

**"Working for women's  
empowerment and  
gender equality"**

# UNIFEM

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2003/2004**

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

- Reducing feminized poverty;
- Ending violence against women;
- Reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls;
- Achieving gender equality in democratic governance in times of peace as well as war.

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

UNIFEM's mandate is to:

- Support innovative and experimental activities benefiting women in line with national and regional priorities;
- Serve as a catalyst, with the goal of ensuring the appropriate involvement of women in mainstream development activities, as often as possible at the pre-investment stage;
- Play an innovative and catalytic role in relation to the United Nations' overall system of development cooperation. (GA Resolution 39/125)

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As we approach the Heads of Government event in 2005 that will review progress on the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, it is clear that much remains to be done if we are to achieve the goals agreed by all world leaders to halve extreme poverty and hunger in our world, problems that all too often disproportionately affect women and girls.

UN reform, at the heart of which lies the need for improved collaboration, is key if we are to achieve the MDGs. Whether we are striving for increased coherence in policy and programming instruments or administrative streamlining, the guiding vision is to be able to respond efficiently and effectively to the development challenges outlined in the MDGs.

In this regard, UNIFEM, an associated fund of UNDP, has proven to be an organization on whose expertise and commitment its partners within the United Nations system know they can rely upon. As the head of the United Nations Development Programme, and given that 2005 will also mark the 10-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action, I am particularly encouraged to see the way in which collaboration between our two organizations has grown. A large number of UNDP country offices are now reporting partnerships with UNIFEM colleagues on the ground, and the numbers are increasing. We have stepped up our joint programming, for example on HIV/AIDS or poverty reduction, and field-based collaboration between UNDP and UNIFEM in the area of crisis prevention and recovery has delivered tangible results in Afghanistan, Albania, Burundi

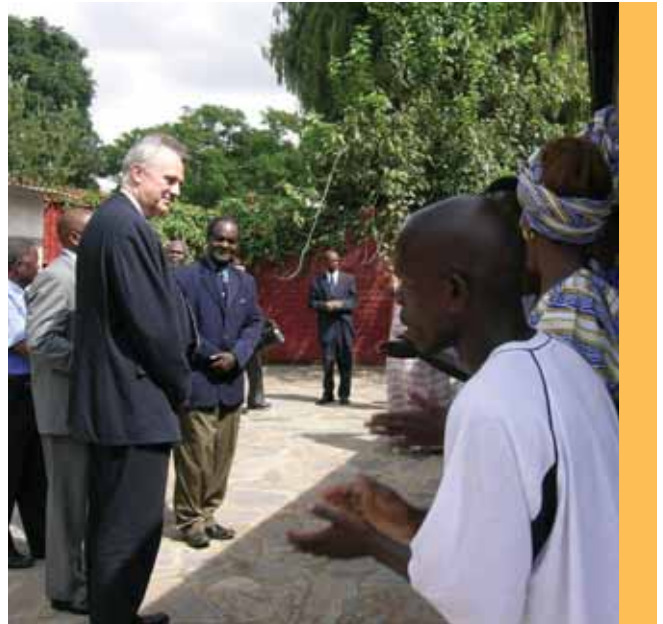
and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The unique convergence of UNDP and UNIFEM mandates to mainstream gender equality into coordination and joint programming efforts has seen our two organizations take advantage of this both within and outside the UN system. UNDP and UNIFEM worked together to conduct a global mapping of the gender expertise available in all United Nations organizations, the World Bank and regional development banks. Last year an even wider circle of partners including the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD/DAC), was brought together to build common approaches on mainstreaming gender in the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, UNIFEM has been at the forefront of efforts to ensure that a gender perspective has been incorporated into inter-agency coordination mechanisms, such as the common country assessment (CCA) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) as well as poverty reduction strategies papers (PRSPs).

The strengthened partnership between UNDP and UNIFEM benefits from the comparative advantage of both organizations. It is a model of how we can successfully join forces in the context of the UN reform agenda. This is not of course an end in itself: the ultimate purpose is to increase our impact so that the Millennium Development Goals can become a reality for the millions of women and men we serve across the developing world.



Mark Malloch Brown



## Strong Partners for UN Reform



## From the Beijing Platform for Action to the Millennium Declaration

The realization of women's human rights is firmly at the centre of UNIFEM's work. The framing documents that guide these efforts – the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action and Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security – create an ambitious agenda and commitments that require monitoring and implementation. These commitments have been reaffirmed by the inclusion of gender equality and women's empowerment as one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and by the Millennium Declaration recognition that gender equality is not only important as a goal in itself but is also critical to the achievement of all other goals.

The 10-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action and the five-year review of the Millennium Declaration in 2005 are coming closer. Without wanting to pre-empt these crucial reviews we can already say today that, while great achievements have been made in terms of political commitments, the implementation of these commitments has been lacking.

It is at this pivotal point in time that UNIFEM has identified four strategic focus areas that are of critical concern for the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment and will guide our work over the next four years: reducing feminized poverty, ending violence against women, reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls, and achieving gender equality in democratic governance in times of peace as well as war. These goals – outlined in UNIFEM's strategic business plan or Multi-Year Funding Framework – are in line

with both the Beijing Platform for Action and the development agenda outlined in the Millennium Development Goals, and they constitute areas of particular expertise that UNIFEM has developed. This report is full of vivid examples of how much has already been achieved in each of these areas in 2003 alone.

UNIFEM is placing increased emphasis on working with UNDP and contributing to UN system-wide coordination mechanisms. This approach strategically positions UNIFEM to support the UN reform agenda and carry out its mandate to serve as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming. The strengthening of national capacity remains a priority, with a strong focus on supporting concrete skills and processes such as gender analysis of budgets, the compilation of gender-sensitive information and the implementation of human rights commitments. And last, but certainly not least, collaboration with women's organizations as key partners for change will continue to be the strong basis for much of our efforts.

The upcoming reviews of both the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Declaration are an obligation for us at UNIFEM to put to best use the critical expertise that we have developed in supporting and stimulating effective implementation of normative agreements at the national level. Fully committed to implementing international agreements that foster women's rights, we will continue to support advocacy for women's empowerment and build their capacity – for a life free from violence, poverty and discrimination.

