UNIFEM is the women’s fund at the United Nations. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programmes and strategies to foster women’s empowerment and gender equality. Placing the advancement of women’s human rights at the centre of all of its efforts, UNIFEM focuses its activities on four strategic areas:

- Strengthening women’s economic security and rights;
- Ending violence against women;
- Reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls;
- Achieving gender equality in democratic governance in times of peace as well as war.

UNIFEM was created by a UN General Assembly resolution in 1976, following a call from women’s organizations attending the 1975 UN First World Conference on Women in Mexico City.

UNIFEM’s mandate is to:

- Support innovative and experimental activities benefiting women in line with national and regional priorities;
- Serve as a catalyst, with the goal of ensuring the appropriate involvement of women in mainstream development activities, as often as possible at the pre-investment stage;
- Play an innovative and catalytic role in relation to the United Nations’ overall system of development cooperation. (GA resolution 39/125)
The United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, established by the UN General Assembly in 1996 and managed by UNIFEM, supports local organizations and governments in tackling gender-based violence. During the 10 years of its existence, the Trust Fund has supported 234 initiatives in 109 countries. Grantees have worked to prevent human trafficking in the Ukraine, put a spotlight on so-called honour killings of Palestinian women and supported female ex-combatants in Rwanda in learning ways to manage trauma. Around the world, the Trust Fund has helped to formulate and implement laws to end violence against women and ensure a more vigorous response to this widespread human rights violation. Grants have also specifically been awarded to organizations that raise awareness of the nexus between violence against women and HIV/AIDS.

UNIFEM is grateful for the support from UN Member States that have contributed to the Trust Fund: Australia, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malta, Mauritius, Norway, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom and United States of America. The Trust Fund has also received support from individual donors, the private sector and non-governmental organizations: Johnson & Johnson, Macy’s, TAG Heuer, Conrad Hilton Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, UN Foundation, World Day of Prayer (USA Committee) and Zonta International; as well as UNIFEM National Committees.
I am pleased that UNIFEM’s efforts over the past years have contributed to many important changes empowering women. Our support to reforms of the Personal Status and Family Laws in a number of Arab States has resulted in the removal of discriminatory provisions and the passage of new laws that expand women’s rights. A deepened understanding of gender-responsive budget analyses has helped governments in all regions to take a more gender-conscious approach to the allocation of public resources. New and innovative partnerships, whether with the police in Rwanda or positive women’s networks in Latin America, have opened successful ways of dealing with violence against women and the gender dimensions of the spread of HIV/AIDS.

This year, our reflections extend beyond the past 12 months: We are commemorating 10 years of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, which UNIFEM has managed since its inception, and we are taking stock of our strategic plan, the Multi-Year Funding Framework, that has guided our work over the past four years. And while we celebrate the achievements made to advance women’s rights and gender equality, we are also aware of the challenges – and opportunities – presented by a changing environment.

An independent evaluation of UNIFEM’s work over the last four years speaks for itself. The evaluators found “widespread agreement that UNIFEM is an effective advocate for gender issues and women’s rights, and that it has been able to achieve remarkable results with very limited resources.” They also found that UNIFEM is valued for its expertise not only by governments and women’s advocates, but also by its UN agency partners which recognize UNIFEM as “the” specialized UN agency on gender issues with operational capacities on which they often call when they need advice on gender-related policies or programmes. The one problem they frequently heard is that UNIFEM is often unable to respond adequately to the demand for our services due to a lack of resources.

The fact that our UN system partners consider UNIFEM to be the “go-to” place on gender issues is significant at a time when the UN itself is changing – knowing that if it is to remain a legitimate development player in the 21st century, it must stay at the forefront of efforts to assist countries in delivering on gender equality and women’s empowerment. To that end, it must be connected to a constituency at the country level to ensure that the system is responsive to the reality of women’s lives. UNIFEM, with its proven and valued operational track record, can provide this link. We stand ready to do so – to ensure that the UN can deliver as one for the women of this world.

Noeleen Heyzer

Delivering as One for Women
Meeting the Demand for Support on Gender Issues

Recent years have seen the demand for the type of technical expertise UNIFEM provides outstrip its capacity to respond. This is a real indicator of the value of UNIFEM’s support to the whole UN system, as well as a reminder of the need to ensure that UNIFEM has the capacity and resources to meet the increasing demand for its services. It is also a sign of the growing recognition that gender equality and women’s empowerment are central to achieving all of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Within the context of the ongoing process of United Nations reform to enable the UN to deliver more effectively and efficiently, UNIFEM has also shown that it takes UN reform seriously. Within the UN Development Group, which is at the forefront of efforts to improve the effectiveness of the UN’s work at the country level, UNIFEM chairs a task team on gender equality comprised of seventeen UN organizations, including UNDP. The team is testing tools that will help to enhance the accountability of UN country teams for gender equality.

