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Working Paper: Implementing Locally, Inspiring Globally: Localizing UNSCR 1325 in Colombia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sierra Leone and Uganda

This paper is a contribution to the Global Review meeting "Building accountability for national and regional implementation of Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security," held in New York from November 5-7, 2013 by UN Women.

This study is coordinated by the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) in collaboration with UN Women.

The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), a program partner of the International Civil Society Action Network, is a coalition of women's groups and other civil society organizations from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, South Asia, West Asia, Latin America, Eastern and Western Europe. Our work entails advocacy and action for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1325 and 1820 on women and peace and security including the supporting resolutions 1820,1888, 1889, 1960, 2106 and 2122 at the local, national, regional and international levels.

List of Acronyms

BAP	Barangay Action Plan
CEWIGO	Center for Women in Governance, Uganda
CIASE	Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DAP	District Action Plan
DecSec	Decentralization Secretariat, Sierra Leone
DDC	District Development Committee, Nepal
GNWP	Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
LAP	Local Action Plans
LGU	Local Government Units, Philippines
LIMPAL	Liga Internacional de Mujeres por la Paz y la Libertad, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Colombia
MFPED	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, Uganda
MoD	Ministry of Defense, Nepal
MoE	Ministry of Education, Nepal
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal
MoPR	Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, Nepal
MoWCSW	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Nepal
MSWGCA	Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs, Sierra Leone
NAP	National Action Plan
NOW	National Organization of Women, Sierra Leone
NWC	National Women's Commission, Nepal
OPAPP	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, Philippines
PCW	Commission on Women, Philippines
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
SiLNAP	Sierra Leone National Action Plan
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-based Violence
ToT	Training of Trainers
VDC	Village Development Committee, Nepal
WE Act 1325	Women Engaged in Action on 1325, Philippines
WPA	Women and Peace and Security

I. Background and Methodology

Background

Since the adoption of UNSCR 1325 in 2000, progress on implementing women and peace and security (WPS) resolutions has been remarkably slow and inconsistent. Year after year, civil society organizations (CSOs) continue to identify a lack of political will at national levels, a lack of sufficient and transparent funding and a lack of systematic monitoring all hindering effective implementation of Resolution 1325 in their respective countries.[1] *While finding concrete ways to remove or overcome these barriers, it is important to rethink the dominant implementation strategy itself.*

The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) offers a new approach to finding effective ways to implement UNSCR 1325 and the supporting resolutions. *The Localization program of GNWP, which directly engages local authorities, traditional leaders and local women in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 in local communities, complements the efforts of governments, civil society and other national actors and ensures that the WPS resolutions—and National Action Plans (NAPs)—are owned and carried out at the local level.[2]* It is a people-based, bottom-up approach to policy-making that goes beyond the local adoption of a law, as it guarantees the alignment and harmonization of local, national, regional and international policies and community-driven strategies to ensure local ownership, participation and links among local communities, civil society organizations and government. It is not designed to increase bureaucratic functions or add more work for local officials. Rather, the program allows local communities to analyze their everyday government functions and policies to see what is promoting or hindering the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820. In this way, the Localization of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 program creates channels for better coordination, cooperation and coherence among national and local stakeholders in the work around the WPS resolutions.

As good practices from the implementation of the Localization program in Colombia reveal, the success of localization as an implementation strategy is not contingent on the existence of

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[1] *Women Count: Security Council Resolution 1325: Civil Society Monitoring Report* is the first NGO initiative that monitors the implementation of the WPS resolutions. The outcomes are powerful advocacy tools that provide women peace activists with an evidence-based instrument to advocate for better implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820. GNWP members from Afghanistan, Armenia, Canada, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji, Liberia, Nepal, Netherlands, Philippines, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, and Uganda have participated in this monitoring project from 2010–2013. See Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (2012), *Women Count: Security Council Resolution 1325: Civil Society Monitoring Report,* accessible on http://www.gnwp.org/what-we-do/policy-advocacy/in-country-and-global-monitoring-of-united-nations-security-council-resolution-1325

[2] The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), a program partner of the International Civil society Action Network (ICAN), is a coalition of women's groups and other civil society organizations from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, South Asia, West Asia, Latin America, Eastern and Western Europe. Our work entails advocacy and action for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1325 and 1820 on women and peace and security including the supporting resolutions 1888, 1889 and 1960 at the local, national, regional and international levels.

National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325 and 1820. In countries that have yet to adopt NAPs, localization becomes an important alternative mechanism for implementing the WPS resolutions in local communities. Effective local action planning on the resolutions may even prompt national governments to reconsider their position on the adoption of a NAP. For countries that have developed and adopted NAPs, the Localization program has proven to be a critical complementary tool that strengthens the implementation of NAPs in local communities. The Localization program has also provided a much-needed boost in implementation in countries where attention on NAPs has waned after their adoption.

Localization as an implementation strategy is based on the premise that local ownership and participation leads to more effective policy implementation in local communities. For women and girls, better implementation means greater participation in decision-making, enhanced prevention and protection from sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) as well as greater realization of their human rights. For everyone, it means more sustainable peace and development at subnational, national and global levels.

Objectives of the Localization program

Developed by GNWP and its member organizations in 2010, the Localization program has four main objectives:

> 1) To promote systematic coordination between national and local government authorities in implementing UNSCR 1325 and 1820, along with National Action Plans (NAPs) on the resolutions, where they exist;
> 2) To facilitate greater cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 NAPs among civil society organizations, government agencies, UN entities and other relevant actors;
> 3) To raise awareness and understanding of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 and related international instruments and national policies among local government officials, religious leaders, community elders, traditional leaders, local women leaders and the respective constituencies of these local actors; to promote local ownership of the resolutions and identify concrete actions toward implementation in local communities; and
> 4) To contribute toward better global implementation of UNSCR 1325, 1820 and the other supporting resolutions on women and peace and security.

To meet these objectives, the Localization program has two principal components; each component entails specific activities.

Component 1: Localization workshops

The first component consists of conducting 2- to 3-day Localization workshops. Participants in the workshops are individuals who make decisions in their local communities—mayors, governors, traditional leaders, indigenous leaders, human rights activists, women's rights

advocates, teachers, police and military officers and religious leaders. By learning about Resolutions 1325 and 1820, and discussing how these important international laws relate to her or his specific sociocultural and political context, each participant takes ownership of the resolutions and makes personal commitments to work toward their implementation.

Although the workshop program is adapted by GNWP members to fit each local context, a typical Localization workshop includes discussions on these topics: concepts of gender and WPS; root causes of conflict(s) for a given country/community; history and content of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 and the NAP (where it exists); the relationship between sustainable development, good governance and peace and security; and local development processes. Following these sessions, participants break into small groups to assess the relevance of the resolutions in the sociopolitical and cultural context of their communities. Collectively, they identify relevant provisions of the WPS resolutions and proceed to draft language that can be integrated directly into community development plans or other local legal or policy frameworks. Participants may also decide to draft local action plans (LAPs) for UNSCR 1325 and 1820 implementation in their districts, municipalities or villages.

At the end of a Localization workshop, each participant also expresses her or his individual commitments to further contribute to the implementation of the resolutions, the NAP and the LAPs. The value of these personal commitments lies in the actions that result soon after the completion of the workshops: for example, a preacher shares the pillars of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 with his congregation; or a woman police officer holds a seminar on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 for her town's police force.

Component 2: Training of Trainers workshops and development of Localization Guidelines

The second component of the Localization program was designed by the GNWP international coordinating team and GNWP members to ensure the sustainability of the program. The main activities under Component 2 are Training of Trainers workshops and the drafting, adoption and rollout of Localization guidelines.

Typically, once Localization workshops have been held in several regions of a country, a small group of former participants, about 20 to 25, are invited to take part in a 2- to 3-day Training of Trainers. The objective of the session is to further develop the expertise of leading civil society actors, local authorities, teachers and traditional and indigenous leaders on implementing the WPS resolutions locally. With this expertise, participants in the Training of Trainers make up a national Pool of Experts, who can then hold Localization workshops in different regions of the country. This Pool of Experts also goes on to formulate concrete strategies to ensure the operationalization of local and sectoral action plans on UNSCR 1325 and 1820.

The other activity under Component 2 is the drafting, adopting and rolling out of Localization Guidelines. Once again, this activity builds on the momentum of the Localization workshops and the strengthened alliance between CSOs, local government and lead implementing agencies of the WPS resolutions at local and national levels. After Localization workshops, a team made up

of CSO experts on UNSCR 1325 and 1820, local authorities that took part in the Localization workshops and experts from key national ministries (such as gender ministries, decentralization ministries, local development ministries and such) draft a practical guide for local authorities. This guide is meant to assist local authorities in mainstreaming the relevant provisions of UNSCR 1325 and 1820/NAPs (where they exist) in local development plans. Once drafted, these guidelines are validated by the participants during the Training of Trainers workshop, as well as by lead implementing ministries and agencies at the national level. Validated guidelines are then endorsed by these key ministries and rolled out throughout the country, ensuring the effective implementation of Resolutions 1325 and 1820 in every city, district, municipality and village.

In both components, the Localization program promotes coordination between national and local government authorities in implementing the UNSCR 1325 and 1820 and NAPs. It also facilitates cooperation and collaboration among civil society organizations, government agencies and UN entities and other relevant actors who support the Localization program in the seven countries where it has already been implemented.[3]

Peace Exchange (South-South Exchange)

A key aspect of the Localization workshops is the Peace Exchange or South-South Exchange, which refers to the participation of GNWP members (civil society) and government partners from other countries in Localization workshops in any given country. This element promotes cross learning and sharing of experiences within Africa, Asia and Latin America.

GNWP members from Kenya and Uganda took part in the initial localization workshops in Burundi in 2010. In 2012, GNWP members from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Liberia and Rwanda attended a Localization workshop in the Eastern Region in Sierra Leone. The GNWP members from Burundi were able to share experiences of the localization process in their country, where the Localization program has been operational since 2010. The Congolese, Liberian and Rwandese participants also reflected on the usefulness and applicability of a similar program in their countries. GNWP members and local authorities from Nepal have taken part in Localization workshops in the Philippines and vice versa. Official exchange meetings between CSOs and government delegates from the two countries were also organized. During the Training of Trainers workshop that took place in Colombia in October 2013, civil society representatives from Argentina and Guatemala had the opportunity to share their experiences in national action planning processes and localizing the WPS resolutions in their respective countries. Furthermore, the Argentinian and Guatemalan participants reflected on the applicability and value added of the Localization program as an implementation strategy in Argentina and Guatemala.

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[3] Operational since 2010, the Localization of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 program has been implemented in Burundi, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Nepal, the Philippines, Sierra Leone and Uganda. It will also be implemented in Liberia beginning in 2013.