Noeleen Heyzer



## Migrating Safely – to Make Savings

Nepali women who seek employment abroad no longer leave the country uninformed: Before their departure they now learn about their rights and entitlements, such as contractual obligations of employers and other provisions in labour laws. They also learn about migrants' centres they can turn to if they need help in their countries of destination, and about the embassies that have been opened in countries with large numbers of Nepali migrant workers.

Over the past year the Nepalese Government has introduced a range of measures to provide protection and assistance to women who leave their homes in search of a way out of poverty. For the

first time, issues regarding women migrant workers have been incorporated – and budgeted for – in the country's National Development Plan. A Migrant Worker Welfare Fund has been established, and a task force set up by the Ministry of Labour and Transport Management is exploring how to more strongly monitor and regulate the work of recruiting agencies. An extensive media campaign has helped create awareness on the concerns of migrant women workers and their human rights and highlighted their significant contributions to the national economy.

Nepal is only one of the

Asian countries in which UNIFEM is working to empower women migrant workers. The goal is to enhance migration policies and legislation, strengthen women migrant workers' organizations and facilitate a dialogue between countries of origin and destination in a manner that respects and advances these workers' human rights. At a regional conference in Jakarta, co-hosted by the Government of Indonesia and UNIFEM, participants from Bahrain, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Jordan, Nepal, the Philippines and Sri Lanka agreed that bilateral and

multi-lateral agreements to protect women migrant workers are a strategic priority.

To further assist women in making their labour abroad the foundation for a better future at home, UNIFEM and a migrant workers' organization in the Philippines have started a savings and investment scheme for returnees. The Government is considering incorporating the successful scheme into national poverty reduction strategies.

**A contribution to:**

**Millennium Development Goals 1, 3: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; Promote gender equality and empower women**

**Beijing Platform Critical Areas of Concern: Women and the economy; Human rights of women**

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Women construction workers in Asia: To empower migrant women workers, UNIFEM aims at enhancing migration policies and legislation.



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Many women find employment abroad as domestic workers. Nepali women now learn about their rights and entitlements before they leave the country.

## From migrant worker to manager

“When I was abroad as a domestic worker, I had two Sundays off a month and attended mass at the Chungli Catholic Church. There I learned about the savings and reintegration programme. After several training sessions, a number of friends and I decided to organize a savings group.

One time while on holiday in my village I saw a sign on a rice mill: ‘For Sale’. My savings group promised full support – and we won the bid! I was prepared to take on the responsibility of managing the business on behalf of the group. In December 2003 I was able to complete the official transfer of ownership to us. Through this experience I have learned many things. I am more confident to negotiate with potential customers and to meet with officials from the government and banks. I can read and understand financial statements. I can make a business plan and a marketing plan.

My family is filled with pride every time they tell their friends: “My mother is a manager”. I support the families of our four employees in the village. Just thinking of this is enough inspiration for me to work harder.”

Elsa Belarmino participated in the pilot savings scheme that UNIFEM supports through the migrant workers’ organization Unlad Kabayan in the Philippines.



**A**round the world, advocating for gender equality has found its way into account books and balance sheets. In 20 countries, with requests increasing, UNIFEM has supported the development of gender-responsive budgets that look at how the allocation of public resources benefits women and men and addresses gender equality requirements. In Mexico, as a result of the extensive mobilization of women's groups led by UNIFEM's partners Fundar and Equidad Genero, the Government earmarked 13 billion pesos, the equivalent of 0.85 per cent of the total budget in 2003, for programmes that promote gender equality. Fourteen ministries are required to report quarterly on the status of these programmes. In addition, training for newly elected parliamentarians in the country has supported policy action and also created interest in extending similar courses for legislative and executive staff.

On the revenue side, analysis in Senegal showed that women are taxed at a higher

rate than men, who are considered heads of households and family breadwinners. To eliminate the gender bias in taxation, the Ministry of Family and National Solidarity as well as women's organizations supported by UNIFEM and other partners are actively advocating

## Balancing Budgets for Gender Equality

for the modification of the family code to replace the concept of 'fatherhood authority' with that of 'joint parenthood'.

In 2003 UNIFEM also worked to share experiences and expertise within and across borders to promote the inclusion of gender considerations into budgets. Recognizing the importance of creating linkages between gender-responsive budgets and poverty reduction

strategies, UNIFEM, in collaboration with the UN Development Programme (UNDP), organized a regional meeting for delegates from Botswana, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia to develop tips and tools on how to incorporate gender aspects into national plans. In Belize, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Women's Issues Network joined UNIFEM to familiarize the Government and women's organizations with gender budget concepts. And building on successful modules developed to train several hundred government officials in Egypt, UNIFEM partnered with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the League of Arab States and the Centre of Arab Women to offer similar workshops to participants from all over the region.

**A contribution to:**

**Millennium Development Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women**

**Beijing Platform Critical Area of Concern: Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women**



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UNIFEM supports gender-responsive budgeting in 20 countries. In Mexico, 13 billion pesos were earmarked for programmes that promote gender equality.

An impulse for development and democratization  
“At the seminar for women parliamentarians from Central America we discussed how to influence the allocation of public resources and promote mainstreaming of gender into budgets. We also realized the urgent need for establishing alliances and agreements that will enable us to continue with this work.

I believe I express the sentiment of many of my colleagues by saying that we feel very committed, but we cannot yet be satisfied as this is just a first step. It is necessary to influence the political will of the officials and institutions involved in the elaboration of budgets, at both municipal and national levels, to ensure that public policies, plans and programmes incorporate a gender perspective.

Considering that participation is a fundamental

element, we are convinced that the incorporation of a gender perspective within the national budgets would have a very positive impact on human development, and especially on the democratization of Central America.”

Nidia Diaz from El Salvador is a member of the Central American Parliament, which conducted a UNIFEM-supported workshop on gender-responsive budgets for 150 congresswomen from Central America and the Caribbean.



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In Senegal, a budget analysis revealed that women professionals like this graphics designer are taxed higher than men.



