrete data; and building institutional capacity to address and report on women's human rights and gender-based violence.



The World Bank is executing pilot projects in Bolivia, Honduras and Nicaragua to improve the health system's ability to identify and appropriately refer cases of violence against women. These projects are designed to promote sustainable institutional change in the way that the health sector deals with violence against women.

*July 2007 to January 2008*

**Learning for Equality, Access and Peace Programme (LEAP):** The LEAP programme is part of the larger Multi-country Demobilization and Reintegration Program (MDRP) that is currently being implemented in Sub-Saharan Africa. The overall aim of the LEAP programme is to strengthen the impact of MDRP-financed programmes from a gender perspective. Specifically, the programme will undertake a study of the underlying causes of violence against women in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and will recommend follow-up actions. The study will also include a mapping of national and international organizations that are currently implementing— or have implemented — programmes addressing gender-based violence. MDRP partners include governments, other multilateral development banks, civil society groups and United Nations entities.

**Measuring Empowerment in Four Countries:** The Measuring Empowerment in Four Countries programme is piloting a mixed-method (qualitative and quantitative) approach to measuring empowerment in different contexts, be they project, programme or policy contexts. The study is being implemented in Ghana, Ethiopia, Jamaica, and Bangladesh. In Ghana and Ethiopia, the focus is on empowerment in the context of decentralization and social accountability; in Jamaica, the context is youth-police relations; and, in Bangladesh the work focuses on a range of social assistance programmes (including capacity building and various kinds of targeted transfers). The study places particular attention on the empowerment of women, and the questionnaire that is administered to women only includes questions on domestic violence and violence against women outside of the home. The programme has been carried out mainly by two UK firms, in conjunction with local partners. In Bangladesh, the partner was the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

*October 2008 to February 2009*

**Africa:** The World Bank's Post-Conflict Fund (FCF) provides umbrella funding for a range of activities, including work on gender-based violence. An example is a US\$733,000 grant to administer a "Protection from Gender-Based Violence" programme in Côte d'Ivoire. The project aims to prevent sexual violence against women and provide assistance to victims, and it builds on initial work carried out by the International Rescue Committee.

**Latin America and the Caribbean:** On September 30, 2008, the World Bank held an internal half-day learning event on gender-based violence. The event focused on challenges in the measurement of gender-based violence and in the costing of its effects; and on policy implications, possible interventions and links to the Bank's operations.

**The Middle East and North Africa:** In December 2008, a senior World Bank manager made a presentation at the "Cairo Declaration on FGM + 5 Meeting". On November 11-13, 2008, the World Bank contributed to the "Women and Security" conference in Abu Dhabi, held under the auspices of the Arab Women's Organizations.

### **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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*Baseline July 2007*

In preparation for the 2004 workshop, the World Bank's Gender and Development Group organized a film series on gender-based violence. The World Bank has also funded activities of the "16 day of activism against gender violence" campaign in Indonesia.

### **Future activities**

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*"Addressing the Barriers that Violence Creates for Afro-Colombian Women's Participation in Local Development"*. Beginning in late January 2009, this project will explore the barriers that different forms of violence impose on women's ability to participate in collective decision-making in marginalized, high-violence communities in Colombia. The project activities will be carried out in partnership with the Colombia country team's ongoing work to support improved governance in conflict-affected areas. In March 2009, the World Bank will participate in a conference on human trafficking in Bahrain, in continuation of the Bank's contribution, since 2004, spearheaded by the Susanne Mubarak Women's Peace Initiative. The World Bank is preparing an analytical report on gender-based violence in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, to be delivered in August 2009. The report will provide an assessment of sexual violence in the region and a review of ongoing activities that address the health, psychosocial, legal, and economic dimensions of gender-based violence. The report will recommend follow-up activities and offer policy recommendations.

### **Resources**

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<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTCPR/882726-1120215891552/20627308/WBSomaliafgm.pdf>

### **Address/Websites**

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The World Bank

1818 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20433 USA

[www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)

[www.worldbank.org/gender](http://www.worldbank.org/gender)

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGENDER/Resources/UNIFEMEvaluationGuidelinesFinal.pdf>

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**Background**

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Dedicated to eradicating rural poverty in developing countries, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was established to finance agricultural development projects primarily for food production. IFAD focuses on country-specific solutions to increase rural poor people's access to financial services, markets, technology, land and other natural resources.

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**Policy framework**

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See main instruments above.

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**Area(s) of focus**

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IFAD undertakes efforts to combat trafficking, address migration issues, women's empowerment in the marketplace and ensure that legal support is available to rural women.

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**Operational activities /research**

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*Baseline July 2007*

In Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States, IFAD has initiated a project to provide alternatives to migration and prevention of trafficking by developing new income generating activities, diversifying livelihood options and reducing barriers to entrepreneurship, specifically empowering high-risk vulnerable groups, with a focus on women and youth.

