

UNIFEM

Working for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality



2001 ANNUAL REPORT



United Nations
Development
Fund For Women





25
1976-2001



*This Annual Report celebrates
UNIFEM's 25th anniversary and
over two decades of dedicated
work on behalf of the world's
women. It also acknowledges
UNIFEM staff from around the
world who work tirelessly to
make the fund's vision a reality.
You can see them on the
preceding page.*

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MISSION & MANDATE

UNIFEM exists because in 1976, a small group of women and men demanded the establishment of a UN women's fund. This Annual Report celebrates the partnerships, leadership and vision that scores of individuals, groups and governments have invested to create a stronger and more effective women's fund.

UNIFEM is the women's fund at the United Nations. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programmes and strategies that promote women's human rights, political participation and economic security. Within the UN system, UNIFEM promotes gender equality and links women's issues and concerns to national, regional and global agendas by fostering collaboration and providing technical expertise on gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment strategies.

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. Its 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 13/125)



A Quarter-Century of ACHIEVEMENT



UNDP/Photo Milton Grant

In December 2001 I travelled directly from Stockholm, where I had accompanied the Secretary-General for the historic Nobel Peace Prize award to the United Nations to Brussels for a UNIFEM-sponsored roundtable in support of Afghan women's leadership. The gathering brought a diverse group of Afghan women together with UN agencies, bilateral donors and civil society organizations. The meeting was both emotional and substantive, providing a very tangible demonstration of UNIFEM's unique ability to bring together women of different political persuasions, ethnicities, nationalities, educational backgrounds and economic levels to develop a common development agenda for the future.

In this particular case, the meeting also provided a critical opportunity for dialogue that had long been denied to most participants. Building on this event, UNIFEM has now supported follow-up consultations in Kabul to help Afghan women begin to rebuild their country. And UNIFEM and UNDP are now also working together to support the Ministry of Women's Affairs in Afghanistan to carry an agenda for women's leadership forward – demonstrating in a very concrete way UNIFEM's critical role as part of the UNDP global development network.

Even if it was an extreme case, the crisis in Afghanistan has also rightly drawn the world's attention to the wider issue of women's rights and leadership all over the world. In too many countries still, women lack the rights and protections that they need to participate fully in shaping their countries' future. Helping them achieve those rights and protections, and build a better life for themselves and their families is a core dimension of both UNDP and UNIFEM's work and is the shared foundation of our increasingly successful partnership.

It is a partnership that is starting to flourish substantively and geographically. In 2001, no fewer than 51 UNDP country offices reported on partnerships and consultations with UNIFEM, a 12 per cent increase from the previous year, on issues ranging from gender budgets to ensuring gender concerns were fully incorporated into the historic UN Financing for Development Conference in Monterrey, Mexico.

But we cannot rest on our laurels – our goal must be to work with Noeleen and her staff to build even stronger connections between UNDP and UNIFEM. And as we do so we have a new, common agenda shared by the entire world: gender equality is one of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and gender issues are explicitly recognized in others from achieving universal primary education to improving maternal health. As we seek to mainstream the MDGs into all UNDP's work, therefore, UNIFEM's support, collaboration and technical expertise for mainstreaming gender will be more critical than ever.

This issue of the Annual Report celebrates 25 years of UNIFEM's work. I offer my warm congratulations for a quarter of a century of groundbreaking achievement, and my sincere hope and belief that the next 25 years will see our cooperation continue to expand and UNIFEM continue to forge bold new paths to help ensure women's equality, peace and development.

Mark Malloch Brown

Mark Malloch Brown
Administrator, UNDP

A celebration of LEADERSHIP & VISION



UNIFEM turns 25 this year. This Annual Report therefore offers an excellent opportunity to reflect on the five strategies that

define our work: advocacy for gender equality and women's rights; building the partnerships among government, civil society and UN agencies that are necessary to achieve those rights; capacity-building for women's organizations to ensure their sustainability; piloting innovative strategies for ensuring their implementation; and building an effective knowledge base on critical issues affecting women.

Supporters of UNIFEM will be proud of our role this past year in advocating for attention to women's leadership in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. UNIFEM has supported consultations that give Afghan women space to create a future-oriented agenda. UNIFEM has supported UN inter-agency efforts to keep gender and women's rights on the UN agenda. We are inspired by the courage of Afghan women who held communities together in the darkest hours and who now call for partnerships with men to create a society in which a diversity of voices can be heard to create a more secure Afghanistan.