## “No Violence: It’s Our Right!”

In Kazakhstan, anti-violence advocates were right on track: Boarding the ‘Train of Hope’, social workers, psychologists, lawyers and journalists set off to tour the country. At close to 60 stops they talked to scores of schoolchildren, trained hundreds of police officers, provided legal counsel to more than 150 women and debated with local government officials and support organizations.

The Train of Hope was part of UNIFEM’s regional advocacy campaign entitled ‘A Life Free of Violence – It’s Our Right’, which came to an end in 2003. Conducted in nine countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the campaign reached several million people in its three-year course and led to an impressive rise in public awareness on violence against women. A survey in different locations in the Russian Federation, for

example, showed increases of between 14 and 24 per cent. In Kyrgyzstan, a law on domestic violence was passed in 2003 as a result of the collection of over 34,000 signatures required to submit the draft bill to Parliament.

The secret of the campaign’s success lay as much in the widespread use of both mainstream and grassroots means of communications – from graffiti and art competitions for children to mobile theatre productions – as in the extensive networks that were built up between crisis centres, politicians, the media and research institutions. UNIFEM is already capitalizing on the momentum of the linkages made: Its programme to end violence against women in Central Asia, which focuses on community mobilization, collaboration with law enforcement agencies and enhanced

legislation, is relying on a range of partnerships forged during the campaign.

In 2003 anti-violence legislation was a focus of UNIFEM’s work. Assistance was provided to networks advocating for passage, strengthening and implementation of domestic violence bills in Indonesia and Thailand. In Latin America, UNIFEM joined the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and NGO partners to identify key components of anti-violence laws and policies, which will be used to advocate for legislative reforms in countries of the region, starting with Brazil, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Honduras.

### [A contribution to:](#)

[Beijing Platform Critical Areas of Concern: Violence against women; Human rights of women](#)

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Russian women demand an end to gender-based violence. UNIFEM's work led to an impressive rise in public awareness on violence against women.

### Training the judiciary

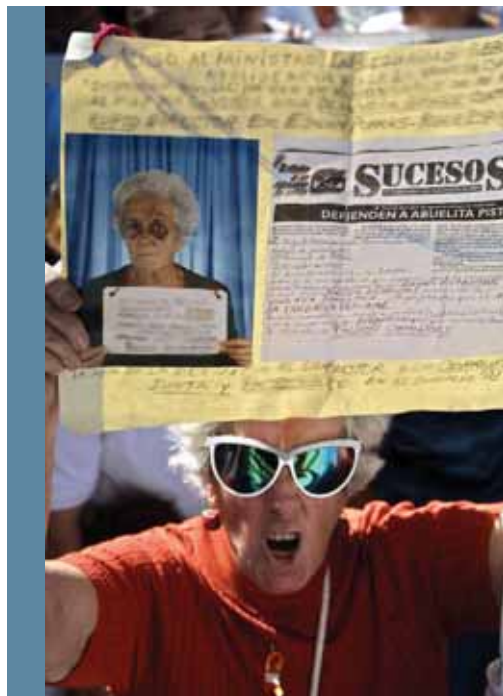
“From 2001-2003 the Tanzania Women Judges Association conducted seminars in jurisprudence on equality to equip judges and magistrates with knowledge and skills needed to resolve cases involving violence or discrimination against women. All seminars were funded in partnership with UNIFEM. Participants were required to bring cases in which international or regional human rights standards were cited, which were then

discussed. In one case, a man forcibly seized a woman, took her to his house and raped her. In court, he claimed that he wished to marry her but could not afford to do so. He further alleged that in having carnal knowledge of the complainant, he had married her according to customary norms. My sister judge found ample evidence that the sexual encounter was violent and non-consensual. She then cited, among other standards, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which calls

upon State Parties to reject custom, tradition or religion as excuses to avoid their obligation to protect and offer adequate relief to women victims of violence.

The evaluation made at the end of each of the seminars showed that they were eye-openers. Close to 15 per cent of all judges in Tanzania participated.”

Nathalia P. Kimaro is a judge at the High Court of Tanzania and a member of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ). With UNIFEM support, IAWJ conducted training also in Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe.



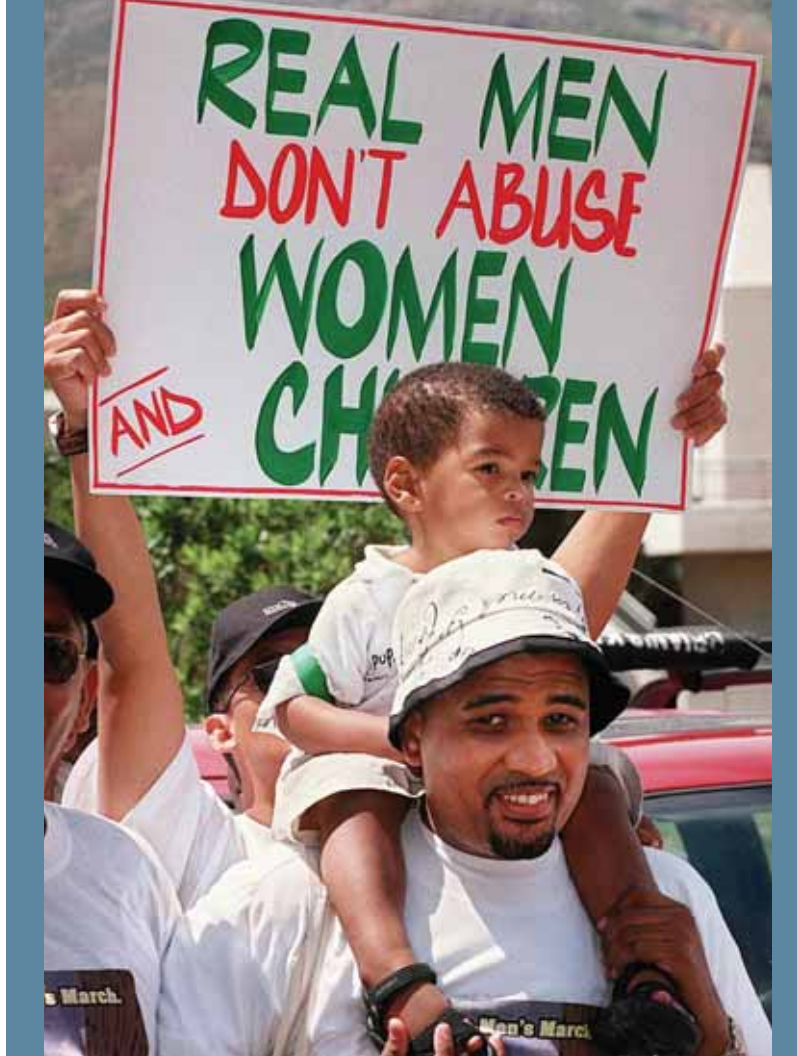
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A Costa Rican woman demonstrates against physical abuse. In Latin America, UNIFEM has worked to identify key components of anti-violence legislation.