UNIFEM is also active in supporting a gender equality and women’s rights perspective in the formulation of UN Common Country Assessments and Development Assistance Frameworks (CCA/UNDAF), as well as other coordination mechanisms, thereby putting women’s concerns at the heart of the UN’s agenda at the country level.

As the international community as a whole is looking into new aid modalities to increase the effectiveness of development assistance, UNIFEM has also been at the forefront of promoting increased investments in gender equality as a key to turn aid effectiveness into development effectiveness. The successful management of a pooled donor fund to foster women’s political engagement in Kenya, described in this Annual Report, shows UNIFEM’s readiness to take on new developments and turn them into opportunities for women.

UNIFEM has a vital role to play in the UN system as a driver of gender equality and women’s empowerment, as well as being the hub of knowledge and advocacy on the “how-to” of achieving these aims because, as we are all aware, to be more effective in our work for development, we must also be better at creating a fairer and more equitable world.

Kemal Derviş
When an Egyptian woman faces gender-based discrimination, be it sexual harassment in the workplace or violence at home, she can now bring her complaint to the National Women’s Complaints Office. Here, a network of pro bono lawyers, trained by UNIFEM on women’s human rights, stands ready to assist in preparing and filing her case.

The Women’s Complaints Office is part of the National Council for Women, a strong UNIFEM partner. It is just one element in a region-wide, UNIFEM-supported push for women’s human rights in the Arab States. Particular emphasis is placed on changing the Personal Status and Family Laws, which often codify discrimination against women by placing them in a subordinate position to men in private and public life. The normative framework for these reforms is the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which has been ratified by 185 countries. UNIFEM helps these countries uphold their obligations, for example by supporting efforts to harmonize national legislation with the principles enshrined in the Convention.

Throughout the ongoing reform process, UNIFEM has helped to draft new laws, undertaken research to demonstrate the compatibility of Shari’a law with CEDAW and provided training to legal professionals. A symposium for Arab Women Parliamentarians on Personal Status Laws held in Amman, Jordan, provided an opportunity to exchange experiences and analyse challenges in bringing about change.

In Egypt, there is now a law giving women the right to unilateral divorce; a nationality law enabling them to confer citizenship on children of a non-national father; and a Family Insurance System Fund to ensure the enforcement of alimony payments. Furthermore, domestic disputes are heard by specific Family Courts. And in a striking advance from 2003, when
the country’s first-ever female judge was appointed, Egypt’s judiciary now includes 31 women.

UNIFEM also supported the implementation of CEDAW in a number of other countries:

As part of its CEDAW programme in South-East Asia, UNIFEM provided training for a network of non-governmental organizations in Viet Nam. This network subsequently prepared the country’s first-ever shadow report on CEDAW implementation. Under the same programme, UNIFEM supported advocacy efforts by the Cambodian Committee to Promote Women in Politics ahead of communal elections. Women’s representation at the communal level has almost doubled: from 8 per cent in 2002 to some 15 per cent today.

Following a CEDAW workshop in Cameroon, participating lawyers from 20 law firms are citing the Convention in court. In collaboration with UNIFEM, the country’s Bar Association is now working to expand the training to all lawyers, and the Government is developing a plan to train the judiciary on CEDAW.

The scene was a courtroom in Tanzania, where the presiding judge was listening to an appellant contesting a ruling that had dissolved his marriage because he had physically abused his wife. Her complaint, he claimed, was nothing more than a simple marital dispute.

Many judges might have agreed, given deeply-rooted beliefs about marital privacy and male privilege. But this appellant had drawn then-judge Natalia Kimaro. Judge Kimaro cited Tanzanian laws and international human rights conventions to describe his actions as a form of gender-based violence. She upheld the original ruling.

