

Summary of Actions Undertaken or Planned by UN Women Regarding Indigenous Peoples' Issues

Follow up to the Twelfth Session and Preparation for the Thirteenth Session
Of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

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*Inputs submitted by UN Women to Office of the Under-Secretary General
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)*

Executive Summary

UN Women continues to make significant progress in the promotion and inclusion of indigenous issues throughout its policy, programming and coordination work. Efforts at the global, and regional and country levels demonstrate a strong commitment to promote the rights of indigenous women and girls. This work includes entrepreneurship and affirmative actions aimed at increasing participation at all levels, including in processes relating to sustainable and equitable development – elements common to the recommendations of the Twelfth Session targeting UN agencies in general and UN Women, specifically.

In the area of capacity building for economic and social empowerment (recommendation 36 of the UNPFII 12th Session), UN Women continues to work to empower and develop the skills and access of indigenous women and girls to the labor market and financial institutions (Burundi and South Africa). UN Women has also supported efforts to develop affirmative actions aimed at ensuring the inclusion and participation of indigenous women in decision-making spheres (Bolivia, Guatemala, Mexico).

UN Women has promoted the participation of indigenous women and youth in at least seven (7) international forums of exchange or ongoing dialogues (Recommendation 107). This has provided a platform for indigenous women and girls' voices to be heard on issues of sustainable development, peace processes, regional consultations and the development of the UN's post-2015 agenda. UN Women has also made efforts to ensure indigenous women are included in its core civil society advisory groups, at global, regional and national level.

UN Women has supported initiatives to ensure indigenous women are consulted before legislative and administrative measures are put into place (Recommendations 15; 45); and worked to implement capacity building initiatives which are at the core of promoting meaningful participation of indigenous women (Recommendation 120). Capacity building of women and youth is just as critical as that of authorities and officials that oversee the exercise of their rights. UN Women has focused on capacity building of indigenous women in the areas of political participation - particularly on mechanisms for dialogue and consultation (Bolivia), strengthening of indigenous organizations and networks (Philippines) and local governance structures (Burundi).

UN Women leverages its positioning at a global level, along with its regional and country-level presence, to offer this multidimensional support to indigenous women and girls. It enlists innovative mechanisms of funding, such as its Fund for Gender Equality, to get resources directly to civil society actors that are making a difference in indigenous women and girls' lives. With fourteen (14) different grants across the world since its inception in 2009, the Fund has invested approximately \$8 million on civil-society based initiatives linked to indigenous issues. UN Women's regional and national programmes, across Africa, Asia and Latin America especially, have targeted indigenous issues through advocacy and capacity building, and by bolstering access for indigenous women to participate in key decision-making arenas.

Global-Level Initiatives of UN Women on Indigenous Issues

Human Rights

UN Women and OHCHR have developed a joint Handbook on Effective Strategies to Realize Women's Rights to Land and other Productive Resources (2013) as a tool to guide and support the adoption and effective implementation of laws, policies and programmes to ensure women's access, use and control over land and other productive resources. The Handbook sets out recommendations, together with explanatory commentaries, good practices and case studies from countries.¹ It addresses issues and includes recommendations with respect to indigenous women's access and control of land and other productive resources.

These recommendations propose that laws, policies and programmes should:

- Recognize the rights of ownership and possession of Indigenous peoples over the lands which they traditionally occupy.
- Uphold the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).
- Ensure that Indigenous women and men have equal, secure and sustainable rights to land and other productive resources, regardless of marital or other status.
- Recognize the cultural and spiritual significance of the land from the point of view of Indigenous Peoples.
- Promote effective participation of women in decisions regarding their tenure systems through their local or traditional institutions, including in the case of collective tenure systems.
- Implement, where necessary, temporary special measures to increase the capacity of women to participate fully in decision-making and governance of their tenure systems.
- Ensure an integrated approach in advancing the rights of Indigenous women to land and other productive resources, taking into consideration the unique rights of Indigenous women. These unique rights include the traditional knowledge they hold, for example, in relation to medicines.