Over the 25 years, the demand for UNIFEM to respond to crises and opportunities for promoting women's rights and empowerment has expanded significantly. Working with our sister UN organizations, UNIFEM is building capacity and supporting governments and civil society groups to ensure that gender and human rights are taken into account in all responses to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. UNIFEM is engaged in a broad-based partnership to support initiatives in more than 20 countries to analyse national budgets from a gender perspective and advocate for equality in the way countries distribute their resources. We are supporting Congolese women to influence peace negotiations and East Timorese women to run for political office as opportunities present themselves to re-build these and other countries.

In fact, the demand for UNIFEM's support and collaboration far exceeds supply. In 2001, we received requests totalling \$17 million to our Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women, at a time when we had only \$1 million to distribute. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security are two landmark documents that have meaning only if they are implemented at the national and local levels. There is a dire need to increase support for this. World leaders resolved in the Millennium Declaration "to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable." Countries depend upon the support of organizations such as UNIFEM to turn these commitments into reality.

UNIFEM's partners in programme and donor countries, women's organizations, our National Committees and our UN sister organizations have all rallied at different points in UNIFEM's history to ensure that we had the resources and mandate to do our work. This 25th Anniversary of the Annual Report is dedicated to all of you, too numerous to name, but present in every single one of these pages.

Noeleen Heyzer
Executive Director, UNIFEM



PROGRAMMES & PRIORITIES

UNIFEM focuses on three areas of immediate concern:

- 1 Strengthening women's economic security and rights and empowering women to enjoy secure livelihoods.
- 2 Engendering governance and peace-building to increase women's participation in the decision-making processes that shape their lives.
- 3 Promoting women's human rights and eliminating all forms of violence against women to transform development into a more equitable and sustainable process.

These thematic areas are addressed in relation to regional realities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS).

Five core strategies guide UNIFEM's work:

- 1 Strengthening the capacity and leadership of women's organizations and networks.
- 2 Leveraging political and financial support for women from a wide range of stakeholders.
- 3 Forging new partnerships among women's organizations, governments, the UN system and the private sector.
- 4 Undertaking pilot projects to test innovative approaches to women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming.
- 5 Building a knowledge base on effective strategies for engendering mainstream development.

Two globally agreed documents are central guides for UNIFEM efforts. The Beijing Platform for Action (PFA), adopted by governments at the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, was reaffirmed and strengthened in 2000 during the global five-year review of progress organized by the UN. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the "women's bill of rights," has been ratified by over 165 countries and is a cornerstone of all UNIFEM programmes. UNIFEM is dedicated to building stronger women's organizations and networks so that women themselves have the power to negotiate new and better policies with their governments and international agencies. In the context of the Secretary-General's UN reform agenda, UNIFEM supports the UN system in ensuring that gender concerns are incorporated into the policies and activities of UN organizations, governments and civil society partners.



Ensuring women's role in rebuilding AFGHANISTAN



Eddie Ledesma/Contra Costa Times/KRT

“Women’s status in Afghanistan should be the barometer of peace and security in the country.”

– Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director, UNIFEM

UNIFEM is supporting women’s leadership in the peace-building and reconstruction process in Afghanistan, a country devastated by 23 years of war, natural disasters, poverty and systematic marginalization. To enable Afghan women to voice their needs and create a common vision for the future of their country, UNIFEM sponsored two historic consultations in Brussels and Kabul. The Brussels meeting, held in partnership with the Government of Belgium, brought together 40 Afghan women from Afghanistan and the Diaspora in December 2001. The resulting ‘Brussels Action Plan’ fed into the development of the UN Appeal for 2002 and the Preliminary Needs Assessment prepared under the auspices of UNDP, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

The Afghan Women’s Consultation, held in Kabul in March 2002, united 60 women from Kabul and seven provinces and produced a women’s agenda calling for 25 per cent female representation in the *loya jirga*, women’s participation in the drafting of the new constitution, and women’s access to health care and education.

International Women’s Day, organized by the Ministry of Women’s Affairs with UNIFEM support, was celebrated in Kabul for the first time in 11 years. UNIFEM’s Executive Director joined over 800 Afghan women, Chairman Karzai, Ambassador Brahimi, Mary Robinson and the international community to celebrate the historic occasion.

