

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN (UNIFEM)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: July 2008 to June 2009

UNIFEM's work in Africa is in line with NEPAD priority to achieve and sustain social and economic development. UNIFEM focused on: advancing gender mainstreaming into the aid effectiveness agenda; prioritising gender in national policies and budgets; promoting gender in democratic governance; increasing women's voices in peace processes; fighting violence against women (VAW) and advocating for the availability of gender disaggregated data for sound policy formulation.

Collaboration with other UN organisations in support of NEPAD

UNIFEM has continued to support the NEPAD Gender Task Force composed of gender experts from networks, academic and professional institutions, women organisations, representatives from Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and from UN agencies. Areas of partnerships include the provision of technical gender inputs and the organisation of advocacy forums for gender mainstreaming in NEPAD programmes and initiatives. Another key area of collaboration is support for gender mainstreaming into the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

Advocacy work in support of African Development

As part of its **advocacy on Financing Gender Equality**, UNIFEM has been actively involved in research and awareness raising to address issues of gender equality and women's human rights in the New Aid Modalities set by the Paris Declaration, with the overall goal to secure increased development financing (ODA) and allocation of adequate financial resources in support of gender-sensitive development policies and programmes. UNIFEM has worked with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and RECs to raise awareness and facilitate consultation of Ministers of Women's Affairs on gender and aid effectiveness prior to the High Level Forum in Accra. Mapping studies were conducted in Ghana, Senegal, Cameroon and Ethiopia on the extent to which national priorities on gender equality and women's empowerment are reflected in national development strategies, poverty reduction strategies, sector-wide approaches, general budget support, multi-donor trust funds and consolidated appeals.

Another area of intense advocacy was the High-Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs held in September 2008, during which UNIFEM led the side event on **African Women's Forum** in collaboration with various UN organizations: OSAA, DPI, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNV, ITC and UNECA. The event co-hosted by the Governments of Liberia, Rwanda, Iceland and Brazil, the African Union and the European Commission was aimed at taking stock of achievements in meeting gender equality commitments, identifying implementation challenges and making actionable recommendations. The Forum re-emphasized that gender mainstreaming must be a cornerstone of the process towards achieving poverty eradication, good governance and sustainable development in Africa, and its recommendations were submitted to OSAA to inform the outcome of the HLM on Africa's Development Needs.

In line with policies to provide support to African countries, support was provided to African countries to make their **national planning and budgetary processes** more responsive to women's needs and priorities. Awareness raising and capacity strengthening through the UNIFEM Gender Budget programmes in Mauritius, Mozambique, Kenya, Uganda, Cameroon, Rwanda, Senegal and Tanzania have laid the ground for the institutionalization of gender responsive budgeting. In Mauritius, UNIFEM and UNDP provided financial and technical support for the development of a Performance Budgeting Manual and gender-responsive annex with the Ministry of Economy and Finance. In Mozambique, the 2008 and 2009 call circulars issued by the Ministry of Finance for the preparation of national and sectoral budgets include guidelines for incorporation of gender issues in plans and budgets. In Senegal, UNIFEM provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture to integrate gender dimensions in the elaboration of the Mid-Term Sectoral Expenditure Framework (CDSMT). The advancements made in gender integration in the PRSP II and its indicators were mentioned in the call circular issued by the Ministry of Finance in 2008.

In Tanzania, a pool of GRB expertise is now in existence. GRB Sensitization to Permanent Secretaries of all Ministries was held in November 2008, leading to the High Institute for Public Administration planning to organize periodic GRB training for senior Government staff at all levels, as well as, to start steps towards inclusion of a GRB module in the training of all public servants. The European Commission has used a GRB study carried out by UNIFEM to lobby for gender responsive indicators to be included in the Performance Assessment Framework for General Budget Support in Tanzania. In Kenya, through the Gender Sector Coordination Group (previously Gender Donor Round table), UNIFEM is providing support to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development in developing a set of gender sensitive indicators for the Kenya Medium Term Plan. In Ghana, the National Development Planning Commission budget guidelines have been made more gender responsive.

With regard to **governance, peace and security**, UNIFEM strengthened its efforts to increase women's voices in peace negotiations in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325. UNIFEM supported the preparation and participation of Sudanese Women at the Women's Preparatory Conference for the Sudan Consortium, Oslo, in 2008 resulting in the "Conclusions and Recommendations" on priority areas for strategic investment and programming, based on a set of priorities presented by Sudanese women. A Guidance note on gender mainstreaming in the Southern Sudan Recovery Fund was also prepared and presented to a workshop organized by the Southern Sudan Recovery Fund (SSRF) Secretariat in collaboration with the Government for its partners. The Southern Sudan Recovery Programme adopted this note as one of the guidelines for their partners who are implementing projects in the areas of community development, Gender, HIV&AIDS, Agriculture, Environment and Peace building. A Darfur wide gender network was also established as a community of practice and a website set up for knowledge sharing and peer support. UNIFEM sits as an observer in the South Darfur State Committee on Gender Based Violence (GBV), has trained the committee members on GBV and VAW prevention and response, and provided resources to replicate the committee in fourteen locations in South Darfur. Advocacy efforts have led to the South Darfur State government endorsing training of local police on women's human rights protection, the establishment of Women and Children's Desks in Police stations in South Sudan, and 500 female police officers are due to be recruited. In Liberia and Sierra Leone, UNIFEM provides technical assistance to the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions to ensure that the process is gender sensitive and addresses SGBV, and that the recommendations of the TRC are implemented.