Figure 1: Components of the Localization Program

Implementing Locally, Inspiring Globally: Localization of UNSCR 1325 and 1820

COMPONENT 1: Localization of UNSCR 1325 & 1820 Workshops

Organizers: GNWP International Coordinating team, local GNWP members and CSO partners, key ministries and UN Agencies
Participants: Local authorities such as provincial governors, mayors, vice mayors, district councilors, community leaders, paramount chiefs, tribal leaders, traditional leaders, religious leaders, local police forces, women leaders, teachers & other key local actors (60% authorities)

Likert-style survey

Conflict Analysis session

Introduction
to concepts of gender, human security, women and peace and security, sustainable development and good governance

Awareness and Knowledge Raising sessions
on history and content of Resolutions 1325 and 1820, and National Action Plans (where applicable)

Peace Exchange (South-South Exchange)
by GNWP civil society members and government partners from other countries

Identification
by local authorities of relevant provisions of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 and National Action Plans (NAPs)

Integration
by local authorities of relevant provisions into community development plans and local legislations

Concrete actions
formulated by local authorities to ensure the systematic integration of WPS resolutions and NAP into community development plans and local legislations

Personal commitments
of local authorities/local leaders for the implementation of the WPS at the local level

Establishment of Local Steering Committees
made up of local authorities and CSOs for UNSCR 1325 and 1820 implementation

Development and implementation of Local Action Plans
such as Community Action Plans, Municipal Action Plans, Departmental Action Plans

COMPONENT 2: Training of Trainers workshops and development of Localization Guidelines

Contributors to guidelines: GNWP International Coordinating team, local CSOs, key ministries, participants in Localization Workshops

Drafting of the Guidelines

Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops

Validation of the Guidelines
In a workshop/meeting attended by CSOs, ministries, Localization workshop participant

Field-testing of the Guidelines
in pilot local communities

Rollout of Guidelines
to local authorities and other local leaders across the country

GNWP's Localization program is young. Change seldom happens overnight, especially when the work involves altering deeply rooted beliefs and ideas about the roles of women and girls in local communities, whether they are in conflict, post-conflict, or at peace. Yet that is no excuse for inaction, and in its second year, the Localization program has already been highlighted in the UN Secretary-General 2012 and 2013 Report on WPS as a good practice of NAP implementation that ensures the mainstreaming of women and peace and security commitments in all relevant policy and planning processes, including at the subnational level.[4] *Now moving into its third year, the Localization program has led to numerous positive outcomes in the countries where it is operating, directly impacting the very individuals that the WPS resolutions are meant to protect and empower: women and girls living in conflict-affected communities.*

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[4] See United Nations (2012), *Report of the Secretary-General on Women and Peace and Security (S/2012/732)*, New York: United Nations, Paragraph 7, accessed on August 15, 2013, http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2012_732.pdf

Figure 2: Localization Program Operational Framework
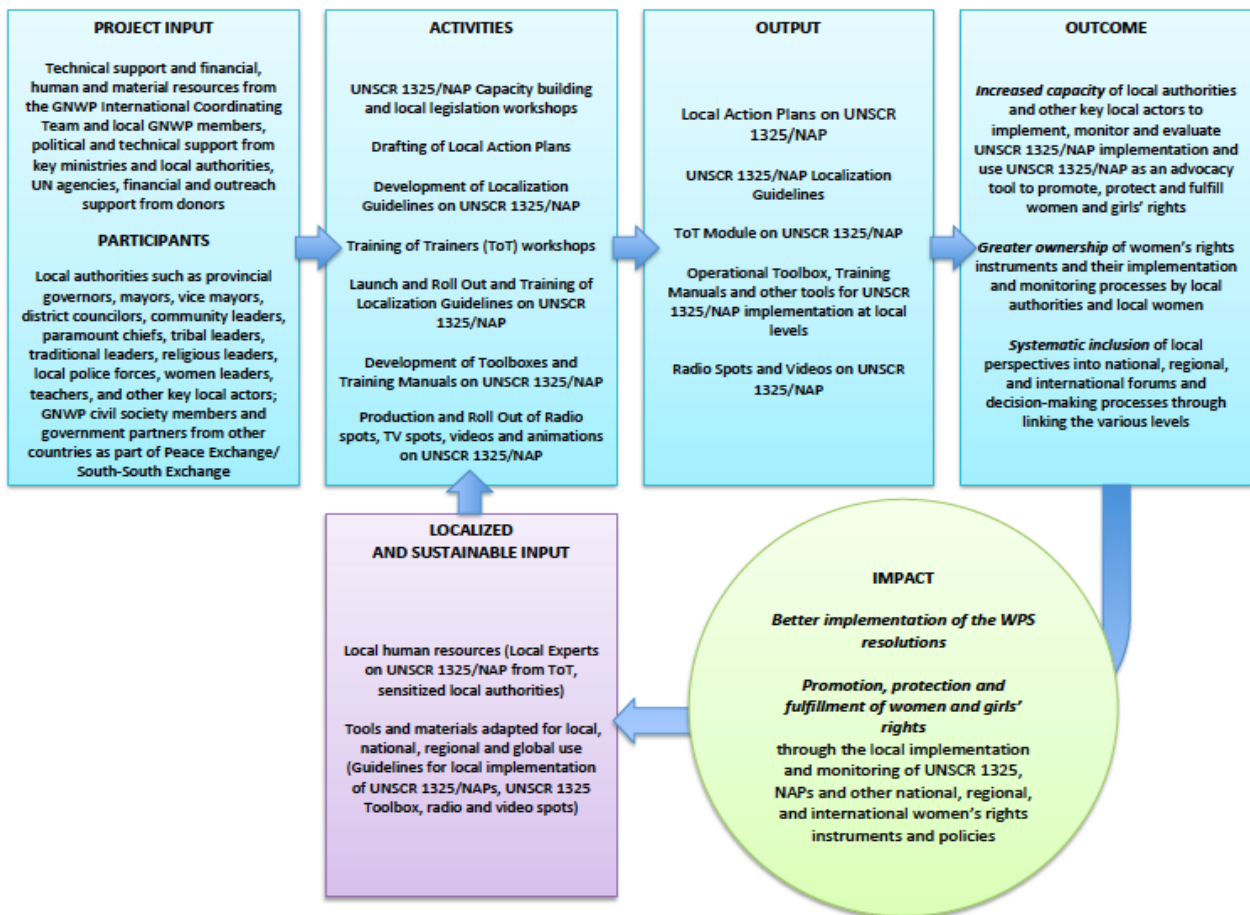
As a contribution to the Global Review of WPS resolutions and NAP implementation and with the overarching objective to gauge how resolutions and NAPs on WPS are being carried out at national and local levels, this background paper describes in-depth the implementation of the Localization of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 program in five countries: Colombia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sierra Leone and Uganda. *The spirit behind sharing good practices is to encourage all actors involved in the implementation of the WPS resolutions—including UN Member States, UN agencies, civil society and the donor community—to support, adapt and adopt Localization as an implementation strategy for the full and effective use of WPS resolutions, NAPs and other national, regional and international policies meant to ensure peace and security.*

Localization and its link to the process of decentralization

The Localization program is inextricably linked to the decentralization of power in the countries where it is carried out, and so in the five countries under study in this background paper. It builds on the extent to which the local governance structures are granted autonomy and decision-

making power as a result of decentralization processes. Through Localization workshops and the development and roll-out of Localization Guidelines, the Localization program uses the mandates of local authorities and the local governance structures to strengthen capacities to guide them in the integration of UNSCR 1325 and 1820, NAPs (where they exist) and related national policies, such as gender equality, women's empowerment and sexual and gender-based violence, in their local development plans and policy formulation.

While the strategy of decentralization has been extensively analyzed, there is limited focus on women's engagement in the process. A majority of research on women's political participation is confined to the national level, with little acknowledgement of the links across political space, including dynamics between local governance and the state. Women's direct engagement in national decision-making tends to garner greater attention and resource dedication than involvement in localization processes. It is argued that increased engagement at the national level is the primary mechanism to providing a platform and the tools to enable women's active participation at the local level. While this assertion is compelling, it offers an incomplete picture of gender politics and obscures the unique role that localization and the promotion of local level policy development can play in women's empowerment.[5]

To deconstruct women's space within a decentralization framework, it is important to *underscore the centrality of women's access to and participation in local governance* and its ultimate impact at the national level. Access to local level decision-making is integral to strengthening women's leverage across the political arena and bringing their specific concerns to the table. Additionally, without active involvement in local governance, the possible overturning of achievements made at the national level toward improving women's lives and communities remains worrying. Therefore, to maintain national level advances in women's empowerment, it is important that women be involved in subnational governance. Similarly, when it comes to ensuring effective implementation of state-level policies on gender equality, the localization process is crucial in preventing such legislation from being relegated to "empty rhetoric."[6]

Decentralization is often meant to bring a government closer to the grassroots context, allowing local communities to actively participate in decisions impacting their lives. The principle behind this process is especially pertinent to enhancing women's roles as stakeholders and agents of change.[7] Men and women occupy gendered spaces, with women often bearing the responsibility for tasks that are more community or family oriented. Therefore, it follows that a significant portion of women's needs at the grassroots level would involve accessibility to local services, which "in turn become policy priorities for women."[8] Decentralization thereby becomes

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[5] See Jo Beall (2007), "Decentralization, Women's Rights and Development," London: Development Studies Institute London School of Economics and Political Science, accessed on August 29, 2013, http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Documents/WRC-Decentralization-documents/Jo-Beall-Decentralization-Women's-Rights-Development.pdf

[6] Beall 13

[7] Alfred Lakwo (2009), "Making Decentralization Work for Women in Uganda*." African Studies Collection* 16, accessed on August 28, 2013, https://openaccess.leidenuniv.nl/bitstream/handle/1887/13793/ASC-075287668-1025-01.pdf?sequence=2

[8] Beall 14

the bridge between grassroots women's needs and national policies. In terms of WPS, decentralization provides tangible opportunities for holding a government accountable to including women in peacebuilding processes, which often results in women's greater visibility.[9] As the good practices highlighted in this background paper demonstrate, localization as a decentralized approach to implementation of UNSCRs on WPS bridges the gap between policies on WPS and implementation on the ground, thus creating a palpable difference in the lives of women and girls.

Despite the clear potential and value of decentralized governance, it is important to note its limitations for women's involvement and highlight the possibility of overcoming such challenges. ***Although decentralization enables local governance, it is also more susceptible to prevailing sociocultural power dynamics.*** Women's engagement with local structures remains impacted by entrenched traditional biases and perceptions surrounding gender roles, leading to their lower participation or inefficient leadership. In this regard, capacity building, knowledge and awareness-raising and cross-sectoral dialogues that are part of the Localization program become imperative.

Methodology

To report on effective initiatives of implementation of WPS resolutions and NAPs at national and subnational levels, civil society networks in the five countries in this report have conducted thorough reviews and analyses of written documents, including: NAPs, national policies on WPS, national laws and policies on gender equality, women's empowerment, sexual and gender-based violence, local development plans, local (municipal, departmental, regional) action plans for UNSCR 1325 implementation, civil society and government monitoring reports of UNCSR 1325 implementation and output documents from training and workshops on the WPS resolutions.[10] Country research teams also examined the commitments of national and local authorities to implement WPS resolutions, the guidelines for the local implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 (in the countries where they have been developed) and materials, such as radio and video productions and toolkits that have been used to further the implementation of WPS resolutions and policies locally.[11]

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[9] Ariana Qosaj-Mustafa (2010), "Strengthening Women's Citizenship in the Context of State-Building: Kosovo Security Sector and Decentralization," Kosovar Institute for Research and Development (KIPRED), accessed on August 28, 2013, http://www.fride.org/download/IP_Women_Citizenship_Kosovo_ENG_ag10.pdf

[10] The civil society organizations that took part in this research are: the Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica (CIASE, Colombia), Red Nacional de Mujeres (Colombia), WE Act 1325 (the Philippines), Saathi (Nepal), Center for Women in Governance (CEWIGO, Uganda), and National Organization of Women (NOW, Sierra Leone). All aforementioned organizations are member organizations of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP).