UNIFEM strategy for Afghanistan focuses on:

- ◆ Strengthening women’s economic security, rights and opportunities to enjoy secure livelihoods through skills training, employment and increased access to markets.
- ◆ Ensuring women’s participation in national decision-making, and supporting legal and constitutional reforms to comply with internationally adopted standards.
- ◆ Supporting the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MOWA) to develop a national strategy to support women’s advancement and strengthen gender issues in national policy-making.
- ◆ Supporting the establishment of regional Women’s Centres, in collaboration with MOWA, to train service providers and women’s NGOs in a range of legal and social services.
- ◆ Supporting Internally Displaced and refugee women to reintegrate into their communities.
- ◆ Providing technical support to UN-system wide efforts to ensure women’s participation in the UN system response.
- ◆ Supporting NGOs, media and civil society to raise awareness on women’s situation and needs.



UNIFEM at 25

These pages celebrate the voices and views of leaders who have worked with UNIFEM over the past 25 years.



UNIFEM: Innovator in the UN system

***Margaret Snyder
First Executive Director of
UNIFEM, 1978-1989***

From its earliest years, UNIFEM was an innovator.

In 1979 it became the first United Nations fund to give direct support to NGOs in developing countries, and the first to provide micro-credit funds to communities. It was instrumental in the World Bank's decision to adopt a group strategy, designed with 2,500 Indian women, in its own sericulture projects. Those stories and many more are documented in "Transforming Development: Women, Poverty and Politics," my 1995 history of UNIFEM's first 15 years.

I was privileged to serve UNIFEM for eleven years, arriving as its first paid staff person in 1978 (when it was called the Voluntary Fund for the UN Decade for Women) and leaving as its first Executive Director in 1989. Recognizing UNIFEM's years of innovation and institution-building, in 1984 the UN General Assembly called it a catalyst in the UN system, extended its mandate, and brought it into autonomous association with UNDP.

Has UNIFEM changed over the years? Indeed, as it should change with its times. Yet basic goals endure: economic empowerment, political participation, and social justice, as does the theme of an early annual report: Progress for women is progress for all.

Fighting gender-based violence in Cambodia

Srei Mom has earned a position of respect in Boeng Salang, a small village on the edge of Cambodia's capital city, Phnom Penh. As a volunteer for the Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre (CWCC), Srei Mom is a vital link for battered women to a coalition comprised of community members, village chiefs, police and volunteers.

It was not always this way for Srei Mom. Like others in her village, she did not know how to take action to end violence, especially on her own. She was trained by CWCC, with support from UNIFEM's Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women, in intervention and laws on gender-based violence in a project that began in 1998. Involving men, women and local police in 18 communities around Phnom Penh, the project required the law enforcement and community members to take responsibility for the safety and well-being of women and girls. In each community, a coalition helps hold abusive men accountable for their actions and requires police to intervene and protect the legal rights of women.

Srei Mom takes to her role with a passion. "I am honoured to help other women because I feel their problem is my problem. I want to share what I have learned."

1976

Voluntary Fund for the UN Decade for Women (VFDW, later known as UNIFEM) and UN

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) are established by the General Assembly.



1977

- ◆ *Meeting of first UNIFEM Consultative Committee with representatives from Jamaica, the Philippines, German Democratic Republic, Nigeria, and the United Kingdom.*
- ◆ *First Pledging Conference for the UN Decade for Women, in which 33 countries pledged a total of \$3.5 million for VFDW.*



We salute UNIFEM and women around the world

***Nelson Mandela
Former President
of South Africa***

Violence against women is a tragic consequence of the world community's collective failure to recognize and salute the resilience, loyalty and dedication of women. For its part, the South African government is resolute in its commitment to affirm and implement women's rights. Together with civil society, we will continue to strive to enhance the quality of life for women and indeed all members of our society. We salute UNIFEM and the United Nations and women around the world.



UNIFEM belongs to the world's women

***Sharon Capeling-Alakija
UNIFEM Executive Director,
1989-1994***

How fortunate we've been — Peg, Noeleen, and I. Not often is one given the chance to create something new; to transform a set of ideas into a living, breathing organization. For 25 years, UNIFEM has held a gender lens to mainstream issues like the environment, refugees and human rights. It has pressed the idea that women's rights are human rights. It has advocated for an end to violence against women. Of course, UNIFEM did not originate these ideas. Our challenge has always been to address the issues women bring to us. Each of UNIFEM's leaders has advanced the agenda. But we know that UNIFEM belongs to the world's women. We can only protect it, build it and strengthen its capacity to serve their interests.