In Bangladesh, IFAD and other partners are supporting the Government to set up "women's sections" in major markets (i.e. separate section for women sellers, with their own toilet facilities and at the nominal rent) to ensure women's safety and prevent sexual harassment women face from men in the marketplace.

IFAD's Transitional Programme of Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Burundi aims to combat sexual violence, a primary threat to the physical security of Burundi's rural women and girls, and end impunity of perpetrators. The programme, which started in 2004, includes a legal component to make justice available to the rural poor, particularly poor women and vulnerable people.

IFAD worked on women's empowerment in the Mahbubnagar region of Andhra Pradesh, India, in partnership with UNIFEM, The Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty and the Kovel Foundation, through a project that organized women into self-help groups and non-timber forest products collectors' associations. An evaluation of the project suggested that participants' control over their income increased, and also resulted in a substantial reduction in the drunkenness of men and violence within the home.

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**Address/Websites**

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IFAD  
Via del Serafico, 107 00142 Rome, Italy  
[www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org)  
<http://www.ifad.org/gender/index.htm>

## **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

### **Background**

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The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. While not part of the United Nations system, IOM maintains close working relations with United Nations bodies and operational agencies, as well as with a wide range of international and non-governmental organizations. In addition, IOM is the designated cluster leader for camp management in humanitarian settings for natural disasters. Through its gender mainstreaming policy adopted in 1995, IOM is committed to ensuring that the particular needs of all migrant women are identified, taken into consideration and addressed by IOM projects and services.

### **Policy framework**

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See main instruments above.

### **Area(s) of focus**

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IOM's main focus, with respect to violence against women, is on counter-trafficking, violence against women migrants, including women migrant workers and reduction of HIV vulnerabilities. It also addresses traditional practices such as female genital mutilation. The Organization is particularly attentive to violence against women in the context of complex emergencies and natural disasters, where women and children are disproportionately targets of abuse.

In this regard, it undertakes prevention activities; provides assistance to those affected by violence and/or trafficking; and provides assistance to trafficked victims for their voluntary return to countries of origin and their reintegration. IOM also facilitates access to voluntary counselling and testing of HIV and referral for treatment where needed for rape victims and for migrants to ensure universal access to HIV prevention, AIDS treatment, care and support.

### **Policy development/research**

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#### *Baseline July 2007*

IOM conducts and supports research designed to guide and inform migration policy and practice. IOM research is conducted in order to enable it to take more effective action in response to migration challenges and to provide policy guidance to governments based on sound evidence. In particular, violence against women has been recently highlighted not only in counter-trafficking studies but also in labour migration and in emergency and post-conflict research.

In the area of counter-trafficking, IOM undertakes research and publishes the findings about the situation of trafficking in specific countries and/or regions. A recent publication gave an assessment of changing patterns and trends of trafficking in persons in the Balkan region. IOM also maintains one of the largest international trafficking data base which contained health related information to facilitate planning and programmatic actions.

#### *February to September 2008*

At the request of the Government of Pakistan, IOM participated in a national consultation on 30 July 2008, on the draft Domestic Violence Bill. IOM is working with UNIFEM and civil society organizations to review and propose amendments to the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance of 2002 which, at present, does not cover internal trafficking.

## **Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities**

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### *Baseline July 2007*

IOM currently has over 120 counter-trafficking projects targeting over 100 countries in Africa, Asia, Central, Eastern and Western Europe, and Latin America. It also has one global assistance project targeting all developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

In 2005, IOM's Working Group on Gender Issues at Headquarters supported and contributed financing for three projects: the production of a series of TV public service announcements for anglo-phone Caribbean countries on HIV/AIDS prevention; a documentary for Senegalese television on trafficking of children; and funding for staffing a 24-hour hotline for victims of trafficking in South Africa.

IOM also implements a cross border project at Beitbridge, Zimbabwe and for internally displaced persons in Colombia to assist returnees and facilitate protection of these people, particularly women by building capacities of local entities and liaising with existing health facilities to ensure access to needed health services.

### *July 2007 to January 2008*

Since February 2008, IOM has conducted specialized training and capacity building workshops in a number of cities in Pakistan to sensitize a variety of actors on human trafficking. The workshops especially emphasized the different dimensions of violence against women. IOM signed an agreement with the Colombian Ministry of Justice in order to develop counter-trafficking activities in the areas of assistance to victims; prevention through a hot-line; and technical assistance and support in the de-centralization of the national strategic plan. IOM Colombia also started the implementation of a project to prevent and address gender-based violence in IDPs at and across the Colombian borders with Panama, Venezuela and Ecuador.