▼ BELOW

“A Life Free of Violence – It’s Our Right”: Banners on buses helped spread the message during the three-year campaign conducted in nine countries in the CIS.





In Eastern and Southern Africa, it was the men who took to the roads to advocate for an end to violence against women. Aged 20-80 and from all walks of life, some 100 men boarded buses and took off to spread their messages through music, dance and drama in rural and urban communities. With banners and T-shirts proclaiming “Peace in Africa Begins at Home: Men Fight Gender-based Violence” and “Men Working to Stop the Spread of HIV/AIDS”, they engaged in lively debates with thousands of people along their way.

Funded with support from UNIFEM’s Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against

## Getting Men on Board

Women, the dynamic ‘Travelling Conference’ was organized last year by FEMNET, a regional women’s network, during the 16 Days of Activism, a worldwide campaign against violence that takes place annually between 25 November and 10 December. “When men talk to other men on gender equality they tend to pay more attention than when the same is coming from a woman,” said one participant, explaining his reasons for getting on board.

In order to involve men in a meaningful way as partners in combating violence against women, UNIFEM in

2003 also developed a pilot initiative in partnership with Zonta International in India. A research project titled ‘From violence to supportive practices: Family, gender and masculinities in India’ was undertaken together with the Department of Sociology at the University of Delhi. Travelling seminars conducted by the organization Aakar, in collaboration with five other universities, examined various dimensions of masculinity. To disseminate the findings on a wider scale, an exhibition on ‘Men and Masculinities’ combined photo documentation with findings from the research

project. The knowledge generated has been fed into a new course, Theorizing Masculinity, at Delhi University and linkages have been established with universities in the UK.

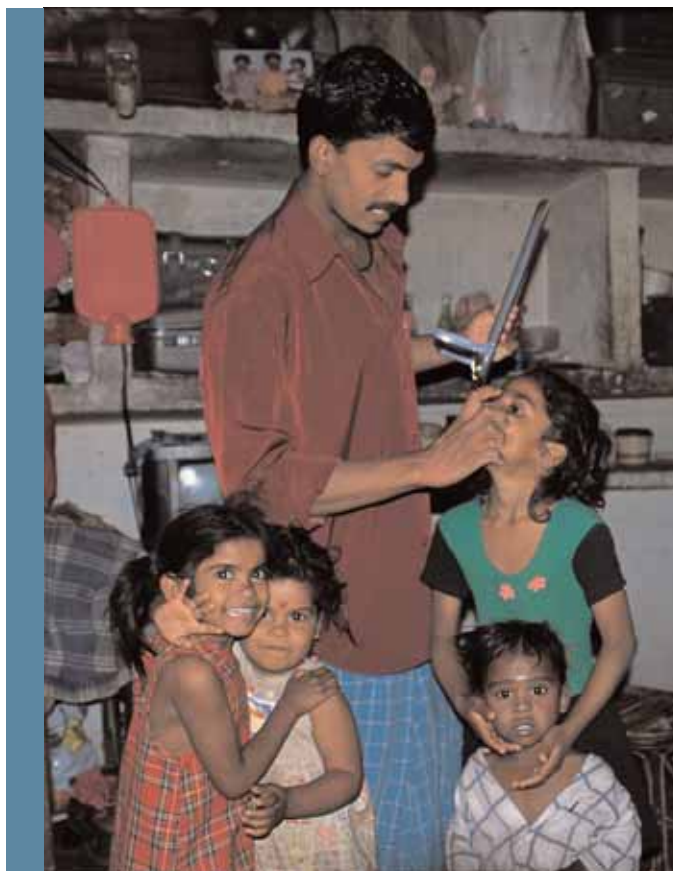
In Peru, rape was rampant during the internal armed conflict. In 2003 UNIFEM’s assistance to the victims of sexual violence included reaching out to men in affected communities to help them understand the emotional trauma these women are suffering from.

### A contribution to:

[Beijing Platform Critical Areas of Concern: Violence against women; Human rights of women](#)

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Like father, like son:  
In Eastern and Southern Africa, UNIFEM supported men who took to the roads to fight violence against women.



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Men and masculinities:  
A photo exhibition complemented research in India on the links between masculinity, gender and violence.

Not a Minute More  
*Not A Minute More: Ending Violence Against Women*, launched in 2003, highlights the urgency of making the elimination of violence against women a global priority. The publication is based on a series of regional reviews conducted by UNIFEM that provide an overview of the achievements made by women around the world in mobilizing attention to the issue as a clear violation of human rights, a public health problem and a crime against women and society.

It reveals that, despite progress, there has not been a dramatic reduction in violence directed at women. Instead, the resistance to change has become deeper in many instances.

The report provides examples of good practices as well as of efforts that did not meet the goals set out for them – and explores why not. Its recommendations to meet the challenges ahead include addressing gender inequality, training the judiciary, systematic data collection and broad-based public awareness campaigns. Not least, it calls for the stronger involvement and responsibility of men.





## Easing the Burden of Care

In Enugu State in Nigeria, HIV/AIDS has taken a heavy toll, with up to 13 per cent of the population in rural areas being sero-positive. Health-care facilities, however, have not yet responded to the urgent needs of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Pregnant women in particular often suffer from discriminatory practices, ranging from non-consensual HIV-testing in antenatal clinics and breeches of confidentiality to outright denial of care. As a result, many pregnant women stay away from health facilities, which has resulted in an increase in mother and child mortality. In addition, the lack of adequate medical treatment and health-care options has put the burden of looking after sick family members largely on the shoulders of women.