Kimaro, now a High Court Justice, is one of more than 1,400 judges who have taken part in the Jurisprudence of Equality Programme run by the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ). The training provided through this programme, initiated with support from the Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, responds to the fact that while many countries have laws to prevent violence against women and have agreed in principle to uphold international human rights standards, in practice human biases as well as a lack of knowledge get in the way. After its successful start in Tanzania in 2000, the programme was extended to three Southern African countries: Botswana, South Africa and Zambia.
Investing in Women’s Needs

In Mysore, India, local residents used to trek five miles and wait two days to see a doctor at a private hospital. Since 2006, they have received medical treatment free of charge at the local government health centre. The driving force behind the much-needed clinic was a local representative, Pushpavalli. She applied the skills acquired at a UNIFEM-sponsored workshop on gender-responsive budgeting and convinced the municipal authorities to allocate resources for the facility.

Gender-responsive budgeting examines how the allocation of public resources benefits women and men respectively. It also analyses how men and women are taxed. The training attended by Pushpavalli is part of UNIFEM’s work with governments and local organizations in four states of India to make elected representatives and civil servants aware of the advantages of including a gender perspective in the budget. In Mysore and other cities, this has led to regular meetings between local women, elected representatives and officials to ensure that women’s priorities are addressed in municipal budgets and plans.

The health centre is not the only benefit for the people of Mysore. Pushpavalli also worked with local officials to provide funding to rid the area of parthenium weeds, which were blocking the local drains. This had caused rubbish to pile up and increased the threat of disease – a concern raised by many women in the area.

In 2006, UNIFEM worked in over 30 countries to increase the application of gender-responsive budget analyses:

- In Mozambique, UNIFEM’s work on gender-responsive budgeting helped to address gender equality gaps in the country’s poverty reduction strategy. Following calls by women’s organizations to focus on violence against...
Violence is now one of the five main causes of death in Latin America. While young men remain the major victims of street violence, women in too many public spaces fear rape, murder, kidnapping or sexual harassment. Many cities lag behind in providing even basic safety measures, such as well-lit streets and sufficient policing.

In Rosario, Argentina, and Lima, Peru, the organizations CÍRCULO and Flora Tristan used a UN Trust Fund grant to pilot ways of making cities safer for women. They supported local women’s groups to brief city planners and the media on the issues women face. As a result, the city of Rosario revised municipal plans to include steps to curtail violence, such as the installation of bus shelters allowing passengers clear visibility of the surrounding area. In Lima, city officials also took immediate action by improving lighting on streets and in parks, and by fencing off empty lots.

As part of the initiative, CÍRCULO produced a guide to gender-sensitive municipal planning called Tools for the Promotion of Safe Cities from a Gender Perspective. The original project has since been expanded into a regional UNIFEM programme, with activities in Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Ecuador.

In partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNIFEM worked with government officials to ensure that funds were allocated to facilities for victims of domestic violence in police stations in all 129 districts. Public expenditure related to health and violence against women is now tracked by applying a gender perspective.

Women in the strategic plan, for example, UNIFEM worked with government officials to ensure that funds were allocated to facilities for victims of domestic violence in police stations in all 129 districts. Public expenditure related to health and violence against women is now tracked by applying a gender perspective.

n a small community of Huehuetenango in Guatemala, women are weaving their way into the global economy. Members of handicraft cooperatives are learning how to more effectively run their small street stalls and market indigenous art to the burgeoning tourism industry.

UNIFEM supports local development agencies that provide these women with the training, credit and access to markets that they need to be successful entrepreneurs. Including communities in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, the aim is to ensure that women benefit from the economic transformation of Central America.

Although 60 per cent of small businesses in the region are run by women, UNIFEM-supported research shows that their growth is hindered by a lack of technology and trade opportunities, as well as exclusion from public policy. In Léon, Nicaragua, women received assistance to form a business association to engage in negotiations with the municipal government and enhance official recognition. As a result, they were allocated significant public funds to grow their businesses and granted free transportation to facilitate their transactions.

UNIFEM is also working to influence institutions and policies at the national and regional level. It added momentum to the formation of a regional Council of Women’s Affairs Ministers that has been endorsed by the Presidents of Central America, giving the Ministers greater leverage to position women’s rights and needs in the policies that will shape the region’s economic integration.

Throughout the year, UNIFEM bolstered women’s economic opportunities and rights:

- For Egyptian women, leadership in the Egyptian General Trade Union Federation (ETUF) is an important entry point into the nation’s political and economic life. As a
RIGHT: Moulding the future of home-based workers: Improving conditions in the informal sector has been a focus for UNIFEM in Asia.

result of UNIFEM-supported capacity-building efforts, including training on negotiation skills, conflict resolution and women’s rights, the number of women unionists elected at the higher levels has tripled. At the last election, 32 women, or 7 per cent, were elected to the Executive Committee out of a total of 481 members, up from 2 per cent at the previous session.