Political Participation

In the area of political participation, research and programmes highlight indigenous women's leadership and role in politics. In furthering UN Women's Strategic Plan Development Results Goal 1: Women's increased leadership and participation in the decisions that affect their lives, UN Women's Political Participation team will continue supporting the engagement of excluded women in political participation particularly young and indigenous women. Research has taken place during 2013, focusing on indigenous women's leadership and access to politics. The study, which has a global focus, is expected to be validated with indigenous women's organizations during CSW58, and the launch is expected to take place in May during the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The study is being carried out in

¹ The Handbook was issued in the fall of 2013, and is available at <http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2013/11/OHCHR-UNWomen-land-rights-handbook-WEB%20pdf.pdf>. It is the result of an expert group meeting held in Geneva in June 2012. Further information on the expert group meeting, including the papers submitted, is available at: <http://www.unwomen.org/events/54/expert-group-meeting-good-practices-in-realizing-womens-rights-to-productive-resources-with-a-focus-on-land>.

collaboration with the IIFW-Indigenous Women University in order to generate evidence on the impact of indigenous women's access to decision making spaces, identify best practices and lessons learned at global level (recommendation 107).

A number of countries include constitutional provisions that guarantee the rights of indigenous women. UN Women launched its Constitutional Database on 13 December 2013.² It is the first searchable online portal that looks at constitutions through a gender lens, and includes all those provisions designed to protect the rights and freedoms of indigenous women and girls. The database provides a comprehensive picture of constitutional provisions relevant to gender equality, and allows users to search by keyword, provision, region or country. Provisions are organized into 16 categories, such as equality; non-discrimination; rights of women; public authorities, institutions and services; political participation and freedom of association; citizenship and nationality; education; employment; equal before the law; marriage and family life; status of religious/customary law; status of international law (including human rights law); limitations and derogations; general human rights duties; right to property/inheritance; and reproductive rights. These were selected by looking at content through a human rights perspective, the CEDAW Committee's many analyses of contents of national constitutions, as well as UN Women's report 'Progress of the World's Women'. The portal covers 195 countries, including all Member States and Observers of the UN, and provisions are available and searchable in the language of origin as well as in English.

The Fund for Gender Equality has contributed to strengthening indigenous women's networks globally through its programme "Strengthening Governance Systems and Indigenous Women's Networks" carried out in partnership with FIMI/IIFW. The programme has increased indigenous women's participation, visibility and leadership capacity at the local, regional and international level. Indigenous leaders participated in consultation processes for the United Nations General Assembly Millennium Development Goals Review +10 Summit. It trained 400 activists, many of whom participated at regional and international meetings on women and indigenous people, engaging relevant stakeholders in a process of dialogue, consultation and advocacy in order to infuse gender equality perspectives into the work of the indigenous people's movement and indigenous governance systems (recommendation 107).

Representation and active participation of indigenous women and youth is central to participatory processes both within UN Women and across the UN system and with global partners.

Ending Violence against Women

UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, ILO and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, jointly launched the inter-agency study "Breaking the Silence on Violence against Indigenous Girls, Adolescents and Young Women: A call to action based on an overview of existing evidence from Africa, Asia Pacific and Latin America" on 28 May 2013.

In the context of the United Nations Secretary General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign, the study responds to the SG's two 2006 global in-depth studies on All Forms of *Violence against Women*³ and *Violence against Children* which recommended deeper investigations into the situation of vulnerable and excluded groups such as those of indigenous background.⁴

² The UN Women Constitutional Database is available at <http://constitutions.unwomen.org>.

³ The Secretary General's in-depth Study on All Forms of Violence Against Women is available at: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N06/419/74/PDF/N0641974.pdf?OpenElement>

⁴ The United Nations Secretary General's Report on Violence against Children can be downloaded at <http://www.unviolencestudy.org/>

The *Breaking the Silence* study also fulfills a recommendation of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Fifth Session (2006) to UN agencies to address gaps in knowledge on the prevalence and incidence of violence against indigenous girls, adolescents and young women.

Towards such a major step, the *Breaking the Silence* study represents a first attempt at systematically reviewing existing quantitative and qualitative data on the prevalence and incidence of the types of violence which have already been documented in relation to these groups. It further determines the interface between violence experienced by them and the social, economic, political and cultural contexts of indigenous people and how these are being addressed through various prevention, protection and response initiatives.

