



## **Women's Leadership, Voice, Economic Recovery and Access to Justice: UNDP in Action in Post-Conflict Countries 2010-2011**



**2011 May**

**United Nations Development Programme  
Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery**

## Global Policy:

- The implementation of UN SCR 1325 and the Women, Peace and Security agenda remains a high corporate priority for UNDP's efforts in crisis countries.
- In 2010, UNDP influenced and shaped the UN's global policy agenda on Women, Peace and Security via a two-fold policy position; (i) UNDP supports women's meaningful participation and contribution at all stages of the peace process, from prevention to peacebuilding, and (ii) UNDP promotes the concept that women have a right to be at the 'table', and that their presence and contribution broadens the 'dynamic of peace', to represent a wider set of issues of everyday life<sup>1</sup>.
- UNDP believes that lasting peace can only be built on the basis of inclusive development, in which women and men, and girls and boys, contribute towards a **transformative agenda** - where the social, economic and political fabric of societies are 'built back better', and inequalities are not perpetuated. This also means bringing a gender perspective to critical areas such as inclusive governance, rule of law and access to justice, and economic recovery.

## Gender equality - institutional accountability mechanisms:

- As part of the UN system's *Task Force on Women, Peace and Security*, UNDP along with UN partners collaborated on developing a series of indicators, and an accountability framework, to track progress on the implementation of UNSCR 1325. *These indicators were adopted by UN Heads of Entities in March 2010.*
- UNDP has developed a range of innovative internal accountability mechanisms and methodologies, most notably, the 'Gender Marker', to better track UNDP's financial allocations and expenditure towards gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment. The Gender Marker is proving to be an effective planning and reporting tool to build capacities and ensure that UNDP staff are gender-aware, and their projects reflect their awareness. The Gender Marker has been cited by the UN Secretary General as a good practice, and to be emulated across the entire UN system. Another important accountability system is the mandatory gender equality-related result in the assessment of UNDP managers.

## Research on post-conflict financing:

- Recent studies conducted by UNDP (and UN WOMEN) highlight the **serious inadequacy of the gender-dimensions of post-conflict financing**. In 2010, UNDP launched an innovative research project - *The Price of Peace: Financing for Gender Equality in Post-Conflict Recovery and Reconstruction*. From four case studies (Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Southern Sudan and Timor-Leste), the research examined how resources for recovery and reconstruction were mobilized, allocated, and spent, towards achieving gender equality, and holding decision-makers accountable for women's right to resources. Key recommendations included:
  - i. Enhance transparency of post-conflict planning, resource mobilization and budgeting processes;

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<sup>1</sup> SG report to the Security Council on *Women's Participation in Peacebuilding* (2010). See also UNDP's policy in 'The Eight Point Agenda for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Crisis Prevention and Recovery: Practical, positive outcomes for girls and women in crisis', see [http://www.undp.org/cpr/we\\_do/8\\_pa.shtml](http://www.undp.org/cpr/we_do/8_pa.shtml).

- ii. Enhance inclusiveness, to ensure women's participation in peace negotiations and donor pledging conferences;
- iii. Ensure donor funds are aligned with national priorities, including women's needs and priorities;
- iv. Develop and implement standards and criteria to ensure gender is mainstreamed into post-conflict planning and financing mechanisms;
- v. Support national gender institutions, ensuring they have relevant mandates and are supported by the resources, capacity, political leadership and expertise to fulfill them;
- vi. Ensure adequate financing for gender equality, defined as financing that covers the cost of addressing critical gender gaps within the given national context alongside ensuring that gender is mainstreamed across all sectoral budgets and supported by specialized sectoral gender expertise.

#### **Overall policy and institutional recommendations from UNDP:**

- Women's leadership and 'voice' that is at the heart of UN SCR 1325 needs to be recognized and promoted at all stages of the peace process. Critical areas such as women's *meaningful participation* in formal and informal peace processes, civic engagement and *leadership* in post-conflict settings, inclusive governance, the rule of law, women's access to justice, and inclusive economic recovery, should remain key sectors of programming and continue to be in need of support.
- UNDP, with its partners, will continue to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in crisis countries from the basis that sustainable peace can only be realized through inclusive development. Crises are challenges but can also provide opportunities for societal transformation, where *status quo* social, economic and political inequalities should not be perpetuated.
- Sustained international attention, with dedicated human and financial resources needs to support policies and programmes to advance women's empowerment and gender equality in crisis countries.
- National women's priorities should be supported and integrated into national policy and planning instruments such as poverty reduction strategies, national budgets, and education.
- Existing innovative and catalytic programming in crisis countries needs to be replicated and taken to scale globally, by the UN system and partners.