[11] Interviewed key actors and stakeholders at the national and local levels include: national level government officials as ministers, parliamentarians, prime ministers, presidents; local government officials and local authorities, including mayors, governors, customary, traditional and religious leaders, particularly those involved in informal justice and in implementation of national strategies on WPS; representatives from the Security Sector, both formal and informal; at the national and local levels, formal and informal; representatives from women's groups and civil society organizations, both at the national and local levels; and women in local communities who have taken part in Localization workshop, awareness-raising workshops on UNSCR 1325 or any programs on WPS.

In this background paper, the good practices of each country have been presented through the different components of the Localization program, which are linked to one or more of the following rubrics: collaboration between national and local authorities; collaboration among government, civil society, UN and other stakeholders; training, awareness-raising and behavior change communication strategies; tools for implementation; fostering local ownership; and how information travels globally, nationally, locally and multidirectionally.[12] Although not all the countries in this review reported good practices under all rubrics, all country reports identified these rubrics as complementary components, which underpin the implementation of WPS resolutions and NAPs (where they exist) at the local level.

Key Findings

1. The Localization program has significantly raised awareness of local authorities and traditional leaders on the WPS resolutions in Colombia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sierra Leone and Uganda.

2. Knowing and understanding the WPS resolutions has led to a shift in discriminatory perceptions of women, gender roles and women's participation in decision-making and peacebuilding.

3. Engaging with religious and traditional leaders was pivotal in changing the community attitudes toward discriminatory practices. This has resulted in revising discriminatory local and/or traditional practices and adopting new local policies for the promotion of women's rights.

4. Local Action Plans for carrying out the WPS resolutions/NAPs are effective mechanisms to ensure that timely and concrete actions are taken to increase women's participation in decision-making, to prevent and protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence and to promote a gender perspective. It is crucial that local authorities, traditional *and* CSOs participate in the plan's formulation to guarantee ownership and implementation.

5. Key ministries and local authorities have recognized the importance and potential of Localization Guidelines – in the countries where they already exist – to assist them in integrating WPS resolutions/NAPs in their local development plans. These Localization Guidelines ensure wider outreach and sustainability of the Localization program.

6. Training of Trainers workshops have successfully led to developing a pool of experts on the WPS resolutions/NAPs to guarantee local ownership, sustainability of the Localization program and multiplication of the Localization workshops.

7. Collaboration among local government authorities, civil society, UN agencies and the donor

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[12] UN Women and GNWP jointly developed these rubrics in early 2013, as a suitable framework for reporting on good practices in NAP implementation.

community has proved instrumental for full and effective implementation of the WPS resolutions/NAPs in local communities. The contribution of each is indispensable, whether it is funding, securing political buy-in, developing and adopting Localization Guidelines and Local Action Plans or providing expertise on WPS resolutions/NAPs.

8. Engaging with the security sector at subnational levels on issues of WPS, and including the security sector in Localization workshops and Training of Trainers workshops can potentially lead to faster and better response to cases of sexual and gender-based violence.

9. Accessible materials on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 and NAPs in local languages and dialects are necessary tools to guarantee awareness, understanding and implementation of the resolutions/NAP at local levels as well as for effective replication of Localization workshops.

10. Media such as public radio announcements and videos are effective in information dissemination and crossing literacy barriers for creating awareness on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 and NAPs.

11. Since frequent changes in local leadership can hinder the sustainability of the localization program, it is necessary to conduct Localization workshops for at least two election cycles or until **Localization Guidelines** are fully endorsed by key ministries; and are being used by local authorities on a regular basis.
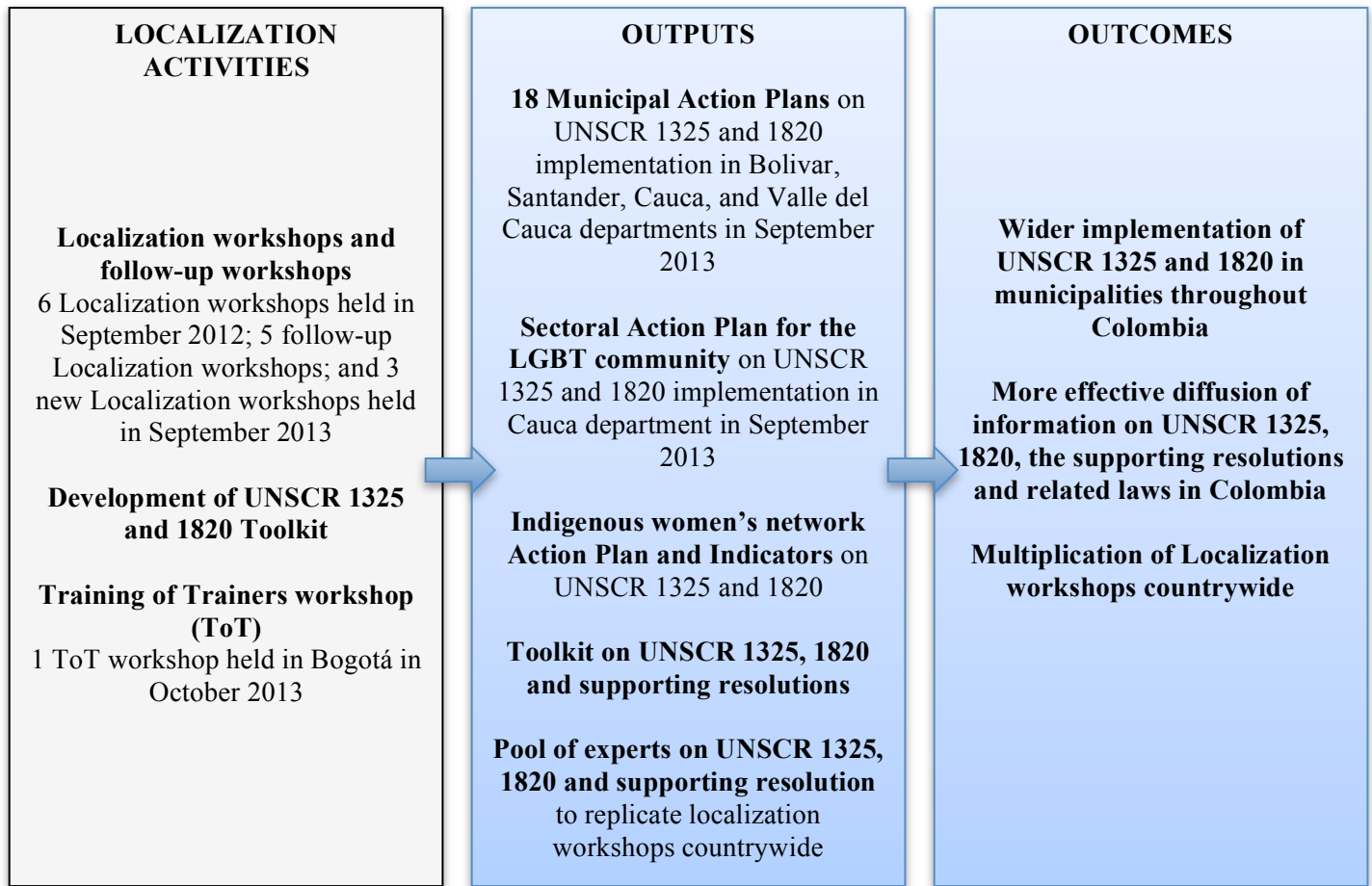
II. Good Practices

A. Good practices from Colombia

Colombia Localization program at a glance

Does Colombia have a NAP on UNSCR 1325? *No. However, Colombian CSOs in partnership with local authorities and indigenous leaders, 18 municipalities and a specific sector (the LGBT community) have developed local action plans and one sectoral action plan on UNSCR 1325 and 1820.*

LOCALIZATION ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
Localization workshops and follow-up workshops 6 Localization workshops held in September 2012; 5 follow-up Localization workshops; and 3 new Localization workshops held in September 2013 **Development of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 Toolkit** **Training of Trainers workshop (ToT)** 1 ToT workshop held in Bogotá in October 2013	**18 Municipal Action Plans** on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 implementation in Bolivar, Santander, Cauca, and Valle del Cauca departments in September 2013 **Sectoral Action Plan for the LGBT community** on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 implementation in Cauca department in September 2013 **Indigenous women's network Action Plan and Indicators** on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 **Toolkit on UNSCR 1325, 1820 and supporting resolutions** **Pool of experts on UNSCR 1325, 1820 and supporting resolution** to replicate localization workshops countrywide	**Wider implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 in municipalities throughout Colombia** **More effective diffusion of information on UNSCR 1325, 1820, the supporting resolutions and related laws in Colombia** **Multiplication of Localization workshops countrywide**

Best Practice from Colombia: Localization Workshops
Good practice in collaboration between local government and CSOs; training, awareness-raising and behavior change communication strategies; and fostering local ownership

In Colombia, the Localization program is a good example of ***successful collaboration between civil society and local government — with a strong emphasis on local.*** While the Localization program in the Philippines, Nepal, Sierra Leone and Uganda had the buy-in and support of relevant national-level ministries, in Colombia, the national government has not shown

enthusiasm to develop a National Action Plan on the WPS resolutions and national ministries have not been directly involved in the localization work around these resolutions. Instead, departmental- and municipal-level authorities in Arauca, Cauca, Bolívar, Chocó, Santander, Valle del Cauca departments and the Federal District of Bogotá have supported women's networks in organizing Localization workshops. During the workshops, local officials identified the strengths and weaknesses of their respective community development plans related to WPS issues. In all departments, they concluded that the development plans were lacking in regard to gender and women's participation.

To address this shortcoming, and without a Colombia NAP, local authorities and women's rights activists who took part in Localization workshops in September 2012 and follow-up workshops in 2013 have drafted *Municipal Action Plans for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the supporting resolutions for 18 municipalities of the Bolívar, Santander, Cauca and Valle del Cauca departments.* In addition, a *UNSCR 1325 Sectoral Action Plan for the LGBT community was developed in Popayán* (Cauca department) to respond to the violence committed against LGBT individuals by armed groups. For example, lesbians are the targets of particularly hateful crimes: there have been documented cases where armed groups cut off the women's breasts and rape them when they find out their sexual orientation. The drafting, adoption and implementation of municipal and sectoral action plans not only will lead to enhanced women's participation in decision-making and respect for the rights of women and girls, but *they are also a way to pressure the Colombian government to reconsider its position on drafting and adopting a NAP.*

Another important aspect of the Localization program in Colombia is the work done in indigenous communities. The Indigenous Localization Workshop held in October 2012 in the Cauca Department and its follow-up workshop held in Bogotá in September 2013 have led *indigenous women to recognize the importance of UNSCR 1325 as a tool to defend their rights and highlight their role in peacebuilding.* As a result of discussions on UNSCR 1325, indigenous women have established an Indigenous Women's Network, which allows women from different indigenous communities in Colombia to reflect on women's rights in the context of collective rights. It must be noted that an important aspect of the indigenous women's discussion of an international instrument such as UNSCR 1325 is its application in non-Western cultures. It is critical for this community to have clarity and consensus that the use of nontraditional norms will strengthen their advocacy abilities to protect their individual and cultural rights and not jeopardize their culture. In addition, the members of the Indigenous Women's Network have drafted an *Indigenous Women's Action Plan* for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in their respective communities and developed a set of 21 indicators, based on GNWP's indicators used for the annual CSO Monitoring Report, to monitor and report on progress in carrying out the WPS resolutions in indigenous communities.

