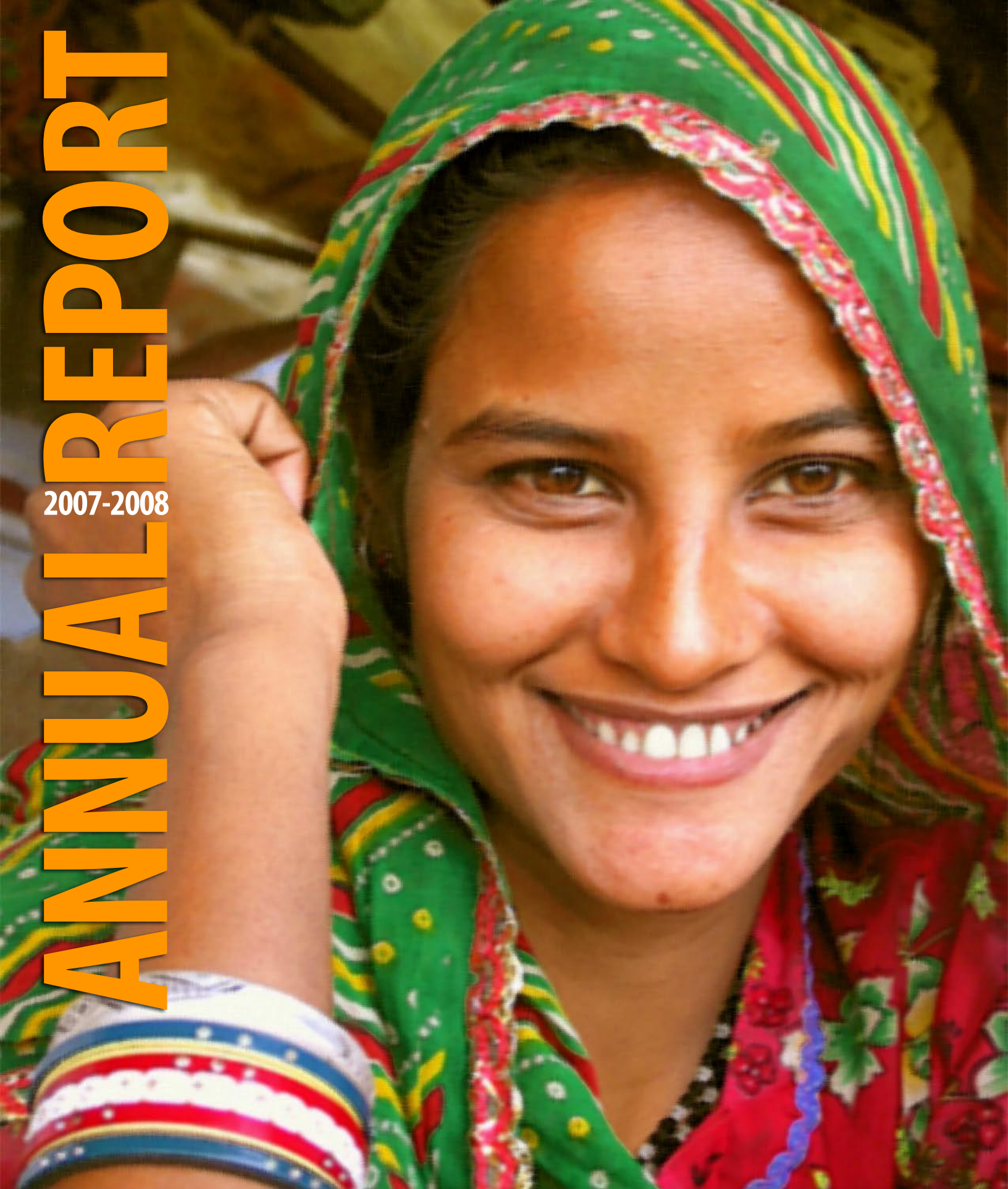


ANNUAL REPORT

2007-2008



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instraw
UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING
INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN





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Message from UN-INSTRAW Acting Director

Carolina Taborga

2008 – A year of firsts

Since the start of the UN-INSTRAW revitalization and strengthening process in 2004 – which included a complete turnover in staff, the establishment of the UN-INSTRAW Executive Board, strengthened alliances with the UN System, Member States, and other stakeholders, and a gradual but steady increase in both core and extra-budgetary funding – the Institute has emerged once again as a leader in research and training for gender equality and women's empowerment.

2008 has been a year of firsts for UN-INSTRAW. For the first time in fifteen years, we have initiated projects in Africa on women's political participation and women, peace and security. For the first time in ten years, UN-INSTRAW has staff based in the field, in addition to its headquarters in Santo Domingo. For the first time in the Institute's history, we have surpassed previous levels of both core and extra-budgetary funding raised to support UN-INSTRAW's operations.

UN-INSTRAW reflects on its newfound strength in a time of great instability and change; during which financial, food and environmental crises threaten to set back much of the progress that we have made, as an Institution and at a global level among the women of the world. Now more than ever, research and analysis of these crises and their concrete impacts on the day-to-day lives of women, and men, around the world are essential. Our understanding of the impact of the financial crisis on the migration of women, or the impact of the environmental crisis on women's security, will help support the formulation of appropriate public policies and development interventions.

In the midst of this instability, we find renewed optimism in the energy, creativity and commitment of the women and men who have participated with us in gathering information, debating, reflecting, learning, and building capacity. These partners have proven that participatory and inclusive research, knowledge management and capacity-building are more effective, more sustainable, and more relevant to UN-INSTRAW's stakeholders.

UN-INSTRAW is once again on solid ground, an active member of the UN's gender architecture and a contributor to gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide. However, the Institute's continued stability will depend on the voluntary contributions of the Institute's supporters. On behalf of UN-INSTRAW, I thank the many partners who have supported the Institute over the last five years and urge those who haven't yet contributed to join this common effort to make a difference in women's lives.

Carolina Taborga

Brief History of UN-INSTRAW

In 1975, the First World Conference of Women recommended the creation of a research and training institute dedicated to the advancement of women. The following year, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) created the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW). In 1979, the Council recommended that UN-INSTRAW be located in a developing country and in 1983, UN-INSTRAW's headquarters were officially opened in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Since its inception, UN-INSTRAW has emphasized the importance of articulating research, capacity-building and knowledge management in a continuous cycle of analysis, learning and action, so that participatory research results feed into knowledge management and the design of training and capacity-building programmes, as well as the formulation of policy. Through its applied research programmes, the Institute aims to make policies and programmes gender-responsive on the basis of concrete research results, the application of lessons learned, and the replication of best practices. This approach

allows for flexibility in responding to both existing challenges and new and emerging issues.

Among its research activities over the years, UN-INSTRAW has developed conceptual frameworks and research methodologies for measuring and valuing women's household production and including these contributions into the system of national accounts; for tracking women's migration, the gender dimensions of remittances, and the impact of these on local and rural development; for looking at women's access to credit and water in Africa, Asia and Latin America; and for evaluating women's political participation in governance and political processes at the local, national, regional and international levels. Many of the studies conducted by UN-INSTRAW have highlighted the gendered effects of globalization in processes such as migration; the impact of structural adjustment policies on women's access to work, health and education; and violence against women as an obstacle to development and the achievement of international commitments such as CEDAW or the MDGs.

In the past, UN-INSTRAW's training and capacity-building programmes have highlighted gender dimensions and women's participation in the collection and analysis of data and statistics, the use of new information and communications technologies (ICTs), environmental management including water supply and sanitation and new and renewable sources of energy; and the portrayal of women in the media. UN-INSTRAW's current work in training and capacity-building focuses on women's political participation and governance at the local level; women's participation in peace and security processes, including the full implementation of UN Security Council

VISION

UN-INSTRAW is a leader in strategic and innovative actions that make a difference in women's lives.

MISSION

UN-INSTRAW is the leading United Nations Institute devoted to research, training and knowledge management in partnership with governments, the United Nations System, civil society and academia to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment.



