United Nations Nations Unies

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

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, and February 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.

This inventory gives an overview of past and ongoing activities on violence against women by the entities of the United Nations system. 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, and February 2009.

The inventory currently provides information on the activities of 35 UN entities, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and six inter-agency efforts. In 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 submitted.

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 women 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 resolution 1820 (2008) specifically addresses 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 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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SECRETARY-GENERAL'S CAMPAIGN "UNiTE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, 2008-2015"

BACKGROUND

The Secretary-General launched the Campaign in February 2008 with the overall objective of raising public awareness and increasing political will and resources for preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls in all parts of the world. The Campaign aims to mobilize public opinion to ensure that policy makers at the highest level work to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, in all parts of the world. The Campaign will emphasize outreach to strategic groups, such as men, young boys and faith-based organizations, as well as the human rights community, the media, the private sector, celebrities and the entire United Nations system.

The Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI) serves as the Secretariat of the Campaign. OSAGI coordinated the work of Task Force of the IANWGE that prepared a "Framework for Action" for the Campaign. This Framework provides an overall 'umbrella' for the efforts at global, regional, national and local levels. It identifies five key outcomes as benchmarks for the Campaign, to be achieved in all countries by 2015, and outlines a UN Programme of Activities and expected Outputs. A campaign poster and other information materials have been prepared.

OSAGI also serves as the Secretariat to a Network of Men Leaders established by the Secretary-General to lead advocacy within their communities to end violence against women and girls. A number of heads of State, former heads of State and other internationally recognized men have already joined the Network. Work to expand the Network continues, including the further elaboration of members' roles and responsibilities.

Future activities

A Campaign Manager is being recruited to lead further work on the Campaign, including addressing the means for fundraising and coordinating resources, through contacts with Member States and regional groups. The Network of Men Leaders will be expanded. OSAGI will also work to fully staff the secretariat for the Campaign.

Address/website

http://endviolence.un.org

INTER-AGENCY NETWORK ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY (IANWGE)

Background

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

See main instruments above.

Area(s) of focus

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.

Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities

Baseline July 2007

In 2007/08, the Task Force on violence against women, co-convened by UNFPA and UN-DAW, will implement the following activities: undertake joint programming on violence against women in a selected number of pilot countries; complete a manual/guidelines on joint programming based on the experience gained in the pilot countries; establish and regularly exchange information via an email list; regularly update the inventory of United Nations system activities in the area of violence against women; undertake an assessment of resource flows for work on violence against women within the United Nations system; and undertake awareness-raising and outreach activities to enhance leadership on this issue.

February to September 2007

The Task Force on violence against women, co-convened by UNFPA and UN-DAW, progressed with the implementation of the joint programming initiative on violence against women in 10 pilot countries. In accordance with the overall framework for the initiative, in each of the pilot countries a baseline assessment is conducted to help develop the country-specific work plans. Since February 2008, an assessment has been completed in Rwanda, and first drafts have been completed in Fiji, Paraguay and Kyrgyzstan.

National multi-stakeholder workshops to develop joint programming frameworks have been 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 have been 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 have been developed by the joint national committee in Rwanda and Philippines. These two pilot countries submitted their proposals to the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women 2009 call for proposal.

Awareness-raising and advocacy

February to September 2008

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

Address/Websites

IANWGE
2 United Nations Plaza, 12th floor, New York, NY 10017
www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/
http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/taskforces/tf_vaw.htm

UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT (UN ACTION)

Background

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

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

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 (ii) 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

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.

Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities

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

UN Action's Senior Adviser 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 Adviser 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 Government of Liberia and UN Joint Programme to Prevent and Respond to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. 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 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. Financial support was provided to UNFPA for the training of GENCAP (Gender Stand-by Capacity) Advisers in November 2008.

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.

Awareness raising and advocacy

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).

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. In August 2008, UN Action organized a briefing in New York for NGOs around resolution 1820.