#### **Enabling the voices of women - symbolic events during the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UN SCR 1325 (2010):**

- On the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UN SCR 1325, along with UN Women, DPKO and DPA, UNDP collaborated on a series of global Open Days in more than 25 crisis countries and with senior UN leadership, focused on issues facing women. A report on this was presented to the Secretary General by representatives of women from crisis countries at an Open Day at UNHQ. UNDP's Associate Administrator gave an address, along with heads of UN Women, DPKO and DPA.
- Three key women-in-crisis-countries issues identified from the global Open days were the need to support; (i) women's participation in decision-making at all levels, (ii) women's access to justice, protection and security, and (iii) women's economic recovery. All these issues are central to UNDP's programming priorities in crisis countries.

- The UNDP Administrator opened a week long ‘Peacefair’ run by the Swiss Permanent Mission to the UN in partnership with a number of international NGOs. ‘Cyber’ dialogues, co-hosted by UNDP, offered women from conflict-affected communities an opportunity to express views and share experiences, via webcam, and to dialogue with policy makers participating from New York, including the UNDP Administrator. UNDP Country Offices hosted dialogues in Burundi, Sierra Leone, Cyprus and Liberia.

### **Programming across crisis countries:**

Working with national and international partners, UNDP has supported improved responses for women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings, in innovative and cutting-edge critical areas, identified by the global Women, Peace and Security agenda. Using its large field presence UNDP with its partners, has focused on programming in inclusive governance, rule of law and access to justice, and economic recovery, which correspond to the four pillars of the UN’s 1325 Strategic Framework, and build upon UNDP’s historic programming expertise and developmental approach; working with national and sub-national actors to develop national capacity and institutions.

To strengthen improved responses for women and girls in crisis countries, since 2009, UNDP has invested in nine Senior Gender Advisers through its global programme on Advancing Women, Peace and Security in Burundi, Iraq, Kosovo, Liberia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Sudan (South Sudan) and Timor-Leste. The programme is catalyzing results for women and girls in crisis contexts towards demonstrated transformational results in 2010.

### **1. Prevention**

UNDP has placed a strong emphasis on conflict prevention, using both formal and informal peace and mediation processes and establishing and strengthening national and local systems and mechanisms. Within these processes, UNDP has prioritized women’s voices and participation.

#### **Best practices**

- **Increased women’s participation in informal peace processes and conflict mediation in Timor Leste:** UNDP’s Conflict Prevention initiative, with national and international development partners, supported the Government in establishing a cadre of community mediators, to be absorbed in the newly-created *Department of Peace-building and Social Cohesion*, of whom 50 percent are women. These mediators were deployed to assist with local land conflicts and in communities targeted for resettlement of IDPs.
- **Enhanced women’s leadership in conflict prevention through multi-stakeholder dialogues in Fiji:** The first independent platform for dialogue between state officials, members of the military council, and civil organizations, since the military-backed advent of the current interim government, was supported by UNDP. This platform was established through the leadership of women’s groups and women leaders, who served as intermediaries between government officials and civil society to overcome mutual mistrust.
- **Mainstreamed gender in a national early warning system in Kosovo:** Surveys, disaggregated by sex and ethnicity, are conducted to capture public opinion on key developments and performance of various institutions. The Reports, called *Public Pulse*, examine areas such as political, institutional and economic stability, inter-ethnic relations and public and personal security, with an analysis of women’s and girls’ positions,

participation in politics, and their security issues. The report will be discussed in various fora towards informing national policies and planning.

- **Knowledge development on the role of masculinity:** In Asia-Pacific, the work of “**Partners for Prevention**” connects practitioners working to prevent violence against women using a strategy of involving boys and men. UNDP also conducted a research project, “**Blame it on the War: Gender Dimensions of Violence in Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration**” to explore links between violence and gender among ex-combatants, the armed forces and other armed groups.

