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. UNIFEM focuses its activities on the over-arching goal of supporting the implementation of existing commitments at the national level to advance gender equality. In support of this goal, UNIFEM works in the following thematic areas:

■ Strengthening women’s economic security and rights;
■ Ending violence against women;
■ Reversing the spread of HIV and 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)

To learn more: www.unifem.org/about
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Responding to New Challenges

The past year has been marked by events of deep significance to women’s lives. In June 2008, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1820 that describes sexual violence as a tactic of war and a matter of international security. This historic resolution is an essential complement to the landmark resolution 1325 on women, peace and security of 2000. Together, the two Security Council resolutions are informing UNIFEM’s work to better protect women in conflict settings and ensure that they are represented in decisions on reconciliation and reconstruction.

This Annual Report describes UNIFEM’s efforts in IDP camps in Darfur to improve women’s safety, as well as its support to the implementation of a National Plan on SCR 1325 in post-conflict Liberia.

Toward the end of 2008, the global financial crisis unfolded. The impact on women’s lives is already profound. In many developing countries, where women are concentrated in export-led assembly plants, or in countries where migrant women form the backbone of service industries, women’s jobs have taken the greatest hit. The International Labour Organization (ILO) warns that the crisis could lead to 22 million more unemployed women this year, jeopardizing gains in women’s empowerment.

Gender equality and women’s rights advocates from the Women’s Working Group on Financing for Development, supported by UNIFEM, have already begun to document the impact of the crisis. As urgently, they are trying to monitor the priorities and resource allocations in economic recovery programmes governments are starting to put into place, aware that there is a danger that women’s needs may not be sufficiently taken into account. In response to this challenge, UNIFEM’s extensive work on informing national poverty reduction strategies, as described in this Annual Report, will continue to be of great significance as a key entry point for national policies that incorporate women’s priorities.

It is becoming more and more obvious that national policies will also need to include provisions to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Women farmers in some developing countries, already hit by the economic downturn, are also being affected by global warming, as droughts and erratic rainfall exacerbate the challenges of small-scale farming and further threaten local and household food security. As a member of the Global Gender Climate Alliance, UNIFEM has stressed the importance of gender concerns in preparatory talks to shape an ambitious international response to climate change, following the Kyoto Protocol’s expiration. Addressing challenges to women’s livelihoods that are compounded by global warming and increasing women’s participation in related decision-making processes will be a growing area of UNIFEM’s work in the years to come.

Inés Alberdi

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In 2008, UNIFEM published its bi-annual flagship report, Progress of the World’s Women 2008/2009, Who Answers to Women? Gender and Accountability demonstrates that one of the most powerful constraints on realizing women’s rights and achieving
Putting Women at the Heart of the Development Agenda

Message by Helen Clark, Administrator, UNDP

One of my top priorities in my new role at UNDP is to support national and international efforts to reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals by their 2015 deadline. With my background of working for economic and social justice, nothing is more important to me.

While there has been significant progress towards gender equality, far too many women across the globe continue to live in poverty and without even the most basic rights. For them, access to water, sanitation, health care, education, and justice is elusive and persistent discrimination a reality. Women are often denied opportunities for decent employment, and they frequently have no access to credit, property and land. Violence marks the lives of many women and girls in times of both war and peace.

This calls for putting women at the heart of the development agenda. We must all redouble our efforts to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment, not only because they are very important goals in their own right, but also because they are important means for realizing all the other Millennium Development Goals.

As this report demonstrates, UNIFEM works across the globe to make a positive difference in the lives of women. Its work covers innovative initiatives, such as making transport safer for women in Mexico City, having a gender perspective inform national economic policies in Côte d’Ivoire, undertaking advocacy to ensure women’s participation in political decision-making bodies in Morocco and Nepal, and helping to secure women’s right to land in Kyrgyzstan.

UNDP and UNIFEM have a growing collaboration in many countries. This covers a range of issues, including those related to women’s economic security and rights, reducing the prevalence of HIV amongst women and girls, and putting an end to violence against women.

As the first female Administrator of UNDP, gender equality is of great importance to me, and must continue to be pursued as a core value of our organization. I am fully committed to working with our partners, within and beyond the United Nations family, towards our common goals of advancing gender equality and sustainable development for all.

Helen Clark

The report provides an assessment of the Millennium Development Goals from a gender perspective, along with chapters on politics and governance, access to public services, economic opportunities, justice, and the distribution of international assistance for development and security. In each of these areas the report details means of building state capacity—or good governance — from a women’s rights perspective.
Fostering Women’s Safety

It can happen when women step out to collect firewood, when they work as domestic servants or farm workers, or even within a stone’s throw from their living quarters in the presumed safety of the internally displaced persons (IDP) camps where they have fled. For women in Darfur, a region torn by civil strife, sexual violence is a constant threat. Fear of stigma and victimization compounds the problem and prevents many from speaking out or seeking medical treatment.

Efforts supported by UNIFEM aim to bring about change.