October 2008 to February 2009

UN Action's advocacy efforts are orchestrated under the banner "Stop Rape Now" www.stoprapenow.org, and a range of advocacy resources to advance understanding and dissemination of Security Council resolution 1820 (2008) have been added to its 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, as follow-up to the conference "Women Seeking Justice – Getting Law", co-financed by UN Action.

Future activities

UN Action will continue to produce and disseminate knowledge products as part of a toolkit to advance understanding and implementation of SCR 1820, including a poster outlining concrete actions assigned to specific actors. UN Action is also finalizing a concept note to guide understanding of when sexual violence amounts to an issue of international peace and security.

The *Analytical Inventory of Responses by Peacekeeping Personnel to War-Related Violence against Women* will be launched and rolled-out. Strategic briefings are planned, at UN Headquarters and elsewhere, that will include elements required for an effective protection response to conflict-related sexual violence. Strategic support is planned for Chad, beginning with an assessment mission in 2009. Continued support will be provided to MONUC in 2009-2010 to oversee and drive implementation of the *Comprehensive Strategy on Combating Sexual Violence* in DRC. An independent assessment of UN Action's strategic support to the UN's response to sexual violence in DRC will take place in the coming months.

Address/website

The Secretariat for UN Action is based in UNIFEM – 304 E 45th Street New York, NY 10017, www.stoprapenow.org.

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

Background

The UN Trust Fund, managed by UNIFEM on behalf of the United Nations system, is the only multilateral grant-making mechanism that supports local, national and regional efforts to end violence against women and girls. Established in 1996 by UN General Assembly resolution 50/166, the Trust Fund is governed by terms of reference of 1996, as well as by multi-year Trust Fund Strategies. Since the Trust Fund began operation in 1997, it has distributed more than US$44 million to 291 initiatives in 119 countries and territories (as of May 2009).

A revised Trust Fund strategy for the period 2005–2008 was approved in 2004 to improve its impact, involvement, knowledge, efficiency and resources. Grant making now focuses on securing and supporting implementation of existing laws and policies in all regions to address the multiple forms of violence against women. The Trust Fund also, through a special window, supports interventions that address the intersection of violence against women and HIV/AIDS, with a view to reduce (1) violence against women as an effective HIV/AIDS preventive measure, and (2) violence against HIV-positive women and girls that results from stigma and discrimination, and to increase women's access to justice and services.

In implementing the revised strategy, the Trust Fund has also sought to expand the involvement of United Nations organizations and other key actors, so as to ensure greater participation in the call for, and selection of, proposals. The revised strategy also devolved key aspects of the project approval process to the sub-regional level: since 2005, in addition to convening global meetings, UNIFEM has been convening sub-regional project appraisal committees composed of United Nations agencies, other international organizations, and experts from governments and civil society.

The Trust Fund's project appraisal committee currently includes some 20 UN agencies at sub-regional and global levels. The Trust Fund manages a portfolio of close to 100 grants, in the total amount of US$ 30 million.

A new Trust Fund Strategy will be elaborated in 2009, which will take into account the results of an ongoing external evaluation.

In line with enhancing the effectiveness of the UN Trust Fund, UNIFEM - in its role as administrator - supports the roll out of strategic directions agreed by the inter-agency Programme Appraisal Committee, which in 2007 included up to 21 UN organizations at the global and decentralized levels. A targeted UN Trust Fund evaluation strategy has been developed in order to strengthen the Trust Fund's role in generating and contributing to the global knowledge base on effective approaches for upscaling responses.

Trust fund grants

July 2007 to January 2008

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

Donors to the 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 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.

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.

Future activities

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.

Address/website

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

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE (IASC)

Background

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.

Policy framework

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

The IASC Task Force on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance addresses gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, and in humanitarian settings. It is co-chaired by OCHA and WHO.

Policy development/research

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. It has developed the 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.