Based on illustrations from Africa, Asia and Latin America and more narrowly from Kenya, Philippines and Guatemala, the study affirms the universality of violence across all socio-economic groups and cultures. It however finds that violence is heightened for indigenous girls, adolescents and young women when the broader contexts of indigenous peoples such as colonial domination, continued discrimination, limited access to social services, dispossession from ancestral lands and militarization intersect with other forms of discrimination based on factors such as age, sex and ethnicity.

This study finds that the types of violence which have been documented with respect to these groups are embedded in a narrow space of evidence, which although widening through a number of qualitative and quantitative sources such as Demographic and Health Surveys and Multi Cluster Indicator Surveys which capture household data on areas such as domestic violence and harmful practices, still present important limitations in areas which tend to fall outside the scope of household surveys such as sexual and economic exploitation and gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict.

Notwithstanding the noticeable gaps in information, the report captures evidence which can already spur a call to action. They include in contrast with other population groups, disparities in the way in which indigenous girls and adolescents are affected by harmful practices such as FGM/C, early marriage and pre-natal sex selection; child labor including, bonded labor, domestic work and trafficking; higher prevalence rates of domestic violence and their increasing involvement and impacts of armed conflicts and communal violence on their lives. These occurrences are exacerbated by the high levels of impunity for perpetrators and limited access to justice, redress and culturally appropriate services for affected victims.

The call to action is directed towards Governments, Civil Society Organizations and UN agencies to work collaboratively to tackle issues such as the structural, underlying causes and risk factors that lead to violence and the limited capacities of implementing agencies, while at the same time paying attention to the deficits in information.

Civil Society Advisory Groups

Indigenous women are included as members of the Global Civil Society Advisory Group and the Latin American Regional Civil Society Advisory Group. The inclusion of indigenous women is stipulated in the guidelines for the composition of national and other regional Civil Society Advisory groups. To date the Global Civil Society Advisory Group; the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Civil Society Advisory Group; the Guatemala Civil Society Advisory Group and the Ecuador Civil Society Advisory Group all have indigenous members.

UN Women also partners with FIMI/IIWF and other indigenous women's networks on common advocacy issues related to gender equality and women's rights and empowerment.

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

The 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York on 4 – 15 March 2013 focused on the “Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls”. Both Secretary General reports informing the deliberation of the CSW included issues of indigenous women and girls, especially among the conclusions and recommendations.⁵

The agreed conclusions adopted at the end CSW57 included language on indigenous women and girls:⁶

- The Commission reaffirms that indigenous women often suffer multiple forms of discrimination and poverty which increase their vulnerability to all forms of violence; and stresses the need to seriously address violence against indigenous women and girls (pg. 5 par. 27)
- Condemn and take action to prevent violence against women and girls in health care settings, including sexual harassment, humiliation and forced medical procedures, or those conducted without informed consent, and which may be irreversible, such as forced hysterectomy, forced caesarean section, forced sterilization, forced abortion, and forced use of contraceptives, especially for particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged women and girls, such as those living with HIV, women and girls with disabilities, indigenous and afro-descendent women and girls, pregnant adolescents and young mothers, older women, and women and girls from national or ethnic minorities (pg. 12, par. aaa)

UN Women supports the participation of indigenous women's groups and indigenous women in CSW via the Yvonne Hebert Award programme. UN Women also supported indigenous women's participation in the preparatory consultations and stakeholder meetings leading up to CSW57 (recommendation 120).

Post-2015 Agenda

With regard to the post-2015 development agenda, UN Women promotes the integration of indigenous issues into all discussions as well as the full participation of indigenous women in all consultations at the national, regional and international levels. UN Women is supporting the participation of indigenous women's groups and indigenous women in the Post 2015 Development Agenda stakeholder consultations at global, regional and national level.