Partnering with the UN Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), the local police and the Sheiks, traditional tribal leaders, women in the IDP camps are being trained to protect themselves. They have received information on where to seek medical support and other services and have learned about safety measures, such as walking together in groups or carrying a whistle to use in case of attacks. Reluctant at first, the Sheiks attended the training themselves –and are now actively ensuring its continuity and taking additional steps to protect women. In Otash and Al Salam camps, they have dedicated land for the construction of women’s centres, safe spaces where women can receive counselling. Targeted outreach to men, mentoring them on becoming champions for the protection of women’s human rights, is also underway.

The UNIFEM-supported initiatives have resulted in the establishment of Child and Family Units in the police stations, and recruitment of 500 female police officers for Southern Darfur by the government. In 2009, UNIFEM’s capacity development efforts will expand to all three Darfur states and...
include training of police personnel. UNIFEM’s work on ending gender-based violence gathered momentum with the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1820 on sexual violence in armed conflict in 2008. The historic resolution describes sexual violence as a tactic of war and calls for ending it. It comes eight years after the landmark resolution 1325, in which the Security Council for the first time specifically addressed the impact of war on women and stressed women’s contributions to conflict resolution and sustainable peace. Resolution 1325 has informed much of UNIFEM’s work in conflict and post-conflict settings.

Throughout Africa, UNIFEM supported initiatives to address sexual violence in conflict and foster women’s participation in peacebuilding:

■ In Liberia, the first post-conflict country to have a National Action Plan on SCR 1325, efforts are focused on making use of specific indicators that will measure its implementation and ensure that women are included in the reconstruction of the country. Indicators to be closely monitored include the number of violence against women cases prosecuted; the percentage of women and girls seeking psycho-social and trauma counselling; and the number of women participating in peace and security decisions, for example, as peace monitors or as members of regional peace committees.

■ In Burundi, significant progress was made when the traditional judicial institution for conflict resolution, the Bashingantahe, amended its Charter to allow for the effective involvement of women. UNIFEM supported the sensitization of the Bashingantahe on women’s rights and its role in addressing violence against women. For the first time, women are now admitted to participate as judges in the judicial sessions. Following the amendment, women comprise 40 percent of the judges in each session. A direct outcome has been an increase in cases of sexual violence heard by the Bashingantahe; more women are now willing to break the silence on violence and report cases of abuse.

Breaking barriers: in Burundi, women now participate as judges in the traditional Bashingantahe courts. More cases on sexual violence are being heard.

On 19 June 2008, the United Nations Security Council voted unanimously for a resolution that describes sexual violence as a tactic of war and a matter of international security. SCR 1820 is an essential complement to the full implementation of SCR 1325 on women, peace and security. Among other provisions, the resolution:

■ Recognizes that efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence as a tactic of war may be linked to the maintenance of international peace and security – underlining that, as a security issue, it deserves a security response and therefore rightly belongs on the Council’s agenda;

■ Affirms the recognition of sexual violence in conflict as a war crime, crime against humanity and constituent act of genocide, and hence a matter that can be referred to the sanctions committee;

■ Strengthens the prohibition on amnesty for such crimes;

■ Calls for stronger and clearer guidelines to UN peacekeepers to prevent sexual violence against civilians;

■ Calls for more systematic and regular reporting on the issue; and

■ Asserts the importance of women’s participation in all processes related to stopping sexual violence in conflict, including their participation in peace talks.
Sex-disaggregated data can be a powerful tool to inform national policies and programmes. The household survey covered education, health, agricultural work, security and participation of women, and its results have informed the country’s poverty reduction strategy. For instance, the data revealed that only 1 percent of women participate in household decision-making and spend twice as much time as men on domestic work and that the illiteracy rate is at a high 63 percent for women, compared to 44 percent for men. To boost gender parity in education, increasing facilities for girls in primary schools along with awareness building for parents is planned. Similarly, support will be provided to self-employment initiatives in agro-industrial settings, with the aim of reducing the unemployment rate for women from over 19 percent in 2008 to 10 percent by 2015. The usefulness of the survey has created a ripple effect: new courses at the sub-regional École Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d’Economie Appliquée in Côte d’Ivoire are now focusing on the collection of sex-disaggregated data.
National Poverty Reduction plans are key entry points to address women’s economic needs. In 2008, UNIFEM partnered also with governments in Burundi, Cape Verde, Liberia and Rwanda to integrate a gender perspective into these national strategies. In Liberia, UNIFEM supported consultations that resulted in the inclusion of women’s economic empowerment, leadership, literacy, and ending gender-based violence in the poverty strategy.