In 2006, support in this area resulted in the submission of a bill to strengthen protection for workers in the informal economy in the Philippines. In addition, the Action Plan adopted at a regional conference for South Asia jointly organized with the Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) calls on countries to ratify International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 177, also called the Home Work Convention, collect data on home-based workers and increase their trading opportunities.

Before 2003, teenage girls and boys in Croatia could find little information in their high schools about the potential for violence in relationships. But the potential was obviously there: A survey of 600 students found that 60 per cent had experienced some form of violence in an intimate relationship.

The survey was conducted by Croatia’s Centre for Education and Counselling of Women (CESI) through a UN Trust Fund grant, with additional financing from the Croatian Government and the city of Zagreb. As the first study on a previously hidden topic, it sparked national debate and action.

CESI, with previous experience in creating courses on gender for schools, used the survey data to design a Dating Violence Prevention Programme. Thirty trained educators have since offered the programme to 2,700 students in 22 cities. A brochure and website have ensured that information about teen dating violence can be found by tens of thousands of young people across the country.

The UN Trust Fund has helped CESI move towards its overarching goal of including dating violence information in the standard school curriculum. This will be an essential part of a follow-up project funded in part by the European Commission and the Ministry of Education.
Partnering with Police

When a distraught mother discovered that her 14-year-old daughter had been repeatedly raped by her guardian, the Gender-Based Violence Desk Office at Rwandan National Police Headquarters provided help that was desperately needed. Trained in dealing with victims of sexual violence, the officers arranged for the girl’s free medical treatment, in the course of which evidence was preserved. The case was then sent to the Ministry of Justice to initiate proceedings; the accused was arrested and taken into custody. Referrals to two non-governmental organizations secured free legal advice to the victim and her family.

The Gender Desk, as it is called in short, was established through joint support from UNIFEM and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) to improve the response to cases of sexual and gender-based violence. Now, a specifically designated interview room allows women to speak in confidence with a trained officer, and incidents can be reported through a nationwide toll-free hotline. Motorcycles, provided by UNIFEM and UNDP, allow for the fast dispatch of officers, especially in rural areas.

Court statistics highlight the Gender Desk’s effectiveness: In 2006, Rwandan police referred 1,777 rape cases to the prosecution, resulting in 803 convictions. In each case, the Gender Desk helped to investigate and gather evidence.

UNIFEM advanced progress to end impunity for sexual and gender-based violence in a number of countries:

- In a landmark effort to reinforce international standards protecting women in conflict situations at the regional level, the 2006 International Conference on the Great Lakes Region adopted a Pact on Security, Stability and Development, with an integral Protocol on Ending Violence Against Women and Children. This Protocol calls for action to prevent sexual and gender-based violence, support...
“The Trust Fund is Liberia’s ally in [our] effort to end the culture of violence and impunity, so that women and girls … can enjoy their full human rights. In Liberia, currently three initiatives are benefiting from Trust Fund grants. They are helping us to implement the laws that we make. The Trust Fund grants support organizations in my country that will watch how the laws on inheritance and property and the two new laws on rape are actually implemented. Are the judgments fair? Are they applied equally in rural and urban areas? Additionally, to see that the 900 local judicial and traditional court officials can more effectively apply the existing anti-violence laws, the project is building their capacity and providing training. Another grant focuses on rural communities to strengthen women’s organizations and other groups so they can effectively monitor, document and report cases of violence against women. The project will provide important data for my government’s work on strategies and solutions. And a third effort underway informs and mobilizes people at the community level, paying particular attention to involving men and youths. If we are to change attitudes and practices, it is imperative that we offer non-violent forms of conflict resolution and that we include all Liberians.”

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary commemoration of the Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women
In 2006, almost four out of five women infected with HIV/AIDS in Ecuador were married or in long-term relationships; statistics in other countries of Latin America paint a similar picture. The reality behind these figures is a life of double discrimination: women’s low status in the region’s culture of ‘machismo’ prevents them from being able to negotiate safe sex and makes them more vulnerable to contracting HIV/AIDS; being HIV-positive stigmatizes them in myriad ways – from losing their jobs, to being denied medical treatment or even being forcibly sterilized.

Yet women living with HIV/AIDS in the region are increasingly demanding that their concerns be taken into account. ‘Nothing about us without us!’, the motto of the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW), underlines the claim that positive women know best what they need. Having supported successful advocacy by positive women’s networks in a number of African and Asian countries in recent years, UNIFEM is now assisting ICW to expand its outreach in Latin America.