In Kenya, one of the outcomes of the mediation process was the Commission of Inquiry on the Post Election Violence (CIPEV). This commission adopted GBV as a key component of the inquiry and further sought UNIFEM expertise into analysis on GBV. As a result, the report widely covers issues of GBV and further sets a good precedence for other upcoming inquiries/commission on how to handle women's rights issues. In Uganda, the Uganda Women's Peace Coalition supported by UNIFEM developed the women's implementation protocols on key peace agreements (Comprehensive Solutions, Reconciliation and Accountability and Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration) and advocated effectively with the Mediation Secretariat, delegations of the Government of Uganda and the LRA for inclusion of women's needs. Following this advocacy there is a requirement for gender balance in most of the peace implementation monitoring bodies. In Rwanda, an international conference on gender and peace keeping operations (PKO) was held together with Rwanda Defense Forces (RDF) to strengthen advocacy around UN Resolution 1325. As a result, a Kigali Declaration was drafted on "Increasing women's participation in peace keeping operations", highlighting recommendations to further mainstream gender into peacekeeping and prevent SGBV in PKO, including: increase in the proportion of women recruited and trained for PKO, proactive gender training programmes for peacekeepers and their organizations, integration of mission-specific gender training in pre-deployment programmes, reaffirmation and strengthening of the zero tolerance policy for acts of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and information sharing among Peacekeeping contingents and troops to promote best practices in preventing and responding to SGBV. In Nigeria, critical milestones were also achieved in influencing the electoral reform from a gender perspective as greatly acknowledged by the National Electoral Commission.

Various initiatives were also undertaken for the **elimination of violence against women (eVAW)** in Africa. The 'Say no to Violence Campaign' carried out by UNIFEM in support to the UN Secretary General Campaign on VAW has led to political commitment to address the issue at the highest level. In Senegal and Tanzania, the President and Cabinet signed to the Campaign. In Tanzania, the Minister of Community Development Gender and Children established a Multi-sectoral task force to review the National Plan of Action on Gender based Violence and to implement the Great Lakes Protocol on Sexual and Gender based Violence. In Rwanda, the coordinating units for Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) at the headquarters of the Rwanda Defense Forces (RDF) were launched with UNIFEM support, and equipped with a toll free phone for rapid intervention in SGBV cases. In 2008, 311 cases on SGBV were reported to the police, and this number is expected to increase. In Somaliland, UNIFEM supported National GBV stakeholders meetings that are convened quarterly by the Ministry of Social Development and family Affairs. The outcome of these meetings has informed the development of a national GBV strategy. In Mozambique, the First National Plan to Combat Violence Against Women was developed, and then approved by the cabinet. In Liberia, the IPRSP has a clear framework on SGBV. Other initiatives include the training of magistrates and justice officers on sexual and gender based violence in Côte d'Ivoire, and popularization and dissemination of gender laws in Sierra Leone for women's increased access to justice.

In West Africa, UNIFEM and other sister UN agencies brought together First Ladies, Ministers of women's affairs and senior officials from the ECOWAS sub-region to discuss cross border issues related to female genital mutilations and define strategies to combat this scourge, which constitute an impediment to development. This has led to the adoption of a regional action plan to fight FGM across borders. At regional level, various consultations were also held with the African Union, Governments, UN agencies and women's networks to

prepare an Africa Wide campaign on VAW, as part of the SG's campaign on VAW and in support of the effective implementation of the Protocol on Women's Rights to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and the Heads of States Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality.

In an effort to address issues of trade which is one of the tenet of NEPAD, and to fill in the dearth of **gender disaggregated data** (GDD) as well as to undertake appropriate gender analysis, UNIFEM invested in supporting the collection and analysis of GDD to improve statistical systems and the knowledge base on gender equality and women's rights in Africa. These should inform policies and advocacy efforts. In 2008, UNIFEM conducted baseline studies on Women in Informal Cross Border Trade (WICBT) in all the sub-regions in Africa to better document women's contribution in economic and social development, and their share in intra-African trade. The studies provided empirical evidence on the contribution of WICBT to poverty reduction, employment and wealth creation. The studies were welcomed and endorsed by an African Advisory group comprising gender experts from Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa, government representatives, academia, and women's organizations working on trade. More importantly, they provide to RECs, African Governments and other partners empirical evidence on the constraints and opportunities faced by Women in Cross Border Trade (WICBT) and propose strategies on how best to support them. UNIFEM is collaborating with CODESRIA for the preparation of the publication on the studies and will provide technical and financial support to REC for the implementation of measures directly benefiting WICBT.

In West Africa, UNIFEM supported the creation of a database on gender indicators with data from Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Conakry, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger and Senegal. In Cote d'Ivoire, strategic partnership with the National Institute of Statistics had led to the integration of gender modules in the National Survey on Households Living Conditions (ENV 2008) and the production of the country gender and poverty profile to inform the PRSP process. UNIFEM has also provided financial and technical support to *Ecole Nationale de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquees* (ENSEA) for gender mainstreaming into their training modules to statisticians and economic planners from various African countries. A Baseline survey on VAW and HIV covering two states of Nigeria was also conducted. UNIFEM in partnership with UNFPA and Statistics Sierra Leone undertook a national research on Gender-Based Violence in Sierra Leone. Capacity building of the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) and the National University of Rwanda was carried out for collection of GDD focusing on SGBV. In the DRC, a database on VAW was established in the district of Goma. In Senegal, UNIFEM provided technical assistance to the Directorate of Statistics, Projection and Analysis for the adoption of Gender Sensitive Questionnaires for the annual agricultural survey.

UNIFEM also provides regular financial and technical support to Governments and the gender Units of regional institutions and RECs for the preparation and adoption of gender policies, such as the draft AU Gender Policy, the SADC Gender and Development Protocol, the IOC Gender Policy and Strategy, and ECOWAS common approach on migration.