

The Global Acceleration Instrument

FOR WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION

The **Global Acceleration Instrument (GAI)** is a flexible and rapid financing mechanism that supports quality interventions to enhance the capacity to prevent conflict, respond to crises and emergencies, seize key peacebuilding opportunities, and encourage the sustainability and national ownership of investments.

The GAI will enhance women's engagement in peace and security and/or humanitarian action by:

- **Breaking silos** between humanitarian, peace, security and development finance by investing in enhancing women's engagement, leadership and empowerment across all phases of the crisis, peace, security, and development contiguum.
- **Addressing structural funding gaps** for women's participation by improving the timeliness, predictability and flexibility of international assistance.
- **Improving policy coherence and coordination** by complementing existing financing instruments and promoting synergies across all actors: multilateral and bilateral entities, national governments' women's machineries; and local civil society organizations.

A minimum of 50 per cent of all GAI funds are expected to be allocated to civil society organizations. The GAI will also serve as a knowledge management platform and hub for resources on women, peace and security.

BACKGROUND

Evolving peace and security threats today are of a different scale and nature than those of the past. The numbers of displaced globally are higher than they have been since World War II, the spread of violent extremism globally means that no region is safe from the threat of violence, and large numbers of countries continue to lapse from momentary stability back into conflict.

Over the past decade, research and practice have built an unquestionable evidence base that women's participation and inclusion in peace and security processes makes humanitarian assistance more effective, strengthens the protection efforts of peacekeepers, improves prevention efforts against radicalization and the spread of extremism, and accelerates economic recovery through more diverse peace dividends.

Evidence also shows that women's meaningful participation results in a more sustainable peace, including through the conclusion of peace talks and implementation of resulting peace agreements.



The right of women to full participation in all areas of peace and security decision-making has been recognized by the UN Security Council since resolution 1325 (2000). However, despite the establishment of a robust policy and accountability framework, women's participation continues to be minimal in relevant forums: Only 3 per cent of peacekeepers and 10 per cent of UN police are women, and as of 2012, fewer than 3 per cent of signatories to peace agreements are women. Similarly, the latest data from the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD-DAC) confirms that financial resources fall far short of political commitments: In 2012-2013, only 2 per cent of aid to the peace and security sector targeted gender equality as a principal objective.

While crisis and post-conflict transitions can offer new opportunities for positive social change, the contribution of women and girls to peacebuilding and consolidation of peace continues to go unrecognized, undervalued, and under-resourced, leaving untapped an incredible tool for transformative change and sustainable peace. To address the financing gaps and create greater synergies between different sources of funding to meet the needs of women across the humanitarian-development divide, a Women, Peace and Security Financing Discussion Group (FDG) composed of representatives from donors, conflict-affected Member States, United Nations entities and civil society was established in June 2014. This Group subsequently initiated the Global Acceleration Instrument (GAI) for Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action - a pooled funding mechanism which aims to re-energize action and stimulate a significant shift in the financing of the women's participation, leadership and empowerment in both humanitarian response and peace and security settings.

The establishment of the GAI is recommended by the Global Study on the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 and welcomed by the UN Secretary-General in his 2015 Report to the Security Council on Women and Peace and Security as well as in Security Council resolution 2242 (2015).

EXPECTED RESULTS

The GAI is anchored in a strong theory of change. The overall goal is to achieve peaceful and gender equal societies. Achievement of this goal will require:

- **An enabling environment for the implementation of WPS commitments:** This will require evidence-based advocacy and technical support to ensure adoption, monitoring and financing of quality, locally relevant accountability frameworks (including National Action Plans).
- **Women's participation in decision-making processes and responses related to conflict prevention:** Women's meaningful participation in conflict prevention can only materialize if three conditions are in place: (i) favorable attitudes towards women's participation; (ii) local women's organizations with the capacity to establish networks and early-warning systems; and (iii) women's conflict prevention mechanisms are connected to national mechanisms are connected to national and international reporting and response systems.
- **Gender inclusive and responsive humanitarian response:** this requires both technical tools and direct support for local women's organizations to engage effectively in humanitarian planning and programming. It will also require that women's organizations are given a more meaningful role in service delivery, and exercise leadership in camp coordination and management.

Facts and Figures: Women, Peace and Security

- As of 2013, fewer than 3 per cent of signatories of peace agreements were women
- Only 3 per cent of peacekeepers and 10 per cent of UN Police are women
- Women's participation increases the probability of a peace agreement lasting at least two years by 20 per cent, and by 35 per cent the probability of a peace agreement lasting 15 years
- In 2012-2013, only 2 per cent of aid to the peace and security sector targeted gender equality as a principal objective

- **Protection of women and girls' human rights, safety, physical and mental health and security:** This requires measures that prevent acts of violence, facilitate access to services for survivors of violence, and strengthen accountability mechanisms.
- **Promotion of the socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and girls in post-conflict situations,** through women's participation in peacebuilding and recovery planning, women's economic empowerment within recovery efforts (including access to land, financing and entrepreneurship), as well as promoting gender-responsive post-conflict institutions.
- **Increased women's representation and leadership in formal and informal peace negotiations:** Addressing attitudinal and cultural barriers is critical to increasing women's role in these processes as is increasing the availability of gender expertise and capacity of mediators to secure inclusive processes. Further, women's organizations require support to strengthen their leadership capacity and negotiation skills.

GAI's Initial Phase

- Funding pledges have been received from Australia, Ireland, Spain, and the UK
- As a pilot, the GAI is supporting a network of women mediators in Burundi to scale up successful efforts in conflict prevention
- Global civil society partners have initiated the elements on knowledge management, capacity building and communication

As the GAI is the result of a partnership between Member States, UN and civil society, all stakeholders will be represented on its Funding Board. UN Women will provide secretariat support and ensure coordination to implement the decisions of the Funding Board, and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund will be an Administrative Agent of the Fund.

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