UNSCR 1325 and 1820 Toolkit
Good practice in tools for implementation; fostering local ownership; and how information travels

In Colombia, the 2012 Localization workshops revealed a strong need to develop a toolkit that would make UNSCR 1325, 1820 and supporting resolutions accessible and understandable to women, women' rights activists and local authorities throughout the country. With financial support from GNWP, a coalition of Colombian CSOs designed a *UNSCR 1325 and 1820 Toolkit* to be used in subsequent Localization workshops and other training.[13]

In the Colombia toolkit, printed materials on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 are complemented by radio spots and short videos. The short videos included in the toolkit were used in information sessions on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 in the 2012 Colombia Localization workshops. Since the workshops, participants have shared the videos in their workplaces and with their families. The radio spots, which were also produced with support from GNWP, have been broadcast on community radio, thus transcending literacy barriers and reaching a far wider audience. They have led women to mobilize to demand their rights and the implementation of the resolutions in their communities. The Colombia toolkit was used in additional Localization workshops and in a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop in September and October 2013.

Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop
Good practice in training, awareness-raising and behavior change communication strategies; and fostering local ownership

An additional strategy in ensuring the sustainability of the Localization program in Colombia, a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop was held in Bogotá, the capital, in October 2013. The objectives are to develop the expertise of leading civil society actors, local authorities and indigenous leaders on the localization of UNSCR 1325, 1820 and the supporting WPS resolution; to form a pool of experts to work on localizing the implementation of UNSCR 1325, 1820 and the supporting WPS resolutions, building on related national and local policies; to enhance greater cooperation and collaboration between civil society, local authorities, indigenous leaders and other key local actors on the implementation of UNSCR 1325, 1820 and the supporting WPS resolutions; and to formulate concrete strategies to ensure the operationalization of local and sectoral action plans on UNSCR 1325 and 1820.

The majority of the participants in the ToT in Bogotá were local authorities who had attended Localization workshops in their respective departments. They were joined by CSO representatives who had also taken part in Localization workshops throughout the country. As part of the Peace Exchange (South-South Exchange), GNWP invited its members from Argentina and Guatemala to take part in the ToT and share their lessons learned and challenges in their ongoing processes to develop NAPs. Through discussions and sessions on UNSCR 1325, 1820 and supporting resolutions, training methodology and experience sharing, participants developed strategies to realize their Local Action Plans.

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[13] The organizations that developed the 1325 and 1820 Toolkit are: the Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica (CIASE, Colombia), Red Nacional de Mujeres (Colombia) and Liga Internacional de Mujeres por la Paz y la Libertad (LIMPAL, Colombia).

Voice from Colombia: *Indigenous women use UNSCR 1325 to defend their right and role in peacebuilding*

"I do not know the international laws very well. Oftentimes, one understands some of the national laws, but for us the law that we follow is the law of our ancestry, our own law. That is why when we see so many problems within our reservations, so much violence, so much persecution, so much war, one does not know what to think. The magnitude of the problems that we have had for such a long time has changed us greatly as indigenous peoples. Things are seen or are known that were not seen or known earlier; for example, brutal violence against us under the noses of our authorities and the national and international authorities. That is why talking with different cultures and branches of government are useful to us. This way, we identify the things that fail us in our lives as women. We become conscious of it and realize how our cultures also have to question themselves. Human rights cannot be a matter simply for discussion. It has to be applied.

"That is why being able to learn about our rights and, better yet, our rights in conflict situations like the ones we live in, is very important. We, as women, did not know anything about Resolution 1325. Now, we know a little bit more. We are progressing little by little. Conquering the fear … hopefully this will take our authorities and us to a better place. There is a long path ahead of us and we must follow it.

"It is not easy for us as women. Our commitment is to defend our culture, and our right to have territory and autonomy. That is why the authorities are opposed when we speak about our individual rights. But I believe that this will change. This communication must show the reality and how the balance is broken. We must help ourselves to these resolutions in order to restore our balance."

> *-- María Márquez, Participant in the Indigenous Women's Localization Workshop from Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Cauca Department, October 2012*
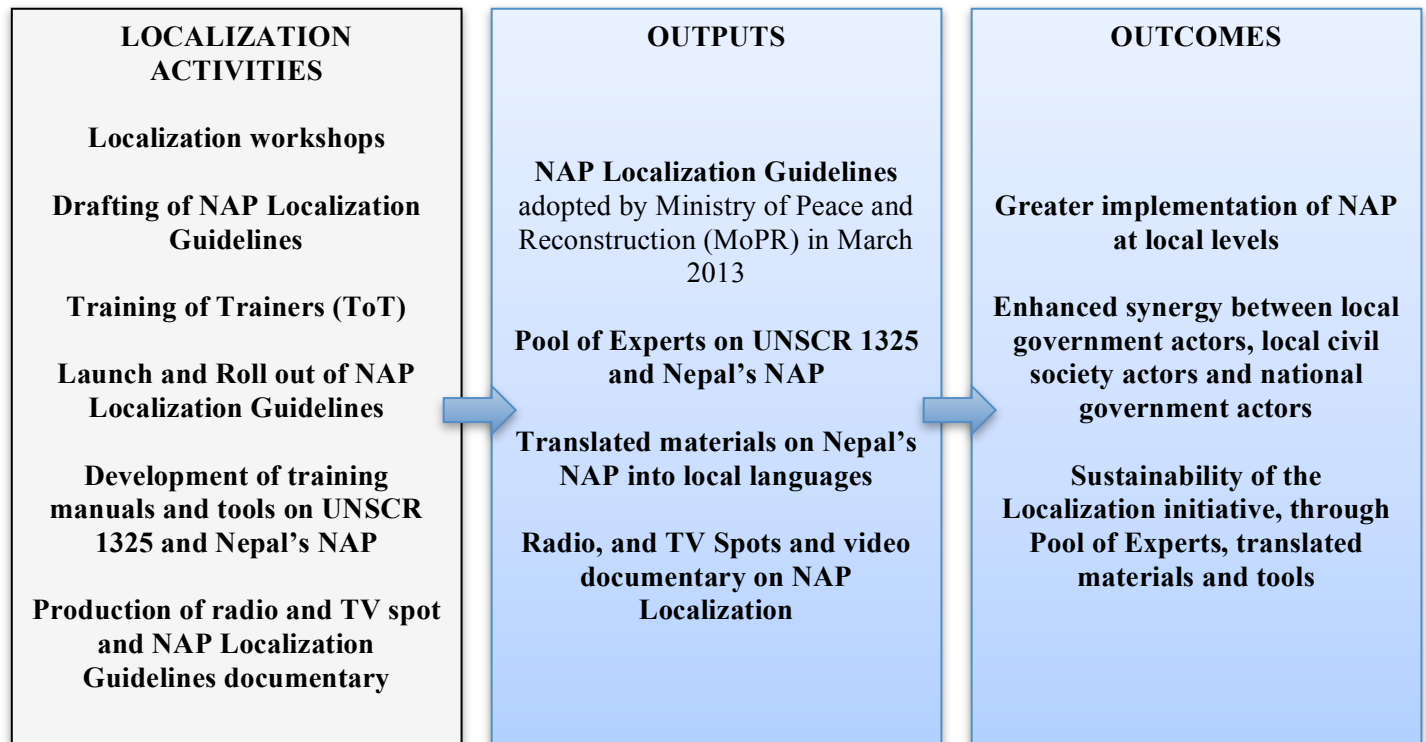
B. Good practices from Nepal

Nepal Localization program at a glance

Does Nepal have a NAP on UNCSR 1325? *Yes, since February 2011.*

Did CSOs participate in the drafting and validation of the NAP? *Yes.*

Who are the key actors/lead implementation agencies at national levels? *The lead agency is the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR). Other collaborating agencies are: Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW), Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Defense (MoD), National Women's Commission (NWC), UN Agencies, CSOs.*

Who are the key actors/lead implementation agencies at subnational levels? *District Coordination Committees, (4 CSO members out of 14 total members), CSOs, Local Peace Committees.*

LOCALIZATION ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
Localization workshops **Drafting of NAP Localization Guidelines** **Training of Trainers (ToT)** **Launch and Roll out of NAP Localization Guidelines** **Development of training manuals and tools on UNSCR 1325 and Nepal's NAP** **Production of radio and TV spot and NAP Localization Guidelines documentary**	**NAP Localization Guidelines** adopted by Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) in March 2013 **Pool of Experts on UNSCR 1325 and Nepal's NAP** **Translated materials on Nepal's NAP into local languages** **Radio, and TV Spots and video documentary on NAP Localization**	**Greater implementation of NAP at local levels** **Enhanced synergy between local government actors, local civil society actors and national government actors** **Sustainability of the Localization initiative, through Pool of Experts, translated materials and tools**

Best Practice from Nepal: Localization workshops and NAP Localization Guidelines

Good practice in training, awareness-raising and behavior change communication strategies; fostering local ownership; and collaboration among local government, national government and CSOs

The implementation of the Localization program in Nepal is well into its second component. One of the most important outputs of the Localization of NAP 1325 program in Nepal is the ***NAP Localization Guidelines***. Following the Localization workshops, experts from the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) and the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development

(MoFALD), with help from two consultants — former officials of the two ministries — drafted the NAP Localization Guidelines. GNWP and Saathi provided inputs during the drafting process, which guaranteed that civil society perspective is reflected in the document.

The NAP Localization Guidelines were pre-tested and validated during a Training of Trainers workshop and the second series of Localization workshops. Once again, this reflects the Localization program's participatory and consultative strategy, which ensured broad-based ownership and participation of the process as well as its outputs. *The NAP Localization Guidelines now serve as valuable instructional material to guide Village and District Development Committees as well as local peace committees in integrating the NAP in their local development plans. The NAP Localization Guidelines is a key instrument that will ensure sustainability of the Localization initiative.*

The adoption of the Localization Guidelines in March 2013 also ensures *continued synergy among local government actors, local civil society actors and national government actors.* With the adoption of the Localization Guidelines, Nepal's Village Development Committees (VDCs), District Development Committees (DDCs) and Municipalities must now incorporate the NAP activities in their local planning programs for conflict-affected women and girls. These activities, which are in line with the NAP, are to be implemented in consultation with municipality/VDC level peace committees. The NAP Localization Guidelines also put forth that District Coordination Committee, sectoral bodies or CSOs must make the necessary financial and technical support available to respective municipality and VDC for the implementation of these projects.

In his foreword to the NAP Localization Guidelines, the Secretary of the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction emphasized the *importance and potential of the Guidelines in NAP implementation from the bottom-up*: "I am confident that this [the Localization Guidelines] will prove useful in integrating the NAP into local plan formulation process. Further, in order to address the urgent concerns of conflict affected women and girls, it is necessary to simultaneously work with both the bottom up and top down approach. This Guideline, I hope, will be helpful in this regard."[14]

Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop
Good practice in training, awareness-raising and behavior change communication strategies; and fostering local ownership

As a follow-up to the Localization workshops and to validate the NAP Localization Guidelines, a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop was organized by GNWP member Saathi in August 2012. *The ToT has been an important strategy for awareness-raising and capacity building, generating momentum for the localization of the NAP and the Localization Guidelines while training a pool of experts in UNSCR 1325/NAP implementation at the local level to ensure the sustainability of the Localization program.*

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[14] Dharanidhar Khatiwada, Secretary of MoPR, "UNSCR 1325 Localization Guideline," Kathmandu: Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation, March 2013.