Emphasis lies on opening doors to ensure that women’s voices are heard. To that end, UNIFEM convened a conference on best practices to tackle the link between HIV/AIDS and violence against women. In discussions with representatives from health and women’s ministries from the whole Andean region, ICW members reiterated the need to shape the policies that affect their lives. They called for access to treatment and health-care policies that protect them from discriminatory practices, for better information and for early education in schools. UNIFEM also facilitated a meeting with Ecuador’s National Women’s Ministry, and enabled ICW representatives to forge new alliances at the First Latin American and Caribbean Congress for Women, Girls and Adolescents Living with HIV/AIDS.

In 2006, UNIFEM also worked in the Caribbean to raise
awareness of the gendered causes and consequences of the epidemic and to influence the public policy response. Treatment, prevention, stigma and discrimination were addressed at training workshops held in partnership with National AIDS Committees and women’s ministries for people involved in policy formulation and planning. In addition, UNIFEM commissioned a gender evaluation of the National Strategic Plans on HIV/AIDS of several Caribbean countries, which pointed out shortcomings and recommended that gender experts provide assistance in reviewing these plans. To date, five National AIDS Committees have signed on to strengthening their National Strategic Plans by engaging gender experts; another five countries have committed to supporting the gender mainstreaming process.

One woman left her abusive boyfriend. Another, whose husband infected her with HIV and then forced her out of her home, started legal action against him. Both came to a new understanding of their rights after participating in a community theatre project organized by Mothertongue, a South African collective of artists and activists who believe in theatre as a tool for transformation. Women face myriad forms of discrimination involving the intersection of HIV, violence and family relationships, but strategies to address these are still relatively new. Using a Trust Fund grant, Mothertongue piloted a project in Khayelitsha, a township outside Cape Town with some of the highest rates of rape and HIV. They worked with 28 women, most of whom were HIV-positive and survivors of gender-based violence. Together, they wove their stories into eight dramas designed to challenge negative attitudes towards women and provoke reflection on change. Over two months, the group gave 12 performances. The performers developed a greater sense of personal strength that allowed them to make changes in their own lives. Within their communities, they continue to serve as sources of advice and assistance on HIV and gender violence. As a result, counselling centres have seen increased reporting of violent incidents.
ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY IN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman visited Kosovo to highlight the violence women suffered in war-time.
In Rwanda, the Forum for Activists Against Torture (FACT) has used a Trust Fund grant to work with women ex-combatants on raising awareness about women’s human rights and the devastating impact of gender-based violence, including high rates of HIV/AIDS among women.

The former fighters all had first-hand experience as both perpetrators and victims of violence. Initially, 20 women gathered in Kigali to share their own experiences, study international human rights principles and learn ways to manage trauma. The training was designed to equip participants with the skills to hold similar sessions for other ex-combatants.

Subsequent provincial sessions involved the 400 members of Ndabaga, an advocacy group comprising former women fighters from different sides. Some of the trainees have formed local women’s groups and human rights clubs, or become involved with other organizations supporting victims of violence. Others have become trainers at the Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, where they contribute essential perspectives on women’s rights and needs. For its part, FACT now reports more calls to its hotline and a higher number of cases brought to the police.

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Amplifying Women’s Voices for Peace

When UN Security Council members went on a fact-finding mission to Kosovo in April 2007, the Regional Women’s Lobby for Peace, Security and Justice in South-East Europe stood ready to make its voice heard. In an open letter, this group of senior women politicians, established in 2006 with UNIFEM support, urged the Security Council to “show resolve in ensuring women’s participation and women’s contribution in the implementation of the proposal on the future status of Kosovo.”

UNIFEM has continuously promoted women’s involvement in Kosovo’s peace process. Fostering inter-ethnic dialogue between women from Kosovo’s Albanian and Serb communities has been an integral part of these efforts. UNIFEM-facilitated visits by peace activists to the territory’s Serb enclaves have helped to allay the fear and mistrust between the two ethnic groups after the traumatic experiences of war.

To shine a spotlight on these experiences, UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman visited Kosovo in October 2006. She met with women who had been victims of sexual violence, war widows and women who are still searching for missing family members, and was deeply impressed with their resolve: “The women spoke about how violence has disrupted their lives, but they also inspired me with their determination to build a better future for themselves and their families and to claim their rights.”