On 13 March 2013 UN Women and UNICEF, with support from the Government of Denmark and the Government of Ghana published the synthesis report on the Global Thematic Consultation on the Post 2015 Agenda, “Addressing Inequalities”. The Consultation aimed at providing an open and inclusive process that would include a diverse range of voices and perspectives. It was informed by a total of 175 written submissions. The Consultation also benefited greatly from a series of 10 moderated “e-discussions” on key themes, including indigenous peoples, which emerged from the written submissions. The final report highlights the cross-cutting forms of inequality experienced by indigenous peoples, including structural inequalities in the economic and social domains; prevalent and widespread gender

⁵ See the Report of the Secretary General on “Multisectoral services and responses for women and girls subjected to violence” (http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/3) pp.4, 14, 15, 20 and the SG Report on “Prevention of violence against women and girls” (http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/4) p 19.

⁶ The CSW57 Conclusions are available at <http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/57/CSW57-AgreedConclusions-A4-en.pdf>.

inequality; the discrimination faced by minority and other disadvantaged groups and spatial inequalities. The consultation benefited from the inputs of the Advisory Group, which included Dr. Myrna Cunningham Kain, representing the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (recommendation 107).

International Women's Day

The United Nations Observance of International Women's Day was held on 8 March 2013, as part of the programme of the 57th Session of CSW. The theme for the day was "A promise is a promise: Time for action to end violence against women." The day provided for opportunities to bring visibility to the situation of indigenous women and girls around the world on the urgent need for actions to stop the epidemic of violence against women.

Regional- and Country-Level Initiatives of UN Women on Indigenous Issues

Fund for Gender Equality

Indigenous women and their communities have seen direct results from the support of UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality (FGE) - the only global fund that is exclusively dedicated to women's economic and political empowerment. A partnership between UN Women, and regional, national and local women's organizations and governments, FGE promotes an innovative approach to advancing women's empowerment as an essential part of realizing rights, accelerating poverty alleviation and advancing sustainable development. The Fund is based on a model in which women implement their own programmes in their own countries based on their priorities with direct multi-year grants and technical support (recommendation 36).

FGE as a funding mechanism has allowed UN Women to support thirteen (13) innovative civil society-driven programmes since 2009 in 14 different countries, as well as a global one, that specifically address issues of gender equality and indigenous women, with a total investment of approximately USD 8 million. (See Annex I for complete list of grants, locations and descriptions).

AFRICA

In Burundi, the Fund for Gender Equality supports a programme designed to increase Batwa women's participation, political influence and accountability at local, municipal and regional level decision-making. The programme also works to strengthen Batwa women's capacity to claim their rights and stand for election – a fundamental need given their under-representation and limited participation in the public decision-making sphere (recommendation 36).

In South Africa, the Fund for Gender Equality funded Sisonke Rural Women's Empowerment Programme mobilizes and organizes women into self-governing bodies in order to increase their access to and control over resources and assets, including land, skills and technology in order to improve their income. The programme uses a number of strategies including training in food gardening; poultry farming; commercial crafts; information technology and basic business management; advocacy and lobbying skills to change discriminatory legislation and policy on land ownership and tenure and strengthening of local indigenous women's organizations to give their agenda more visibility and strength (recommendation 36).

ASIA

Regional programming for Asia includes the UN Women Regional Programme on Improving Women's Human Rights in Southeast Asia– CEDAW SEAP Phase II (2011 – 2015), which is supporting capacity building of indigenous women's organizations in monitoring and reporting on gender equality commitments (CEDAW, other human rights treaties, UPR) and advocacy with regional human rights mechanisms, parliamentarians and justice sector.

Regional meetings, including the “Asia and the Pacific Parliamentary and Civil Society Organization (CSO) Forum on Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Acceleration and the Post-2015 Development Agenda” in April 2013 and 12th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women in October 2013, all stressed the importance of paying particular attention to those most excluded, including indigenous women, in order to accelerate progress for the MDGs and in the future post-2015 development agenda. The ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) finalized a draft Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (VAW) and Elimination of Violence Against Children (VAC) which highlighted the need to address vulnerabilities and emerging forms of abuse confronted by women and children such as conflict, migration, disaster, emergency situation, climate change, human trafficking, labor, cyber based abuses, persons with disabilities, statelessness and belonging to ethnic and indigenous groups.

In the Philippines and Nepal UN Women supports the “Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education” programme, which builds on the outcomes of the 3rd Asian Indigenous Women's Conference (AIWC) which took place in 2010. The programme focuses on training; capacity building; advocacy and coalition building among indigenous women's organizations to empower them to advocate for their rights in national and international fora; and influence policy making and implementation to ensure they are sensitive to and inclusive of indigenous women's demands.