A regional programme is providing assistance for the return and reintegration of trafficked women and girls throughout the region, mainly exploited as domestic workers. Medical assessments are carried out in the shelters with special attention to HIV cases. Reintegration activities involve school support or income generating activities. Local stakeholders from government agencies, civil society and service provider organizations are trained to offer an enhanced assistance for trafficked victims and improve their capacities to prosecute traffickers.

## **Awareness-raising and advocacy**

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### *Baseline July 2007*

Many of IOM's counter-trafficking projects include different types of information campaigns that aim to change behaviour including in the area of discrimination and violence against women.

In collaboration with UNFPA, IOM organized, on 2-3 May 2006, an expert group meeting entitled: "Female migrants: bridging the gaps throughout the life cycle". The meeting brought together over 50 independent experts from countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as representatives from governments, international agencies, NGOs, and diaspora organizations. Protection of migrant women against violence was part of the agenda.

### *October 2008 to February 2009*

In Zimbabwe, IOM supported two community-based events during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, including information materials.

In Timor Leste, IOM published a brochure outlining internally displaced women's rights and responsibilities regarding the return and resettlement options under this National Recovery Strategy, which included information on health services, security and protection mechanisms upon return for victims of violence. These materials were distributed in all IDP camps and Return Communities.

### **Future activities**

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In Timor Leste, IOM will improve staff capacity to handle and prevent trauma, interview skills and case management of victims of sexual abuse and violence. IOM will also provide training to Village Council Representatives on prevention of sexual and gender-based violence as an element of empowerment and capacity-building of women's committees in local village councils.

### **Resources**

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*The World in Motion: Short Essays on Migration and Gender*, IOM's Working Group on Gender Issues. 2004. Contains chapters on specific issues such as female genital mutilation/cutting, facing rape in war, and trafficking.

*Female migrants: Bridging the Gaps Throughout the Life Cycle*, Selected papers of the UNFPA-IOM Expert Group Meeting, New York, 2-3 May 2006. 2006

*A Psychosocial Needs Assessment of Communities in 14 Conflict-Affected Districts in Aceh* (forthcoming publication). The final report includes a section dedicated to gendered trauma and sexual violence.

#### Publications on trafficking:

*Condiciones de vulnerabilidad a la Trata de Personas en Colombia* (forthcoming), Spanish only

*Exploratory Assessment on Trafficking in Persons in the Caribbean: The Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, the Netherlands Antilles, St. Lucia, Suriname* (June 2005); Trinidad and Tobago (December 2006)

*Legal Review on Trafficking in Persons in the Caribbean: The Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, the Netherlands Antilles, St. Lucia, Suriname* (June 2005); Trinidad and Tobago (December 2006).

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"Trafficking of Persons in Tajikistan" July, 2006

*Who is the next victim? Vulnerability of young Romanian women to trafficking in human beings*. IOM, 2004

*Trafficking in Unaccompanied Minors in Ireland*. IOM, 2004

*Revisiting the Human Trafficking Paradigm: The Bangladesh Experience* (Part I: Trafficking of Adults). IOM, 2004

*Changing Patterns and Trends of Trafficking in Persons in the Balkan Region – Assessment*. IOM, July 2004

*Is Trafficking in Human Beings Demand Driven? A Multi-Country Pilot Study*. IOM, 2003

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*First Annual Report on Victims of Trafficking in South Eastern Europe Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings (SPTF).* IOM and International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), 2003

*Irregular Migration and Trafficking in Women: The Case of Turkey.* IOM, 2003

*Protection Schemes for Victims of Trafficking in Selected EU Member Countries, Candidate and Third Countries.* IOM, 2003

*The Trafficking of Women and Children in the Southern African Region.* IOM, 2003

*Trafficking in Persons; An Analysis of Afghanistan.* IOM, 2003

Publications on HIV/AIDS prevention:

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Population Mobility and HIV/AIDS (IOM Programme Brochure). July 2004

*Mobility and HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa: A field study in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.* Care International and IOM, 2003

*HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care among Mobile Groups in the Balkans.* 2001

*Overview of HIV/AIDS in South Eastern Europe.* 2002  
(Available in English, Albanian, Macedonian, Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian.)

*Salud sexual y reproductiva, enfermedades de transmisión sexual y VIH/Sida en jóvenes de 10 a 24 años de una ciudad receptora de población desplazada.* Montería, Colombia, 2003. 2004

#### **Address/Websites**

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[http://www.iom.int/en/who/main\\_service\\_areas\\_migration.shtml#chap11](http://www.iom.int/en/who/main_service_areas_migration.shtml#chap11)

[www.iom.org.za/HIVAIDSPublications.html](http://www.iom.org.za/HIVAIDSPublications.html)