In the first ToT workshop organized in Nepal by GNWP and Saathi in 2012, participants gained the needed expertise and familiarity with the NAP Localization Guidelines to integrate a NAP Localization Guidelines component to all future trainings on Women, Peace and Security. *The ToT in Nepal has had an impressive multiplier effect: participants in ToTs have held their own Localization workshops, and other CSOs have organized a number of ToTs.* For example, CSO Sankalpa has conducted 10 ToT at regional levels targeting CSO members. Since these ToTs, participants have held 42 VDC localization workshops. Radhika Sapkota, a CSO representative from Dhading who participated in a ToT in Kathmandu in April 2013, felt greater responsibility in taking an active role in raising awareness of the NAP 1325 in her own community: "After taking the ToT, I feel that raising the awareness of more people on the NAP is now our responsibility," she said. "I am really happy to be part of this great process."

Video documentary on NAP Localization and NAP Localization Guidelines
Good practice in training, awareness-raising and behavior change communication strategies; and fostering local ownership; tools for implementation;

Saathi has developed a documentary on the Localization program in Nepal and the development of the NAP Localization Guidelines. This documentary was shared with policy makers and DCC members during a Localization Guidelines launch in April 2013. Since then, *the film has been used to raise awareness of the Localization program and the guidelines as well as to promote the guidelines' use throughout the country.*

Translations of NAP materials in local languages
Good practice in tools for implementation and fostering local ownership

In Nepal, the resolutions have been published in English and Nepali and training manuals on WPS resolutions are also available in Braille. Translations of the NAP and NAP informational booklets in Magar, Tamang, Maithali, Bhojpuri, Newari and Tharu — an initative of the MoPR — will further enable local CSOs to hold Localization workshops on UNSCR 1325 and 1820.

Radio and video spots on women's participation in governance
Good practice in tools for implementation and fostering local ownership

In Nepal, the government and CSOs jointly produced radio spots advocating women's meaningful participation in governance and video spots calling for women's 33 percent participation in the Constituent Assembly (CA). These media productions were broadcast nationally and reached over 3 million radio listeners and television viewers. These important awareness-raising and advocacy tools were also shared with the participants in the Localization workshops.

Upward information flow
Good practice on how information travels

The Localization of NAP 1325 program ensures upward information flow from the local to the national and global levels. This is critical because some principal national actors responsible for upward information flow rely on the sharing of information and feedback for their work from participants in the localization workshops and the ToT. These actors are the MoPR, MoFALD and Saathi, who work with their national constituents, as well as GNWP, which works with its members and partners globally. ***Upward information flow that is taking place through the Localization program is critical because it allows the voices of local populations to be heard and solicits greater accountability from the governments and the global policy community.***

Voice from Nepal: *The Localization workshop raises hopes for women in Nepal*

"The Localization program in Nepal with the active participation of district partners has raised great hopes. The post conflict period was not able to address the concerns of women and girls victims and they are still not able to speak out openly about their problems. The experience sharing and knowledge gained at the TOT program has helped us to raise women and girls' concerns at the VDC and DDC level and also to encourage them to voice their concerns based on their rights. This program has also taught us that the collaboration between NGOs and the government is essential for the effective implementation of NAP. We now engage with the local government entities at the time of formulating their annual plans to ensure that the concerns of women and girls are incorporated.

"The series of 1325 NAP workshops and TOTs that I attended including pre testing at the VDC level has helped to enhance my conviction and capacity to empower and mobilize women and girls of the local community to advocate for their rights and security. With my increased capacity and knowledge I am now approached by many other NGOs besides Saathi to provide training at the local level. Prior to the Localization workshops and ToT, I used to think that 1325 was a UN jargon that is not relevant to our concerns. But now, though it may take time, I am convinced that 1325 and its NAP are the best tool to ensure women's participation, rights and security."

> -- *Juna Gurung, Kaski district, ToT and Localization workshop participant in August 2012*
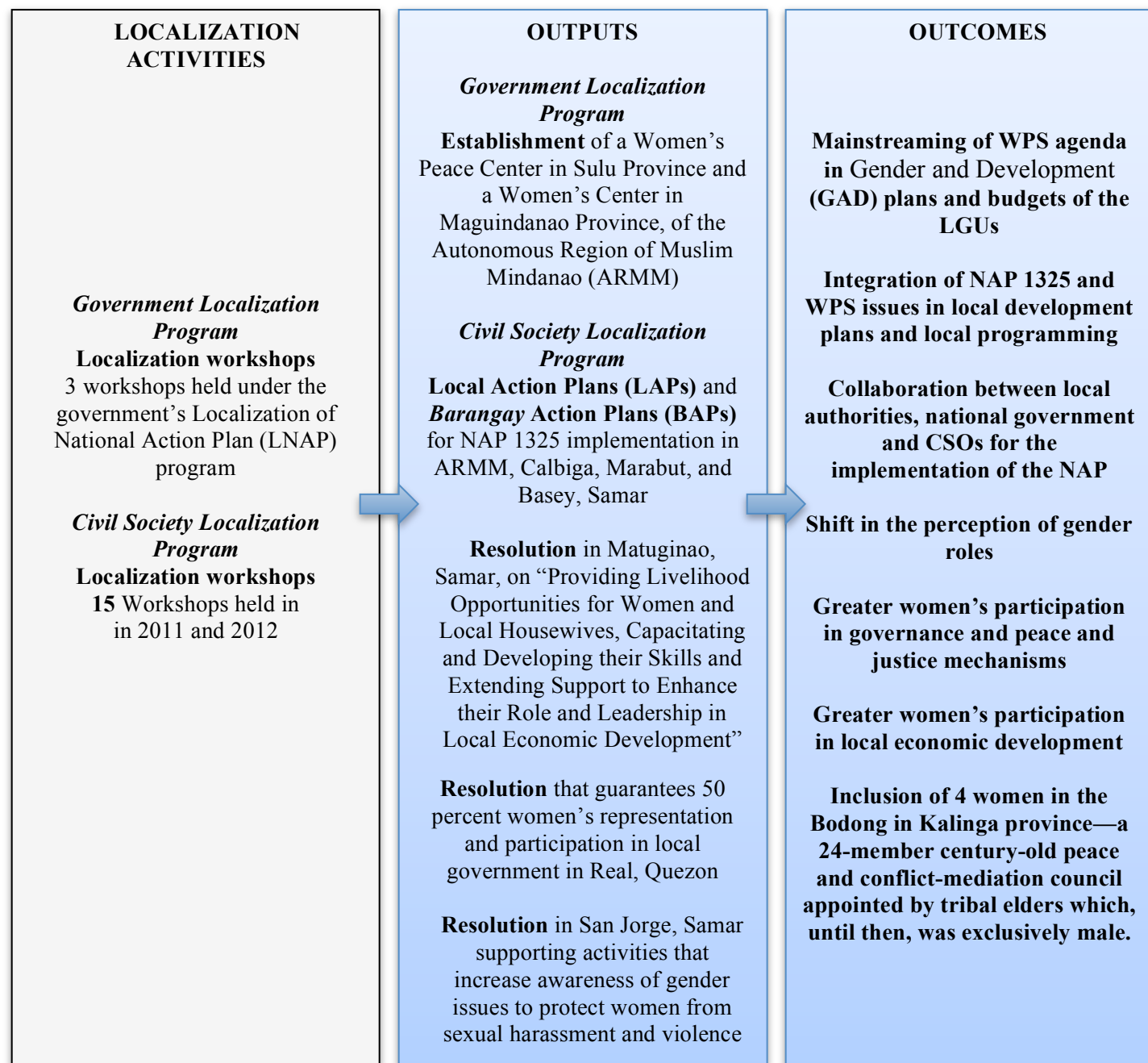
C. Good practices from the Philippines

Philippines Localization program at a glance

Does the Philippines have a NAP on UNSCR 1325? *Yes, since March 2010.*
Did CSOs participate in the drafting and validation of the NAP? *Yes.*
Lead implementing agencies/actors at national levels? *Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, (OPAPP), Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), Women Engaged in Action on 1325 (WE Act 1325)*
Lead implementing agencies/actors at subnational levels? *Local Government Units (LGUs), CSOs*

LOCALIZATION ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
Government Localization Program **Localization workshops** 3 workshops held under the government's Localization of National Action Plan (LNAP) program *Civil Society Localization Program* **Localization workshops** **15** Workshops held in in 2011 and 2012	*Government Localization Program* **Establishment** of a Women's Peace Center in Sulu Province and a Women's Center in Maguindanao Province, of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) *Civil Society Localization Program* **Local Action Plans (LAPs)** and *Barangay* **Action Plans (BAPs)** for NAP 1325 implementation in ARMM, Calbiga, Marabut, and Basey, Samar **Resolution** in Matuginao, Samar, on "Providing Livelihood Opportunities for Women and Local Housewives, Capacitating and Developing their Skills and Extending Support to Enhance their Role and Leadership in Local Economic Development" **Resolution** that guarantees 50 percent women's representation and participation in local government in Real, Quezon **Resolution** in San Jorge, Samar supporting activities that increase awareness of gender issues to protect women from sexual harassment and violence	**Mainstreaming of WPS agenda in Gender and Development (GAD) plans and budgets of the LGUs** **Integration of NAP 1325 and WPS issues in local development plans and local programming** **Collaboration between local authorities, national government and CSOs for the implementation of the NAP** **Shift in the perception of gender roles** **Greater women's participation in governance and peace and justice mechanisms** **Greater women's participation in local economic development** **Inclusion of 4 women in the Bodong in Kalinga province—a 24-member century-old peace and conflict-mediation council appointed by tribal elders which, until then, was exclusively male.**

*In the Philippines, there are currently two initiatives to localize the implementation of the NAP on UNSCR 1325. The first is a government initiative spearheaded by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) and the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW). The second is the civil-society led Localization program known as **From NAP to LAP to BAP** (from National Action Plan to Local Action Plan to Barangay Action Plan). The Best Practice examples highlighted below are from the CSO Localization program **From NAP to LAP to BAP** spearheaded by GNWP and WE Act 1325.*

Best Practice from the Philippines: Localization workshops
Good practice in training, awareness-raising and behavior change communication strategies; fostering local ownership; and collaboration between government and CSOs

In the Philippines**,** the Localization workshops held in 2012 contributed to *a shift in the perception of gender roles and to the greater participation of women in governance and peace and justice mechanisms*. This was best exemplified in Kalinga Province, where workshops were held in April 2012 in Tabuk, the province's capital. During the workshop, community women, government officials and tribal elders questioned why no woman had ever sat in the *Bodong* Council—the 24-member all-male, century-old peace and justice council appointed by tribal elders that rule on peace and justice issues in Kalinga. Calling on the participation pillar of UNSCR 1325, women participants pointed out that a large number of local women leaders are highly qualified for the role, so lack of qualifications or capacities cannot be cited as an excuse for women's exclusion from this formally recognized mechanism. This discussion led to the review of the appointment criteria, and consequently, to the inclusion of women in the *Bodong* Council beginning in 2012. Women now hold four official and two unofficial seats on the Council. Since their appointment, women of the council have raised gender concerns, such as the need to establish a women's desk in all *barangays* (villages) and to appoint a woman representative in the *Sanggunian Panglungsod*, or City Council.