Resolution 1325; and gender, migration and development issues.

In December 2003, INSTRAW initiated an institutional revitalization process designed to: a) re-build trust in the Institute and its capacity to deliver; b) generate recognition of the value of INSTRAW's research and training work both within the UN System and externally through programmes and products that are reliable, innovative, and opportune; c) improve the financial situation of the Institute by securing core and extra-budgetary financial and other resources; and d) establish cooperative partnerships with other UN entities in order to strengthen the Institute's position within the UN System and support system-wide coherence.

As a result of the implementation of this revitalization process and the UN-INSTRAW Strategic Framework 2004-2007, the Institute has achieved, a) a significant and steady increase in both core and extra-budgetary funding, both of which are now at the highest levels they have reached since UN-INSTRAW was established; b) the development of pioneering research, knowledge management and capacity-building tools in the Institute's three thematic areas (Gender, migration, and development; Gender, peace and security; and Governance and women's political participation); c) a significant change in UN-INSTRAW's worldwide visibility

and recognition through the formation of strategic alliances and an increased presence in the media worldwide; and d) recognition and congratulation from UN Member States in ECOSOC, the General Assembly and other fora¹ for the progress achieved since December 2003, including an ECOSOC Resolution (2007/37 of 27 July 2007) adopted by consensus, endorsing the UN-INSTRAW Strategic Framework 2008-2011, which carries forward the priorities established in 2004, consolidating the Institute's research and training programmes and enhancing its knowledge management capacity to ensure that research results have a concrete impact on policy and programme formulation and implementation.

In all of its work, UN-INSTRAW promotes an interactive dialogue between civil society, governments and international organizations through the creation of networks and the continual dissemination of gender-related information. The Institute has created networks, working groups and other communities of practitioners and stakeholders on various issues, including gender and security sector reform, ending violence against women, women's political participation, gender and remittances and other issues.

¹In addition to ECOSOC Resolution 2007/37 of 27 July 2007, the work of INSTRAW has been recognized and congratulated in recent decisions of the Third Committee of the General Assembly, the ACABQ, and the Commission on the Status of Women. General Assembly Resolution A/RES/63/157 of 18 November 2008 acknowledged "...the contributions of the Institute in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in the areas of security, international migration, in particular remittances and development, and governance and political participation; Recognizing the contribution of the Institute to the ongoing efforts in gender mainstreaming through its research and training outputs involving national gender machineries, academic institutes, regional intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector; Recognizing that the implementation of the programme of work and strategic plan of the Institute will contribute to a comprehensive discussion on international migration and development from a gender perspective; and Requesting the Institute, within its mandate, to continue to assist countries in promoting and supporting the political participation and economic and social advancement of women through training programmes."

UN-INSTRAW Executive Board

Mandate

UN-INSTRAW is governed by an Executive Board composed of ten Member States. These Member States are elected by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for a three-year term, and can be re-elected for one further term. The Director of the Institute, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, a representative of the Host Country, Dominican Republic, and a representative of each of the regional commissions of ECOSOC serve as ex-officio members of the Board.

Functions

The Executive Board meets at least once a year at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York in order to:

- Formulate principles, policies and guidelines for the work of the Institute;
- Consider and approve the work programme and budget of the Institute based on recommendations submitted to it by the Director;
- Make recommendations as appropriate on the operations of the Institute;
- Consider methods for enhancing the financial resources of the Institute with a view to ensuring the effectiveness of its future operations; and
- Report periodically to ECOSOC and, when appropriate, to the General Assembly.

Membership

Two governmental representatives from each of the five regional groups of the United Nations are elected by ECOSOC.

During ECOSOC sessions held on 10 May 2006, 30 July 2006, 15 December 2006, and 6 February 2007, and 25 April 2007, the following Member States were elected for terms beginning on 1 January 2007 and expiring on 31 December 2009:

- Belarus
- Egypt
- Grenada
- Honduras
- Israel
- Philippines
- Slovakia
- Spain
- Syria
- Zimbabwe

a. Overview

Every day men and women from diverse age groups and from different economic, social and ethnic backgrounds cross borders in search of better job opportunities and improved living conditions for themselves and for their families. Of the estimated 200 million people currently living outside of their countries of origin, 50 percent are women. However, while the number of women migrants has increased in the last few decades, the “feminization” of labour migration more accurately refers to an increase in the number of women migrating independently in search of work, as opposed to women travelling as “dependent” family members. A large percentage of women have also now become the main economic providers of their families and de facto heads of households.

A number of contributing factors have led to the increase in women’s migration for work: the effects of globalization, unemployment, poverty, armed conflict, gender inequalities in the countries of origin, and emerging challenges such as climate change, the food crisis, and the financial crisis, to name a few. Women migrants have also been increasingly responding to changing global labour markets, particularly the massive demand for cheap female labour from poor countries to fill the growing demand for caregivers in developed countries.

Since 2004, UN-INSTRAW has been addressing the issue of migration, with the aim of analyzing the gender dimensions of migration, and in particular, the sending, utilization and impact of remittances on gender identities and household relations, as well as community and national development in countries of origin. Considering that remittances have emerged as the second largest source of external funding for many

developing countries over the last decade, interested stakeholders such as governments and international organizations have been eager to explore the economic dimensions of remittances and their potential for development. However, a failure to integrate a gender perspective into analyses of these phenomena has resulted in large gaps in knowledge and understanding, and has ignored the important social, cultural, economic and political transformations stemming from the increasing feminization of international migration, as well as the impact and contributions of women migrants on development.

- The main areas of focus of UN-INSTRAW’s research on gender, migration and development are:
- The contribution of women migrants to the development of their countries and their

2008 HIGHLIGHTS

- Publication of three case studies on the gender dimensions of migration and remittances in Colombia, the Philippines and Southern Africa
- Case study research conducted in Albania, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Lesotho, Morocco, Philippines and Senegal
- Publication of the programme’s revised theoretical and conceptual framework on gender, migration and development
- Launch of the Global Care Chains project in Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Spain
- Publication of a guide for Filipino migrants living in Italy
- Publication of a series of policy briefs on remittances, food security, banking/ financial services and co-development
- Two virtual dialogues on Participatory Research Frameworks and Creating Gender Sensitive Migration Policy



Western Union office in Pojan, Korçë, Albania
(photo: Julie Vullnetari)

communities of origin, and the relevance of that contribution in the fight against poverty;

- How the migration of women is affecting gender roles in households and in communities of origin;
- Strategies aimed at increasing the development potential of remittances from a gender perspective.

In 2004, UN-INSTRAW set out to fill these knowledge gaps by initiating a series of case studies that examine diverse global migratory flows from a gendered perspective in order to identify and evaluate the multifaceted impacts of remittances within specific social, economic and political contexts. The conceptual framework on which much of this early work is based is set out in *Crossing Borders: Gender, Remittances and Development* (UN-INSTRAW, 2005). In 2008, the Institute revised this theoretical and conceptual framework through the publication of *Crossing Borders II: Migration and development from a gender perspective* (UN-INSTRAW, 2008), which builds on the reflections and analyses presented in the original paper.

This revised theoretical and conceptual framework has two main objectives: first, to rethink the dominant paradigm of “remittances for development,” which holds that the economic and social profits from migration have a positive incidence in communities of

origin through the transfer of money and capacities. From a gender and human development perspective, this paradigm ignores a number of key issues, including gender as a central analytical perspective; the right to a human-centred development that goes beyond simplistic notions of economic growth; the spatial dimension of development, which understands the links between development policies at the international and national levels and their application within local community contexts; and emerging issues such as the formation of global care chains. Second, to explore new analytical points of view, which from a gender perspective seek to highlight the particularities of women’s autonomous migration but which above all, propose a critical analysis of the inequalities and inequities that underlie the decision-making process, migratory forms and processes, and consequently, the sending, receipt and utilization of remittances.

b. UN-INSTRAW Activities 2007-2008

In line with the programme’s new conceptual framework, UN-INSTRAW continued to conduct its research on gender, remittances and development through a series of case studies. While each case study has posed different questions in response to the local context, the overall aim of the series is to contribute to an understanding of the impacts of migration and remittance flows at the micro-, meso- and macro-levels through the examination of household dynamics, changing gender roles and ideologies, current migration and labour market trends and the potential of remittances for the creation of sustainable livelihoods and community development. The Institute has published six case studies - with seven further

studies in progress - examining various countries of origin with diverse global migratory flows. Some of the concrete results of these individual case studies are discussed below.