Bibliography

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

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

Our bodies, their battlegrounds (video)

Address/Websites

IASC
www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/
www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/gender

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

Background

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

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

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

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

The Task Force's website is soon to be launched at 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.

SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS (DPA)

Background

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

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

Area(s) of focus

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

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

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

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

- 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

DPA
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www.un.org/Depts/dpa

DEPARTMENT OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS (DPKO)

Background

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

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

Area(s) of focus

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

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

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

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

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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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

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

See main instruments listed above.

Area(s) of focus

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

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 advisers 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

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

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http://ochaonline.un.org/
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

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

See main instruments listed above.

Area(s) of focus

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

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

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

The Office is preparing the commemoration of International Women's Day at United Nations Headquarters, on 5 March, including a panel discussion to raise awareness about the Campaign and exchange ideas on furthering its goals. In the evening of 5 March, the play "MIKA" will be performed, followed by a panel discussion on the role and responsibility of artists in ending violence against women.

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

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Address/Websites

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II. DIVISION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (DAW)

Background

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. The Division 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.

Policy framework

See main instruments listed above.

Area(s) of focus

DAW services agenda items and discussions on violence against women of the General Assembly and the Commission on the Status of Women. To that end, it undertakes research and analysis, and prepares policy recommendations on all forms of violence against women. It also participates in seminars, and organizes panels and workshops on violence against women.

Policy development/research

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 coordinated 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 guidelines for the development of legislation on violence against women, as well as a framework for such legislation.

October 2008 to February 2009

In preparation for the launch of the Secretary-General's database on violence against women, and for an expert group meeting on legislation on harmful practices, DAW continued to research measures taken by States to address violence against women. DAW followed up with Member States in regard to responses to the questionnaire aimed at collecting information for inclusion in the Secretary-General's database.

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

Baseline 2007

DAW makes available information on violence against women through its website, especially in relation to the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women and its follow-up, provides briefings on the work of the United Nations in the field of violence against women, and organizes panel discussions and other outreach activities. DAW has 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 has 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 51st session of the Commission on the Status of Women, March 2007.

July 2007 to January 2008

In February 2008, DAW will co-sponsor, 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 has 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. DAW has widely disseminated the Secretary-General's study on violence against women, which is now available in book form in English, French and Spanish, and in mimeographed form in Arabic, Russian and Chinese. These versions are available online.

February to September 2008

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. *Words to Action* will be distributed to Member States during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly and is available online.

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

DAW continued to disseminate the Secretary-General's study on violence against women. For example, the Economic Commission for Africa will make it available at the African Development Forum which will take place from 19 to 21 November on the theme "Action on gender equality, empowerment and ending violence against women in Africa".

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 13th International Conference on Violence, Abuse and Trauma in California, United States of America, in September 2008.

October 2008 to February 2009

In January 2009, DAW circulated and posted online Issue # 2 of *Words to Action,* its quarterly newsletter on violence against women, with a feature article on legislation. Issue # 2 will also be distributed at the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

DAW continued to disseminate the 'Model Framework for Legislation on Violence against Women', developed by an expert meeting it convened in May 2008. This included presentations at several events, including: the following: 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.

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, including the development and finalization of the Global Framework for Action (http://endviolence.un.org/pdf/Framework_booklet.pdf). Together with DPI, DAW developed the "What's happening?" – online registration of initiatives in support of the Secretary-General's Campaign (http://endviolence.un.org/docs/UNite_Submission_Form.doc)

Future activities

On 5 March 2009, the Deputy-Secretary-General of the United Nations will launch the Secretary-General's database on violence against women, developed by the DAW. In conjunction with the launch, the DAW will hold a panel discussion. Also during the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the DAW is organizing 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",* on 4 March 2009.

In collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, DAW is preparing an expert group meeting on legislation to address harmful practices against women. The meeting will take place in Addis Ababa, from 28 April to 1 May 2009.