UNIFEM is also working at the grassroots to improve women’s livelihoods. In Liberia, cassava is a staple food across the country, cultivated mainly by women, yet making a reasonable income is hampered by constraints such as the lack of business management skills, adequate processing equipment and transport to markets. As part of the Results-Based Initiatives (RBI) Programme, a joint initiative by the World Bank, International Centre for Research on Women and UNIFEM, which seeks to promote women’s economic empowerment to facilitate sustainable growth, support is being provided to the Ganta Concerns Women’s Group. The aim is to boost the entrepreneurial skills and income of the 500 members of the cassava producing association, and reduce poverty within their communities as a whole. As a result of this initiative, the group has secured user rights for more than 50 acres of land from the local government, and increased their productive capacity by more than 200 percent. Land has also been acquired to build a processing plant, which will contribute to enhancing the processing of cassava into farina, increasing the group’s income. In addition, UNESCO will provide adult literacy classes for the women. Further RBI pilot interventions are underway in Egypt, Kenya, Cambodia and Lao People’s Democratic Republic, as well as Peru.

Cutting to the core: in Côte d’Ivoire, sex-disaggregated data helped to make reducing poverty and unemployment faced by women a national policy priority.

Progress of the World’s Women 2008/2009

Girl’s Access to Education

9 out of 10 girls in the world are going to school, but some countries are still facing challenges

% total net enrolment in primary education, girls 2005

80
- Maldives, Kenya
- Oman
- Rwanda
- United Arab Emirates
- Togo, Namibia, Mozambique
- Mauritania
- Benin
- Senegal
- Ghana
- Nigeria
- Guinea
- Ethiopia
- Pakistan
- Burundi
- Congo
- Mali
- Eritrea
- Burkina Faso
- Niger
- Djibouti

Notes: The total net enrolment rate in primary education measures the proportion of children (girls/boys) within the relevant age group who are enrolled in school.
Sources: UN Statistics Division Millennium Indicators database; and UN Statistics Division database.

Hands-on support: in Liberia, UNIFEM assisted women cassava producers to boost their entrepreneurial skills and income.
For many women in Afghanistan, violence is an everyday reality. Frequently forced into marriage, often before the legal age of sixteen, women and girls face abuse on a horrific scale: statistics indicate that over 87 percent of all women suffer from domestic abuse, making the country one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a woman. With little access to education or information in the rural areas, women may also be under pressure to give up their rights to land and property. The formal justice system is elusive for many citizens, and community elders resolve land, inheritance and domestic disputes.

Since 2008, two referral centres in Parwan and Nangahar provide a safe haven and 24-hour legal advice for cases concerning elopement, divorce, domestic violence and land rights. Staffed and utilized solely by women, the centres were established by the Ministries of the Interior and Women’s Affairs, with support from UNIFEM. Nangahar records indicate a 90 percent decline in arbitrary detention of women by the police since the opening in mid 2008. The Government has committed to extend the centers to all 34 provinces in the country.

The presence of female police officers makes it easier for violence survivors to report their traumatic experiences. UNIFEM therefore supported successful advocacy that resulted in a new mandate for Afghanistan’s police forces to increase the employment of women within their ranks to 30 percent. To further enhance women’s participation in legal processes, especially in remote areas, UNIFEM also started Afghanistan’s first national paralegal programme.
Women gather for a public prayer for peace on International Women’s Day in Afghanistan, where UNIFEM helped set up referral centres and trained paralegals to expand rural women’s access to justice.

A total of 125 people, including 77 women, were trained as paralegals in five provinces in 2008 and now provide advisory services in their communities.

Improving access to justice for Afghan women, in particular violence survivors, has been a focus of other efforts: a Domestic Violence Bill that UNIFEM supported is under review by the Ministry of Justice; a database containing systematic records of violence against women cases now serves as a central repository of information for law enforcement agencies; and through the UNIFEM administered End Violence Against Women Special Fund, learning, advocacy and research are supported.

In countries throughout Asia and in the Arab States, these efforts are being echoed:

Judicial staff at Thailand’s Thonburi Criminal Court was trained in partnership with the National Human Rights Commission. The initiative is part of UNIFEM’s programme to support implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in South-East Asia. The training has led to an increased commitment to enforce the Domestic Violence Act in the court, gender-sensitive procedural guidelines for the judiciary, and re-arrangement of courtrooms using partitions and cameras, which protects the survivor from directly encountering the perpetrator.

For the second consecutive year in India, the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act is being tracked to ensure that it is effectively put into practice. ‘Staying Alive: Second Monitoring and Evaluation Report 2008’, a study published by the Lawyers Collective Women’s Rights Initiative with assistance from UNIFEM, reviews the implementation of the law. It collates information on measures undertaken by different state governments, such as specific budget allocations; evaluates court judgments; lists best practices; and identifies gaps that remain – all with a view to enhance the legislation’s application.

A law for the protection of migrant workers was developed and adopted in Indonesia’s Biltair district. The law and complementing decrees include several measures to address violence against women, including a fund to cover legal expenses for discrimination and abuse cases faced by migrant women workers and a provision to assign female doctors for medical check-ups to prevent sexual harassment. This law is being replicated in other districts of Indonesia.
Increasing Political Representation

Moroccan women hold only half of one percent of the country’s political positions at the local level and serve as mayor in only one town. But in the lead-up to the 2009 municipal elections, an alliance of civil society organizations from across the country has secured a historic achievement to increase the number of women as decision-makers. Called the ‘One Third Movement’, the coalition, supported by UNIFEM, has lobbied tirelessly for the adoption of affirmative action measures to reinforce women’s political participation and for strengthening gender equality in the Municipal Charter, mobilizing nearly 700 NGOs around its call. This has led to agreement on a 12 percent quota that will be put into force during the local elections – a success that could dramatically change the political landscape. Currently only 124 women are represented in the local councils; their number is expected to rise to at least 3000.