UNIFEM's beginning

***Helvi Sipilä, Secretary
General of International
Women's Year and
former UN Assistant
Secretary-General for
Social Development and
Humanitarian Affairs***

I was the Secretary-General of the first United Nations World Conference for Advancement of Women in Mexico in 1975 during which UNIFEM was born. Since then, I've seen it grow from a set of ideas to a dynamic organization that strives to meet the needs of women around the world. You may be surprised, but UNIFEM has influenced my entire life. I believe that we can never do enough to improve the lives of women and their families. I salute UNIFEM for its unwavering commitment to this goal.



Women in the peace process

***Sir Ketumile Masire
Facilitator of the Inter-
Congolese Dialogue***

UNIFEM has been committed to women's participation in all efforts to build peace and resolve conflicts for almost 10 years. UNIFEM has been supporting women's full participation in peace negotiations at the Inter-Congolese Dialogue. Their hard work and active involvement ensured that gender issues were addressed at the peace negotiations. I wish the fund continued success in making women and gender perspectives central to peace processes around the world.



1978

- ◆ *Appointment of Margaret Snyder, first Director of UNIFEM.*
- ◆ *UNIFEM supports first revolving loan fund with US \$5,000.*

1979

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is adopted by the General Assembly.



This indigenous woman leader is here to stay

Councilwoman Angelita Chalán, Ecuador

Inaugurating the new millennium, the first indigenous woman in the history of Saraguro, Ecuador was elected to city council in 2000. After participating in a three-year UNIFEM project to strengthen indigenous women's leadership, Angelita Chalán has broken barriers to equality. Unfazed by ethnic and gender discrimination, Councilwoman Chalán fights tirelessly for gender-sensitive public policies and the eradication of violence against women. Proving wrong the claims that indigenous women protesting gender discrimination will rupture and weaken Ecuador's indigenous movement, Councilwoman Chalán easily rallies together Saraguro's indigenous communities.

Her fight for transparency and accountability in the municipal government has attracted the attention of many. Throughout 2001, Councilwoman Chalán gained the respect of Saraguro's indigenous communities' male leaders. Nevertheless, she also encountered gender-based discrimination, which was initiated by those whose corruption she had exposed in the municipality. She survived continual harassment, motions to remove her from office due to her pregnancy, and political foul play. After the birth of her son, her response to the mayor's challenge to choose between work and family has been to simply carry little Amauta Jatari ("Rise Up Wise One") everywhere on her back. Her proclamation: this indigenous woman leader is here to stay.



Making a real difference in the lives of women worldwide

Timothy E. Wirth President of the United Nations Foundation

A major priority of the UN Foundation, whose mission it is to support the UN and its causes, is to promote the political, economic and social empowerment of women and adolescent girls. We have enjoyed a four-year partnership with UNIFEM, the leading UN agency working to link the needs and concerns of women to all levels of development activities. Our collaborative efforts focus on preventing gender-based violence, advancing market opportunities for women and supporting women's role in conflict resolution. UNIFEM's contributions have made a real difference in the lives of women worldwide over the last 25 years. With UNIFEM at the forefront, women's empowerment and gender equality around the world can become a reality.



A committed and effective force for change

HRH Princess Basma Bint Talal of Jordan

As a Goodwill Ambassador for UNIFEM for the last seven years, I have had the pleasure of being involved with the Fund in several initiatives for the empowerment of women in the Arab region and beyond.

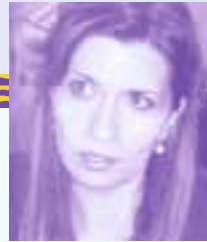
Guided by its human rights approach, UNIFEM's work over years has focused on areas that require urgent action to ensure gender equity. Women's unequal access to resources, their limited social participation, as well as the imbalances in the

1980

- ◆ *Second World Conference on Women held in Copenhagen.*
- ◆ *UNIFEM pioneers in making NGOs executing agencies for projects; an alternative approach that was later followed by UNDP, the World Bank and others.*

1981

- ◆ *CEDAW becomes operational.*
- ◆ *First National Committee for UNIFEM is formed in Finland, with 400 individual and 30 organizational members.*



Curbing the practice of “honour killings”

distribution of power and decision-making have all been addressed by UNIFEM with a deep sensitivity and respect to the requirements and circumstances of different groups with which they work.

In all its programmes, UNIFEM has been an active, committed and effective force for change.