Philippines

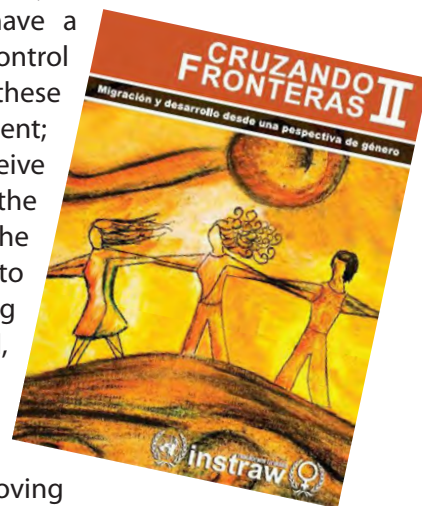
With funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and in collaboration with the Filipino Women's Council, UN-INSTRAW launched the study Gender, Remittances and Local Rural Development: The Case of Filipino Migration to Italy, in May 2008. This study examines the gender dimensions of remittances sent by female migrants in Italy to the Philippines, and analyzes the impact of these remittances on recipient households, in particular their effect on rural development and food security.

Some of the findings of this study revealed that:

- Women migrants from the Philippines now

comprise 65% of the total emigrant population, a rate that has grown steadily since the 1980s;

- Women are the primary senders of remittances from Italy to the Philippines and frequently have a high level of control over how these remittances are spent;
- Women who receive and manage the remittances in the Philippines tend to prioritize spending on the nutritional, educational and health care needs of household members, improving household food security;
- Investments from remittances in agricultural land and technologies often lead to a



Gender and Remittances: Building Gender-Responsive Local Development

Some initial findings from UN-INSTRAW/UNDP fieldwork in six countries demonstrate that:

- Gender patterns and family dynamics influence the ways in which decisions are made on migration and remittances;
- Women migrants face more obstacles in sending money home to their families due to their overall lower wages;
- Men tend to be the recipients and managers of family remittances within many households in Senegal, Albania and Morocco due to the persistence of patriarchal attitudes, leaving women with little capacity to independently manage the allocation of household resources;
- Remittances play an important role in the Dominican Republic in guaranteeing the food security of transnational households, particularly households in which older adults depend on their children's remittances;
- Remittances guarantee food security in the Philippines but also perpetuate growing inequities between recipient and non-recipient households;
- Patterns of migration and remittances in Lesotho have varied substantially as a result of the declining mining industry – a male dominated sector - and the growing textile and clothing industries – both highly feminized sectors - in South Africa.

transition from a subsistence model of agriculture to one focusing on agricultural commercialization, in which the unpaid labour of women and children is substituted for hired male workers, thus resulting in a change in the sexual division of labour;

- Many women in remittance-receiving homes have perceived these changes in the sexual division of labour as an opportunity to free themselves from unpaid manual agricultural work and involve themselves in paid labour such as owning a small business;
- In some cases, investments that favour businesses or property over cultivable land can negatively affect agricultural development and make households dependent on remittances sent from Italy, reducing subsistence farming and making household food security dependent on the purchase of market goods;
- Migration and remittances have also contributed to an increase in social inequalities at the community level, as those households who do not have a member working overseas are not able to equally invest in agricultural technologies and must continue to apply traditional cultivation methods, making it difficult for them to compete;

- High rates of female migration tend to generate job opportunities in care-giving within communities of origin as female migrants leave behind children and elderly relatives; however, these jobs are generally informal and poorly remunerated.

Following the conclusion of this research study, UN-INSTRAW conducted validation workshops with Filipino migrants in Italy and with remittance-receiving households in the Philippines in order to examine the research results and discuss their implications in terms of public policy formulation. As a result of these workshops, the Institute published three policy briefs that synthesize the project's findings into policy recommendations on the impact of remittances on food security, remittances and banking/financial services, and co-development policies and initiatives. In addition, in collaboration with the Filipino Women's Council (FWC), UN-INSTRAW also developed a Guide for Filipino migrants living in Italy (2008), which includes useful information related to migration, work, and social and other services available to migrants living in Italy.

Southern Africa

In 2007, UN-INSTRAW initiated a case study of female migration, remittances and development in selected countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Gender, Remittances and Development: Preliminary Findings From Selected SADC Countries, which was carried out in collaboration with the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) and published in February 2008, offers a gender-based analysis of the changing nature of migration (patterns, strategies, flows) and remittances (transfer mechanisms, frequency,



UN-INSTRAW Research Validation Workshop held in the Philippines
(photo: UN-INSTRAW)

quantities, impacts on recipient households), as well as a look at the political contexts (migration, citizenship, refugee and gender policies) in which migration takes place within and between selected SADC countries. The analysis is oriented towards the formulation of strategies and policies that allow for positive synergies between migration and development, taking into account the central, but not unique role of remittances, and considering that an accurate understanding of gender dimensions will contribute to more effective and sustainable migration and development policies.

Colombia

The UN-INSTRAW study on Gender, Remittances and Development: Colombian Migration from AMCO to Spain was published in April 2008 and was conducted in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Alianza País, a collective of governmental, non-governmental and academic organizations in Colombia. The study combines an analysis of qualitative and quantitative information on women's migration from the Área Metropolitana Centro Occidente (AMCO) region of Colombia to Spain in order to assess the development potential of remittances in Colombia from a gender perspective.

Remittances and gender-responsive local development

In 2006, UN-INSTRAW established an agreement with the Gender Unit Team and the Capacity Development Group of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to carry out a multi-country study on "Gender and Remittances: Building Gender Responsive Local Development." The project consists of case studies in six countries - Albania, Dominican Republic, Lesotho, Morocco, Philippines and Senegal -

Observations from participants in UN-INSTRAW's virtual dialogues on Gender, Migration and Development

"That migrants are managing to send more in remittances than states receive in foreign aid reflects not only migrants' commitment but also a failure on the part of the governments of migrant-sending states to address these issues."

Participant from the United Kingdom

"The developmental aspects of migration should be approached from a human-rights, human-centred perspective that understands development as the enlargement of capabilities and freedoms."

Participant from Spain

"Immigration policies tend to under value female occupations such as domestic and care work where soft skills are ignored."

Participant from the United Kingdom

"Many children in urban and rural areas are going to school thanks to the Diasporas and this has contributed to a higher enrolment in tertiary education."

Participant from Uganda

"At the moment, migrant workers employed as caregivers and domestic helpers are not protected by the Taiwan Labour Standards Law. The mostly female migrant workers employed in this sector are vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, sexual harassment and even rape."

Participant from Taiwan

and was initiated in September 2007, with the results of the research phase expected in July 2009. The project aims to: (i) increase awareness and improve access to productive resources for female-headed households that receive



Men and women crossing the Dominican Republic/Haiti border
(photo: UN-INSTRAW)

remittances; (ii) support local and national governments in formulating policies to optimize the utilization of remittances for sustainable livelihoods and building social capital; and (iii) enhance capacity of key stakeholders to integrate gender into policies, programmes, projects and other initiatives linking remittances with sustainable livelihoods. UN-INSTRAW and UNDP have also initiated the policy dialogue component of the project at the national level. As part of this policy dialogue process, local stakeholders are coming together to create national steering committees in each of the project countries in order to review and analyze the research results and identify policy recommendations that will then be incorporated

into national action plans for pilot projects on gender-sensitive local development.