Further supportive measures have been adopted: utilizing an existing government support fund that aims to encourage political participation, the new electoral code mandates that for each woman elected, the financial incentive given to political parties by the Ministry of the Interior will be five times higher than if a man was elected. In addition, the Ministry has set up a fund of over US$ 1 million for the training of women candidates. Women’s participation in local councils is also being advanced by the amended Communal Charter, which provides administrative guidelines at the local level. The amended Charter mandates the establishment of a Gender Equality Commission—an advisory body of NGOs and civil society actors—that ensures participation of women’s groups in local management issues.

Across the Asia/Pacific region and the Arab States, UNIFEM worked in 2008 to increase women’s participation in political decision-making. In Nepal, UNIFEM in partnership with the National Commission for Women and local NGOs, supported efforts that contributed to securing a historic 33 percent representation of

\[\text{Voting in Nepal: advocacy and information campaigns helped secure a historic 33 percent representation of women in the Constituent Assembly.}\]
women in the Constituent Assembly, an interim body elected to draft the country’s new Constitution after the political strife of recent years. Interventions included ensuring that the Constituent Assembly Election Act as well as the manifestos of political parties incorporated women’s needs, such as proportional representation of women in decision-making, free and accessible health care and a focus on economic and social rights. Booklets with biographical information of 1,000 women helped introduce potential candidates to the public. Radio and TV spots were broadcast as part of a civic education campaign that improved understanding of the electoral process and the importance of women in government. The investment paid off: on April 10 2008, Election Day, women voters outnumbered men. Nearly 3,500 women contested, representing 35 percent of all candidates – a stark contrast to previous elections in which the percentage of women candidates had never exceeded 6 percent.

In the Solomon Islands, UNIFEM is supporting the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children to ensure that gender equality provisions are enshrined in the new Federal Constitution. Recommendations include the reservation of 20 percent of parliamentary seats for women and a guarantee that women’s human rights are prioritized in cases of conflict with tradition and customs.
Getting women elected to Ecuador’s Constituent Assembly in 2007 was a historic step. Led by the National Council for Women, women’s groups supported by UNIFEM had worked hard to guarantee that voting was based on ballots listing 50 percent women.

Yet in a country where maternal mortality, domestic violence, illiteracy and unemployment rank high on women’s minds, the representatives to the Assembly carried a heavy burden: to create an equally momentous constitution which would enshrine women’s rights. The backdrop was a complex democracy with highly polarized political parties, persistent poverty and inequality.

Determined to usher in change through a more democratic and inclusive constitution, demands of multiple women’s groups fed into the process. An alliance of indigenous women, working with UNIFEM, from the Chimborazo, Imbabura and Sucumbios provinces presented proposals on improving indigenous women’s access to justice. An advocacy campaign titled ‘Nosotras en la Constituyente’ (We in the Constituent Assembly) brought together over 300 NGOs demanding provisions on reproductive rights, protection from gender-based violence, and gender equality in electoral processes, in the labour market and in education.

Their persistent advocacy paid off. Ecuador adopted a new constitution by an overwhelming majority in September 2008, incorporating 95 percent of the women’s demands.

UNIFEM supported other efforts to strengthen responsive and accountable government systems throughout the region:
Women using public transport can now feel safer in Mexico City. The burgeoning transport system used by millions has gotten a facelift aimed at preventing violence against women in buses and subways. The Safe Travelling programme provides specialized security personnel in select locations and dedicated women-only buses at certain hours, along with reserved entrances and compartments within subway cars. For the women in one of the world’s largest cities, these quality transport upgrades mean better access to education, health services and job markets. The improvements came after Mexico City pioneered a gender-responsive budget in 2008 that earmarked 1.12 percent of the city’s public resources for gender equality measures. In 2009, additional funds will be allocated to support access of violence survivors to justice and services. Gender-responsive budgets ensure that the allocation of public resources benefits women and men equally. Since 2000, UNIFEM has worked with governments and civil society partners to introduce and advance this approach in over 30 countries.

In Uruguay, the first time-use survey on women’s unpaid work compelled decision-makers to change national policies. Women traditionally carry out domestic and care-giving activities, and whether it is fetching water or taking care of ageing parents, this work is often not taken into account. Yet the time burden is significant: for instance, Uruguayan women spend close to 18 hours per week on childcare, men only 8 hours; cooking for the family takes 9.2 hours for women, while for men it is 5.2 hours. The survey illustrated the limits these activities put on women’s choices, like finding employment, accessing health services, or undertaking personal care. The results are being used to inform health and social security reforms, highlighting, for example, the need for elderly care support given Uruguay’s increasingly ageing population.

