



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN (UNIFEM)

Programme objectives

UNIFEM pursues a dual strategy towards the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment. It supports stronger women's organizations to enable them to negotiate on their own behalf with their governments and international agencies and assists governments to implement their commitments to women's empowerment and gender equality. And it supports the UN system in ensuring that gender concerns are incorporated into all policies, programmes and activities. UNIFEM focuses its work at the country level within the context of the United Nations Resident Coordinator System. Playing a strong advocacy role, the Fund concentrates on fostering a multilateral policy dialogue on women's empowerment.

UNIFEM focuses on three areas of immediate concern. It strengthens women's economic security and rights and empowering women to enjoy secure livelihoods. It works on engendering governance and peace building to increase women's participation in the decision-making processes that shape their lives. UNIFEM also promotes women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women to transform development into a more equitable and sustainable process.

Operational activities

Several core strategies guide UNIFEM's work. These include strengthening the capacity and leadership of women's organizations and networks; leveraging political and financial support for women from a wide range of stakeholders; forging new partnerships among women's organizations, governments, the UN system and the private sector; undertaking pilot projects to test innovative approaches to women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming; and building a knowledge base on effective strategies for engendering mainstream development

UNIFEM advocates the strengthening of gender equality programming of UN operational agencies. UNIFEM focuses on working toward three overarching results: strengthened support to the UN Resident Coordinator system to promote women's empowerment and right; new agreements and strengthened collaboration to fulfill commitments to gender equality with UN funds, programmes and agencies; and heightened visibility for field-based innovations for gender equality in the inter-governmental arena. ■

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