UNIFEM promoted women’s peace efforts and political leadership through a number of initiatives:

- In November 2006, a coalition of Ugandan women embarked on a peace caravan from Kampala to Juba, Sudan, the site of negotiations between the Government of Uganda and the Lord’s Resistance Army. They took with them a strong call for reconciliation and the inclusion and protection of women in the process – demands that had previously been expressed in UNIFEM-supported consultations with hundreds of women in Northern Uganda. Six months later, the Agreement on Comprehensive Solutions, hailed as a first step towards a final peace accord, embodies commitments to gender equality and women’s rights, such as a reaffirmation of the new Equal Opportunities Law.

- To advance the role and number of women in political and public life, UNIFEM helped to establish the first virtual network linking women in politics (www.iKNOWPolitics.org). Drawing on a database of over 100 experts on women in politics, the International Network of Women in Politics allows users to directly field queries and to access an online library with materials from leading international institutions.
Five years after Afghanistan began its transition to democracy, the average Afghan woman has a life span of 44 years, some 20 years short of the global median. Not even one in five Afghan women is literate. Poor health and limited education impair women’s access to the paid economy – men have on average three times more money at their disposal than women. Women and girls also continue to suffer from high levels of sexual and gender-based violence, such as rape and forced or child marriage. And while the democratic process, supported by quotas, has encouraged unprecedented representation of women in politics and the civil service, the lives of most women in the country continue to be characterized by low social status and a pervasive culture of disempowerment.

The National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan, developed by the Ministry of Women’s Affairs with the support of UNIFEM, spells out the measures intended to ensure women’s security and rights and open up new opportunities for them. Among other steps, the Government commits to enacting anti-violence legislation, improving reproductive health services, ensuring access to training, employment and credit, and increasing the number of women in all spheres of the public service through affirmative action.

Implementation of the Action Plan is an integral part of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy, the country’s interim poverty reduction strategy. The Ministry of Women’s Affairs, with the assistance of UNIFEM, is responsible for ensuring that a gender perspective is applied to all government policies, programmes and budgets.
In India and other countries, women look to UNIFEM to put their needs on the UN agenda.

From Afghanistan to Tajikistan, UNIFEM supported the formulation of 18 poverty reduction strategies in 2006 and was closely involved in other coordination mechanisms developed in the context of UN reform:

- In India, the UN Development Assistance Framework includes an outcome specifically relating to violence against women, putting the issue squarely on the agenda of the UN country team in support of national development efforts. Overall, UNIFEM participated in the development of 42 Common Country Assessments and UN Development Assistance Frameworks (CCA/UNDAF) in 2006, compared to 37 in 2005.
- To analyse the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from a gender perspective, UNIFEM collaborated with the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on a series of country studies that use national statistical data to form a regional comparative report. In 2006, UNIFEM was engaged in 25 MDG processes at both country and regional level.

-facing the future: To open up new opportunities for women that ensure their security and rights, UNIFEM helped to develop the National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan.

Men are the primary perpetrators of gender-based violence. They are also critical partners in eliminating it. With support from the UN Trust Fund, the African Women’s Development and Communications Network (FEMNET) has worked in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Somaliland, South Africa and Zambia to rally men around advocating an end to violence against women.

FEMNET began this work in 2001 with the creation of a regional network of men that would help build capacity through the sharing of knowledge and experiences. Since then, the network has established a series of national chapters. They regularly reach out to the media and conduct training on gender and violence, including the link to HIV/AIDS. They also advocate changing negative male stereotypes about women and abandoning harmful sexual practices, such as wife swapping and general promiscuity, that increase the risk of contracting HIV.

In 2003, 100 men from four countries boarded buses to travel from Kenya to Malawi. Along the way, they conveyed through drama and music the vital role men can play in stopping both gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS. “As men, we need to reassess how we have been socialized,” says journalist Nelson Banda from Zambia. “We need to make positive changes and influence other men to live exemplary lives.”
All over Kenya, women’s political leadership is being built from the ground up: In 20 districts across the country, Women’s Regional Assemblies have been established ahead of the 2007 elections with the goal of mobilizing women to become engaged in politics. Convened by women who are esteemed leaders in their respective communities, the Regional Assemblies educate voters, provide training and advice to female candidates running for office and organize women to advocate for change on issues of common concern, such as HIV/AIDS and violence against women.

