**Global Study on UNSCR 1325**

**Recommendation and supporting evidence for themes**

**Oxfam Somalia**

**Executive Summary**

Oxfam Somalia has worked for the last twenty years on women, peace and security. This has been in partnership with Somali Peace Line and Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre (EPHRC). In our work we have gathered evidence and seek to share these and recommendations for further work on UN1325. Recommendations cover women in peace processes; peace building and conflict prevention; and prevention of gender based violence and sexual violence themes.

**Recommendations and evidence**

1. Women in peace processes
2. Peace building and conflict prevention

Recommendations covering both points above:

1. Approaches to peace-building must be inclusive of the needs of both women and men
2. Enable women to engage in peace and security processes by addressing their basic needs (including food, water, shelter etc) as an entry point
3. Build capacity of women’s movements and organisations to engage in international processes

Supporting evidence:

* In Somalia, Oxfam worked with women led community based organisations and women’s regional/district organisations. The women regional/district organisations are governmental organisations mandated by government to promote peace and raise issues affecting women and girls. Oxfam worked with them to build their capacity on various elements – organisational management, report writing, advocacy, leadership, dealing with the etc. This worked well as they became more confident to speak up against armed groups, clan militia and promote peace.
* In the implementation of our project, Oxfam realised that in order to increase women’s participation in peace processes or in security, it was important to ensure that they were not worrying about basic needs – food, medicine, housing and education - for their families. We worked with vulnerable women and trained them on vocational skills that they could then use to generate income. As a result they became more interested in becoming members of peace committees in their villages and interacting and lobbying the district security personnel.
1. **Prevention of gender-based violence and sexual violence**

Recommendations:

1. Discussing violence against women in public spaces
2. Build women’s led organisations’ management capacity and technical capacity as well as their ability to advocate on a global stage.

Supporting evidence:

* Oxfam undertook this in partnership with Somali partners. Fartuun Aden and her daughter Ilwad of Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre have been involved in advocacy work at the AU, UN in New York, London and Paris meetings on Somalia. At these platforms they continue to raise awareness on the importance of prevention of VAW/GBV and call for more support in services for survivors in south central Somalia.
* This has raised the profile of Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre and they are now a resource to others. They are currently running a flagship project dubbed ‘Sister Somalia’ - <http://www.sistersomalia.org> with funds from various sources. Through this project, they are able to support survivors of violence with counselling, medical services, relocation, education and with business start up kits.