Amidst today’s global uncertainties, UNIFEM has not lost perspective of its mission. Rather, it has applied itself admirably to the attainment of its goals. I would like to congratulate UNIFEM on its numerous achievements for the advancement of women over the past 25 years. I wish the Fund continued success and look forward to many more opportunities for collaboration to ensure that our common vision is realized.

Combining calm persistence with forceful arguments based in the Islamic Shari’a law and a few Arab proverbs Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, the project director of the Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC), is helping to prevent the practice known as “honour killings” in the West Bank and Gaza. In 1998 WCLAC received a grant from UNIFEM’s Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women and conducted a study to uncover the extent of the practice and the services available to women who are threatened with it. The research is the first of its kind in the occupied Palestinian territories, and WCLAC is using the results to bring femicide to the public eye, improve services for potential victims and lobby for legislative reform.

In July 2000, the group, together with the Jordanian Women’s Union, received a new Trust Fund grant to continue their research, train young women and judges, and review cases from rape crisis centers. For Shalhoub-Kevorkian, helping even one woman is worth the work. “They are people in life and death situations and deserve compassion,” she says. “Listen to the individual women, hear their stories and learn from them.”



Self-reliance is what women want

Ela Bhatt, Founder of Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA), India

With UNIFEM’s support, the Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) has been advocating for the improvement of working and living conditions of home-based workers in Asia. The work we are doing together reflects UNIFEM’s commitment to empower women worldwide. It has been my experience that when a woman is able to work and earn a living, she realizes that she is not just someone’s wife or daughter-in-law but also a worker, an active producer. Self-reliance is what women ultimately want. There is no development without self-reliance, but there is no route to self-reliance except by organization. UNIFEM’s work throughout the last 25 years has been a major step in that direction.



A life free of violence

Julie Andrews UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador

The work of UNIFEM has been important in ending the most universal and unpunished crime of all; Violence against Women. UNIFEM has helped women to become self-reliant, to participate in the future of their countries, and to demand their rights, including the right to live a life free of violence. I am proud to be a goodwill ambassador for UNIFEM and would like to offer my congratulations to the Fund.



Strengthening women's **ECONOMIC** Security and Rights

Globalization creates a complex and new set of risks and opportunities for countries and communities.

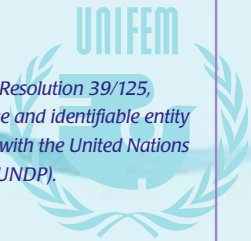
For many poor women, globalization has intensified existing inequalities and insecurities, translating into the loss of livelihoods, labour rights and social benefits. If the Millennium Development Goals of halving world poverty by 2015 and achieving gender equality are to be achieved, women need to be key stakeholders and shapers of globalization.

UNIFEM programmes in support of women's economic security and rights focus on:

- ◆ Changing policies and institutions to promote women's equal ownership and access to economic resources and assets such as land, finance and technology;
- ◆ Building the capacity of countries and organizations to manage globalization and economic transition from the perspective of poor women;
- ◆ Strengthening women's economic capacities and rights as entrepreneurs, producers and home-based workers;
- ◆ Strengthening economic governance through gender-responsive budgets.

1984

Through General Assembly Resolution 39/125, UNIFEM becomes a separate and identifiable entity in autonomous association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



1985

UN Third World Conference on Women, held in Nairobi, adopts Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000 (FLS). Some 15,000 women from every region of the world celebrate the culmination of a decade of efforts towards the advancement of women.



Changing policies and institutions to promote women's equal ownership and access to economic resources and assets

The policies and institutions that determine how economic opportunities are distributed often discriminate against women, particularly poor women. In too many countries, women's inheritance and property rights are still not guaranteed. Tax systems, credit and investment opportunities, and rules that govern markets are often based on the assumption of a 'male breadwinner,' an assumption that makes women's work and worth invisible.

Worldwide, women are challenging and changing economic policies and institutions to take gender into account. UNIFEM supports efforts to change laws that discriminate against women traders and home-based workers, to build new networks and partnerships with influential institutions that can improve women's livelihood choices, and to create awareness and gender-sensitive data that inform economic decision-making.