UN Women has also entered a partnership with a major national coalition of rural women's groups (PKK – the Rural Women's Congress) in the Philippines. The programme aims to strengthen the capacities of rural and indigenous women in Mindanao to advocate for their rights and monitor compliance with CEDAW and women's human rights of national and subnational policy and legislation.

LATIN AMERICA

Regional initiatives in Latin America have brought UN Women's promotion of inclusive participation and capacity- building priorities directly to benefit indigenous women and youth.

UN Women took part in the World Conference of Indigenous Women, ‘Progress and Challenges Regarding the Future We Want’ in Lima, Peru, from October 28th to the 30th of 2013. Indigenous women from the seven sociocultural regions of the world met, resulting in the Lima Declaration and the Plan of Action and Recommendations.

UN Women participates in three inter-agency groups: Child Labor, Indigenous People and Social Protection. UN Women has ensured that a gender sensitive approach was present and women's human rights upheld in all three, either through direct inputs or by supporting the participation of women stakeholders. The following outcomes were achieved:

- Two indigenous women were supported to attend the regional interagency group on indigenous people in preparation for the World Conference, where the women shared the recommendations of the UN Women supported World Conference of indigenous women and

- made a strong case for the rights of indigenous women to be reflected in the work of the UN agencies in the region
- The global conference on indigenous women was supported by the Panama Regional Office and a number of Country Offices. A number of proposals were approved that will serve as inputs to the activities of the Global Conference on Indigenous People in NY. Recommendations were also made for the 2014 World Conference. These recommendations were shared at the regional Inter-agency Group on Indigenous Peoples where UN Women supported the participation of two women.

In October 2013 the UN Women Santo Domingo Training Centre produced an academic research paper entitled “Participación Política de Mujeres Indígenas y Afrodescendientes: las Experiencias de Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua y Panamá” (Indigenous and Afro-descendent Women’s Political Participation: the experiences of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama). The publication offers details on the rights of indigenous peoples and the current situation in terms of decentralization, governance, and participation of indigenous and Afro-descendent women in the six aforementioned countries (recommendation 107).

The Government of the Dominican Republic hosted the 12th Regional Conference on women of Latin America and the Caribbean in Santo Domingo from the 14 to the 18 of October 2013 on the theme of gender equality, empowerment of women and ICT (information and communication technologies). During the Conference, the UN Women regional office co-organized, alongside UNFPA, UNAIDS and various civil society groups the “The interaction of inequalities of gender and ethnicity in access to ICTs: obstacles and good practices for the empowerment of indigenous women” side event, focused on indigenous women and ICT.

The Latin-American region has been host to a number of programmes focused on indigenous women’s development, in particular with regard to their economic empowerment and increased participation in decision-making that affects their lives (recommendation 36).

In Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay the “Constructing a Labor Rights Agenda for Women Working in Homes and Sewing Workshops in the Southern Cone” programme supported by the Fund for Gender Equality works to defend domestic workers’ social and economic rights, focusing on collaborating with women’s groups in the four countries of implementation. The programme aims to achieve the recognition of the labor rights of domestic workers and seamstresses, a large proportion of who are indigenous.

In Bolivia, UN Women led the discussions amongst indigenous women’s organizations on the proposals in the new *Draft Bill on Indigenous, Natives and Peasants Right to Prior, Free and Informed Consultation*. UN Women systematized a gender proposal which was incorporated and wholly approved into the draft agreed by the National Committee of Indigenous People of Bolivia. The bill will be considered by the Plurinational Legislative Assembly in 2014. If successful, the law will have codified a specific national mechanism that enables open and sustained dialogue between indigenous peoples and governments (recommendation 45).