### Major new initiatives

- **Improved national and community capacity to prevent conflicts - building on women’s participation in Sudan:** Crisis and Recovery Mapping and Analysis (CRMA) has succeeded in breaking down social barriers in communities in eastern Sudan. Women were involved in all CRMA consultative processes including the identification of local development needs, gathering baseline information relevant to recovery, and development activities and geo-referencing. Data collected through CRMA covers a wide range of issues, such as basic services, security, land cover, and threats and risks, which are used to address key conflict issues. The mechanism will assist decision-makers to better design policy responses to potential conflict.

### Gaps/ Recommendations

- **Capacity building in conflict prevention:** Mentoring and accompaniment are needed for government and non-government actors, in addition to provision of local grants, to promote decentralized community mediation through dialogues, with a focus on women’s participation and enabling the voices of women.

## 2. Participation

UNDP supports women’s political empowerment and promotes participation and representation through gender sensitive electoral reform, parliamentary development and public administration reform.

### Best practices

- **Increased state capacity to deliver targeted services and policies to women and girls in Liberia:** UNDP supported the Ministry of Gender and Development and the Liberian Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information to develop a framework and methodology to generate and use sex-disaggregated data for policy development and services delivery. The initiative will also help develop capacity in other national institutions such as the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs with respect to sex-disaggregated data.
- **Developed women’s leadership in Sri Lanka:** To encourage greater representation of women in local decision-making, UNDP conducted a pilot project in a post-conflict area with a low level of female political participation and a relative scarcity of women’s NGOs. The programme targeted 30 potential women leaders from mixed social backgrounds and delivered training in leadership, advocacy, resource mobilization and negotiation, while also providing small grants to participants to initiate a project aimed at promoting recovery and community. Following the project, 23 of the women have taken up leadership positions in their villages and several contested for the recent local elections, with 1 succeeding and

becoming the first woman to be elected into the local government authority at the divisional level.

- **Increased women's participation in peacebuilding in South Sudan:** Through advocacy efforts, UNDP developed a conducive platform for women's participation during the recent referendum process, which saw women as over 50% of all voters.
- **Created a support system for national implementation of 1325 in the Pacific Region:** A Pacific Regional Working Group on Women, Peace and Security was established to provide an opportunity for member countries to initiate strategic actions, identify broad priorities and resources, and determine responsibilities among different actors for women's issues.

### Major new initiatives

One of the main focuses of the Global Senior Gender Advisor Programme is to support implementation of the UNSCR 1325. Notable initiatives which have been launched include:

- **Increased women's political representation in Burundi with national and international partners:** UNDP supported the Government in encouraging women to register, vote and run for elected office in the 2010 election. UNDP has collaborated with the government to provide identity cards to women, which resulted in an unprecedented 51 percent of woman voters in the recent cycle of elections. Women accounted for 39 percent of the electoral body members, 36 percent of polling station members, and 28 percent of the members of voter registration stations. The ID cards have also allowed women to access free medical care during pregnancy and delivery, and both women and men to access basic social services and to transit freely to other areas of the country.
- UNDP contributed, in Burundi, to the candidacy of 9,258 female candidates in recent elections through its technical and financial support, including covering the costs of transportation, communication airtime, and other logistical needs arising during their campaigns. Through a multi-stakeholder dialogue, UNDP advocated successfully with donors, electoral bodies, political parties, the media, and civil society for the application and expansion of the 30 percent quota for women in all levels of government and parliament. Election results saw Burundi achieve 34 percent women representation (exceeding the existing 30 percent quota) in communal, legislative, and senatorial levels of public office. Burundi now boasts the highest level of women's representation in the upper house or senate (46 percent) in Africa and the second highest in the world. As well, UNDP has trained 706 newly elected women in public office (out of 2,000 seats) to have the skills and resources necessary to govern effectively.
- **Women's issues reflected in constitutional design in Nepal:** UNDP's support for participatory Constitution-building in Nepal has been instrumental in encouraging women to play leadership roles in the process. Women are participating in unprecedented numbers in constitutional design, inter-party dialogue and the building of national capacities of conflict management. The UNDP supported Centre for Constitutional Dialogue (CCD) has trained 100 Constituent Assembly (CA) members, including women, to communicate and negotiate more effectively in the CA. The CCD also supported women CA members to organize the first CA Women's Caucus, which prioritized gender issues in the new constitution. Finally, the Centre also supported civil society organizations to convene dialogue meetings where more than 41,000 women participated to present their views and concerns about a new constitution.