Guatemala

As part of the Institute's focus on South-South migration, UN-INSTRAW is conducting a qualitative study of the migration of indigenous Guatemalan women to southern Mexico in collaboration with the Institute of Economic and Social Research (IDIES) of the Rafael Landívar University of Guatemala and the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). This case study will form part of the first phase of a more comprehensive project on migration and remittances initiated by the

Danish International Development Assistance (DANIDA) in Guatemala.

Global care chains

With funding from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation to Development (AECID), UN-INSTRAW initiated the implementation of its new project "Building Networks: Women and Global Care Chains in Latin America." The project aims to examine the creation of global care chains within the context of international migration, through four case studies in Peru-Spain, Bolivia-Chile, Ecuador-Spain, and Peru-Chile.

Global care chains are created as a result of the so-called "care crisis" generated by the inadequate public response to the increasing number of women in developed countries entering the labour market. These women create a strong demand for domestic and care-giving labour – which is in large part met by migrant women from developing countries. In turn, these migrant women shift their own domestic and care responsibilities onto others in the country of origin – usually a female relative or hired worker. This shifting of reproductive labour from one person to another creates "global care chains" along gender, socio-economic and ethnic lines.

The project will formulate proposals that place the issue of care on the development agenda – in particular the valuation of reproductive labour and gender equality in the provision of care, and also aims to establish transnational dialogue platforms to bring together women who are involved in different components of global care chains in each of the project countries.

Virtual dialogues

With the aim of enriching the Institute's theoretical framework and research

methodologies, the UN-INSTRAW Gender, Migration and Development Programme held its first virtual dialogue among experts focusing on "Gender, Migration, Remittances and Development: Towards a Participatory Research Framework," in September 2008. Participants included more than 70 researchers, academics and other experts from over 20 countries. This networking activity aimed to contribute to enhanced exchange and dialogue on the topic, as well as the eventual establishment of a Community of Practice on Gender and Migration.

A second dialogue "Gender, Migration, Remittances and Development: Creating Gender-Sensitive Migration Policy," was conducted in November 2008 in order to follow up on the first dialogue by identifying current issues in migration policy from a gender perspective and compiling good practices and lessons learned from existing experiences, with an eye towards developing concrete policy recommendations. Participants included more than 220 researchers, practitioners and other experts from over 40 countries. The goal of this forum was to bring the conceptual discussions of gender, migration and development issues to the level of concrete policy and programme recommendations.

Gender, Peace and Security

a. Overview

In line with UN-INSTRAW's institutional objectives, the Gender, Peace and Security Programme promotes applied research, facilitates knowledge management, and supports capacity-building in order to promote gender equality and women's full and equal participation in the realms of peacekeeping, peace processes, post-conflict reconstruction and the reform of security institutions.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (Resolution 1325) is one of the most important international mandates with regard to the full and equal participation of women in all peace and security initiatives, as well as mainstreaming of gender issues in the context of armed conflict, peace-building and reconstruction processes. Since Resolution 1325 was passed in 2000, there has been only limited progress in its implementation, with varying and unclear results. The UN-INSTRAW Gender, Peace and Security

"Resolution 1325 cannot be comprehensively implemented without a national action plan. The countries that need to take implementation actions the most, especially those involved in or recently emerged from armed conflict, often lack implementing capabilities and are burdened by specific special situations and difficulties..."

Statement by H.E. Amasador LIU Zhenmin, Deputy Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations, October, 2007

Programme endorses the key recommendations of Resolution 1325 and works to promote its implementation within the UN system, by national governments and by non-state entities.

This work includes technical support for the development of National Action Plans (NAPs) on the implementation of the resolution, as well as research into different aspects of the resolution, such as mainstreaming of gender perspectives into peacekeeping operations. The Institute's main publication on Resolution 1325, *Securing Equality, Engendering Peace: A guide to policy and planning on women, peace and security* (UN-INSTRAW, 2006) has been used throughout 2007 and 2008 to support the development of national action plans in such countries as Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Liberia, the Netherlands, and Spain.

2008 HIGHLIGHTS

- Publication of the Gender and Security Sector Reform Toolkit (in collaboration with DCAF and ODIHR)
- Expansion of the Global Directory of Gender, Peace and Security Research Institutions
- Two virtual dialogues on gender, peace and security research, and good practices in the implementation of Resolution 1325 at the national level
- Support to security sector reform from a gender perspective in Haiti;
- Support to the formulation of a national action plan on Resolution 1325 in Liberia
- Publication of study on gender-based violence and natural disasters

b. UN-INSTRAW Activities 2007-2008

Full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325



Participants at the Crafting Human Security in an Insecure World Conference (24-26 September 2008, San Diego), co-organized by the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ), the Global Justice Centre, UN-INSTRAW, DCAF, and UNIFEM. (photo: IPJ)

As a result of its participation in two High-level dialogues on the national-level implementation of Resolution 1325 in Latin American and Africa, organized by the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women (OSAGI), UN-INSTRAW launched a virtual dialogue on "Planning for Action: Good Practices on Implementing Resolution 1325 at the National Level" (3 to 21 November 2008). The Dialogue aimed to identify good practices and lessons learned regarding the formulation and implementation of national action plans on Resolution 1325. A Background Paper was developed to support the discussion and the results will be incorporated into the second edition of *Securing Equality, Engendering Peace* (forthcoming 2009).

In addition, UN-INSTRAW supported the following national-level projects during 2008:

Women, peace and security in Liberia

In 2007, UN-INSTRAW received funding from the Government of Austria to support the implementation of Resolution 1325 in Liberia. As part of this project, an assessment has been

conducted of the situation with regard to women, peace and security in Liberia, including a mapping of actors, identification of entry points for promoting Resolution 1325, and a look at the major potential obstacles to its implementation. Since the start of the project in August 2008, UN-INSTRAW has worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Development of Liberia to draft a national action plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325, which is scheduled to be launched in early 2009.

As part of the process of drafting the national action plan, UN-INSTRAW has - in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Development, the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and other relevant actors - undertaken awareness-raising and validation workshops with representatives of government and civil society in Liberia, in order to discuss and validate the text of the action plan and ensure that it has broad-based ownership. In addition, in collaboration with UNIFEM, UN-INSTRAW has worked with the Ministry of Gender and Development and other stakeholders to build capacity on identifying indicators for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the national action plan.

"Women play multiple roles in conflict situations, extending well beyond the roles of caregivers and victims. For that reason, it is of crucial importance to build on women's potential in peace processes and ensure that women are included in processes of economic reconstruction, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), and security sector reform (SSR). More than eight years have passed since Resolution 1325 was unanimously adopted, and yet women are still not participating equally in peace security initiatives. Any Agreement is only as good as its implications. An action plan sets the stage for actually implementing 1325."

Koenders, Bert, Minister for Development Coordination on Dutch Action Plan, UN-INSTRRAW questionnaire (Santo Domingo: UN-INSTRRAW, February 2008)

Women, peace and political participation in Somalia

With support from the Government of Italy, in early 2008 UN-INSTRRAW launched a project in collaboration with the Associazione Diaspora e Pace (ADEP), an organization of Somali women living in Italy. The objectives of the project were to build bridges between women of the Somali

Diaspora and women in Somalia, in order to strengthen their participation in ongoing peace and political processes. UN-INSTRRAW worked with ADEP to provide capacity-building on planning, monitoring and evaluation related to Resolution 1325 and women's participation in conflict resolution and peace-building processes. Two regional seminars were organized in Italy – one in Milan (February 2008) and one in Bari (May 2008) – in order to bring together Somali migrant women to discuss issues of relevance to the Diaspora, such as the often incorrect use of clan identities among Somalis, the "4.5 Formula," used by the Somali Transitional Federal Institutions to guarantee representativeness, but which does not reflect the traditional values of the clan system, and the impact of Western countries on the (lack of) reconciliation in Somalia due to their abuse of the clan concept. Participants in the seminars also discussed concrete ways to strengthen links between women in Diaspora communities and women in Somalia, including the establishment of networking organizations and other links.