To address the issue, UNIFEM supported the development of a gender-responsive HIV/AIDS policy for health-care facilities in Enugu State, the

first of its kind in the country. The policy emphasizes the need for intensive counselling and information and underlines the crucial link between home caregivers and health-care providers. It also addresses discriminatory practices, especially where pregnant women are concerned, and specifically points out that women and men are equally entitled to receiving anti-retroviral drugs.

In 2003 UNIFEM focused on enhancing and influencing HIV/AIDS policies at different levels and in a number of countries worldwide. In Kenya, for instance, UNIFEM assisted the Women's Political Caucus to undertake a gender analysis of the country's draft HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Bill. A guidebook developed for the Kenyan National AIDS Coordinating Council complements those efforts. In Brazil and Honduras, the results of assessments of the countries' respective HIV/AIDS legislation

are being used by gender advocates to improve national policies. In Porto Alegre, Brazil, for example, UNIFEM supported an organization of Afro-Brazilian women to monitor access to HIV/AIDS-related public services.

UNIFEM has also taken the lead in addressing the gender dimensions of care work within the Global Coalition on Women and HIV/AIDS, an inter-agency initiative spearheaded by UNAIDS. Together with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNIFEM is working to highlight the links between violence and HIV/AIDS. In the Mekong region, UNIFEM and UNAIDS are focusing on making the Coalition's activities applicable to regional contexts.

A contribution to:

**Millennium Development Goals 5, 6: Improve maternal health; Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

**Beijing Platform Critical Area of Concern: Women and health**

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Women are often discriminated against when it comes to receiving anti-retroviral drugs. A gender-responsive HIV/AIDS policy developed for health care facilities in Enugu State, Nigeria, addresses this issue.



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Taking action on HIV/AIDS in Brazil: In Porto Alegre, UNIFEM supported Afro-Brazilian women to monitor access to HIV/AIDS-related public services.

Soldiers call for condom use

“The workshop on Gender, Human Rights and HIV/AIDS, provided by UNIFEM and UNFPA for both military and civilian staff of UNAMSIL, was extremely useful. It was the first time that we had a comprehensive training on those inter-related issues and staff members who could not participate but heard about it have asked for a similar programme.”

Hirut Befecadu is the HIV/AIDS Policy Officer of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone.

“One of the most significant outcomes of the training was that participants expressed a clear recognition of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, but also a sense of responsibility towards the host population and a willingness to be agents of change for safer sex practices. One of the soldiers, for example, recommended to always use a condom as a means of protecting themselves and their sex partners, and suggested that by doing so they could also help change negative perceptions about condom use.”

Jebbeh Forster is UNIFEM's Gender and HIV/AIDS specialist in Sierra Leone.

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As a result of non-consensual HIV-testing, many pregnant women stay away from ante-natal clinics, a trend UNIFEM has worked to reverse.



# Living Positive: Women Speak Out

Building on their own experiences, women living with HIV/AIDS are demanding visibility. They are advocating for a future in which they can live without stigma and violence, have easy access to drugs and treatment and continue to live healthy and meaningful lives. In 2003 UNIFEM supported groups of positive women in a number of countries.



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Activists in Zimbabwe and India call attention to women's special concerns with regard to HIV/AIDS: In a number of countries UNIFEM has supported groups of positive women who advocate for access to treatment and a future free of stigma.

## Addressing gender violence

"Back in the 1980s my husband started to sleep around. Things went sour and we were always fighting. In 1998 my health started to deteriorate. That's when I was diagnosed as HIV positive. I was shattered. I thought I was going to die and leave my children.

But when I came out of the hospital, a friend encouraged me to join a support group. And then the Network of Zimbabwean Positive Women taught us about gender violence and how to recognize abuse. All the time I was married I did not know

that I was being abused. Now I can talk about it. I was able to ask for a piece of land from our Chief after I separated from my husband.

I am teaching many women about gender violence. I would not want to see other women go through the difficulties I went through because of ignorance. If I had known that even though I was married I had my own rights, I would not have ended up being HIV positive." Nyaradzo Makambanga is a member of the Network of Zimbabwean Positive Women, a group supported by UNIFEM.







## Talking to policy makers

"I am one of the founders of a self-help organization of women living with HIV. We have about 200 members. Our biggest policy challenge now, at the end of 2003, is procuring anti-retroviral drugs and making them available at affordable rates.

Our group talks with policy makers about treatment issues and urges more support for the children of women living with HIV/AIDS. We also want changes in the way education materials are disseminated. We ourselves develop information and education materials sensitive to the issue of women living with

HIV/AIDS, and we raise awareness on positive living among college youth as part of the drive to de-stigmatize HIV.

I am personally involved in initiating and strengthening groups of women living with HIV/AIDS in India. I participate in a lot of meetings with policy makers, trying to ensure that the voices of women are heard and that issues important to these women are understood."

Kousalya Periasamy is the founder of the Positive Women's Network in India and a member of UNIFEM's Gender and HIV advisory group in South-East Asia.



## Finding a new family

"I am a founding member of ABOYA, the Association Bok Yakar of women affected and infected by HIV/AIDS. In our local language this means 'Sharing Hope'. UNIFEM support gave us the opportunity to have our own office space, which is critical. We use it for counselling activities and, most important for us, for group meetings in which members can share their concerns, fears and hopes and where we plan and find solutions together. The Association is like our family these days.

At the beginning, when I was informed about my status, I was totally desperate

and felt sentenced to death. But since I have met other women living with HIV/AIDS, I have regained a taste for life. I gave birth to two children, both of whom were born uninfected thanks to the information and the support of a programme on prevention of mother-to-child transmission that I received through our Association."

Khadidiatou Samb Gaye is a member of the Association Bok Yakar in Senegal that was founded with support from UNIFEM.

### A contribution to:

**Millennium Development Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**



## Paving the Way from Conflict to Constitutions

Since September 2003 Rwanda has topped the world ranking of female parliamentarians. In the lower house 49 per cent of the representatives are women, in the upper house they occupy 30 per cent of the seats. In the aftermath of the genocide, women have taken an active role in the reconstruction of their country. Their most notable achievement has been in politics. The result of the elections went far beyond the 30 per cent quota for women stipulated in the country's new Constitution.