Bibliography

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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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

Address/Websites

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Email: daw@un.org

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/
DAW's homepage with access to all reports and publications

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/index.htm
The site dedicated to the Secretary-General's in-depth study on violence against women

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/
The site dedicated to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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

Background

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

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

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.

Policy development/research

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.

Future activities

UNSD will convene a Global Forum on Gender Statistics in November 2007 to promote the development of gender statistics; improve the coordination of gender statistics programmes and activities at the national, regional and global levels; and promote knowledge management and information sharing. One of the key issues to be addressed at the Forum will be the question of measuring the scope of violence against women. The Forum will be attended by representatives of national statistical offices and national women's machineries from all regions; relevant supra-national, regional and international organizations; United Nations entities, including funds and programmes; development partners and relevant training and research institutions.

Bibliography

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION (DPI)

Background

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

See main instruments listed above.

Area(s) of focus

In its work to promote themes such as ending violence against women, DPI's activities can be divided into types of outreach or dissemination carried out 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 done features on violence against women; CyberSchoolBus has a briefing paper on the girl child; UN Works has done a series profiling women activists, many of which relate to work on violence against women. In a one-year period, it has done several stories directly related to violence against women, which are disseminated worldwide.

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 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, is 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

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 "21st 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 global campaign 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, 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), 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 "21st 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*"

Future activities

The Department is developing a communications strategy for broader audiences, as part of the Secretary-General's campaign to eliminate violence against women and girls, in collaboration with the UN Communications Group. DPI is working on the communication elements for the launch, such as a visual identity and slogan, as well as on a number of launch events. DPI will coordinate an inter-agency communications group and produce multimedia information materials. The network of United Nations Information Centres in over 60 countries will also be mobilized to work with country-level partners to adapt the global communications campaign in a manner best suited to their linguistic, cultural and country-specific needs.

Bibliography

News and Media Division: UN Radio

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

- 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 -- Spotlighting '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

Address/Websites

DPI creates pages for special events, such as the International Women's Day: http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2007
http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/violence

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

Background

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 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.

Policy framework

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

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.

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. OHCHR services the Human Rights Council and its special procedures, as well as human rights treaty bodies.

Policy development/research

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. One 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. The position paper is expected to be launched in early 2008, together with a legal position paper on the inter-linkages between access to justice and the protection of women's economic and social rights.

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 has now formally been transferred to the OHCHR. In addition to logistical and over-all support, discussions have been 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. Such work includes a study on laws that discriminate against women to be launched in 2008 and the elaboration, by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, of model provisions on domestic violence.

February to September 2008

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

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.

OHCHR is finalizing an analytical study on the current jurisprudence relating to the prosecution of rape, both under international humanitarian law and human rights law. This legal analysis will facilitate the development of tools and guidelines with an aim to enhance OHCHR and United Nations-wide internal operational capacity in addressing women's human rights issues.

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.

Two expert legal position papers have been finalized, together with OHCHR, on: "*Prosecution of Rape under the Formal Justice Mechanisms*" and "*Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*". The papers 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*", analyzes the experience of women victims of violence accessing justice post-conflict.

Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities

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.

October 2008 to February 2009

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

In the Middle East and North Africa region, OHCHR is developing 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 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.

Since August 2008, the UNIFEM Coordinator for UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, previously based in New York, is hosted on OHCHR premises in Geneva.

Awareness-raising and advocacy

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

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.

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 lay strategies for more effective networking and partnership with the special mandate holders.

Future activities

In the framework of its planned deployment of gender advisers, including on violence against women, to regional offices, OHCHR foresees to undertake a pilot deployment of consultants to Fiji, Lebanon, Panama and Senegal for one year during the first quarter of 2009.

Draft model provisions on domestic violence and the right to adequate housing will be presented to the Human Rights Council jointly by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing in June 2009.

OHCHR will provide substantive support to the process of drafting a law combating violence against women in Afghanistan.