### Gaps/ Recommendations

- In immediate post-crisis settings, when new legislative/governance and recovery/development frameworks are being developed, it is imperative for gender issues to be highlighted and included from the very start of the processes.

### 3. Protection

In over 20 countries, UNDP implements the *Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law in Conflict/ Post-Conflict Situations*, which maintains a primary emphasis on strengthening women's security and access to justice. In addition to UNSCR 1325, this work has become increasingly pertinent with regard to UNSCR 1820, 1888, and 1960<sup>2</sup>. In spite of the challenges of entrenched patriarchal values and attitudes, and stigma and silence in terms of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in many countries, UNDP's work is already showing results through the provision of free legal aid and support for coordinated mechanisms for access to legal aid and security.

#### **Best practices**

Increased local and national capacity to respond to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV):

- **Free or subsidized legal aid and strengthening legal representation of survivors of SGBV:** In Sierra Leone UNDP supported the establishment of a legal aid mechanism through which six local civil society organisations provided legal aid to survivors of SGBV. To date, 1,879 SGBV survivors have received legal support through the programme. This, in turn, has resulted in 45 convictions (compared to zero in 2009, according to national authorities). In 2011, more civil society organisations will receive support in order to continue to fill the gap in legal services. UNDP will also continue to build the capacity of the Sierra Leone Bar Association to ensure institutional sustainability of legal service provision on SGBV.
- **Capacity building and training of criminal justice actors:** In the Democratic Republic of Congo, UNDP supported the establishment of 8 paralegal centres at which, in 2010, 183 survivors of SGBV benefited from paralegal services. In partnership with Avocats Sans Frontieres, UNDP supported the South Kivu Bar Association to launch a pro bono office providing legal aid in Bukavu. In collaboration with EUPOL, UNPOL and the MONUSCO Rule of Law Unit, UNDP trained 112 police officers in North and South Kivu on SGBV investigation and survivors' reception. Also, in addition to training 120 medical staff on survivors' rights and medico-legal procedures, 50 judicial investigators and prosecutors were trained on investigation techniques on SGBV as a serious crime. As a result of these trainings, an important investigation has been conducted in Walikale territory following the large number of rapes which occurred August 2010. The judicial investigation is on-going and an indictment is expected to be issued in late spring. UNDP supported the training of the investigative and prosecution team, the investigation itself (logistical support), and the paralegals assisting the survivors.
- **Multi-sectoral support and referral:** In Somalia, a referral system was established in Somaliland, through which Clan elders refer cases of SGBV to formal courts. These referral systems have resulted in a 44 percent increase in sexual violence cases reaching the formal courts, compared to the previous year. The Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Hargeisa acts

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<sup>2</sup> Through the Global Programme, UNDP is co-leading (with DPKO and OHCHR) the roll-out of the 'Team of Experts' envisioned under Operative Paragraph 8 of Resolution 1888.

as an integrated one-stop shop, providing medical, psychosocial and legal services to survivors of sexual violence. A similar initiative is underway in Burundi.

- **Legal and procedural reform:** In Iraq, the shelter policy for the Kurdistan Regional Government for SGBV survivors was drafted and has undergone consultations, while a draft Domestic Violence Bill is awaiting approval. A similar Bill is being drafted in Baghdad to cover the rest of the country. UNDP is strengthening two existing family support, justice and security centres in Baghdad and establishing four new centres in Iraqi Kurdistan, while also supporting the creation of a national database mapping violence against women cases.
- **Enhanced gender equality in the Security Sector in Liberia:** With UNDP support, the Liberian National Police (LNP) has established 58 Women and Child Protection Units across the country to strengthen institutional response to violence against women and girls and provide protection to women, children and vulnerable persons. The percentage of women police personnel has increased to 15% and women in the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization have increased to 30 percent. Increases in the number of women personnel in security sector institutions is impacting on work culture and environment. The Government of Liberia has set an overall minimum target of 20 percent women's representation across the security sector. Gender equality has been incorporated as an integral part of all training manuals in LNP and as a component in the national Strategic Plan (2010-2013). UNDP has also supported the establishment of an SGBV Crime Unit at the Ministry of Justice and Criminal Court.
- **Nationally-owned capacity development initiative to address SGBV in Nepal:** UNDP organized an international seminar<sup>3</sup> with police experts from the Asia Pacific region, which catalysed the Nepali Police to develop a SGBV Crime Investigation Training Module for specialized investigators from the Women's and Children's Service Centres. In total, 144 specialized investigators, from all 75 regional districts, gained new knowledge and skills in SGBV prevention and responses.