UNIFEM supports efforts to raise the awareness of policy-makers about the gender biases that limit women's economic opportunities. In Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand, UNIFEM is collaborating with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to map the needs and rights of home-based workers and advocate for greater social protection. In the Andean region of Latin America, UNIFEM is supporting studies and capacity-building strategies to identify the positive and negative effects of national and international legislation and agreements on women's social and economic rights. As a concrete outcome of this broad-based initiative, 26 women involved in informal sector work from poor neighbourhoods

in Quito, Ecuador presented an action plan to the Mayor and City Council members for improving women's economic opportunities and encouraging women-owned businesses.

An enabling legal and institutional framework for women's economic opportunities depends on the formation of new networks and partnerships that will continually advocate for and monitor changes. Street vendors in Latin America, for instance, were supported by UNIFEM to form a regional network, StreetNet, to defend and advocate for street vendors' rights.

Advocating for gender-responsive changes in the institutions that govern economic policy and opportunities is also critical. Progress was achieved in mainstreaming gender into

the governance structure of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in the East, Central and Horn of Africa, an institution that influences trade and economic policy-making in the region. A first meeting of Ministers responsible for Women's Affairs in IGAD was held in November 2001. Its recommendations were endorsed by the twenty-first session of the Council of Ministers meeting and the Summit of Heads of State, at which they passed the resolution to formally institutionalize a Women's Desk within the IGAD Secretariat. And in Brazil, UNIFEM's support to the Programme of

If the Millennium Development Goals of halving world poverty by 2015 and achieving gender equality are to be achieved, women need to be key stakeholders and shapers of globalization.



1986

First World Survey on the Role of Women in Development is published by the United Nations.

1989

Appointment of Sharon Capeling-Alakija, second Director of UNIFEM.



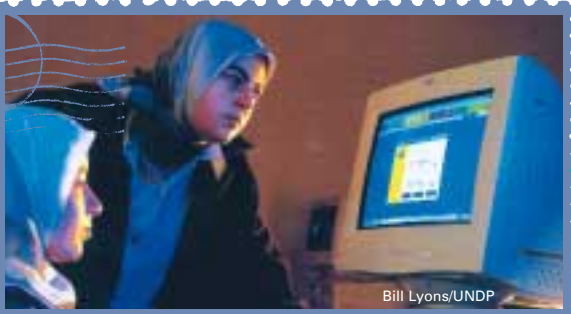
Affirmative Action of the Ministry of Agrarian Development resulted in regulations for the implementation of affirmative action on behalf of women by 2003. These include that 30 per cent of decision-making positions in the Ministry will be filled by women and that 30 per cent of rural credit will be directed to women workers in agrarian reform settlements.

Policy-makers need data that demonstrate the specific interests, needs and potential contributions of men and women to support policies based on concrete and up-to-date knowledge. In almost all regions of the world, UNIFEM is supporting efforts to generate sex-disaggregated statistics and data that tell a more accurate story. This has led to changes in the way that policies are formulated and many requests for replication, particularly in South Asia. Years of successful collaboration between UNIFEM and national statistical departments in India and Nepal have built the capacity of staff and have changed procedures to ensure

that gender differences are reflected in national data collection systems. Improved data has led to an increased acceptance of measuring women's work in national census exercises. Analytical results of Female Workforce Participation rates in India are expected to influence the 10th Five-Year Plan process.

Building capacity of countries and organizations to manage globalization and economic transition from the perspective of poor women

A key strategy for influencing macroeconomic policies is to expand the ability of women's networks and groups to propose viable alternative models and to participate in economic decision-making. In Francophone and Lusophone Africa, UNIFEM has supported the creation of a Network of African Women Economists who can bring a gender perspective to economic policy-making throughout the region. In the Southern Cone of Latin America, a new network of NGOs called Red Marcosur was established to develop common strategies for advancing gender issues and women's rights within the Mercosur Trade Treaty. In the CIS region, UNIFEM has adapted an English-



Supporting Opportunities in 'Information Communication Technologies' for Women

In Jordan, an innovative partnership was launched between UNIFEM, Cisco Systems and the Jordanian Government to expand opportunities for women in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector. As a first step – and with support from the Cisco Foundation – UNIFEM

commissioned a comprehensive assessment of gender issues and opportunities for women in the ICT sector. Survey results were shared with the Government and academic institutions. The partnership is designing women-specific Cisco Networking Academy Programmes in Jordan on the basis of the assessment results. A curriculum that takes young women's needs and interests into account has been developed for use by 10 institutions cooperating with Cisco. Results of this pilot will feed into replication projects in other countries in the region. The project is breaking new ground by mobilizing funds from the private sector in support of new ICT opportunities for young women.