Water collection is a task mainly undertaken by women. Women’s responsibility for water collection tends to coincide with poor access to water, thus suggesting a high time burden on women.
In Powakka, a tiny village in Suriname, indigenous women are learning a new trade. The women’s group, Whe Khalwalbetjie – meaning We Brave Women—has established an awarra fruit production and marketing venture. Setting up the business with the palm fruit, they were trained by a local organization, the Foundation for Socio-Economic & Sustainable Human Development (SESHD), with support from UNIFEM. Approximately 3 to 5 percent of Suriname’s population is indigenous and lives within the country’s rainforests, savannahs and coastal areas, which are also their most important source of subsistence. Living in isolation, they have little access to education or basic services.

The women in Powakka now have better knowledge of fruit preservation, business management and community development. The success of the initiative is benefiting the whole community and has convinced the all-male village board to invite the women’s group to participate in other village activities. New partnerships have been formed — the Ministry of Regional Development along with private sector company BHP Billiton and the International Development Bank (IDB) plan to continue the business venture and build a women’s centre.

In 2008, UNIFEM worked with indigenous women across the Caribbean and in Latin America:

- The landmark meeting ‘Caribbean Indigenous Women: Voice, Participation and Influence for Sustainable Development’, was the first of its kind for the
Caribbean. It was convened by the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs in Georgetown, Guyana, in partnership with UNIFEM, in order to promote dialogue on the experiences of indigenous women, encourage strategic alliances across the region and identify priorities for development programmes. The Georgetown Consensus, adopted by participants from Belize, Dominica, Guyana and Suriname, aims to ensure that indigenous women’s expertise and perspective is reflected in all development strategies and points out ways to enhance the lives of indigenous women. It draws attention to the need for culturally appropriate and inclusive education, health and social services and calls for policies to overcome economic empowerment gaps, such as lack of access to credit and other financial resources, as well as negative cultural practices.

In Ecuador, to end violence against women and economic discrimination, specifically in rural areas, UNIFEM supported efforts to reform the ancestral indigenous justice system in 43 Kichwa communities in Cotacachi in the province of Imbabura. A set of ‘Rules for a Good Coexistence’ was created by indigenous women and is currently being used by the communities with technical and financial support from UNIFEM. The rules emphasize the right of women to control their incomes and inheritance, and the need for their participation in all aspects of social life. A ban on violent behaviour is also part of the code. It further spells out sanctions to be used by community leaders in cases of violence, such as compulsory community work for perpetrators, or a ban on alcohol consumption for a period of two months after the aggression. Traditional sanctions aimed at impacting the social status of the perpetrator have also been drawn up. Following an invitation by the Secretariat of the National Plan to Combat Violence against Women, the indigenous women leaders of Cotacachi presented their experience as a successful example of ways to curb gender-based violence in indigenous communities.
in the landlocked nation of Kyrgyzstan, Gulmairan’s story is a common one. A widow with a family to feed, she spent years trying to prove ownership to a piece of land, which would provide her with income. In a country where 66 percent of the population lives in rural areas and depends on agriculture for a living, societal norms and customs often limit women’s opportunities and rights to land. Since 2003 legal advisory centres have been changing this landscape. They are supported by UNIFEM as part of its extensive work on women’s land rights in the region.

Gulmairan’s case was successfully resolved after the legal centre referred it to the Akskals— the Elders court. Authorized by the government to resolve disputes at the local level, the Elders courts serve as the informal justice system in rural areas. They have proven to be critical allies in the effort to secure women’s right to land. In a two-pronged approach, UNIFEM supports the Elders courts through training that focuses on taking women’s rights into account when resolving property and inheritance disputes. Simultaneously, local organizations provide legal aid and assistance to thousands of women, including direct legal representation in all of Kyrgyzstan’s seven provinces.

The advice offered through UNIFEM’s programme has also been embraced by Imams, religious leaders, in the south of Kyrgyzstan. In 2008, they requested a review of the basic principles of Islamic sharia law regulating property rights. Proving beneficial for the services provided by the Imams to their
communities, extensive training programmes for religious leaders are now planned across the country.

Government laws and policies have been impacted by the grassroots efforts as well. Advocacy based on the cases in the rural areas led to the amendment of the law on management of agricultural land that now includes provisions on women’s rights to land within the Kyrgyzstan land management process.

The successful efforts are also replicated in neighbouring countries. In Tajikistan, UNIFEM, in a pilot initiative with the Food and Agricultural Organization, supported the establishment of 16 District Task Forces (DTFs) on land-related issues in three provinces. The task forces provide legal advice on land rights, but rural women can also attend classes on leadership skills, cooperative formation, farm management and community activism. District-level governments are now funding the work of the DTFs through their own budgets – testimony to the success of this approach.