### Major New Initiatives

- UNDP and other UN entities are focusing on a **multi-sectoral support approach** to prevention and response to SGBV-related issues. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, UNDP's PSAR project (Project for security and socio-economic reintegration of survivors of SGBV, in North and South Kivu) was specifically designed to dovetail livelihood initiatives with UNDP's access to justice work for survivors of SGBV. This US\$4.6 million project is now being implemented within the framework of the Government of DRC's Stabilisation Programme, and the national strategy to fight against SGBV. The major concept behind PSAR involves multipurpose community centres (Centre Communautaires Polyvalents), where SGBV survivors are received, provided with legal assistance and advice, and prepared for a sustainable economic and social reintegration into their community, after medical and psycho-social treatment by other partners.
- **Gender and DDR Training:** UNDP, with the Inter-Agency Working Group and the Norwegian Defense International Centre, has developed and delivered the first international DDR and Gender course for senior DDR managers in November 2010, in Norway.

### Gaps/ Recommendations

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<sup>3</sup> *International Asia Pacific Seminar on Gender-Responsive Policing in Post-Conflict Countries*

- Need for a more **systematic collection of baseline data** for results-oriented reporting. This means developing standard operational procedures for data collection and mandatory reporting of SGBV data using secure and anonymous methods, from all relevant sectors.
- **Integrated services (one-stop shops) and referral mechanisms** are proving to be effective service providers for survivors of SGBV. Creative use of legislation and procedure can result in the referral of cases directly to the Attorney General's Office. The sexual assault resource centre in Somalia secured a landmark decision by the Attorney General in April 2010 in which a convicted rapist was sentenced to five years in prison even though the case had been 'settled' in informal courts.
- **Post-conflict situations require professional security sectors** equipped with knowledge and skills in human rights and democratic policing principles to meet the citizens' security and women's safety needs and enabling their equal participation.
- **Public awareness campaigns** both through mass media and by tapping formal and traditional community leaders on the rights of SGBV survivors, under national and international law, can facilitate a culture of zero tolerance to SGBV and an end to impunity.

#### **4. Relief and Recovery**

UNDP supports programming in economic recovery and reintegration that targets women in the larger context of addressing gender equality and women's participation.

In 2010, UNDP created sustainable livelihood and viable job opportunities for 7,340 female and 24,955 male combatants and associated military and militia members, globally, through work in nine countries where it supports DDR.

Additionally, UNDP created about 12 million work days in 2010 benefiting about 240,000 crisis-affected people with increased income, food security, money for small business start-ups and access to key basic social services in Burundi, DRC, Haiti, Honduras, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, the occupied Palestinian territories, Somalia, Uganda, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire and Sri Lanka. The creation of self-employment for, or enterprises by, crisis-affected people has resulted in over 24,000 crisis and post-crisis affected men and women having created their own micro, small, and medium enterprises and having access to long-term sources of income and employment. This has contributed towards peace stabilization and prevented the exacerbation of already chronic poverty. In Nepal women's participation reached as much as 78 percent, with high numbers of Dalits (a deprived social group) being targeted.

#### **Baseline data (project-level data)**

- With respect to specific efforts to increase the average number of emergency jobs and employment for men, women and youth, UNDP reached, on average, 40 percent women in all of its emergency employment initiatives. Plans are underway to track this more systematically in a number of priority countries.

#### **Best practices**

Increased women's empowerment through livelihood programmes:

- In Côte d'Ivoire, UNDP supported over 1,500 individuals, a majority of whom were women in remote areas of the country, to produce agricultural cash crops. Subsequently, 430 women were contracted to produce shea butter assuring them of a secure income throughout the year. Other women and youth are diversifying their enterprises engaging in

rice production and processing (husking and polishing). In addition to increased income, group-based projects have helped strengthen dialogue and social cohesion within previously conflicted groups, former IDPs, and host communities.

