

Gender Mainstreaming



DEPARTMENT OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS (DPKO)

Recent policy statements

The Department's Plan of Action to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, part of the system-wide Plan of Action, spelt out the measures that the Department is taking to mainstream gender in its activities. The Department has made a conscious effort to include a gender perspective in all policy development.

In response to a decision of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, the Department is preparing a report on the strategy adopted by the Department to mainstream a gender perspective. This will be presented to the General Assembly at its next session later this fall.

Programme objectives

The Department has begun the implementation of the second phase of its project on "Mainstreaming a gender perspective in multidimensional peace operations". While the first phase focussed on the identification of principles and guidelines for gender mainstreaming in multidimensional peacekeeping, this phase of the project will focus on resource development, producing an electronic multi-resource package containing guidelines, briefing materials, checklists and other tools to mainstream gender in all aspects of peacekeeping operations, as well as tools to monitor and evaluate progress. It is expected that Phase II will be completed by December 2002. A third phase, involving capacity-building both at Headquarters and in the field, in the use of the tools and resources developed is also envisaged.

Operational activities

"Gender and Peacekeeping" training material has been developed by DPKO for military personnel and civilian police, which is designed to raise awareness of gender issues in their substantive activities and daily lives. This has been administered in several field missions, including UNTAET/UNMISSET, UNMEE, MONUC and UNAMSIL. The missions are expected to maintain this module as part of the routine in-mission training provided to incoming uniformed personnel.

The Department has also been working in collaboration with UNITAR to provide a training course for civilian staff of peacekeeping operations on the "the Special Needs of Women and Children in Conflict", which covers such issues as international humanitarian law, refugee law and the special situation of women and children refugees. It also includes the module on "Gender and Peacekeeping". This training has been conducted in UNMIBH and UNMEE and will be held in MONUC and UNMIK in the coming months.

A module on gender mainstreaming awareness has been developed and has been included in the Department's induction programme for new Headquarters staff.

At present, five peacekeeping missions have dedicated gender expertise: MONUC, UNMIK, UNMIBH, UNAMSIL and UNMISSET. These personnel are working to ensure that a gender perspective is mainstreamed into the activities, policies and programmes of their respective missions, given the specific man-

DPKO
Coordination Officer
PBPU
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
United States of America
Fax: 1-917-367-2103
E-mail: lowe@un.org
<http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko>

dates of each mission. The tasks they are undertaking range from ensuring that equal rights are part of any constitutional development, rule of law strategies incorporate women's issues, legislation is developed to protect women's rights, the representation of women is increased in legislative bodies and in other governance institutions, women are included in the peace process and benefit equally from the peace dividend. They are also monitoring respect for women's rights in special post-conflict structures, such as Truth and Reconciliation Commissions, and helping to build women's capacity for participation in all post-conflict peace-building processes. They are also focusing on combating exploitative practices, such as trafficking, that target vulnerable women. The Department intends to ensure that every multidimensional peacekeeping mission has some gender expertise or capability.

Other recent activities

DPKO has ensured that a female gynaecologist or doctor is available to all United Nations personnel serving in a peacekeeping mission. All hospitals and medical facilities part of a peacekeeping mission are staffed and equipped to care for female patients.

DPKO's Mine Action Service will continue to consider the specific needs of women in the design of demining, victim assistance and mine awareness programmes. Mine victim data of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) are categorized by gender and age group in order to provide a full picture of those who are affected by mines. ■