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Violence against women

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- http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/rapporteur/index.htm
- http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/housing/index.htm
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- http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/minorities/expert/index.htm

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UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)

Background

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.

Policy framework

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

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

Baseline July 2007

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

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. UNODC is currently working on a guide for law enforcement officials on effective responses to violence against women.

July 2007 to January 2008

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice decided to hold, at its seventeenth session in 2008, a thematic discussion on those aspects of violence against women that pertain directly to the mandate of the Commission.

Among recent and upcoming publications are: 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

In 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.

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 is 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. The Group is expected to present its recommendations on indicators on violence against women to the Commission at its fortieth session.

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.

Awareness-raising and advocacy

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

Plans are under way to launch the following activities; a regional juvenile justice project for the Middle East and North Africa region focusing, *inter alia*, on the special needs of girls; a global project on the implementation of the Guidelines on justice in matters involving child victims and witnesses of crime; the development of handbooks on (i) Effective Police Responses to Violence against Women and related training curriculum; (ii) Handbook for Prison Managers and Policymakers on Women and Imprisonment; (iii) a Guide to the standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners from a gender perspective; the expansion of One-Stop Centres to further locations in South Africa and to other southern African countries; and a project in Liberia entitled; "Building capacity of Liberian judges and magistrates in addressing gender-based violence", due to start in January 2009.

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REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

I. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA)

Background

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

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

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

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 an African Women's Rights Observatory (AWRO) website. Violence against women is one of the three thematic areas covered. 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.

Awareness-raising and advocacy

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 13th 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".

Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities

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.

Future activities

During the first quarter of 2009, ECA will organize an expert group meeting to further refine the methodology for collecting data on violence against women.

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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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II. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (ECE)

Background

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

See main instruments listed above.

Area(s) of focus

Under the framework of the Conference of European Statisticians and its work on gender statistics, a UNECE Task Force on Violence against Women 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, develop a core set of indicators and identify a minimum set of questions for a short module that can be incorporated into on-going surveys.

Policy development/research

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 commerce 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[1], 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.

Future activities

ECE plans to continue its work toward the development of standard indicators and survey methodology. This will be done through expert group meetings and national workshops.

More work is also planned to inform a broad range of interested users about definitions and methods to measure gender-based violence through surveys and to disseminate analytical products and available statistical data.

ECE plans to launch a website on the measurement of gender-based violence with statistical data from 11 countries presented in a unifying framework, facilitating access to national survey data that are not widely available in the international context.

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[1] http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2006.09.gender.htm

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

Background

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

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).

Area(s) of focus

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

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.

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.

Based on a mandate received in the Quito Consensus, ECLAC has initiated the development of an observatory on gender parity. Violence against women will be one of the three core indicators that will be followed in every country of Latin America and the Caribbean (together with political participation and unpaid work of women). One main activity will be the provision of technical assistance to improve the quality of measurement and the collection of national data on all forms of violence against women. In addition to external funding that is being sought, INSTRAW, UNIFEM and UNFPA are collaborating with ECLAC in this initiative.

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 has 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 and to national statistical agencies in countries that request such support. Violence against women is one of four main issues of concern.

Awareness-raising and advocacy

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

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.

Future activities

ECLAC will convene two specialist meetings, for Latin America (Aguas Calientes, Mexico, 2-3 October 2008), and the Caribbean (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 6-7 October 2008), to discuss and identify the indicators to be used in the Gender Observatory. INSTRAW, PAHO, UNIFEM and UNFPA are collaborating with ECLAC in this initiative.

ECLAC, along with the other four regional commissions, will be implementing the project "Enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women", funded through the Development Account.

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Database

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).

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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

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

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

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

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.

Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities

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

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

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.

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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

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

See main instruments listed above.

Area(s) of focus

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.

Policy development/research

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

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

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

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, 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”.