The project culminated in an International Conference, held in Tanzania, in September 2008, which brought together Somali women

"Somali women in Italy need to create a networking organization to address the problems they have in common in their new home country. Once we have organized and created unity among the Somali community in Italy, we can start to have a significant impact on politics in Somalia."

Participant, Bari seminar

from Italy and from Somalia with representatives of the Somali Transitional Federal Government with the following objectives: i) establish an open and continuous dialogue among Somali women both from Somalia and the Diaspora; ii) support the creation of an enabling environment for women's equal participation in conflict-resolution, peace-building and political processes in Somalia and among the Somali Diaspora; iii) outline a roadmap for the development of a National Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in Somalia, and define strategies and mechanisms for its participatory negotiation and implementation.

Security sector reform from a gender perspective

Security sector reform (SSR) is increasingly recognized as a crucial part of development, peace-building and democratization. The core security sector includes all the organizations that have the authority to use, or order the use of, force, or the threat of force, to protect individuals, groups and the state. There is a strong recognition by security sector reform practitioners and donors that gender should be mainstreamed in SSR, but there is often a lack of political will, clear policy articulation, legislative frameworks and practical implementation instruments.

The UN-INSTRAW Gender, Peace and Security Programme works in the field of security sector reform to ensure that gender perspectives are analyzed, addressed and mainstreamed into SSR initiatives to promote a more inclusive and sustainable human security for women, men, girls and boys. The work of the programme has focused on developing practical tools, information-sharing, networking, and action-oriented research.

The Gender and Security Sector Reform Toolkit includes comprehensive, full-length tools and shorter, more concrete practice notes on:

1. Security Sector Reform and Gender
2. Police Reform and Gender
3. Defence Reform and Gender
4. Justice Reform and Gender
5. Penal Reform and Gender
6. Border Management and Gender
7. Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector and Gender
8. National Security Policy-Making and Gender
9. Civil Society Oversight of the Security Sector and Gender
10. Private Military and Security Companies and Gender
11. SSR Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation and Gender
12. Gender Training for Security Sector Personnel

In March 2008, UN-INSTRAW in collaboration with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) published the Gender and Security Sector Reform Toolkit, which is an initial response to the need for more information and advice on the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of SSR processes from a gender perspective. The Toolkit is designed to provide policy-makers and practitioners with a general introduction to why gender issues are important in SSR, as well as practical tips on how to incorporate gender issues in SSR policies and processes and increase women's participation as key actors in the security sector.

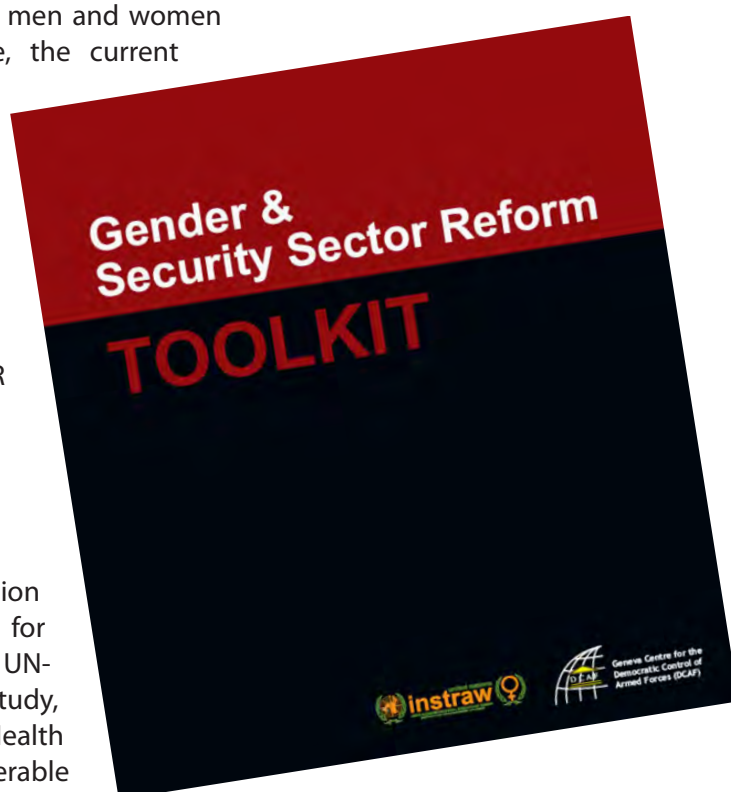
Gender and security sector reform in Haiti

In 2007, UN-INSTRAW received partial funding from the Governments of Norway and Austria for the inter-agency project: "Ensuring Security for All: Gender and Security Sector Reform in Haiti." This project, which was implemented jointly throughout 2008 by UN-INSTRAW, the Gender Unit of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and UNIFEM, aims to assess the status of the Haitian security sector from a gender perspective, focusing in particular on i) the response to violence against women; and ii) the participation of women in specific institutions of the Haitian security sector, namely the Haitian National Police (PNH). In early 2009, the project will produce an assessment report and mapping of actors that look at the main actors in the Haitian security sector, the security needs of men and women from a gender perspective, the current response to these needs, and the integration of women into the PNH, with a view to identifying existing policy, learning and capacity gaps, as well as entry points and challenges to the integration of a gender perspective in ongoing SSR processes.

Gender-based violence and natural disasters

In October 2008, on the occasion of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction, UN-INSTRAW launched its new study, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Violence against Vulnerable Persons: Tropical Storm Noel in the

Dominican Republic, which was funded by the UN Central Emergency Response Fund. The study reflects an assessment, which was carried out in collaboration with UNFPA-Dominican Republic, of the impact of natural disasters on vulnerable populations, as well as an analysis of the provision of sexual and reproductive health services and efforts to prevent violence against women in post-disaster situations. The study is based on a series of interviews conducted with key informants from security, local and national government agencies, provincial and regional health institutes, and NGOs, as well as with users of health services. The study proposes a series of recommendations directed towards government policy-makers, emergency workers, civil society groups and the general population on integrating gender issues into disaster response efforts.



Governance and Women's Political Participation

a. Overview

While the global percentage of parliamentary seats held by women reached a historic high of eighteen percent in 2008, the political representation of women in both the upper and lower levels of government is still significantly lower than that of men in most nations and regions of the world. Eighteen percent representation is far from reaching the thirty percent considered to be the minimum percentage necessary to ensure a critical mass of women who can influence decision making processes and political agendas. In fact, women today continue to hold less than ten percent of parliamentary seats in one third of all countries.

Despite persistent under-representation, women's access to power and decision-making positions improved during the last decade due to the implementation of different strategies and measures at the global, national and local levels. In 1995, the Beijing Platform for Action identified women's full participation in the exercise of power as one of its critical areas of concern, recognizing that it must be incorporated at all levels of decision-making as a pre-requisite to the attainment of equality, development and peace. The Millennium Declaration (September 2000) reaffirmed the centrality of women's participation in development and declared the urgent need to promote gender equality and the achievement of women's empowerment as the most effective way to fight poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate truly sustainable development. In addition, numerous measures including equality laws, quota mechanisms and reforms to electoral systems have facilitated women's political participation and access to positions of power.

A significant challenge remains in the fact that women's interests and needs are not being adequately considered or met in local politics, planning and management. Women's political participation in municipalities has received little attention until recently, though the chronic under-representation of women in mayoral and other locally elected positions is increasingly recognized as a significant challenge to gender equality. In 2006, in response to a gap in research and training in this area, UN-INSTRAW launched a three-year project "Strengthening governance with a gender perspective and women's political participation at the local level in Latin America." With funding from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation to Development

2008 HIGHLIGHTS

- Training workshops on ICTs for women in municipal governments conducted in five countries
- "Municipal Gender-Audit Programme" in collaboration with government and civil society stakeholders in the Dominican Republic to promote gender mainstreaming in public policies
- Virtual "Expert Round Table on Gender-Sensitive Public Policies in Latin America"
- Pathways to Learning conducted in Central America and in South America
- Contributed to the creation of the "Observatory on Gender Parity in Latin America and the Caribbean"
- Round-tables in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia to assess the situation of women in politics
- Three country overviews on the status of women's political participation in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia and initiated three qualitative studies on local governance and political parties in the three project countries

Recent data indicate that although women represent almost half of the population, and in some cases up to 40% of national-level political representatives (Argentina, IPU), in Latin America, municipal governments that are headed by women represent less than 8% of the total.