To enhance women’s economic security and rights, UNIFEM in 2008 also partnered with the Government and civil society in Moldova to survey the situation of women in the labour market. The assessment informed the landmark National Action Plan on Employment of 2008. The plan mandates a review of the Labour Code, now underway, to address the areas of persistent discrimination faced by women, such as wage inequity, continued preference to employ men, and lack of job opportunities especially for young women of reproductive age in both the private and public sector. The amended Labour Code is expected to increase women’s employment and feed into the country’s efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including Goal 3, which focuses on gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Making laws work for women: in Moldova, the Labour Code is being reviewed to counter employment discrimination. A special focus lies on young women of reproductive age.
In November 2007, UNIFEM sent a call around the world: Say NO to Violence against Women. People did not hesitate to respond to the internet-based signature initiative, designed to support the UN Secretary-General’s multi-year campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign. Within a year, more than 5 million had added their names to urge governments globally to make ending violence against women and girls a top priority. On 25 November 2008, the International Day to End Violence against Women, UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman handed over all signatures to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

From the streets of Switzerland to villages in Viet Nam, from the halls of the Tanzanian Parliament to the President’s office in Argentina, in the blogosphere and on social networking sites, men and women, young and old, high-ranking officials and concerned citizens joined the Say NO network, demonstrating that there is an ever-growing movement of people demanding decisive action on the issue. Close to 200 Heads of State and Ministers representing 70 governments expressed their commitment to end violence against women by adding their names in ceremonies around the world. Some 215 organizations and private sector companies came on board to reach out to their constituencies and raise awareness.

School boys in Bangkok engaged their peers and the general public. “You care. You think. And you take action. One day, I hope that we can end violence against women”, explained Chavanaves Sinthunon, one of the student activists involved in Say NO. UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol was at the heart of the campaign in Thailand, encouraging her compatriots to take a stand on the issue through extensive media outreach. Triggered through the momentum created by Say NO, a regional programme on ending violence against women, with funds from the private sector, is now under way. Across the border, the Viet Nam Women’s Union carried the message to communities in the remotest corners of the country.

In Colombia, the largest music festival in Latin America, Rock al Parque 2008 in Bogotá, was themed ‘Di NO a La Violencia’. Hundreds of volunteers distributed information on violence against women and girls and encouraged music fans to add their names.

Following a ceremonial signing by President Kikwete of Tanzania, the Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children spearheaded national efforts to collect signatures on pledges to prevent violence against women and girls. Say NO also catalyzed programmatic interventions in Tanzania – a multi-sectoral working group was launched to review the national action plan on violence against women and police officers received special training on how to handle violence against women cases.

Legislators across the world responded overwhelmingly – some 600 parliamentarians from more than 75 countries signed on. The European Parliament gathered signatures to adopt a ‘Written Declaration on the Say NO to Violence against Women campaign’ that calls on the European Commission to declare a ‘European Year on Zero Tolerance of Violence against Women’. In an emotional
gesture, Swedish MEP Eva Britt Svensson, who spearheaded the signature drive in the European Parliament, took the Declaration’s successful adoption as an occasion to make public her own harrowing tale of domestic abuse.

The Say NO network continues to expand and the initiative will carry on as part of the UNiTE campaign.

UNIFEM’s Say NO initiative was designed to support the UN Secretary-General’s UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign that aims to increase political will and resources for preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls. UNiTE runs from 2008 through 2015 to coincide with the target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The campaign’s Framework for Action identifies five key outcomes:

- Adoption and enforcement of national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls, in line with international human rights standards;
- National plans of action that emphasize prevention and that are adequately resourced;
- Data collection and analysis systems on the prevalence of various forms of violence against women and girls;
- National and local campaigns to engage a diverse range of civil society actors in preventing violence and in supporting abused women and girls; and
- Systematic efforts to address sexual violence in conflict situations and to protect women and girls from rape as a tactic of war.
In 2008, the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women awarded US$22 million, the highest amount ever since its inception, to 28 initiatives in 38 countries and territories. Established in 1996 by the UN General Assembly and managed by UNIFEM on behalf of the UN system, the UN Trust Fund awards grants for the implementation of laws, policies and programmes on ending violence against women and girls. Projects can either pilot innovative approaches or scale up successful initiatives.

In 2007, the UN Trust Fund also provided multi-year grants to support learning on the intersection between HIV and AIDS and violence against women. In the Dominican Republic, for example, Trust Fund grantee Colectivo Mujer y Salud is developing the capacity of local authorities in five cross-border provinces. Along with a boom in cross-border trade and mass migration, rates of violence against women and HIV and AIDS are on the rise in these regions. To reduce violence against women and the incidence of HIV and AIDS, the initiative’s goal is to train 70 percent of health and judicial service providers and create a strong referral network among them. Plans include a 180-hour certificate programme on Gender, Violence against Women, and HIV and AIDS in coordination with the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo. A partnership has been established with the Dirección Nacional de la Violencia—the country’s leading authority on violence issues—and the Women’s Affairs Bureau, to revise data collection by the police, shelters and district attorneys on HIV and AIDS and violence against women, and to trace service delivery. Public education activities and advocacy to strengthen legislation and policies are also underway.