UN Women’s Fund for Gender Equality
Programmes Working with Indigenous Women

CURRENT GRANTEES

Bolivia	Bolivian Women in the Process of Change: A Policy Framework for Gender Equality
Asociación Coordinadora de la Mujer	At a moment of societal transformation following the election of the Bolivia’s first Indigenous president, diverse women’s organizations coordinated a joint political platform to bolster the rights of Bolivian women, including Indigenous, rural, urban, Afro-descendent and self-employed women, domestic workers and miners in the midst of wide-spread legal reform. With a multicultural lens, an alliance of 19 women’s organizations have worked with the National Assembly to press for updates to seven national laws and propose 20 gender-specific laws to anchor women’s empowerment in the new legal framework. This precedent-setting alliance brought together over 100 partners at national, regional and local levels to promote the integration of a women’s perspective in the ongoing political transformation. In 2011, the coalition successfully integrated a gender perspective into six laws.
	Funding: US\$ 2,474,134 2009 – 2010 Grantmaking Cycle
Burundi	Promotion of Gender Equality in the Indigenous Batwa Peoples of Burundi for the Participation of Indigenous Women in the Decision-making Bodies at the Local Level
UNIPROBA=Unissons-nous pour la Promotion des Batwa	In Burundi the Batwa peoples are extremely marginalized and under-represented at municipal and national levels of political decision making. Batwa women, in particular, are subjected to gender-based rights violations, including highly unequal rights in marriage, unpaid manual labour and domestic violence, and limited participation in public spheres. This programme seeks to increase the participation, political influence and accountability of indigenous Batwa women in decision making affecting their lives at local levels as well as in municipal and regional councils. Moreover, it will support and expand the local leadership of Batwa women to reinforce their capacity to appropriate their rights and to take active part in standing for election in local councils. The programme will reach out to 1,020 women directly, most of whom are young women, a group marginalized within the Batwa themselves, and who have the capacity to serve as role models for future generations.

	Funding: US \$200,000 2011 – 2012 Grantmaking Cycle
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Colombia	Towards the Political Empowerment of Amazonian Women
Organizacion de Los Pueblos y Autoridades Indigenas	In Colombia, women are severely underrepresented in leadership positions in their indigenous organizations and communities. To remedy this situation, OPIAC proposes a programme that will promote political dialogue by organizing a regional meeting of indigenous women and create an autonomous space for indigenous women in the Indian National Commission on Human Rights. Moreover, it intends to raise awareness on the role of indigenous women in advancing a women’s rights and gender equality agenda, by launching community radio programs and through the use of ICT, including blogs, web pages and other communications tools. The programme seeks to ultimately encourage the political empowerment of over 300 indigenous women in the departments of the Colombian Amazon, including Amazonas, Guainía, Guaviare, Putumayo, Vaupés and Vichada through leadership trainings and capacity building initiatives.
	Funding: US \$200,000 2011 – 2012 Grantmaking Cycle

Guatemala	Political Empowerment of Women in Izabal
Asociación de Mujeres JUNAJIL Asociación Programa de Gestión Ambiental Local	In the Department of Izabal in Guatemala, indigenous women have historically been confronted by low levels of formal education, extreme poverty and a lack of registration with local government (which often correlates with a lack of access to national ID cards and the rights and benefits attached to citizenship). These compound factors often result in their abysmally low levels of participation in political decision making. This programme will be implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Education and proposes a creative approach to increasing indigenous women’s political participation by delivering training in schools on political inclusion, citizenship and civic education, and women’s leadership. In addition, women’s political participation will be enhanced by supporting local indigenous women to obtain state-required ID cards as a means to encourage them to vote during the 2013 elections and as an entry point to raising their awareness of their political and civil rights. Programme beneficiaries include 8,160 indigenous women from 4 ethnic groups, specifically from the low-income rural and urban areas of the Department of Izabal.
	Funding: US \$375,000 2011 – 2012 Grantmaking Cycle

Bangladesh	Women: Promote an Enabling Environment for Ethnic Hilly Women of Bangladesh to Access and Control Over Economic Resources
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<p>Bolipara Nari Kalyan Somity (BNKS)</p>	<p>In Bangladesh, women belonging to ethnic minorities face dual vectors of marginalization on the basis of gender and ethnicity and often must manage the consequences of violence and exploitation, in part due to their lack of knowledge of their rights and entitlements. This programme seeks to support minority women’s economic empowerment by leveraging their traditional knowledge and craftsmanship skills. It will empower 3,000 women by facilitating their increased access to economic resources through agriculture and crafts-based skills development, seed grants and equipment, and the identification of market linkages for their products. Moreover, the programme will promote rights-based development by training 25 community women as paralegals to enable them to address gender inequalities and provide legal aid to 500 women survivors of violence and discrimination.</p>
	<p>Funding: US \$200,000 2011 – 2012 Grantmaking Cycle</p>