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

ESCWA’s Centre for Women will support the fourth session of the Committee on Women and the regional 15-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in October 2009. ESCWA will review achievements, gaps and challenges in the twelve critical areas of concern of the Platform, including violence against women, in the Arab region.

Bibliography

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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

Background

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

See main instruments listed above.

Area(s) of focus

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

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.

Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities

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 Sudan, UNDP has a large Rule of Law Programme which includes a component on addressing sexual and gender-based violence. The Programme has activities to advocate for the rights of women, advise the Government on how to reform its laws and put in place policies to meet international standards. 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.

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

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

UNDP will convene a three-day internal meeting on gender-based violence to identify the specific focus for UNDP's work on this issue. It is expected that the meeting will result in a more clearly articulated and revitalized organizational profile of UNDP in system-wide efforts to end violence against women.

In collaboration with 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.

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I. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN (UNIFEM)

Background

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's work on violence against women is based within a human rights framework.

Policy framework

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

Under UNIFEM's 2004-2007 Multi-Year Funding Framework, programming to end violence against women is undertaken at the macro, meso and micro levels. Specific areas of focus for UNIFEM's programming vary 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.

Policy development/research

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.

Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities

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 2008

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.

Awareness-raising and advocacy

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.sayNOtoviolence.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.sayNOtoviolence.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.*

Future activities

UNIFEM is working to launch a global programming site on violence against women.

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UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

Background

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

See main instruments above.

Area(s) of focus

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

Future activities

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

Address/websites

UNEP
United Nations Avenue, Gigiri, P.O. Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya
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UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)

Background

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

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"[2]. 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

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.

[2] Report on the Dialogue with Refugee Women, Geneva, 20-22 June 2001.

Policy development/research

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.

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 Phropyhlaxis (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.

Awareness-raising and advocacy

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 land 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.

Future activities

UNHCR is developing guidelines on determining how female genital mutilation can be a form of persecution, particularly against women and girls, and thus grounds for asylum according to the 1951 Refugee Convention.

UNHCR's future activities include: disseminating the three-year strategic plan on sexual and gender-based violence; facilitating additional workshops on masculinities; finalizing the GBVIMS Incident Recorder and User Guidelines; piloting the GBVIMS in two countries; conducting a global consultation on the GBVIMS; promoting the use of Standard Operating Procedures on sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian settings; conducting a survey on sexual and gender-based violence; and providing technical support to UNHCR field operations.

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UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (UNRWA)

Background

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

See main instruments listed above.

Area(s) of focus

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 also working on developing a gender mainstreaming strategy to ensure that all programme activity undertaken is done incorporating fully the objective of gender equality, including combating gender-based violence.

Policy Development/research

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 when discovered 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.

Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities

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.

Awareness-raising and advocacy

July 2007 to January 2008

UNWRA 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.

Future activities

UNRWA's Social Services programme plans to map all Agency-wide service providers as referral instrument for staff. The Gaza field office plans to create psychosocial support units for girls and

women, a key post-ceasefire need; train health workers on domestic violence; strengthen discussion groups on domestic violence; and continue the provision of safe spaces in the community.

Addresses/Websites

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UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

Background

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

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

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.

Policy development/research

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

UNICEF is currently a member of the Central Organizing Committee or 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). 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 or 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.

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

UNICEF continued to engage in capacity building and development of holistic strategies to end gender-based violence, and the training of staff and partners is an ongoing UNICEF activity. Efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) continued through awareness raising and training of health workers and traditional leaders and through the implementation of the UNICEF/UNFPA Joint Programme and Trust Fund for the abandonment of FGM/C (2008-2012) in eight countries.

At global level UNICEF co-led the gender-based violence area of responsibility of the Protection Cluster Working Group.

Awareness-raising and advocacy

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

UNICEF will continue to follow up to the recommendations of the UN Study on Violence against Children, ensuring the attention to violence against women and girls; and the Rio Plan of Action against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents; continue work to end female genital mutilation/cutting and early marriage. It will also continue to participate/lead various inter-agency efforts.