Also in 2008, the Government of Spain contributed 50 million Euros (some US$65 million) to launch the Gender Equality Fund—a partnership between developing countries and donors to help jumpstart implementation of national plans, policies or strategies to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment. UNIFEM is to act as the Secretariat for the Fund, which is unique in its focus on strengthening organizations at the country level, including national machineries for women, women’s parliamentary caucuses, and women’s NGOs and networks. In line with the Monterrey Consensus of 2002 and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness of 2005, it will promote harmonization and alignment of efforts by national partners and donors to strengthen women’s rights. The Gender Equality Fund prioritizes support for women’s economic and political empowerment, since these areas are often under-funded. Grants are to support efforts to implement national plans, policies and laws for gender equality, with a smaller proportion of funding being allocated to support the development of such plans.

### Contributions for Special Trust Funds in 2008

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| UNIFEM NATIONAL COMMITTEES | | | |
| AUSTRIA NATIONAL COMMITTEE | 15 | - | 15 | - |
| ICELAND NATIONAL COMMITTEE | 256 | - | 256 | 2 |
| ITALY NATIONAL COMMITTEE | 6 | - | 5 | - |
| UK NATIONAL COMMITTEE | - | - | - | 4 |
| UNITED STATES NATIONAL COMMITTEE | 15 | - | 15 | 15 |
| **Total from UNIFEM National Committees** | **283** | **283** | **283** | 21 |

| OTHER DONORS | | | |
| AVON | 1,000 | - | 1,000 | - |
| CINEMA FOR PEACE | 115 | - | 115 | - |
| JOHNSON & JOHNSON FAMILY OF COMPANIES | - | - | - | 700 |
| OMEGA WATCHES | - | - | - | 25 |
| OTHER DONORS | 0.86 | - | 0.86 | 2 |
| TAG HEUER SA | 24 | - | 24 | - |
| UNFIP TURNER FOUNDATION | - | - | - | 91 |
| ZONTA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION | 50 | - | 50 | 50 |
| **Total from Other Donors** | **1,190** | **-** | **1,190** | **868** |

| **GRAND TOTAL** | **18,582** | **64,767** | **83,349** | **15,970** |
UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women: 2008 Grantees

GLOBAL
Argentina, India, Russia and
Tanzania- Women in Cities International
Support women’s equal access to public spaces and contribute a how-to guide on evaluating policies and interventions to promote women’s ‘right to the city’. $999,300

Brazil, Chile, India and Rwanda-Instituto Promundo
Engage men to end gender-based violence with research on traditional notions of masculinity. Results exploring gender-equitable alternatives will be disseminated through the Men Engage Alliance, a network of more than 400 organizations. $999,993

AFRICA
Cameroon- ActionAid
Tackle violence against girls in five districts of North Cameroon through strengthening of provincial and school authorities; advocacy for implementation of special education policies for girls. $951,192

Cameroon- International Medical Corps
Provide health services for refugee survivors of sexual and gender-based violence; build awareness working with traditional male leaders, and youth peer educators. $707,600

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)- Solidarité Feminine pour la Paix et le Développement Intégrale (SOFEPADI)
Support prevention of sexual violence through capacity building of judicial systems and mobilization of survivors to increase reporting on sexual violence. $150,000

Ethiopia- ActionAid
Enhance legal protection for women and girls through community mobilization; strengthen law enforcement agencies to respond to cases of violence against women. $959,752

Ghana- Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy (CEGENSA)
Reduce intimate partner violence and HIV infection in Southern Ghana by developing capacity of women’s collectives and engaging men; legal aid to HIV-positive women. $199,800 (Project selected as part of Cycle 12 in 2007, but awarded in 2008)

Liberia- ActionAid
Increase access to justice for women survivors of violence through strengthening implementation of legislation in south-eastern Liberia; bolster prevention responses and foster women’s economic independence. $881,677

Zambia- International Association of Women
Promote justice for women survivors of violence through capacity development of judges and service providers; support efforts for adaptation of CEDAW. $970,296

ASIA/PACIFIC & ARAB STATES
China- United Nations Country Team
Prevent domestic violence through increased access to support services, legal aid and referral systems; advocacy for adoption of legislation on domestic violence. $858,846

Cook Islands, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu- The Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) of the Secretariat of Pacific Communities
Strengthening capacities of multiple stakeholders to lead advocacy campaigns for enactment and reform of laws that protect women and girls from violence. $720,300

Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen- Oxfam Great Britain
Advance efforts to end violence against women through a model for women’s organizations to work with men in five countries of the Arab region. $352,930

India- Lawyer’s Collective (Women’s Rights Initiative)
Support and monitor the implementation of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act of 2005; strengthen capacity of state agencies to respond to women. $997,853

Jordan- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
Support implementation of new legislation on domestic violence through addressing justice, health and social needs of survivors of violence; particular focus on Iraqi refugees. $999,936

Nepal- United Nations Country Team
Scale up strategies to support multi-sectoral responses for survivors of gender-based violence in four districts; focus on legal, health, social and referral mechanisms. $999,397

Cambodia- Social Services of Cambodia
Reduce sexual assault and related stigmatization through model community-based response service, which addresses the gap of social services for survivors. $780,000