In post-conflict situations, when new constitutions and legislative structures are being created, it is critical for women to be involved in policy-making and UNIFEM actively supported Rwandan women. As early as 2001 the

Fund rendered assistance to the Legal and Constitutional Commission and provided training for women's organizations to participate in the national debate. Well ahead of the Constitution's adoption, women parliamentarians were supported to travel throughout the country, to inform women about the provisions in the draft Constitution and collect their feedback. Leading up to the elections, UNIFEM then co-organized a nation-wide celebration on the Constitution's provisions to sensitize voters in preparation for the ballot.

UNIFEM also provided significant support to the constitutional process in Afghanistan. In December 2003 the Loya Jirga enshrined equality between men and women in the nation's new Constitution.

This achievement required broad-based alliances and ongoing advocacy. A UNIFEM-facilitated Gender and Law Working Group – comprised of the Office of the State Minister for Women, the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA), Supreme Court judges and women's NGOs – reviewed the draft Constitution and made recommendations. In addition, UNIFEM sent three staff members to train and support the women delegates to the Loya Jirga, who worked for the provision ensuring that at least two women per province are elected to the Lower House.

Helping to pave the way from conflict to constitution in Iraq, UNIFEM in 2003 supported organizations advocating for women's rights and participation. A confer-

ence in Amman brought together Iraqi women to inform them about international treaties that can be applied to advance women's agenda. In Baghdad, UNIFEM has facilitated the exchange between women's groups and the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser, Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi, as well as the UN Electoral Assistance Division to ensure that women's concerns are taken into account in the transitional political and electoral processes.

A contribution to:

**Millennium Development Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women**

**Beijing Platform Critical Areas of Concern: Women and armed conflict; Women in power and decision-making**

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A voter in Rwanda: UNIFEM helped raise awareness on the Constitution as well as the ensuing elections which led to an unprecedented number of women in Parliament.



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In Iraq, UNIFEM has worked to ensure that women's concerns are taken into account in the transitional political and electoral processes.

On the web: WomenWarPeace

The flashing lights on an interactive world map at UNIFEM's Web portal, [www.WomenWarPeace.org](http://www.WomenWarPeace.org), mark the world's trouble spots, countries currently or formerly on the Security Council agenda where women's security is threatened. A click on the Democratic Republic of the Congo reveals that the conflict has claimed four million casualties over the last

seven years. Scrolling down, the visitor learns how women have influenced the Sun City and Pretoria peace negotiations.

UNIFEM's new portal was launched in response to Security Council resolution 1325 on women,

peace and security, which noted "the need to consolidate data on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls". The site, which received two million hits in its first six months, is designed to provide timely and relevant information, including gender profiles of countries in conflict or post-conflict situations and resources on pertinent themes such as displacement, reconstruction, health and violence. Updates about relevant UN country team and UNIFEM programming complement the briefs.





## Supporting Women's Progress in Politics

In Croatia, the first Ombudsperson for Gender Equality has been appointed and gender equality legislation adopted. In the Czech Republic, the Government has committed to present a law that will introduce a 30 per cent quota for women. In Poland, a partnership between the Ministries of Gender Equality and the Interior will monitor and support the increase of women in the civil service.

These far-reaching commitments, announced at a high-level conference in Dubrovnik in 2003, are the result of a partnership between UNIFEM and six countries in Central and

Eastern Europe. The aim was to stimulate implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), with a particular focus on women's political participation as one priority area.

The Convention also provided the normative underpinning for a congress in Fiji on women's transformative leadership that brought together participants from 12 Pacific Island countries. Women's representation in the region's national parliaments is woefully low – they hold only four out of 70 seats in Parliament in Fiji, for instance, and a mere one in Papua New Guinea.

With elections coming up throughout the region, the congress' outcomes also informed the voter education programmes that UNIFEM has initiated to encourage greater participation of women as voters and candidates. Elections in Bougainville/Papua New Guinea, for example, where such training has begun, come at a critical point in time after the Peace Agreement in 2001 that formally ended the armed conflict. Although in a matrilineal society, women are still grossly underrepresented in decision-making positions.

In 2003 UNIFEM worked to advance women's political participation in a

number of countries around the world. In Timor-Leste, for example, assistance was rendered to the Office for Promotion and Equality and a local organization to train women candidates for village elections. In Kosovo, training supported by UNIFEM led to the establishment of Gender Equality Committees in 11 out of 15 participating municipalities.

### A contribution to:

**Millennium Development Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women**

**Beijing Platform Critical Areas of Concern: Women and armed conflict; Women in power and decision-making**

◀ LEFT

The new family law in Morocco has been welcomed as a big step towards the realization of women's civil rights.

### Morocco's family law: A battle of 25 years

"For the women in Morocco, the new Family Law is a big step forward towards the realization of their civil rights and full-fledged citizenship. Indeed, with the abolition of matrimonial tutelage and the introduction of joint responsibility for the family by husband and wife – with equal rights and obligations – the Law represents a clear break with the hierarchic relationship between men and women in the family.



▲ ABOVE

A woman in Tonga casts her vote. With elections coming up throughout the South Pacific, UNIFEM has begun voter education programmes.

The reform does not respond to all of the changes that we in the women's movement have been calling for. But as it replaces the 1958 Personal Status Code that legitimized women's status as minors on the basis of a static interpretation of the founding texts of Islam, we do feel rewarded for our long battle of almost 25 years.

Given the fragility of newly-acquired rights, we will have to closely watch the law's consolidation. Additional institutional, legislative and educational measures will have to be put in place to promote a culture of gender equality and, in this way, give meaning to the on-going 'democratic transition' in Morocco."

Amina Lemrini is a member of the Democratic Association of Moroccan Women, a close partner that UNIFEM supported in advocating for reform of the country's judicial framework. Besides the family law, the electoral, penal and civil registration codes as well as the labour law were revised in 2002/2003.

## Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Year Ended 31 December

(All figures included in this report are expressed in thousands of US dollars)

	2003	2002
<b>INCOME</b>		
Voluntary contributions	21,713	20,113
Cost-sharing contributions	6,234	12,037
Sub-trust fund contributions	6,078	2,490
Donations and other income	297	40
Interest income	559	625
Reimbursable support services	1,142	1,128
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>36,023</b>	<b>36,433</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Project Costs:</b>		
Regular resources	15,283	19,285
Cost-sharing	8,411	6,320
Sub-trust funds	3,336	3,558
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>27,030</b>	<b>29,163</b>
<b>Biennial support budget</b>		
Technical support costs	3,099	3,245
Management and administrative costs	2,612	2,337
Reimbursable support services costs	1,273	788
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>6,984</b>	<b>6,370</b>
Other expenditure	1	15
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>34,015</b>	<b>35,548</b>
<b>Excess of income over expenditure</b>	<b>2,008</b>	<b>885</b>

The amount of \$2,008 thousands is already allocated to projects for 2004



## Contributions from Governments and Other Donors in 2003

(All figures included in this report are expressed in thousands of US dollars)

GOVERNMENTS		CORE	COST-SHARING	SUB-TRUST FUNDS	TOTAL 2003	TOTAL 2002
United Kingdom		4,746	525		5,271	6,308
Netherlands		3,180	174	286	3,640	4,046
Japan	2002	1,018	1,000	288	2,306	3,706
	2003	814	236		1,050	-
Norway		2,579	304		2,883	2,217
Italy		2,347			2,347	5,881
Sweden		1,737	141		1,878	1,797
USA		1,017	774		1,791	2,160
Denmark		769	530	319	1,618	661
Canada		850	415		1,265	985
Belgium				1,229	1,229	1,352
Finland		595	163	404	1,162	846
Germany		916			916	1,705
Luxembourg		640	250		890	1,309
European Economic Commission				811	811	-
Switzerland		692			692	546
New Zealand		219	448		667	166
Ireland		627			627	540
Australia		214			214	195
France		118			118	-
Ecuador			99		99	-
Austria		71	10		81	120
Spain		68			68	56
Iceland		30	67		97	187
Brazil			87		87	287
Singapore		40			40	40
China		30	24		54	30
Mexico			27		27	9
Republic of Korea		25			25	15
Czech Republic		19			19	16
Andorra		15			15	12
South Africa		12			12	4
Liechtenstein		12			12	
Thailand		10			10	9
Greece		8			8	8
Cyprus		6			6	2
Malaysia		5			5	5
Philippines		5			5	-
Turkey		5			5	5
Costa Rica		3			3	-
Yemen		3			3	3
Maldives		2			2	2
Samoa		1			1	1
Barbados		1			1	1
India					-	11
Israel					-	10
Morocco					-	2
Bangladesh					-	1
<b>Total from governments</b>		<b>23,449</b>	<b>5,274</b>	<b>3,337</b>	<b>32,060</b>	<b>35,256</b>
Less amounts paid in 2004/3						
Japan		814			814	2,306
Others		922	-	319	1,241	-
<b>Net contributions received</b>		<b>21,713</b>	<b>5,274</b>	<b>3,018</b>	<b>30,005</b>	<b>32,950</b>
<b>OTHER DONORS</b>						
DFID/UNFIP				3,013	3,013	153
UN agencies			243		243	741
UNIFEM National Committees			161	45	206	223
FNV			161		161	185
Zonta International			149		149	150
AGFUND			230		230	30
Other NGOS			16	2	18	8
Cisco Corporation					-	100
Ford Foundation					-	100
<b>Total from other donors</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>3,060</b>	<b>4,020</b>	<b>1,690</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>21,713</b>	<b>6,234</b>	<b>6,078</b>	<b>34,025</b>	<b>34,640</b>

## New Unifem Initiatives in 2003 \*

### AFRICA \*\*

#### Bridging the Gender Digital Divide in Africa through Strategic Partnerships

Regional

\$ 894,294

The programme seeks to empower African women through innovative uses of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). Development and implementation are to be guided by a Global Advisory Committee comprised mainly of African IT entrepreneurs in the Diaspora. Two components are linked to the programme: A pilot initiative to build the capacity of women's organizations in the use of ICT and to influence ICT policy formulation in Rwanda, executed for UNDP with a UNIFEM contribution of \$92,000; and supporting a multi-stakeholder network, the Gender Caucus, to integrate gender equality perspectives into the process of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

#### Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment

Mozambique

\$ 462,525

The programme, executed for UNFPA, aims at strengthening civil society in the area of gender mainstreaming as well as lobbying and advocacy for law reform. The main issues around which these efforts are centered are gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS.

### ASIA/PACIFIC & ARAB STATES

#### Mainstreaming Gender in Poverty Reduction

Regional - Asia

\$ 550,000

The project seeks to build on the experiences gained in anti-poverty projects of the International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD) as well as UNIFEM's knowledge base with a view to develop a deeper understanding of the causes of feminized of poverty in rural areas and to influence policy to address these.

#### Arab Women Media Watch Network

Regional - Arab States

\$ 246,570

The project aims at strengthening the contribution of the media towards improving the situation of Arab women by acting as a medium for women's voices and through the positive portrayal of women in the media.

#### Progressing Implementation of CEDAW in the Pacific

Regional - Pacific

\$ 461,566

Throughout the countries in the Pacific region that have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), efforts to implement the Convention are hampered by a lack of capacity in many key areas. The programme aims to support and facilitate the progress and effective implementation of the Convention in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

#### Facilitating CEDAW Implementation towards the Realization of Women's Human Rights Sub-regional - South-East Asia

\$ 2,600,000

This programme is designed to facilitate the realization of women's human rights through more effective implementation of CEDAW in Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam.

#### Engendering Responses to HIV/AIDS in India

\$ 288,320

In line with ongoing efforts towards gender-sensitive responses to HIV/AIDS, the initiative seeks to reduce HIV/AIDS and STIs among women by enhancing the knowledge base and capacity of governmental and non-state actors. The intervention has two components: Building effective partnerships towards reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS; and CHARCA, Co-ordinated HIV/AIDS and STD Response through Capacity-Building and Awareness, an inter-agency initiative.