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Address/Websites

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UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

Background

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

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

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

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.

Operational activities, including capacity bulding and training activities

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.

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.

Future activities

The *UNFPA Strategy and Framework of Action for Addressing Gender-based Violence, 2008-2011"* will guide the Fund's work in addressing this major health and human rights issue across all its programmatic interventions.

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Address/Websites

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www.unfpa.org
http://www.unfpa.org/gender/violence.htm

UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP)

Background

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

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

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.

Policy development/research

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

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.

Awareness-raising and advocacy

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.

Future activities

WFP will continue to implement workshops and field studies as part of the protection project, including in Liberia, South Sudan, Nepal, Myanmar and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

WFP is conducting a comprehensive study on lessening the burden on women during food distribution. Security issues, including violence, which women may face during the distribution process, are among those that will be investigated.

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Address/Websites

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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT)

Background

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

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

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

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.

Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities

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 co-ordinating 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.

A Memorandum of Understanding between UNIFEM and UN-HABITAT on women's safety in urban areas is under preparation, aiming at collaboration on a programme "Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women".

Awareness-raising and advocacy

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 8th 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".

Future activities

UN-HABITAT is creating a database of over 250 institutions, local authorities and grassroots initiatives gathered though the development of tools and compilation of good practices on women and girls' safety. The information will form the basis of further investigation for developing a global network and regional networks.

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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

UN-Habitat
P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya
www.unhabitat.org
www.unhabitat.org/safercities

UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY (UNU)

Background

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

See main instruments above.

Areas of focus

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

UNU
5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8925
www.unu.edu

UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (UNITAR)

Background

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

See the main instruments above.

Area(s) of focus

UNITAR addresses violence against women in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities

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

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

UNITAR
Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
www.unitar.org
http://www.unitar.org/wcc/

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (UN-INSTRAW)

Background

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

See main instruments listed above.

Area(s) of focus

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

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

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

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

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.

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Address/Websites

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UNITED NATIONS RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (UNRISD)

Background

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.

Policy framework

See main instruments above.

Area(s) of focus

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.

Policy development/research

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".

Bibliography

Gender Equality: Striving for Justice in an Unequal World, part four. UNRISD, 2005

Address/Websites

UNRISD
Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
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

UNITED NATIONS INTERREGIONAL CRIME AND JUSTICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (UNICRI)

Background

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

See main instruments above.

Area(s) of focus

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.

Policy development/research

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.

Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities

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 Fundaciòn 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 José, 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 Jacó 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.

Awareness-raising and advocacy

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.

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. 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

UNICRI will continue to update regularly a dedicated bibliography and databases on trafficking in human beings.

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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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www.unicri.it
Information on counter-trafficking activities

Databases
International Legal Repository
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

JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Background

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

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

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.

Policy development/research

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.
http://data.unaids.org/pub/InformationNote/2008/20080308_item_2_gender_guidance_and_costed_action_plan_fi_en.pdf

Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities

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.

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.

Future activities

The UNAIDS Secretariat, together with Cosponsors and partners, will convene a technical working group in 2009 to bring together the latest research and programme guidance for national partners on programmes which address violence against women in the context of AIDS. WHO will be the lead UNAIDS Cosponsor in organizing this technical meeting on behalf of the United Nations Joint Programme on AIDS.

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Address/Websites

UNAIDS
20, avenue Appia, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland
www.unaids.org
http://womenandaids.unaids.org/themes/theme_2.html

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

Background

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

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)

Area(s) of focus

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

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

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, (N0.143) and the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (N0.181). 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

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.

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Address/Websites

ILO
4 Route des Morillons, CH-1211 Geneva 22 Switzerland
www.ilo.org

ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Programme
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
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
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Addressing Psychosocial Problems at Work (SOLVE)
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International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)
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FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

Background

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

See main instruments above.

Area(s) of focus

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

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

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

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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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)

Background

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

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

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

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.