The diversity of the participants invited to take part in the workshops also fostered local ownership of the Philippine NAP and the WPS resolutions. The participation of community-based CSOs in the development of the workshop program and the participants' list guaranteed that the local actors who were selected represented the diversity of a given community and adequately included the decision-makers across different sectors and institutions, both formal and informal. Besides officials from local government agencies and units, the organizers invited members of academia, faith-based institutions and community-based organizations to take part in the planning as well as in the workshops themselves. The workshop held in Matuginao, Samar, is a good example: the Mayor of San Jorge Municipality, the spokesperson of the Philippine Army 8th infantry division and women from community-based organizations all participated in the Localization workshops, whereas they would rarely have had the opportunity to come together as equals to share their concerns and impressions on the situation of women in the community.

The diversity of perspectives in the Samar workshop led to a dynamic discussion and exchange. The *Resolution on "Providing Livelihood Opportunities for Women and Local Housewives, Capacitating and Developing their Skills and Extending Support to Enhance their Role and*

Leadership in Local Economic Development" allocating USD 7,500 from the 20 percent development fund of the municipality was adopted by the participants in the Localization workshop in Matuginao, Samar. It has manifested in strong local ownership of the WPS resolutions and a sense of common purpose to better the lives of women in the community. This participatory approach also resulted in the appropriation of UNSCR 1325 and the Philippines' NAP at local levels, with the development of **Local Action Plans (LAPs)** and **Barangay (village) Action Plans (BAPs)**, the local configuration of the NAP 1325 and 1820.

In the municipality of Real, Quezon, the Localization workshops prompted local government officials to pass a ***resolution that guarantees 50 percent women's representation and participation*** in all appointive local governance positions.

Resolution supporting activities that increase awareness of gender issues to protect women from sexual harassment and violence
Good practice in training, awareness-raising and behavior change communication strategies; fostering local ownership; and collaboration between government and CSOs

In many communities and societies in general, crimes of sexual and gender-based violence are often blamed on the victim and not on the perpetrator. ***This local resolution in San Jorge, Samar, is crucial in raising awareness on how and why such crimes are committed.*** The increase on the level of awareness in local communities can contribute to ending impunity.

Translated materials on UNSCR 1325 and the NAP
Good practice in tools for implementation and fostering local ownership

Translations of the NAP and the WPS resolutions in local dialects were an important tool used during the Localization program. The resolutions and the NAP were translated by GNWP into *Filipino, Ilocano, Visayan* and *Waray*. Printouts of the NAP and the resolutions were also included in the kits given to the participants in the Localization workshops. The Philippine CSO research team emphasized that if local authorities and local women activists are to implement their country's NAP, they must have hard copies of the resolutions so that they can refer to them and identify which parts are most relevant to their contexts. The NAP and the WPS resolutions themselves are important tools to disseminate information and to guide local actors on WPS in their analysis.

Belief and Aptitude Test
Good practice in tools for implementation

To measure changes in beliefs and attitudes of the participants in the Localization workshops and other training on WPS in the Philippines, WE Act 1325, a GNWP member, has developed a Likert-type Beliefs and Attitudes survey. The survey was administered before and after the workshops and measured significant changes in the perception of the participants, especially regarding women's roles in the political and economic spheres; the need for segregated facilities for women in detention areas, prisons and evacuation camps; the importance of integrating

women's participation in local development plans; and the value of government and CSO collaboration. For instance, after the training, the participants no longer believed that women's place is exclusively in the home. The test also revealed a significant change in the participants' belief on gender mainstreaming: after the workshop, a much higher number of participants believed that local government units should mainstream gender and integrate women's participation in their development plans.

CSOs as information channels on local NAP implementation
Good practice in how information travels, and collaboration between government and CSOs

In the Philippines, as in the other four countries in this study, ***national CSO networks with member organizations at grassroots levels are important information channels for information sharing with government and fellow CSOs from global to local and from local to global***. WE Act 1325 is a network CSO that has a Secretariat coordinating all the efforts of its member organizations at local levels on the NAP. The Secretariat collates relevant information on the NAP and provides updates to members through e-mail, text messages and face-to-face meetings. WE Act 1325 has taken on the task of sharing information on the Localization program and local NAP implementation with government actors at both local and national levels. We Act 1325 also updates partner government agencies through text messages and e-mails, in addition to holding regular information-sharing sessions on NAP implementation, and it sends updates to GNWP on the Localization program and the overall implementation of the NAP in the Philippines. GNWP then disseminates the information to its members worldwide and to global policy makers. GNWP also facilitates spaces for WE Act 1325 so that the group can present its achievements as well as gaps and challenges in implementing the NAP at the national and local levels to the international community.

Voice from the Philippines: *Localization workshops empower local women to speak out for their participation in peace processes*

"NAP 1325 localization has greatly influenced my outlook on many things, especially on the role of women. As a member of the indigenous people in the northern part of the Philippines, the Province of Kalinga, it is very difficult if not impossible for a woman to join a peace negotiation panel. The dominant culture says that women have secondary roles in almost everything, especially in decision-making and peace negotiating. Most of the time, a woman's role is in the kitchen, cooking or preparing food for the peace negotiators or just merely sitting as observers or listeners. Our indigenous peace mechanism, the *Bodong* (peace pact) is male dominated. This century-old mechanism is male dominated. In fact, of the 2,000 recorded peace-pact holders, there is only one woman.

"Through the series of NAP 1325 localization seminars and workshops that I attended and coordinated, my self-confidence has been increased to the fullest. Yes, it may be true that I used to have self-confidence before the NAP 1325 localization workshops, but there were many times

when I was hesitant or even apprehensive to speak out in community meetings that were male dominated, especially if the participants are considered to be the wisest people in the community, the elders. A woman leader, a peacemaker and a peace negotiator is generally frowned upon by most elders, but through NAP 1325 I am now more challenged to continue and persevere to coordinate, to lead and to encourage the women in our community to participate in peace negotiations, especially now that I am also aware that there is a national legal mandate, the NAP 1325. Challenged by the NAP 1325, our institution also added peace education as a subject in the school curriculum, with UNSCR 1325 as one of the main topics.

"Lastly, I am even more motivated to continue disseminating NAP 1325, knowing that there are women, nationally and internationally, who are very supportive of this initiative. Through my involvement in the Localization program and in the overall implementation of NAP 1325, I learned that we can also use other instruments on women's rights such as *CEDAW. Women will be more empowered if we use these instruments and violence against women will continue if empowered women do not act!"*

    -- Therese Grail C. Lawagan, Ph.D., St. Louis College of Bulanao, Kalinga, Philippines
    Member of WE ACT 1325 and participant in localization workshops

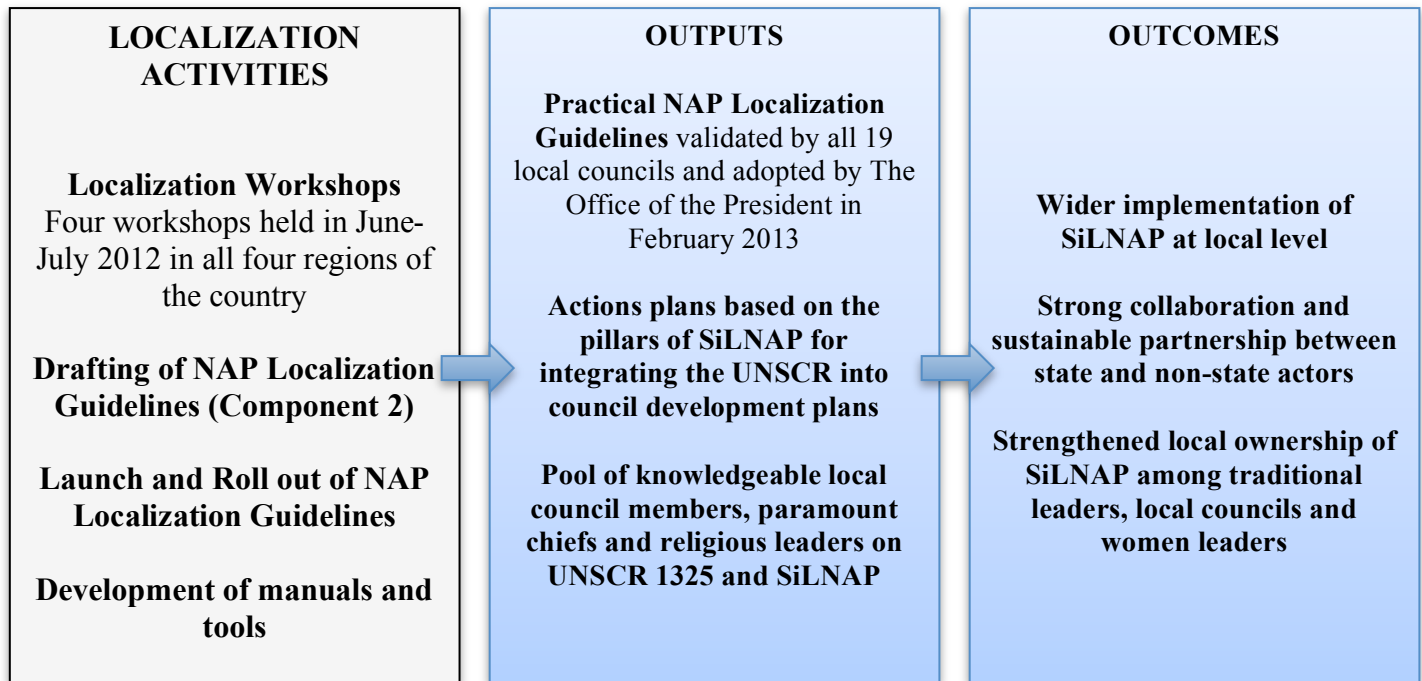### D. Good practices from Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone Localization program at a glance

Does Sierra Leone have a NAP on UNSCR 1325? *Yes, since March 2010.*
Did CSOs participate in the drafting and validation of the NAP? *Yes.*
Who are the key actors/lead implementation agencies at national levels? *Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA), CSOs*
Who are the key actors/lead implementation agencies at subnational levels? *Regional and district level steering groups (not yet formed), CSOs*

LOCALIZATION ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
Localization Workshops Four workshops held in June-July 2012 in all four regions of the country **Drafting of NAP Localization Guidelines (Component 2)** **Launch and Roll out of NAP Localization Guidelines** **Development of manuals and tools**	**Practical NAP Localization Guidelines** validated by all 19 local councils and adopted by The Office of the President in February 2013 **Actions plans based on the pillars of SiLNAP for integrating the UNSCR into council development plans** **Pool of knowledgeable local council members, paramount chiefs and religious leaders on UNSCR 1325 and SiLNAP**	**Wider implementation of SiLNAP at local level** **Strong collaboration and sustainable partnership between state and non-state actors** **Strengthened local ownership of SiLNAP among traditional leaders, local councils and women leaders**

Best Practice from Sierra Leone: Localization workshops and NAP Localization Guidelines
Good practice in training, awareness-raising and behavior change communication strategies; fostering local ownership; and collaboration among local government, national government and CSOs and tools for implementation

The *NAP Localization Guidelines* are the most important output from the implementation of the Localization program in Sierra Leone. Following the four regional localization workshops in Sierra Leone in 2012, the Decentralization Secretariat (DecSec), under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD), drafted the Guidelines for the Alignment and Harmonization of Sierra Leone's National Action Plan (SiLNAP) on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 with the Local Development Planning Process in Local Councils. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA) and women's organizations in Sierra Leone

provided input and supported the drafting process. The Guidelines, which include sections on the Sierra Leone National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 (SiLNAP) as well as on the local planning process, are intended *to support the Local Councils as they integrate SiLNAP and the women and peace and security agenda into their local development plans.*

Before the adoption and launch of the guidelines, the draft was validated at a national meeting. Participants from the first set of workshops, including councillors from all 19 councils, paramount chiefs, district administrators and civil society leaders gave input and suggestions for revisions. The revised guidelines were launched and distributed on February 8, 2013, at a ceremony in Freetown, the capital. To achieve the broadest level of ownership, all local council chairpersons and chief administrators (the political and administrative leadership) attended the launch, along with civil society and national political leaders, including the Office of the President. In his speech, Dr. Richard Konteh, Chief of Staff in the Office of the President, emphasized the important role of the councils when operationalizing the Guidelines: "I have no doubt whatsoever, that these guidelines will ensure that we mainstream these resolutions into our development processes and I hope that the local councils will help actualize this work within as short time as possible."[15] To fully operationalize the guidelines, trainings and roll-outs in all districts are planned for 2014.