Support for the Women’s Regional Assemblies comes from a UNIFEM-managed basket fund, a joint funding mechanism by several donors for a specific sector. This pooling of resources is becoming increasingly common as the international community is looking into new aid modalities to enhance the effectiveness of official development assistance. The $4.2 million basket fund in Kenya has been set up by the Governments of the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom with the aim of strengthening women’s leadership in communities and at the national level. With the help of the fund, women’s groups advocate for affirmative action, encourage political parties to include a gender perspective in their programmes, and raise the profile of women candidates for the elections by engaging the media.

UNIFEM was involved in rendering new funding mechanisms more effective throughout the year:
- Following a conference on opportunities for accelerating progress on gender equality in the context of new aid
In Nepal's mountainous terrain, high illiteracy rates and civil conflict have posed daunting challenges to informing women about their right to live free from violence. In addition to domestic abuse and sex trafficking, some Nepali women face physical and mental harassment from their in-laws related to dowry. Radio broadcasts are one way of helping ensure that women understand and can claim their rights. Two NGOs, Digital Broadcast Initiative and Equal Access Nepal, in partnership with General Welfare Prathistan, secured a UN Trust Fund grant for a series of 26 radio programmes called ‘Changing Our World’. The programmes reached out to two million listeners with information about human rights, peacebuilding, stopping violence against women and HIV/AIDS.

The weekly episodes were rooted in women's everyday experiences, collected by a group of 12 rural women whom the project trained as reporters. Sixty women facilitators learned how to convene and manage community listening groups, in which 15,000 people participated across the country.

An evaluation found that knowledge about domestic violence had doubled in communities reached by the broadcasts, and subsequent action has been taken. Greater understanding of the connections between domestic violence and alcohol, for example, has led to community sanctions on excessive drinking.
UNIFEM Statement of Income and Expenditure

For the year ended 31 December
All figures included in this report are expressed in thousands of US dollars

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<th>INCOME</th>
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**The amount of $6258 is already allocated to multi-year funded projects with durations which last through 2008**
### UNIFEM Contributions from Governments and Other Donors in 2006

#### Core Funds

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**Total from Governments**: 30,257 24,870 8,161 63,288 50,217

* Less paid in 2007: (5,261) (3,947) (9,008) (940)

** Net contributions received**: 24,996 24,870 4,214 54,080 49,277

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**Total from other donors**: 2,532 963 5,177 3,495 4,336

**Grand total**: 24,996 27,402 5,177 57,575 53,613

***Includes $1 million that relates to joint programming***
GLOBAL
Building Capacity and Improving Accountability for Gender Equality in Development, Peace and Security
$ 3,339,415
Against the background of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, this joint programme with the European Commission and the InternationalLabour Organization aims to support advocacy and actions to step up investments in gender equality as key to the effectiveness of development assistance.

Supporting Women’s Engagement in Peacebuilding and Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict: Community-Led Approaches
$ 6,695,386
This project aims to support women’s efforts to prevent conflict and build peace in six countries – Afghanistan, Haiti, Liberia, Rwanda, Timor-Leste and Uganda – by fostering an environment that encourages their effective participation in community decision-making.

Women’s Election Watch
$ 231,167
To promote gender equality in politics, this project will conduct a range of activities to build the capacity of women in public office and civil society.

AFRICA
Strengthening Responses to Addressing the Feminization of Poverty in Africa
$ 301,222
This programme seeks to enhance the capabilities of female cross-border traders to generate income and contribute to development.

Promoting Women’s Participation and Access to Politics and Leadership in Nigeria
$ 275,000
This initiative has aimed to bolster the knowledge and capacity of gender equality advocates to push for the full and effective political participation of women in the 2007 elections and beyond.

Mainstreaming Gender Equality into State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies (SEEDS) in Nigeria
$ 94,345
This programme will strengthen the technical capacity of government ministries in five states to mainstream gender equality into planning, budgeting, implementation and evaluation; support civil society to engage in the formulation and implementation of SEEDS and relevant budget processes; and create a pool of local gender expertise.

ASIA/PACIFIC & ARAB STATES
Improving Protection and Support Services for Women’s Human Rights in South Asia
$ 2,963,704
This programme aims to build the capacity of law enforcement and judicial institutions to prevent trafficking; enable women and girls to obtain legal redress for rights violations; improve implementation of anti-trafficking laws and coordination in rescue and rehabilitation work; and ensure shelters provide adequate support to survivors.