#### Supporting Women's Leadership in Re-building Iraq

\$ 941,836

The project aims at promoting an enabling environment for women's equal participation in political and economic governance at all levels. It will equip Iraqi women and local NGOs with skills to participate in the peace and reconstruction processes.

#### E-Quality in the IT Sector

Jordan, Lebanon

\$ 1,762,530

The initiative seeks to empower women to influence and benefit from the ICT sector. It has several components: Building women's skills by continuing to engage them in the CISCO Networking Academies in Jordan, and - to replicate this - also in Lebanon. The CISCO programmes combine cutting-edge IT networking training and market-required expertise. An additional major component in Jordan seeks to bridge the rural-urban digital divide by offering IT training and business opportunities in the village communities Lubb and Mleikh.

### CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE & COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

#### Promoting Economic Policies in Support of Women's Human Rights in Central & Eastern Europe

Regional

\$ 197,989

In the context of the EU accession of countries in Central and Eastern Europe, the programme seeks to promote economic policies in support of women's human rights through the development of gender sensitive analysis of data that captures the situation of women's economic rights; capacity building in utilizing analytical and statistical data for conducting evidence-based advocacy, including gender budgeting; as well as support for evidence-based advocacy and policy dialogue.

\* This information provides details on new UNIFEM initiatives approved in 2003 and does not represent the entire portfolio of ongoing programmes.

\*\* Four major programmes in Africa have been approved in 2001 and will continue through 2004: HIV/AIDS, Gender and Human Rights programme; Engendering Governance and Leadership programme; Peace and Security programme; Economic Security and Rights programme.



**Women for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding in the Southern Caucasus - Phase II**  
**Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia**  
**\$ 2,158,691**

The programme is to upscale the results of the initiative's first phase to further ensure women's participation in a transformative peace process in the region. It aims at: ensuring that women's organizations have the skills to effectively advocate for peace and the inclusion of women's issues into the process; strengthening dialogue between decision-makers, international stakeholders and civil society to ensure the inclusion of women's concerns into policy-making; and creating an enabling environment for youth to actively promote a culture of peace and the protection of human rights.

**From Post-Conflict to Development: Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Kosovo**  
**\$ 281,038**

The programme is designed to advance the implementation of a National Action Plan for Gender Equality supported under the previous phase of the initiative. It is to engender the emerging political and legal frameworks, structures and institutions in Kosovo; facilitate and build capacity to analyze budgets from a gender perspective; and ensure that Kosovar women link with networks and advocacy in the Balkans.

**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

**Programme of Support for Integrated Actions on Gender and Race Equity**  
**Brazil**  
**\$ 1,208,011**

The programme aims at reducing poverty by addressing the social and economic inequalities that are directly related to biases

of gender, race and ethnicity in the country. It will build on an increase in public awareness on women's and Afro-Brazilians' rights; the creation of legal instruments; and the strengthened capacity of women and Afro-Brazilian organisations. The programme is to work within existing legal and policy frameworks for gender and race equity and take advantage of the growing capacity of government and civil society to address these issues.

**Strengthening the Gender Perspective in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**  
**Mexico**  
**\$ 557,414**

The project supports the Mexican Government in its efforts to ensure that legislation complies with international obligations relating to women's rights. The initiative pursues two approaches: First, follow-up on international commitments such as the Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Belem do Pará), as well as on the recommendations to secure women's human rights in Ciudad Juarez; and second, training and institutional strengthening of gender equality initiatives in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**GLOBAL**

**Gender and the Millennium Development Goals**  
**Peru, Kyrgyzstan, Cambodia, Morocco, Kenya**  
**\$ 820,000**

The programme, executed for UNDP, will pilot approaches to achieve two objectives: advocacy with policy-makers and programme planners that mainstreaming gender equality in all of the MDGs is central to national development; and strengthening of approaches for gender-sensitive monitoring and reporting on progress toward achieving the MDGs.

**TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN – 2003 GRANTEES\***

**AFRICA**

**Regional - International Association of Women Judges:**

Training for judges and magistrates on cases involving gender-based violence and discrimination

**\$ 100,000**

**Nigeria – Project Alert:** Advocacy and awareness raising on violence against women through a drama series in six states in Nigeria

**\$ 50,000**

**ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

**India – Sakshi:** Strengthening the leadership of judges and fostering partnerships between the judiciary and NGOs in responding to violence against women

**\$ 75,000**

**Lao PDR – Lao Women's Union:** Counseling and shelter for women survivors of violence; drafting of domestic violence legislation

**\$ 75,000**

**CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE & COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES**

**CIS regional – Syostri:** Strengthening networks and NGOs' capacity to prevent trafficking in women and children

**\$ 75,000**

**Croatia - Center for Education and Counseling of Women:**

Prevention of dating violence among high-school students

**\$ 75,000**

**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

**Regional – Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristan & Centro de Intercambios y Servicios Cono Sur-Argentina:**

Raising awareness on the gender dimensions of urban violence and promoting the development of public policies

**\$ 75,000**

**Mexico – Semillas & Comision Mexicana de Defensa y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos:** Support to civil society organizations to halt impunity in Ciudad Juarez

**\$ 75,000**

\* Since its inception in 1996, the Trust Fund has awarded \$7.4 million in grants to 157 initiatives in more than 80 countries.

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### AARP

All India Women's Conference

Altrusa International

Anglican Consultative Council

Armenian Assembly of America

Armenian International Women's Association

Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)

Baha'i International Community

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

International Alliance of Women (IAW)

International Association of Women in Radio and Television

International Council of Women

International Federation for Home Economics

International Federation of Business and Professional Women

International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centres (IFS)

International Federation of University Women

International Federation of Women Lawyers

International Federation of Women in Legal Careers

International Federation on Aging

International Institute of Rural Reconstruction

League of Women Voters

National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women Clubs, Inc.

Pan-Pacific S. E. Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA)

Rotary International

Soroptimist International

Trickle Up Program, Inc.

U.S. Committee for UNIFEM

United Nations Association of the United States of America

World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

World Union for Progressive Judaism

World Young Women's Christian Association

Zonta International

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