Local Action Plans
Good practice in training, awareness-raising and behavior change communication strategies; and fostering local ownership

Based on the pillars of SiLNAP, *action plans for integrating the WPS resolutions into local council development plans and drafting of bylaws* were developed during the regional localization workshops in Bo, Kenema, Kissy and Makeni districts. By identifying community priorities, the action plans were intended to serve as a first step toward the development of the NAP Localization Guidelines. When the roll-out begins in 2014, these action plans will be these action plans will be reassessed to ensure the Guidelines are fully realized.

Commitments
Good practice on how information travels

Individual commitments regarding implementation of the WPS resolutions were made during the Localization workshops; for example, briefing colleagues, councillors and paramount chiefs on the WPS resolutions and SiLNAP; promoting zero tolerance toward SGBV, starting in the workplace; and popularizing the WPS resolutions in religious sermons and encouraging colleagues in the Christian and Muslim faiths to do likewise.

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[15] Dr. Richard Konteh, Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Launch of "Guidelines for the Alignment/ Harmonization of Sierra Leone's National Action Plan (SiLNAP) on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 with the Local Development Planning Process in Local Councils," February 8, 2013.

Voice from Sierra Leone: *Paramount Chief boldly upholds women's rights*

"In implementing the principles of the WPS resolutions, we have to work in ways that are suitable for our communities. As Paramount Chiefs we play an important role in the informal justice sector, mediating and preventing conflicts between individuals and communities. I take care to address conflicts involving women diligently, and to ensure that people understand that I aim to uphold women's rights.

"I have made it a policy in my chiefdom that false claims against women seeking to divorce their husbands will not be encouraged or allowed. Wicked men would make bogus allegations against their wives; for example, that the wife stole huge sums of money from her husband, in order to keep the woman in bondage since her relatives will not be in a position to pay back. That is now a thing of the past. Also, any man who divorces his wife after the harvesting of their farm crops must now share the harvest yields as compensation to the woman. This is a new phenomenon in Nieni chiefdom. I am also working on protection issues for women, especially girl child education. Teenage pregnancy is the greatest threat that is frustrating parents in sending their girl child to school. To minimize this in my chiefdom, I took it up with the chiefdom committee and we recommended serious fines for those in the habit of impregnating girls. We made it clear also that parents who attempt to protect defaulters for their own interest will be reprimanded. This seems to be yielding fruits as there has been no report in this vein since."

"From my research, there are just four applicants [for current vacancies] in Koinadugu, all of whom I think should be given a try since they are not allowed to serve as town, section nor paramount chiefs… I am also currently working on a bridge project through community effort in my chiefdom, in response to a plea made by women to ease their problems of getting their crops to market centers as a means to empower them economically. The project is not yet complete but we will continue in the coming dry season.

"I am happy with these phenomenal successes so far from the localization of Resolution 1325 and 1820 in our NAP in Sierra Leone."

> *-- Foday Alimamy Umaro Jalloh III is the paramount chief of Nieni chiefdom in a remote rural area of Koinadugu District, Northern Province. Jalloh attended the localization workshop in Makeni in June 2012.*
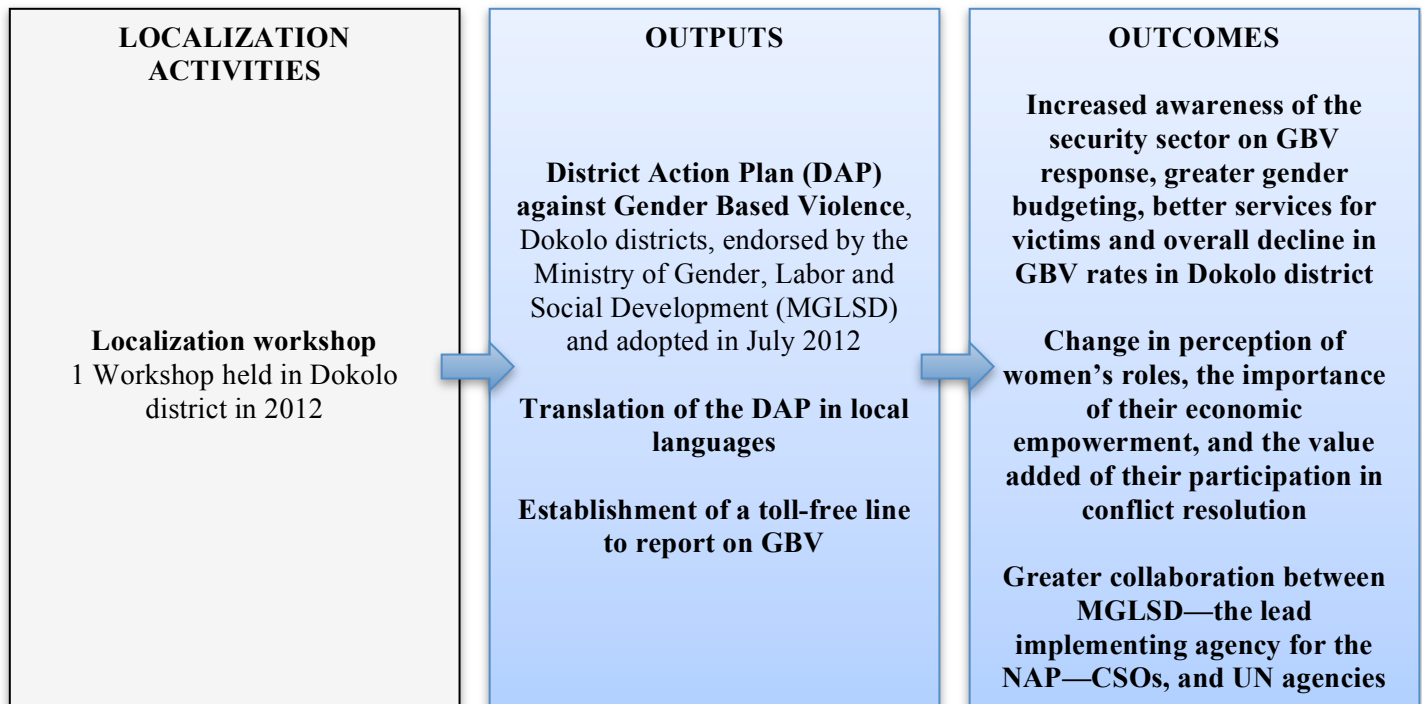
E. Good practices from Uganda

Uganda localization program at a glance

Does Uganda have a NAP on UNSCR 1325? *Yes, since December 2008.*
Did CSOs participate in the drafting and validation of the NAP? *No civil society participation in the 2008 NAP development process. However CSOs were active in the 2011 NAP revisions process.*
Who are the key actors/lead implementation agencies at national levels? *Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MGLSD) Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MFPED), International Organizations and Partners, CSOs.*
Who are the key actors/lead implementation agencies at subnational levels? *Local Government (District Community Development Officers (DCDO), under which a Gender Officer and Probation and Welfare Officer operate, are supposed to implement certain NAP provisions locally), CSOs.*

LOCALIZATION ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
Localization workshop 1 Workshop held in Dokolo district in 2012	**District Action Plan (DAP) against Gender Based Violence**, Dokolo districts, endorsed by the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MGLSD) and adopted in July 2012 **Translation of the DAP in local languages** **Establishment of a toll-free line to report on GBV**	**Increased awareness of the security sector on GBV response, greater gender budgeting, better services for victims and overall decline in GBV rates in Dokolo district** **Change in perception of women's roles, the importance of their economic empowerment, and the value added of their participation in conflict resolution** **Greater collaboration between MGLSD—the lead implementing agency for the NAP—CSOs, and UN agencies**

Best Practice from Uganda: Localization workshop and Dokolo District Action Plan
Good practice in training, awareness-raising and behavior change communication strategies; fostering local ownership; collaboration among local government, national government and CSOs; and tools for implementation

The Localization workshop piloted by the Center for Women in Governance (CEWIGO) in 2012 in Dokolo district, Uganda, contributed to **the local appropriation of the NAP by Dokolo local authorities and to improved collaboration between national and local actors responsible for**

the NAP implementation in the country.[16] Having identified gender-based violence (GBV) as a priority issue in their communities, local authorities, traditional leaders, religious leaders and CSO representatives participating in the Localization workshops developed a *District Action Plan (DAP) against Gender Based Violence*, which was officially endorsed by the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MGLSD) and adopted in July 2012. With a clear framework and budget, the DAP outlines the responsibilities of the local government offices in gender programming, budgeting and monitoring, requiring local CSOs and local government to harmonize their activities for better outcomes. Since its adoption, the DAP has led to increased awareness of the security sector on GBV response, better services for victims and an overall decline in GBV rates in the district. CSOs and local governments are better equipped in assisting victims of GBV in accessing medical services, facilitating victims' access to Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) and caring for fistula.[17]

As in the Philippines, the Localization workshop in Dokolo contributed to a *change in the perception of women, their roles in the community, the importance of their economic empowerment and the value-added nature of their participation in conflict resolution.* At the launch of the DAP, the Dokolo district chairperson explained how his participation in the workshops has influenced his opinion of women: "I have come to believe and understand that women are honest and hard working, they have eyes for the whole communities unlike us men. . . . For a woman, every girl in the community is like her daughter, they till the fields, they teach the young ones to behave, they bury the dead, they nurse the wretched ones, don't forget they are responsible for shaping the human character, because they stay in deep relationship with children."

Engaging men in the localization workshop and creating male GBV champions has been greatly successful in reducing resistance and building alliances between women and men. Male participants in the Localization workshop supported women leaders to develop the District Action Plan to address gender-based violence in their communities. Men in Dokolo district are members of Child Protection Committees, the district GBV Working Group and even the national level GBV working group (which has 5 men out of 15 members). Working with Lango cultural leaders on implementing the Dokolo DAP has often made it easier for men to appreciate the important role women play in leadership and governance, in protecting the girl child, in preventing GBV and in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Throughout their entire lives, most men in Dokolo district have been socialized to be superior to men. While the initial changes in attitudes as described above may not be totally egalitarian, it is the first step in terms of men valuing women's contributions to society. It is hoped that more positive changes in socio-cultural attitudes towards women will come about as local communities engage more in dialogues similar to those of the Localization workshops.