October 2008 to February 2009

UNESCO promotes implementation of the Oslo Declaration "Acting together", adopted at the Eighth Meeting of the High-Level Group on Education for All, held in Oslo, Norway, from 16 to 18 December 2008. The Declaration makes a clear reference to gender-based violence as an obstacle to the achievement of EFA goals.

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 21st 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 60th 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".

Awareness-raising and advocacy

Baseline July 2007

- International and regional conferences/campaigns:
  - 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).
- Development of 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 film-makers, development workers and media professionals during the 3rd 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

As part of celebrations for International Women's Day 2009, UNESCO's Division for Gender Equality, in collaboration with the *Comité de la Journée Franco-Japonaise de la Femme,* is organizing a full-day conference on the situation of Japanese women today, which will focus in part on the issue of domestic violence in Japan. An artist from the Dominican Republic will exhibit her work on violence against women, entitled *NO MAS!*

UNESCO is developing a project on school-related gender-based violence in six African post-conflict countries, in follow-up to the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on violence against children. Together with UNIFEM (lead agency), UNDP, and UNFPA, UNESCO Beijing Office will implement a UN joint project "Preventing and Responding to Domestic Violence in China through a Multi-sectoral Approach", funded by the UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women in November 2008.

UNESCO Addis Ababa Office will hold a training workshop for film-makers in the first half of 2009, in follow up to the workshop held in November, to build the capacity of local film-makers to include gender-based violence issues into their work.

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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

UNESCO
7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP France
1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15 France
www.unesco.org
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

Non-violence education
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

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

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

Background

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

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.

Area(s) of focus

WHO supports and undertakes research, the formulation of policy, programmatic guidance and engages in advocacy on various forms of violence against women. This includes intimate partner violence, sexual violence, violence in emergency and conflict settings, adolescent abuse, trafficking, and elder abuse, including their impact on health outcomes and interaction with other health conditions such as HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, and chronic illnesses including mental health conditions. 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

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.

Operational activities, including capacity building and training activities

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.

Awareness-raising and advocacy

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.

Future activities

Planned activities on violence against women for the coming years include: development of a framework and programmatic guidance on primary prevention of sexual violence and intimate partner violence; ongoing analysis of the database from the WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women with a focus on risk and protective factors; development of good practice recommendations for addressing violence against women in HIV programmes; support for research on sexual coercion, negative reproductive health outcomes among adolescents and on the dual roles of boys as victims and perpetrators of violence; development of guidelines for estimating the economic impact of injuries due to interpersonal violence by WHO and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; establishment of local networks for domestic and sexual violence care as an entry point for HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention in Belize, Honduras and Salvador; provision of vocational, health and literacy curriculum in women's shelters in the Eastern Mediterranean region; gender-based violence information/surveillance systems of health and judicial sectors in three countries in the Pan-American region; support for implementation of model laws and national and local policies in 8 countries in the Pan-American region; and assessment of the impact of a community-based intervention designed to reduce levels of physical and sexual domestic violence in Uganda.

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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

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http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2004/9241592079.pdf

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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)

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www.who.int
http://www.who.int/gender/violence
http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/

THE WORLD BANK

Background

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

See main instruments above.

Area(s) of focus

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

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

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

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

*"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 on-going 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.

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http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTCPR/882726-1120215891552/20627308/WBSomaliafgm.pdf

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www.worldbank.org
www.worldbank.org/gender
http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGENDER/Resources/UNIFEMEvaluationGuidelinesFinal.pdf

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)

Background

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.

Policy framework

See main instruments above.

Area(s) of focus

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.

Operational activities /research

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.

Address/Websites

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www.ifad.org
http://www.ifad.org/gender/index.htm

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

Background

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

See main instruments above.

Area(s) of focus

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

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

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

A 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

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

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.

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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)

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"Stakeholder Analysis of Human Trafficking in Pakistan", March 2006

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