At the local level in Morocco, women make up 0.55% (2003) of municipal council representatives, whereas in Algeria they are 8.23% (2007) and in Tunisia, 27% (2008).

(AECID) and the Institute of Women (InMujeres) in Mexico, this project aims to contribute to promoting women's rights, gender equality and women's political participation and leadership in local government planning and management.

In order to achieve this goal, UN-INSTRAW's Governance and Women's Political Participation Programme conducts action-oriented research, implements strategies to promote awareness-raising among major stakeholders on the importance of women's participation in local decision-making, initiates policy dialogues and aims to build local institutional capacities for gender-sensitive public policy formulation. The Programme has issued a series of publications on women's political participation (in Central America and the Andean Region); developed capacity-building tools and

methodologies to promote learning by facilitating the sharing of women's experiences and knowledge as political leaders; created analytical tools to evaluate electoral systems from a gender perspective; held virtual forums on equality legislation, quota laws and laws against harassment and political violence; organized seminars to identify new challenges and opportunities to promote greater political participation of women; and compiled a conceptual mapping of women's political participation at the local level, among other activities.

In 2008, UN-INSTRAW continued to advance its work geographically with the initiation of the project "Strengthening women's leadership and participation in politics and decision-making in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia," which is being implemented in collaboration with the Centre for Arab Women Training and Research (CAWTAR) with funding from AECID.



Participants in the Andean Pathways to Learning (photo: UN-INSTRAW)



Participants in the Pathways to Learning, Central America
(photo: Ariel Halpern, PROCASUR)

Pathways to Learning

"I am a different woman after participating in the Pathways to Learning; my vision has expanded and my contributions are more assertive because I am convinced that my term will impact other women who want to participate in decision-making positions."

- Ana Betty Valenciano

Pathways to Learning Participant from Central America and Governor of Belén, Heredia, Costa Rica

"This idea of the Pathways, in which good practices are exchanged, is great because it is a new way of training and a practical way to learn and teach. The chance to visit the places where things are happening and connect with leaders to share good practices and challenges faced brings an added value to the knowledge acquired."

-Oscar Ortíz,

Pathways to Learning Participant from Central America and Mayor of the Municipality of Santa Tecla, El Salvador

b. UN-INSTRAW Activities 2007-2008

Strengthening governance with a gender perspective and women's political participation at the local level in Latin America

Throughout 2008, UN-INSTRAW implemented the second and third phases of this project, prioritizing the formulation of strategies for capacity-building among stakeholders in order to increase the effectiveness and coordination of women's political participation. The project also continued to enhance knowledge on the current situation in order to advocate for the formulation of public policies from a gender perspective at the local level.

Based on the findings of eight studies conducted by UN-INSTRAW in the first year of the project, which demonstrated a crucial need to advance women's influence over the political agenda and promote their election to decision-making positions in local governments, the Institute initiated capacity-building and networking activities in 2007-2008 in five countries: Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Guatemala.

In response to the requests of women in municipal government positions in all five countries to improve their knowledge and skills in the area of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), UN-INSTRAW developed and implemented training workshops with the end goal of promoting free-flowing and constant communication between women in municipal governments and local political agendas. These trainings facilitated women's use of the Internet to promote their candidacies and familiarize the

public with their work, as well as interact with each other and enhance their capacities to respond to the needs of women.

UN-INSTRAW also works to support the creation of strategic alliances and regional and bi-national agreements in order to coordinate actions towards the advancement of women in politics and to collaboratively combat the obstacles. In March 2008, UN-INSTRAW facilitated the signing of an agreement between the Association of Women in Municipal Government of Ecuador (AMUME) and the Association of Councilwomen of Bolivia (ACOBOL) in order to coordinate awareness-raising actions in the face of political violence in Latin America. In addition, the Institute helped support the launching of the ACOBOL virtual portal through which women can report acts of political violence and follow up on the responses of authorities.

During 2007-2008, UN-INSTRAW organized a series of events along with local partners to promote networking and dialogue between

women from the municipal government of Costa Rica and local organisations in order to form a national network. In March 2008 the Costa Rican Network of Women in Municipal Government (RECOMM) was formed with 200 founding members. In May 2008, INSTRAW supported the First Interdepartmental Meeting of Women in Municipal Government and Women's Commissions in Guatemala.

In October 2008, UN-INSTRAW initiated the "Municipal Gender-Audit Programme," in collaboration with the State Women's Department (SEM) of the Dominican Republic (SEM), the DEMUCA Foundation and Progressio. The programme seeks to promote gender mainstreaming in the formulation, management and evaluation of public policies in seven municipalities of the Dominican Republic and includes a series of training workshops for selected municipal representatives on promoting gender equality in local governments.

Knowledge management strategies have been a priority within the framework of the project in



Participants in the Andean Pathways to Learning. (photo: UN-INSTRAW)

order to promote the sharing of information and experiences and enrich ongoing debates. According to the results of the UN-INSTRAW 2006 study “Assessment of Training and Capacity-Building Needs on Governance and Women’s Political Participation at the Local Level,” women elected in local governments in Latin America need more information regarding national and international legal frameworks. Based on these needs, UN-INSTRAW developed the radio program “Equity in Local Power” in Bolivia at the end of 2007, in order to facilitate the access of women elected in municipalities in rural areas of Bolivia to specialized information.

With the objective of discussing gender-sensitive public policies in Latin America, UN-INSTRAW and the Regional Training Programme on Gender and Public Policies (PRIGEPP) of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) initiated the virtual “Expert Round Table on Gender-Sensitive Public Policies in Latin America” in November 2008. Approximately 80 women from academic institutions, local and national governments, international institutions, political parties and civil society organizations participated in the virtual dialogue.

In 2008, the Institute launched the pioneering Pathways to Learning initiative, which aimed to facilitate the exchange of experiences and knowledge among women in decision-making positions in local government. Originally designed by the regional association PROCASUR, and adapted by UN-INSTRAW, this capacity-building methodology promotes learning by bringing together actors from different but related contexts in order to share their perspectives, experiences and lessons learned and apply the knowledge acquired to their individual contexts and jobs. Innovative training methodologies such as Pathways to Learning contribute to the field of gender training from a

new perspective that facilitates women’s learning while strengthening their capacity to practice politics in a supportive environment of strategic alliances.

In August 2008, UN-INSTRAW and PROCASUR hosted Pathways to Learning in Central America (between Costa Rica and El Salvador), and in South America in September 2008 (between Bolivia and Ecuador). Participants included councilwomen, women mayors and representatives of women’s associations. During the Pathways, participants visited municipalities that had made significant efforts to incorporate gender perspectives in their local governments with regard to services, legislation and affirmative actions to increase women’s participation.

In collaboration with UNFPA and UNIFEM, UN-INSTRAW signed an agreement with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in support of the establishment of the “Observatory on Gender Parity in Latin America and the Caribbean.” UN-INSTRAW’s role in this project is to contribute data, reports, capacity-building activities and technical support to the processes of analysis, information-sharing and policy-making around issues of gender equality in key areas such as the economy, politics and society.

Strengthening women’s leadership and participation in politics and decision-making in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia

In collaboration with the Centre for Arab Women Training and Research (CAWTAR), UN-INSTRAW launched its new project “Strengthening women’s leadership and participation in politics and decision-making in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia,” in July 2008. With funding from AECID, this project aims to help



strengthen the political participation and leadership of women by analyzing the current situation in the Maghreb region, with a specific focus on the barriers to women's participation in politics. It further seeks to generate dialogue and support collaborative efforts among key stakeholders who work in this area; promote the creation of political spaces for women and men from different backgrounds at the local level; and work with key stakeholders with a view to increasing and improving women's participation in local politics and decision-making. The results of the UN-INSTRAW project in Latin America and the Caribbean have served as inputs to this new project and will ideally encourage greater South-South cooperation and exchange on the issues of women's political participation and leadership at the local level.