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[16] The Localization workshop in Dokolo was piloted by CEWIGO with technical support from the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MGLSD) and in partnership with the Dokolo district local government.
[17] Interview Rebecca Mwima, Town Clerk, Dokolo Town Council, June 2013.

Translated Dokolo District Action Plan
Good practice in training, awareness-raising and behavior change communication strategies; fostering local ownership; and tools for implementation

The Localization workshop piloted in the Dokolo district provided a propitious setting to also enhance knowledge among traditional leaders, women leaders and the community. The fact that the ***Dokolo District Action Plan was translated into Lango and Acholi languages allowed for greater understanding and ownership of the plan.*** It also facilitated its dissemination, in and beyond the Dokolo district, to serve as a model elsewhere in the country.

CSOs as information channel on local NAP implementation
Good practice in how information travels, and collaboration between government and CSOs

As in other countries, ***CSOs in Uganda are an essential conduit for information on NAP implementation at local levels.*** Nationally, most information-sharing on the NAP and UNSCR 1325 implementation takes place though the Uganda 1325 coalition, a multistakeholder coalition comprised of CSOs and CBOs, district local governments, faith-based organizations, academics, the media and government ministries and sectors coordinated by the Center for Women in Governance (CEWIGO). Regionally, the East African Community 1325 online hub is a useful platform to share the outputs and outcomes of the Localization program. Globally, the annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the annual anniversary of UNSCR 1325 events in New York present opportunities for CSOs working on NAP Localization to present their country findings, obtain international level reports and other relevant information and enable women's voices from the grassroots level to reach high-ranking UN and country officials.

Voice from Uganda: *District Action Plan (DAP) on UNSCR 1325, developed as a result of the localization workshops leads to greater gender budget allocation in Dokolo district*

"The district's implementation of the Dokolo District Action Plan (DAP) on the NAP 1325 has resulted in an increase in gender budget allocation from 0.03 percent of the total district budget in the 2012-2013 financial year to 7 to 8 percent this financial year (2013-14). In addition, all CSOs working in Dokolo district now have to show commitments to fight gender based violence by implementing some of the strategies in the DAP and to help women participate in governance and decision making through different approaches. For example, the Youth Social Association – a CSO that aims to improve girl-child education in the district as an implementation strategy – received copies of the DAP and as a result, the Association now works with the police to make sure that no school-age child is at home or working as a laborer in town councils, as a maid in homes.

"As a result of the DAP, there is increased peace in homes, well-functioning schools and health centers and more productive farms, and women have money to save. This has led to the formation of a savings and credit organization (SACCO) known as BOLICAP, where each

member of the group saves 15 US cents a day, or just over 1 US dollar a week. The women can access their savings or take a small loan using their savings as collateral after giving verifiable information on a project they intend to undertake. Members are encouraged to borrow to start an income-generating projects, to pay school fees for their children, or to meet an urgent family need. If a member reports that her husband is demanding money for drinking, the members will not release the funds. If the woman is mistreated by the husband because she has failed to give him money for drinking, the police will intervene. Since the police was party to the development of the District Action Plan, they are knowledgeable and helpful when they respond to sexual and gender based violence.

"[Following the adoption of the DAP], the district also held a dialogue on issues affecting women and sought solutions among community members. The dialogue was held at the town council hall (Local level III), where there has been a number of gender related violence instances. The district has agreed to hold a yearly dialogue to be held right before the International Women's Day on the 8th of March. This will be hosted in a different sub-county each year. The intent of the dialogue is to seek solutions to issues that affect women, children and community members; develop communally agreed-upon strategies with all stakeholders; and ensure that a gender perspective informs the next district development plan and budgets."

-- Rebecca Mwima, participant in localization workshops in Dokolo and technical officer designated by the District to chair the District Action Plan Task Force

III. Challenges and Obstacles

Although challenges and obstacles vary from country to country, the ones below were commonly found to hinder the full and effective implementation of UNSCR 1325, 1820 and NAPs at subnational levels across the five countries in this background paper.

Lack of political will

The Localization program's objectives and design are meant to foster government ownership and political will from the start. Through awareness and knowledge-raising work on the resolution and relying on local governments' mandate and responsibility to implement laws locally, the Localization workshops have been largely successful in garnering the active support and participation of local authorities and other local leaders. Yet, limited political will becomes apparent in the follow-up to the Localization workshops, when it is time to implement Local Action Plans or to operationalize certain local government mechanisms to ensure effective implementation in local communities. Additional Localization workshops, Training of Trainers workshops (in which local authorities participate) and CSO follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of Local Action Plans are therefore crucial in sustaining and enhancing the political will of local authorities and traditional leaders to honor their commitments to implement the Local Action Plans in their communities.

Frequent changes in local leadership

Frequent changes in local leadership affect the sustainability and monitoring of the Localization program. Elected or appointed local government officials have relatively short terms, and there is a tendency for programs to be discontinued when there is a change in leadership, especially if newly elected officials come from a different political party than their predecessor. Frequent changes in local leadership mean that Localization workshops must be held regularly, with local authorities *as well as* traditional leaders, civil servants, grassroots women's groups, local police and military and religious leaders, all of which have fewer turnovers. Facilitating the Localization workshops and other spaces for dialogues between local authorities and the local leaders is one way of soliciting accountability, as it makes the local authorities aware that their constituents are watching them and holding them accountable to existing laws and policies. Their regular participation in Localization workshops and involvement in the development of Local Action Plans and Localization Guidelines can ensure that local policy frameworks on WPS resolutions are institutionalized and thus sustainable.

Limited and unpredictable funding

Limited political will in the follow-up and implementation of resolutions, guidelines, local actions plans and other outputs of the Localization workshops are tightly linked to funding. The reluctance—or inability—to budget for follow-up implementation activities or for the replication of Localization workshops is an indicator that WPS issues do not have earmarked budgeting and

are therefore low priority. It is also an indication of the importance of further Localization work after the first step of holding Localization workshops in a handful of pilot communities.

Lack of funding is not limited to the lack of earmarked WPS funding in local (municipal, district, departmental) budgets. Funding is also a challenge for national and local civil society organizations that aim to replicate Localization workshops in other communities/regions of a given country. Although national networks and global networks like GNWP assist local CSOs in resource generation, applying for funds is a rigorous process, at times beyond the capacity of the community-based organizations that are doing most of the monitoring and follow-up activities of the Localization workshops. Furthermore, competition among civil society organizations over resources and competing program priorities within local government units have become impediments to carrying out the Localization program. The recent global financial crisis and policies of some donors have impacted how governments and CSOs function. Among CSOs, it has created some divisions. Among governments, it has resulted in lower prioritizing of some programs. Programs with women or gender components often go to the bottom of the list for implementation.

IV. Conclusion

GNWP's Localization of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 program translates the rhetoric of the women and peace and security resolutions into actions that make a difference in the lives of women, men, girls and boys in conflict-affected communities in Colombia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sierra Leone and Uganda. This background paper illustrates how the program directly engages local authorities, traditional leaders and grassroots women's groups in implementing the resolutions in communities. It also provides examples of how women and peace and security commitments are mainstreamed in local policy development and planning processes.

The guiding principles in this people-based, bottom-up approach to policy making and implementation, which emphasizes local ownership and participation, are straightforward and effective. When local populations understand government functions and take part in developing policies, they actively contribute and help shape the relevant outcomes that affect their everyday lives.

For example, there is the Paramount Chief in Sierra Leone who tells his chiefdom that violence against women and girls is unacceptable and that perpetrators will be severely punished. There is the indigenous woman leader in Colombia who raises awareness in her community on how the application of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 can be used to protect the individual and cultural rights of indigenous people. In the Philippines, another indigenous woman has successfully led community lobbying that resulted in tribal leaders including women in the otherwise all-male, century-old traditional peace and justice council. After attending a Training of Trainers program on UNSCR 1325 and 1820, a civil society leader in Nepal now travels to local communities to conduct training on the resolutions. All these people make up GNWP's partners in the Localization of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 program, and their powerful stories of narrowing the gap

between global policies and local implementation reflect the vital work going on now and continuing in the future.

Other CSOs and local government units in different countries, including Burundi, DRC and Liberia, are also implementing the Localization program in ways that reflect their particular sociocultural and political realities. Such replication and adaptation proves the catalytic nature of the Localization program.

The Localization program has challenges, of course. For example, the lack of political will to implement international policies is common. For most local authorities, this is the first time they have participated in discussions on international resolutions and how to integrate them in their work. This is especially so if they have not been involved in the development of the NAP. Changes in leadership after an election or new appointments can also derail the Localization process. This often happens when civil servants or midlevel local bureaucrats are not fully trained to ensure continuity of policy implementation from one administration to another. Limited resources are a challenge experienced in all of the countries where the Localization program is carried out. This paper presents recommendations to overcome these challenges.

This paper also provides an important contribution to the Global Review of the implementation of women and peace and security resolutions, as it proposes an innovative approach, having a direct impact on the lives of the women and girls. It is crucial to continue the sharing of good practices of the Localization of the WPS resolutions, and to build on the implementation strategies that work.

V. Recommendations

To further advance the Localization and implementation of WPS resolutions, NAPs and other national WPS policies, the following recommendations, drawn from experiences in Colombia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sierra Leone and Uganda, are outlined:

To national government and local government actors
1. Adopt the Localization program as a strategy for UNSCR 1325 and 1820 and NAP implementation, since it has proven effective in furthering the implementation of the WPS resolutions and has had a positive impact on the lives of women and girls;
2. Participate in Localization workshops, Training of Trainers workshops as well as in the drafting and validation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 /NAP Localization guidelines;
3. Provide funding or counterpart funding for the implementation of the Localization workshops, Training of Trainers workshops and the development of Localization guidelines through WPS budgeting at national and subnational levels; and
4. Endorse, launch and roll out UNSCR 1325 and 1820/NAP Localization guidelines for the implementation of UNSCR 1325/NAP at subnational levels.

To Civil Society organizations

1. Advocate to adopt the Localization program as a strategy for UNSCR 1325 and 1820 and NAP implementation at subnational levels;
2. Build alliances among different civil society organizations to jointly and more effectively raise resources to implement the Localization program;
3. Strengthen collaboration, coordination, communication and consultation with other CSOs, government ministries/agencies and national and local level agencies as well as UN entities to jointly implement the Localization program; and
4. Continue to be proactive in taking the UNSCR 1325 and 1820 and the NAP to grassroot levels through the Localization program.

To the Donor Community and UN Agencies

1. Support the Localization program that aims to increase UNSCR 1325 and 1820 and NAP implementation at local levels and creates positive impact on the lives of women and girls;
2. Support the development of more information, education and communication materials on UNSCR 1325, 1820 and the supporting resolutions, particularly those targeted to local audiences, which can be used during the Localization workshops; and
3. Establish transparent and flexible funding mechanisms for WPS initiatives, particularly those implemented in conflict-affected communities. Such mechanisms should recognize the limited capacities of community-based women's groups and CSOs in preparing grant proposals and reports. Therefore, simple and efficient application and reporting processes need to be established.

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