Morocco- Institution Nationale de Solidarité avec les Femmes en Détresse (INSAF)
Improve legal protections from violence for single mothers and girl domestic workers and support their social reintegration within families and schools. $432,732

EUROPE & CIS
Bosnia and Herzegovina- United Nations Country Team
Address sexual and gender-based violence in six municipalities through model referral mechanism; contribute to evidence-based policy-making and service provision. $958,106

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia- United Nations Country Team
Support domestic violence prevention through focus on behavioural change strategies and survivor support; monitor reduction of domestic violence prevalence. $957,713

Republic of Moldova- Centre for Support and Development for Civil Initiatives
Establish women’s centre for domestic violence survivors to provide legal and psychosocial assistance; advocacy for adoption of domestic violence legislation. $222,125

Serbia- Provincial Secretariat for Labour, Employment and Gender Equality
Prevent violence against women in marginalized communities, by supporting cooperation initiative between service providers, police, legal and civil society. $990,970

Tajikistan- Public Organization ‘Child Rights Centre’
Protect girls from trafficking and violence; reintegrate survivors through establishing a support centre to provide legal, psychosocial and educational support. $499,498

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN
Ecuador- Fideicoismo Ecuatoriano para el Desarrollo (FEDC)
Support efforts to end gender-based violence by building linkages between prevention and economic empowerment for local communities. $500,125

Nicaragua- Puntos de Encuentro
Partner with mass media and strengthen capacities of women’s groups for implementation of legislation to address violence against women. $999,381

Peru- Movimiento Manuela Ramos (MMR)
Support coordination of government and civil society efforts for implementation of an inclusive, multi-sectoral strategy to provide treatment and care to women survivors of violence. $559,735

Panama- United Nations Country Team
Consolidate a model network for enhancing coordination to respond to survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Arranjan Cabbecue and Cano de Llano. $999,999

Suriname- Ilse Henar Foundation
Support interventions in target companies and labour unions to address sexual harassment in the workplace; education campaign on ending violence against women for establishment of a complaints mechanism. $497,385

Jamaica- Sistren Theatre Collective
Use the arts to blend education, community organizing and mobilization for women and their communities to prevent gender-based violence. $537,998

Suriname- Ilse Henar Foundation for Women’s Rights
Develop a model for pilot interventions in target companies and labour unions to address sexual harassment in the workplace; education campaign on ending violence against women for establishment of a complaints mechanism. $497,385
## UNIFEM Contributions from Governments and Other Donors in 2008

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<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>5,217</td>
<td>4,338</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>3,558</td>
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### UN Agencies

<table>
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<tr>
<th>UN Agencies</th>
<th>Core</th>
<th>Cost-Sharing</th>
<th>Other Sub-Trust Funds</th>
<th>Total 2008</th>
<th>Total 2007</th>
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<td><strong>-</strong></td>
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<td><strong>11,298</strong></td>
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UNIFEM Contributions from Governments and Other Donors in 2008

UNIFEM Statement of Income and Expenditure

in thousands of US dollars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
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<td>REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS</td>
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<td>GENDER EQUALITY FUND</td>
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Expenditure

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<th>PROJECT COSTS:</th>
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<td>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</td>
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EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE | 97,085 | 52,076 |

TRANSFER TO OPERATIONAL RESERVE | (600)  | (5,200) |

FUND BALANCES                   | 96,485*| 46,875 |

* The amount of $96,485 is already allocated to multiyear funded projects with durations which last through 2009

Top 20 Contributors in 2008

in thousands of US dollars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOVERNMENTS</th>
<th>Core</th>
<th>Cost-Sharing</th>
<th>Other Sub-Trust Funds</th>
<th>Total 2008</th>
<th>Total 2007</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

UNIFEM’s 100/100 Campaign

In 2008, a record year for its resource mobilization, UNIFEM initiated the 100/100 campaign with the goal of reaching 100 Member States contributing a total of US$100 million to the organization’s core budget by 2011. Core resources grew from some US$44 million in 2007 to US$51 million, an increase of 16 percent, in 2008. The number of governments contributing to UNIFEM’s core resources rose by 63 percent, from 49 in 2007 to 80 in 2008.
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E-mail: info@unifem-usnc.org

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Anglican Consultative Council
Associated Country Women of the World
Armenian International Women’s Association
Baha’i International Community
Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd
International Alliance of Women
International Association of Women in Radio and Television
International Federation of Business and Professional Women
International Federation for Home Economics
International Federation of Women in Legal Careers
International Federation of Women Lawyers
International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres
International Federation of University Women
International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
International Psychoanalytical Association
League of Women Voters

Medical Mission Sisters
National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Clubs, Inc.
National Council of Women of the United States
Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women’s Association
Soroptimist International
Trickle Up Program, Inc.
United Nations Association of the United States of America
United States Committee for UNIFEM
Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
World Union for Progressive Judaism
World Federation of Ukrainian Women’s Organizations
World Young Women’s Christian Association
Zonta International

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