

Supporting Women's Participation in Recovery through Security and Access to Justice: Showcasing UNDP's Global Rule of Law Programme

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Introduction

This paper will present aspects of UNDP's work in supporting women's participation in the resolution of conflicts and the promotion of peace building in a number of post conflicts situations. Drawing largely from its rule of law programming experiences in conflict and post conflict situations, this paper will present UNDP's rule of law interventions in crisis prevention and recovery as critical foundations for consolidating and promoting peace and for sustainable development.

Abstract

As part of its crisis prevention and recovery mandate, UNDP has long recognised the importance of women's participation in peace building, conflict resolution and sustainable development in post conflict environments. Through its programming functions and its integrated programming approach, UNDP continually aims to reinforce this role. Support to women's participation is therefore embedded in UNDP's governance, economic recovery, rule of law and security programmes, its peace building and social cohesion strategies, its early recovery approaches, and its strategic partnerships with national governments and with other key national and international actors.

In keeping this work, UNDP rolled out its **Global Programme on the Rule of Law in Conflict and Post Conflict Situations** in 2008. Managed by BCPR, the Global Programme has successfully established and strengthened rule of law activities in 20 conflict and post conflict situation at a programming value of 202 million dollars so far. The Global programme is heavily influenced by *UNDP's Eight Point Agenda for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality in Crisis Prevention and Recovery* which also has a strong focus on women's security and access to justice.

Through a sequenced approach tailored for both conflict and post-conflict settings, the Global Programme focuses on:

- *Strengthening the Rule of Law within an Early Recovery Framework and during Transitions.* National capacities (government institutions, civil society, and displaced populations) are empowered to respond to the immediate needs related to security, justice and impunity, while also laying a foundation for capacity development of rule of law institutions in the recovery phase.
- *Addressing Women's Security and Access to Justice.* Based on Security Council Resolution 1325 and UNDP's Eight-Point Agenda for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality in Crisis Prevention and Recovery, particular emphasis is placed on ensuring access to justice for victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence and domestic violence.
- *Conducting Capacity Development of Justice and Security institutions.* Technical assistance is provided to conduct capacity development of critical rule of law institutions, such as the Judiciary, Ministry of Justice, Prosecutor's Office, Law-enforcement and Corrections.
- *Facilitating Transitional Justice.* Support is provided to national stakeholders in addressing past legacies of violations of human rights and humanitarian law, while also ensuring parallel capacity development of rule of law institutions.
- *Supporting Confidence Building and Reconciliation.* Particular attention is given to rebuild trust and nurture reconciliation. Cutting across the full spectrum of assistance, confidence-building activities seeks to promote dialogue, communication and peaceful conflict resolution.

Through the Global Rule of Law Programme, UNDP has made some key achievements that have supported women affected by Gender Based Violence and other forms of violations to rebuild their lives, obtain some redress for the abuses they have experienced and move on to participate meaningfully in rebuilding their countries. These achievements have included support in rule of law programming to 76

countries. In Latin America for example, UNDP has been at the forefront of developing assessment frameworks, tools and instruments for public security sector reform. In major conflict and post-conflict situations, like Sudan and Somalia, UNDP manages comprehensive and integrated Rule of Law/JSSR programmes amounting to \$50 million and \$45 million in resources mobilized, respectively. Significant Rule of Law/JSSR programmes are also implemented by UNDP in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Kosovo, Mozambique, Serbia and Timor-Leste, among others.

UNDP's rule of law programmes, aimed at complimenting other on-going UNDP programming areas, all ensure a coherent, holistic and integrated response to the diverse and yet inter-related needs of women in post conflict environments.

Recommendations

1. Rule of law interventions are an essential part of peace building strategies and efforts must be made to ensure that they are integrated effectively in post conflict programming and strategies;
2. Maximizing the potential of rule of law interventions for peace building needs relevant strategies, partnerships, and sustained interventions as highlighted in the paper. A failure to do this is to undermine fragile peace dividends, exacerbate tensions and foster renewed conflict;
3. Enhancing women's participation in peace building would require the support to capacities at local levels and the development of a strategic framework for strong linkages to national level interventions. This is important to support sustainable and productive linkages between local and national levels;
4. Support to women must be comprehensive and efforts must be made to address all elements of women's concerns that may have been impacted by the conflict. These include socio-economic empowerment, access to land issues, revision of traditional laws and practices, access to governance mechanisms, equitable access to basic services and natural resources, and so on;
5. Support to peace building through specific programming including rule of law programmes requires the dedication of adequate resources to do this effectively.

Basic reference documents

International legal documents

Universal Declaration on Human Rights

United Nation Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2001), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009)

United Nation Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime

United Nation Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women

UNDP documents

BCPR Strategy 2007–2011

UNDP Primer: Gender Equality and justice programming. Equitable Access to Justice for Women, 2007

UNDP Eight Point Agenda for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2008–2011

UNDP Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations

2009 Annual report, UNDP Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations

Other United Nation Policy documents

IASC Guidelines for Gender-based Interventions in Humanitarian Settings

WHO Ethical and safety recommendations for researching, documenting and monitoring sexual violence in emergencies

Policy briefing paper - Gender Sensitive Police Reform in Post Conflict Societies UNDP / UNFPA

LIBERIA: Rape in Liberia still goes unpunished, IRIN, 4 December 2006

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