1990

First UNIFEM Regional Office established in Harare, Zimbabwe.

1992

- ◆ UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) recognizes key role of women in preservation and management of the environment.
- ◆ UNIFEM holds a series of Peasant Women's Summits in Asia.

- ◆ Launch of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Gender Programme, a comprehensive project to mainstream gender concerns by providing gender-analysis training to personnel in government ministries, national machineries and women's NGOs.

language gender glossary of macroeconomic terms into Russian and widely disseminated it to development workers, gender trainers and NGOs. UNIFEM supported advocacy by women's groups and networks to influence the UN Financing for Development (FfD) process by highlighting the gender dimensions of each of the FfD themes.

In Latin America, UNIFEM is supporting Iniciativa Cartagena, a network of feminist activists who joined together to advocate for gender perspectives in the outcomes of FfD, and who will continue this advocacy in follow-up to the conference. In Rwanda and Kazakhstan, expertise has been provided to incorporate gender issues in the formulation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and national poverty reduction programmes.



Irina Liczek

Strengthening women's economic capacities and rights as entrepreneurs, producers and home-based workers

While UNIFEM supports long-term and strategic advocacy to address legal and institutional barriers to women's economic security, it also provides immediate assistance to expand economic options for entrepreneurs and producers. Support to women's collective efforts to increase their bargaining power and expand their access to markets is being provided in all regions.

UNIFEM supports producer networks in countries worldwide. A new forum for South Asian women has been created with UNIFEM support to build alliances between entrepreneurs and artisans. Over 200 women from this network participated in the India International Trade Fair to showcase their products and receive business counselling.

Legislation changed to confront obstacles for women suitcase traders in Tajikistan

Economic opportunities are in short supply in Tajikistan, a nation emerging from years of conflict. Women own 20 per cent of small enterprises and make up 15 per cent of small business employees. In the context of rising unemployment, women's participation in this sector is expected to increase.

UNIFEM has been supporting the Association of Business Women (ABW), a local NGO, to assess the legal and regulatory environment and obstacles to women's entrepreneurship. Through studies and surveys, the Association discovered

that registration processes and fees, lack of social protection, constraints related to currency exchange rates and lack of access to credit were among the most serious impediments to women's success in micro-enterprises.

At a presidential meeting with entrepreneurs in August 2001, an ABW micro-finance client raised these issues with the President. The Government eliminated the 30 per cent duty on all foreign currency brought into the country. The tax that posed a major obstacle for women suitcase traders was eliminated. Draft legislation on licensing entrepreneurial activities was for the first time discussed by legislators and the executive branch of government, and specific proposals to enhance enterprise development were brought to the President.

While the acquisition and analysis of data with an appropriate gender lens has formed the backbone of this project to date, other aspects have great significance. For the first time, women in Tajikistan have organized to speak to their government about issues critical to their well-being. And because they are so articulate, their input is being sought by policy makers regarding several pieces of draft legislation and gender-sensitized data collection.

1993

- ◆ *Launch of UNIFEM's African Women in Crisis Programme (AFWIC), which provides training to promote gender-sensitive and gender-inclusive responses to conflict resolution and peace in Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mozambique, Somalia, Sudan and Zimbabwe.*
- ◆ *World Conference on Human Rights, in Vienna, integrates violence against women and other women's human rights issues into overall UN human rights agenda and activities.*

1994

- ◆ *Appointment of Noeleen Heyzer, current Executive Director of UNIFEM.*



In Somalia, a UNIFEM-supported project has built two multi-purpose empowerment centres and developed a producer and traders network to enhance the horticultural marketing capacity of female farmers and increase agricultural productivity. In West Africa, UNIFEM continued to work with women shea butter producers, ensuring that lessons learned from its extensive experience with networks of producers in Burkina Faso inform new pilot initiatives in Benin and Nigeria. In Central America and Suriname, UNIFEM is supporting groups of indigenous and rural women to enhance traditional designs and improve marketing for their embroidery.

Support to women producers has resulted in increased income, capacities and market access. In a number of cases, government agencies or other

UN organizations have scaled up these pilot initiatives. The Pyongyang Women's Garment Trading Company in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which has been supported by UNIFEM, is now exporting to the UK and Japan and has generated approximately \$160,000 of orders. UNDP will be expanding assistance to this group in the second phase of the project. In Ghana and Nigeria, the Gender Renewable Energy Systems Development and Applications Programme (GRESDA) has enhanced the productive capacity of rural women by 600 per cent through facilitating mechanization of cassava processing.