Strengthening Women’s Legal Rights in Aceh
$ 1,132,150
To promote women’s rights in the context of Aceh’s law reform, this project will strengthen partnerships with government, religious and civil society leaders; provide technical assistance to ensure that the drafting of qanuns (by-laws) is informed by a gender perspective; and promote understanding of the compatibility of Shari’a law with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Promoting Women’s Role in Peacebuilding and Dialogue in Northern Iraq
$ 124,940
The two complementary components of this project are: to enhance the capacity of civil society organizations, particularly women’s non-governmental organizations, to take part in peacebuilding initiatives; and to support a number of these organizations in efforts to promote inter-ethnic dialogue to foster tolerance and diffuse growing tensions in the region.

Assistance to Family Courts for the Implementation of the Family Code in Morocco
$ 1,678,486 (joint programming)
With the reform of the Family Code, the family courts are at the centre of implementing the newly-acquired rights of Moroccan women. The project aims to enable the Ministry of Justice to improve the quality of its response and to ensure an equitable application of women’s human rights, and hence, to combat all forms of violence against women.

Functional Literacy and Women’s Empowerment in Morocco
$ 243,659
To strengthen women’s capacity to claim their rights, UNIFEM will help to mainstream gender into official literacy documents and contribute to women’s empowerment through improving their understanding of legal issues, especially in relation to family law.

Gender Equality in Local Level Planning and Budgeting in Morocco
$ 133,580
Through this initiative, gender equality concerns will be integrated into planning and budgeting processes in seven municipalities in Morocco.

Strengthening Capacity of People-Centred Development in Syria
$ 240,245
Targeting female local government staff and representatives of non-governmental organizations for training, forums and dialogues, the goal of this programme is to promote people-centred good governance and to raise awareness of women’s rights in Syrian municipalities.

EUROPE & CIS
Gender-Responsive Budgeting: Advancing Gender Equality and Democratic Governance through Increased Transparency and Accountability
$ 267,112
The aim of this programme is to promote women’s human rights through integration of a gender perspective into policy planning and budgeting processes in countries in South-East Europe. The programme will support gender equality advocates to develop knowledge on gender-responsive budgeting and to monitor allocations to inform their advocacy strategies.

Promoting Gender Equality in National Development Policies and Programmes in Moldova
$ 267,112
To promote gender equality as a pre-requisite for rights-based sustainable development, this programme will enhance national capacities in Moldova, enabling the country to realize commitments to gender-responsive good governance and poverty alleviation.

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN
Gender-Responsive Budget Initiatives in Latin America
$ 1,402,338
This programme aims to reinforce the social, political and economic rights of Latin American women by supporting gender-sensitive budgeting processes and strengthening women’s participation in decision-making.

Women, Peace and Security in Latin America
$ 1,402,338
This project will prioritize two activities: strengthening the protection of women affected by armed conflict from sexual violence; and strengthening women’s participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding processes, through consultation, assistance and training. The project will operate in Colombia with a component in Guatemala focused on developing a campaign to raise awareness of gender-based violence.

Women’s Economic Agenda in Central America – Phase II
$ 3,742,860
This project aims to promote women’s economic autonomy and rights in the Central American Isthmus through the generation of knowledge, capacity-building and public policies that tackle gender inequality in the economy.

Strengthening Young Women’s Leadership and Networking in the Southern Cone
$ 240,413
This project aims to strengthen young women’s leadership and networking skills, in order to help consolidate their political agenda and expand their opportunities to influence decision-making processes.

Mainstreaming Gender Analysis in HIV/AIDS Programming in the Caribbean: Phase II – Strengthening Sector Capacity
$ 251,000
The initiative will build on the work undertaken in its first phase, which focused on deepening the understanding of the gendered causes and consequences of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the region to ensure gender mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS programmes. The second phase of the project will focus in particular on the education, health and social sectors, and scale-up popular advocacy strategies centred on vulnerable populations.

Prevention of Sexual Violence and Protection of Victims in Haiti
$ 267,500
This inter-agency project aims to build national capacity in the areas of prevention and care for women and girls in Haiti who have suffered sexual violence, by facilitating their access to medical, psycho-social and legal assistance and educating communities about the causes and consequences of sexual violence through a communications campaign.

*This information provides details on new UNIFEM initiatives approved in 2006/2007 and does not represent the entire portfolio of ongoing programmes. The amounts quoted may represent multi-year pledges.
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<td>$154,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>Centre for Gender and Development Studies at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Since its inception, the Trust Fund has awarded $13 million in grants to 234 initiatives in 109 countries.
** As part of multi-year funding.
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