As part of the first phase of the project, UN-INSTRAW and CAWTAR organized round-tables in each of the three project countries to identify national and sub-regional priorities and central actors, as well as to exchange perspectives on the situation of women in politics and best practices. Participants included representatives from political parties, Parliament, governmental

and non-governmental institutions, as well as experts, researchers and professionals from the media.

In December 2008, UN-INSTRAW finalized three country overviews on the status of women's political participation in each country (legal and juridical frameworks, a mapping of different actors, and data on women's presence in the political sphere). The project also initiated three qualitative studies on local governance and political parties in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. Other project activities over the last year have included a study focused on the relationship between women in politics and the media, both in terms of the media's treatment and representation of women in politics, as well as the access that female politicians have to the media and their capacity to use communication as a tool to promote women's and gender issues in the region. Within this framework, UN-INSTRAW and CAWTAR launched two photography and poster competitions on the theme of the participation of women in political life and the reinforcement of female leadership to raise awareness of both the issues and the project itself.

a. Overview

In line with the UN-INSTRAW Knowledge Management Strategy, which aims to: i) maximize the policy and programmatic impact of the Institute's work in applied research and training; and ii) strengthen the involvement of stakeholders in establishing and implementing a participatory and accountable research and training agenda, the Institute continued to develop initiatives that aim to make information collection, analysis and distribution, communication and other activities more participatory and supportive of knowledge sharing and capacity-development on gender equality and women's empowerment.

UN-INSTRAW's knowledge management is linked to the Institute's research and capacity-building activities in a continuous cycle of analysis, learning and action, so that research results feed into the management and sharing of knowledge, and the design of training and capacity-building programmes, as well as the formulation and implementation of policy. In turn, participatory knowledge management activities allow the Institute to identify and address new and emerging areas of research as identified by multiple stakeholders.

b. UN-INSTRAW Activities 2007-2008

The UN-INSTRAW Website

In November 2007, UN-INSTRAW launched its re-designed Website, which aims to make the work of the Institute available to a wider, more diverse audience and to serve as a platform for participatory knowledge management tools. The new site has been created to be more user-

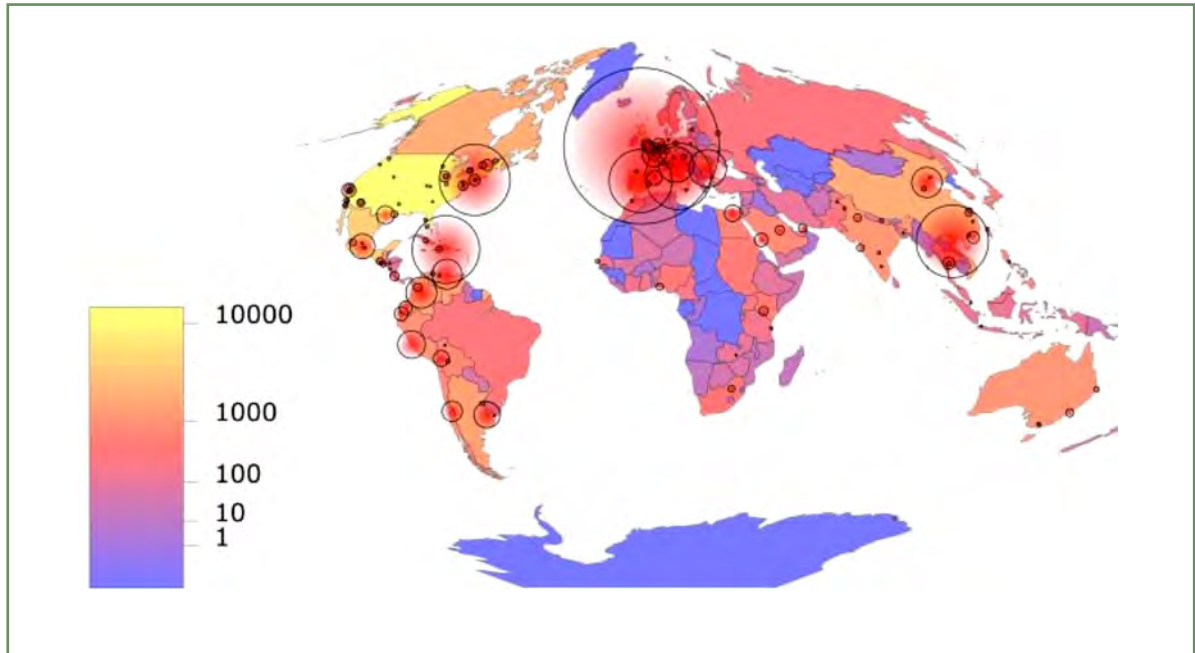
2008 Highlights

- Launch of Gender Training Community of Practice
- Six virtual dialogues conducted on various topics
- Significant increase in appearance of UN-INSTRAW in radio, print and online media
- Improvement in UN-INSTRAW's Google rankings
- Updated Gender Training Wiki

driven by including more interactive features such as Communities of Practice (CoPs), virtual dialogues, maps and quizzes, and to be more dynamic by offering the use of multimedia tools such as video, audio clips and photo galleries. The Website's "virtual workspaces" also facilitate cooperation on project management between UN-INSTRAW staff in the field and at headquarters.

With the installation of new statistical monitoring tools, the Institute was able to profile and analyze use of the Website (by region and area of interest), which will assist in the further implementation of successful knowledge management strategies and tools. During the last six months of 2008, visitors to the UN-INSTRAW Website increased by 65 percent. The use of UN-INSTRAW products by other Websites and the percentage of UN-INSTRAW links on other websites also increased by 50% mostly due to the Institute's increased collaboration with other online portals. Random Google searches of document titles have also shown an increase in ranking of an average of 40 percent.

Hits to <http://www.un-instraw.org> from around the world



Virtual dialogues

UN-INSTRAW's knowledge management activities are oriented to focus on the formation of "knowledge communities" or "Communities of Practice" around specific issues. These knowledge communities come together through mailing lists, networks, virtual dialogues, online forums, and other interactive tools in order to exchange information and experiences and enrich ongoing debates through new perspectives and analyses.

- The Institute has found virtual dialogues to be a particularly useful forum for building knowledge and for sharing ideas and best practices. In 2008, UN-INSTRAW hosted six virtual dialogues on a variety of topics related to INSTRAW's thematic and strategic areas of work:
- The Current Situation in Gender Training

(September 2008)

- Gender, Migration, Remittances and Development: Towards a Participatory Research Framework (September 2008)
- Identifying Gaps in Gender, Peace and Security Research (October 2008)
- Planning for Action: Implementing Resolution 1325 at the National Level (November 2008)
- Creating Gender Sensitive Migration Policy: Best Practices and Lessons Learned (November 2008)
- Expert Round Table on Gender-Sensitive Public Policies in Latin America (November 2008)

In addition to the benefits of participating in the virtual dialogues, the results of the discussions have led to the development of policy recommendations, communities of practice, and compendia of good practices and proposals

From the Field of Gender Training

- Unfortunately, the primary audience remains staff in lower management positions. Very few senior managers think it's worth their while to attend gender training!

Participant from Australia

- "By referring to 'gender training', I mean a whole set of training activities which aim to raise awareness, sensitize, equip with skills, etc... with the overall objective to improve our capacity to understand and to deal with issues pertaining to gender equality."

Participant from Uzbekistan

- "In general, [peacekeeping] course participants are mostly men... We have found that course participants are more receptive when this topic is facilitated by a man, and participants are more likely to view the topic as important. This is especially true of certain countries and audiences with whom we work, where there remains a great deal of resistance to having women in peace operations, especially in any role other than secretary, nurse, educator, etc. When a female gives the presentation, it is politely listened to and then dismissed as not relevant to robust peacekeeping."