- In the Republic of Congo, UNDP supported the training of 500 returnees and vulnerable women and men in farming, resulting in the establishment of enterprises in the agriculture sector and informal trade. Livelihood and small to medium enterprise start-up grants have proved a lifeline for household recovery. Forty-one women's cooperatives are now producing vegetables on small-scale agricultural plots.
- UNDP has implemented a community based reintegration program in Eastern DRC complementary to the National DDR Program. To date, more than 1,500 female ex-combatants had received vocational training, in addition to 4,000 male ex-combatants.
- In Uganda, UNDP supported a total of 1,920 women and youth in the formation of self-help enterprise groups (SHEG) in Karamoja. Increased access to inputs for production, coupled with improved literacy and the influence of the culture of saving and entrepreneurship within the SHEG are enabling families to recover from conflict by having access to income, food and social networks. In addition to economic benefits, youth and women's groups are involved in peace campaigns throughout their districts.
- In Nepal a multi-faceted livelihood programme mainstreams gender issues. Short-term employment opportunities were created through community infrastructure construction or rehabilitation works, and User Committees managed funds, procurement, construction processes, and community level monitoring. Additional short-term employment has been generated through a program of after-school tutorial support for the children of marginalized communities. Micro-capital grants allow beneficiaries to carry out a range of income generating agricultural activities and village grocery shops. Women's Rights Forums were formed in most affected communities to promote legal and political empowerment among women.
- **Increased sustainability of emergency employment programmes:** In Burundi and Sierra Leone, innovative initiatives have been launched. Each cash-for-work beneficiary saves a third of their daily wage, followed by training in business management and establishment of micro, small and medium enterprises.
- **Knowledge development:** UNDP launched a global initiative; the **Gender and Economic Policy Management Initiative (GEPMI)** to build capacity to accelerate the MDGs by making poverty reduction and economic policies deliver for women, men, boys and girls equally. Guidance guidelines for implementing emergency employment creation and How-To-Guide on Livelihoods and Economic Recovery Programming were developed to ensure women's participation and mainstream gender issues.

### Major new initiatives

- In Iraq, UNDP is influencing the US\$50 million inter-agency/Government of Iraq **Private Sector Development initiative** to better meet employment and recovery needs of the 1-3 million Iraqi women and girls living in poverty. UNDP, together with UN Women, initiated an assessment to identify how resources can be better targeted to support Iraqi women to play a central role in economic recovery and to generate employment. Building on this process, UNDP is now looking at how it can support the Government to develop planning and budgeting processes that are more responsive to women.
- UNDP and partners have supported a first international conference on **women entrepreneurship** in Kosovo with 175 participants from 13 countries. A series of indicators

on women's entrepreneurship, specifically for regions seeking EU accession, was formulated and accepted by participants. Critical support has been provided to the economic reintegration of former male combatants in Kosovo, with a view to creating conducive conditions for peace, stability and reconciliation.

### Gaps/ Recommendations

- Women's 'leadership and voice' that is at the heart of UN SCR 1325 needs to be recognized and promoted at all stages of the peace process. Critical areas such as women's *meaningful participation* in formal and informal peace processes, civic engagement and *leadership* in post-conflict settings, inclusive governance, the rule of law, women's access to justice, and inclusive economic recovery, should remain key sectors of programming and continue to be in need of support.
- Innovative economic empowerment programmes should be a priority focus *given the close relationship between economic and political participation*. Women's economic empowerment programmes must incorporate peace building advocacy initiatives, led by women in conflict and post conflict. UNDP is increasingly recognizing that business as usual and traditional types of livelihoods enhancement do not necessarily lead to women's economic empowerment.
- Sustainability of economic interventions and linking women with market and other formal institutions is a priority focus. Women's economic empowerment issues should also be considered beyond micro enterprises and micro-finance; they need to be considered within macro-economic development interventions. Tools and methodologies on gender responsive economic policy management need to be systematically offered to build capacity in post conflict contexts.
- Discussions are underway to ensure that, in the medium to long term, strategic and transformational interventions are supported either through UN coordination in the recovery process, support to governments and CSOs, and to women's institutions. Such programmes will quickly contribute to acceleration of MDG achievements, including women's needs.
- **Role of private sector:** It is important to ensure 'Inclusive Markets' for the poor and women as entrepreneurs, wage employees and consumers, in areas including finance, investment in reconstruction, market development, and business development services to SMEs. Development of integrated value chains in market sectors that offer the prospect of sustainable growth and transition to higher value added and better remunerated forms of employment are particularly relevant for women. Promotion must occur for women's enterprises that are tailored to both local and international markets.

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