Women Into the New Network for Entrepreneurial Reinforcement

WINNER seeks to strengthen the practical and technical skills of women entrepreneurs to engage in business activities and negotiations, and promotes access to local, regional and international markets through the application of ICTs. It provides training on gender issues, business management, international trade, fair trade and e-commerce. Through working with local intermediary organizations, WINNER is also building the capacity of 'partner' organizations to provide business development services to women entrepreneurs. Over 1,500 women have received WINNER training and are now part of an international network of women entrepreneurs. Many of those participating entrepreneurs have formed new partnerships with other producers to meet increased demand from growing businesses.

"The WINNER Project gave an opportunity for Leyte women entrepreneurs to acquire a new perspective and learn new skills needed for competing in the global market. This was made possible through the training on information and communication technology. Through the Internet, product promotion in the global market is easier. With access to information on the Internet, women entrepreneurs can come up with more ideas for product quality improvement," said Leyte Rural Advancement Programme (LRAP), a WINNER project partner in the Philippines.

"Through the WINNER project, I was able to browse the Internet and contact potential clients and partners around the world via e-mail. As a result, the Bonda Center was able to sell Batiks through the Internet to a client in the Netherlands. Through the WINNER project, not only have I gained access to these tools, but I have also been able to train 20 of the women at the Bonda Center on the use of ICTs," said Gladys Mukaratirwa, head of the Bonda Women Arts and Crafts Center in Zimbabwe, where 33 village women produce crafts for sale to tourists.



◆ UNIFEM organizes the African Women's Peace Tent at the Fifth African Regional Preparatory Conference for Women in Dakar, Senegal, bringing together women's peace movements from 12 African countries, as well as individual women peace activists.

◆ International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), in Cairo, marks first time empowerment of women is seen as an integral part of development.

◆ Appointment of UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Radhika Coomaraswamy, a lawyer and long time women's rights advocate from Sri Lanka. The Rapporteur's mandate is to investigate and report on all aspects of violence against women.

Strengthening economic governance through gender-responsive budgets

Analyzing the impact of government expenditure and revenue on women and girls, as compared to men and boys, is fast becoming a global movement to build accountability for national policy commitments to women. In 2001, UNIFEM launched a four-year programme on gender-responsive budget initiatives, in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and in growing collaboration with UNDP, that seeks to:

- ◆ Strengthen the capacity of governments to apply gender analysis to planning, monitoring and evaluating the impacts of revenue raising and expenditure allocation at national, provincial and local levels.
- ◆ Increase women's participation in economic decision-making through their engagement in budgetary processes.
- ◆ Bring a gender perspective into economic governance by increasing the transparency of budget processes and strengthening existing monitoring mechanisms, including CEDAW, to hold global and national actors accountable for their policy commitments to women.

In October 2001, during its presidency of the European Union, the Government of Belgium hosted an international conference on "Strengthening Economic and Financial Governance Through Gender-Responsive Budgeting," which was attended by representatives of 47 countries. The conference was organized by UNIFEM in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Government of Belgium and the Nordic Council of Ministers. Its goal was to mobilize political and

financial support to strengthen the capacity of governments and civil society organizations to carry out these initiatives and to support the global vision of gender-responsive budget initiatives in all countries by 2015.

UNIFEM is supporting gender-responsive budget initiatives in more than 20 countries, including Barbados, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador Egypt, India, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. National-level initiatives support training and capacity-building of parliamentarians, elected representatives, NGOs and other stakeholders. While still in their initial stages, these country-based efforts are generating important indications of their long term potential.

In India, as a result of UNIFEM-supported advocacy on gender budgeting, the Ministry of Finance has added a new chapter on gender equalities to the annual economic survey. Before formulating the 2002 Budget, the Finance Minister agreed to consult with women's groups, in addition to industry and business associations, chambers of commerce, etc. The Government of India has also agreed to institutionalize gender analysis of budgets in at least 20 states of India. Results of these gender budget exercises will be incorporated in the Annual Report of the Department of Women and Child Development, which will be tabled in Parliament in 2002.

Information exchange across regions and disciplines has strengthened gender budget approaches. Together with the IDRC and the Commonwealth Secretariat, UNIFEM has established a website (www.gender-budgets.org), listserv and database to facilitate global access to tools and skills needed to apply gender analysis to government budgets.