Participant from Canada

- "For me, a community of practice offers a space to get clarity on these issues, offers a move towards standardization of basic principles, guidelines and requirements and can be a supportive place to get assistance or find like-minded practitioners when one needs to get something in place. It can also act as a clearing house for tested resource materials and a space for passing on knowledge, information and best practice to the next generation."

Participant from Liberia

for a number of joint projects, as well as contributed to the creation and redefinition of UN-INSTRAW's conceptual frameworks, research methodologies and capacity-building activities.

Community of Practice (CoPs)

UN-INSTRAW has taken the idea of knowledge communities, which have been built around the Institute's research programmes and projects, and expanded them to establish Communities of Practice (CoPs). The aim of CoPs is to take the information and debates exchanged in these knowledge communities and apply them on a more practical level, through concrete policy and programme-oriented discussions, the analysis of existing practices and experience, and the production of policy briefs and other practice-oriented tools.

In September 2008, the Institute launched its first Community of Practice (CoP) on Gender Training. The objectives of this CoP are to promote knowledge sharing and reflection on gender training, existing experiences and lessons learned and work to produce and consolidate resources that build on the expertise and experience of CoP participants. In December 2008, the Gender Training CoP concluded a comprehensive update of the Gender Training Wiki with additional information and tools to make it more interactive. The Wiki is a participatory resource centre for gender trainers, academics, gender mainstreaming, knowledge management and development experts and practitioners that has been built by UN-INSTRAW staff and through the suggestions and contributions of gender trainers in the field.

Also in September 2008, the Gender Training CoP launched its first Virtual Dialogue on "The Current Situation in Gender Training." This

dialogue brought together experts in the fields of capacity-development, gender and knowledge management in order to share their experiences with gender training as a tool for gender mainstreaming and sustainable development, identify recommendations for strengthening gender training, and discuss how to move forward with the CoP.

The Gender Training CoP will serve as a pilot experience for the development of other Communities of Practice as a knowledge management and capacity-development tool, centred on the Institute's strategic and thematic areas of work. Along these lines, in October 2008, UN-INSTRAW held a virtual dialogue among researchers working on gender, peace and security issues. The purpose of the dialogue was to exchange information and stimulate discussion on gender, peace and security research with the goal of identifying gaps in current research and tools and methods to fill them. The dialogue participants also discussed the formation of a more permanent community of practice on gender, peace and security research, which would provide a forum for continuous exchange of information analyses and research results.

UN-INSTRAW in the media

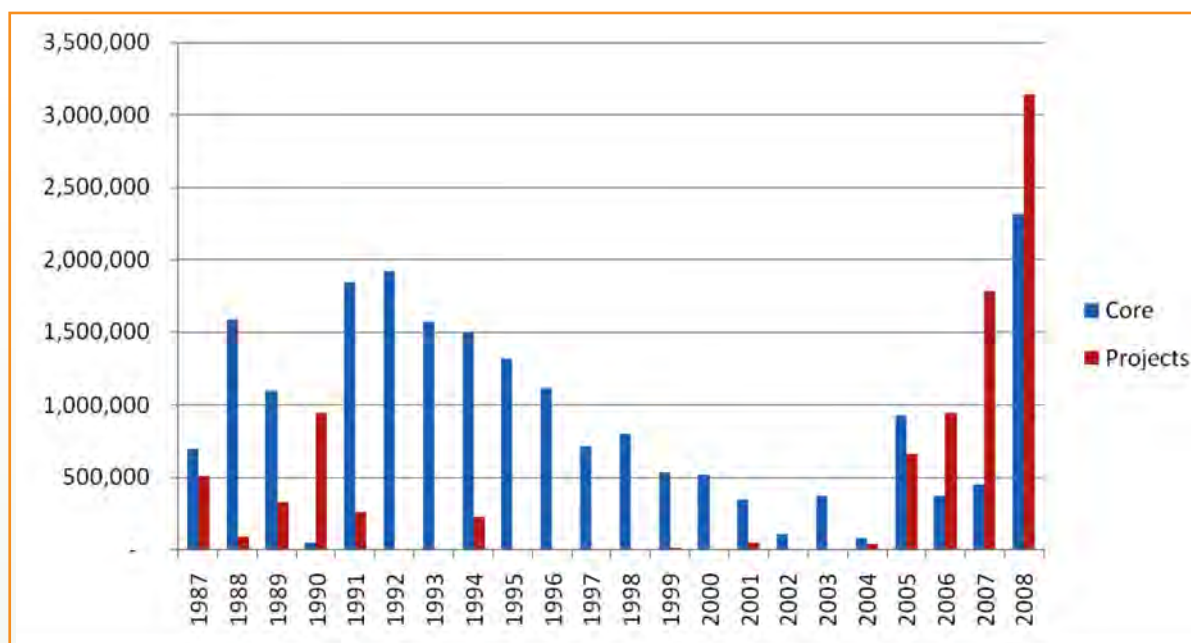
The Knowledge Management Unit actively publicizes and promotes UN-INSTRAW publications and other programmatic and institutional activities. In order to maximize the impact and visibility of the Institute's work, targeted communications are directed towards the media, UN entities, and international, regional and local institutions. Information is distributed through the Institute's Website in English, French and Spanish, institutional press releases, publication launching events, interviews,

conferences, presentations and other communications materials.

A media center was launched on the UN-INSTRAW Webpage in 2007 in order to provide easy access to news, press releases, events, newsletters and other information relating to the Institute's goals and programme of work. "Press notes" offer brief guides to UN-INSTRAW's main areas of work and information on specific projects. The multimedia gallery also provides visitors with access to documentary videos, audio recordings such as interviews with UN-INSTRAW staff and a photo gallery. Moreover, the section "UN-INSTRAW in the press" highlights articles in which the Institute is featured that have been published in various printed and digital newspapers, academic journals, magazines and the Websites of other UN entities.

UN-INSTRAW continued to distribute its monthly newsletter with updates on the Institute's projects and other activities. In addition, the Global Gender News feature on the UN-INSTRAW Website regularly circulates items of interest on gender issues from around the world. The Institute's Gender, Peace and Security Programme also publishes a newsletter to keep interested stakeholders apprised of its activities and any important advances in this area.

UN-INSTRAW Core and Extra-budgetary Funding (1987-2008)



Contributions to UN-INSTRAW Core Budget
(2007-2008)

Country	2007	2008
Barbados	1,000	1,000
Chile	5,000	5,000
China	10,000	9,980
Colombia	2,000	2,000
Egypt	-	2,000
El Salvador	-	1,000
Greece	20,000	15,000
Israel	10,000	15,000
Italy	175,600	740,200
Mexico	100,000	-
Morocco	5,000	3,000
Pakistan	-	939
Philippines	3,656	3,472
Slovenia	-	10,000
Spain	83,436	1,472,767
Thailand	3,010	3,010
Tunisia	3,160	3,230
Turkey	30,000	25,000
Uruguay	-	2,000
Venezuela	5,520	-

Statement of income and expenditure and changes in reserves
and fund balances for 2008 (at 31 December 2008, in US dollars)

A. Income	
Voluntary contributions*	2,327,898.24
Funds received under inter-organization	
Interest income	26,173.46
Other/miscellaneous income	152,635.67
Prior/future revenues	
Total income:	2,506,707.37
B. Expenditures	
Staff and other personnel costs	720,111.98
Travel	65,506.98
Contractual services	39,414.00
Operating expenses	54,204.21
Acquisitions	27,066.36
Total direct expenditure:	906,303.53
Programme support costs	32,315.40
Total expenditure:	938,618.93
Excess(shortfall) of income over expenditure	1,568,088.44
Reserves and fund balances, beginning of period	1,567,342.43
Reserves and fund balances, end of period	2,434,108.21

* less voluntary contributions receivable of \$311,454.62