<p>Peru, Guatemala, Argentina, Brazil</p>	<p>Indigenous Women Defending Mother Earth: Economic Rights and Empowerment in Latin America</p>
<p>CHIRAPAQ , Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú</p>	<p>In Peru, Guatemala, Argentina and Brazil, where indigenous people represent over half of the population, indigenous women have faced long-standing challenges of marginalization, poverty, lack of education, growing militarisation of their territories, social exclusion and racism – each of which are compounded by gender-based inequality. This programme focuses on the economic empowerment of indigenous women and increasing their levels of involvement in decision-making processes that impact their lives. It employs a holistic and comprehensive set of strategies, including training in economic rights for indigenous women’s organizations as well as training for government institutions on the history and importance of indigenous women’s contributions to development objectives, through awareness-raising, advocacy and coalition building initiatives. Over 950 indigenous women from 20 organizations at local and national levels will directly benefit from this programme, while over 25,000 indigenous women throughout Latin America will be impacted indirectly.</p>
	<p>Funding: US \$535,000 2011 – 2012 Grantmaking Cycle</p>

<p>Philippines, Nepal</p>	<p>Indigenous Women’s Global Leadership School: Capacity Building and Political Empowerment in Asia</p>
<p>Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples’ International Centre for Policy Research and Education)</p>	<p>In the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Nepal, indigenous women face discrimination, marginalization and exclusion from development processes on the basis of their ethnicity and gender. The programme, which builds on the outcomes of the Third Asian Indigenous Women’s Conference (2010), seeks to encourage indigenous women’s participation in development planning, while taking into account climate change and other indigenous priorities. It employs a combination of strategies, including training and capacity building, advocacy, and coalition building among indigenous women’s organizations to empower over 200 indigenous women in the four countries of implementation to advocate for their rights in national and international fora and to influence policy making and implementation processes to become more sensitive to and inclusive of indigenous priorities.</p>
	<p>Funding: US \$250,000 2011 – 2012 Grantmaking Cycle</p>

Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay	Constructing a Labour Rights Agenda for Women Working in Homes and Sewing Workshops in the Southern Cone
Fundación Fondo de Mujeres del Sur in partnership with Fondo Alquimia	In Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, women domestic workers and seamstresses in the informal sector confront a multitude of challenges, including socio-economic and gender-based marginalization, which have resulted in reduced social protections and exploitative labour conditions for this segment of the population. This programme seeks to defend domestic workers' social and economic rights and will focus on collaborating with women's groups for domestic workers and seamstresses (i.e., unions and professional associations) in the four countries of implementation. It aims to achieve recognition of labour rights for domestic workers and seamstresses, 90 per cent of whom are poor, migrant and/or indigenous women, through workshops on gender, leadership, labour and trade union rights; regional and national meetings and conferences to build regional and global strategic alliances; and the promotion of linkages between civil society and government centred on this agenda. The proposed initiative will benefit domestic workers and seamstresses from urban areas, migrants and indigenous women from the Southern Cone region.
	Funding: US \$415,000 2012 – 2013 Grantmaking Cycle

México	Strengthening Women's Political Participation and Promoting an Economic Empowerment Agenda
Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia (Gender Equality: Citizenship, Work and Family)	In Mexico, Equidad de Género will increase the number of women in decision-making positions across 10 states. In coordination with the Government and the private sector, and building on existing networks of women's organizations, more than 6,000 women politicians and young and indigenous women will form municipal and state networks where they will be coached and mentored in advocacy for gender-sensitive governance agendas. Coupled with a strategic communications and public outreach campaign, the programme aims for a 25 per cent increase in the number of women in states' congresses and high-level state offices and to establish a cohort of 1,700 women politicians to actively initiate economic policies favourable for women, including better salaries and working conditions and recognition of care work. In preparation for the July 1st 2012 elections, 2,424 women benefited from SUMA's political training and/or mentoring and State Forums in 10 states. With the recent election, there has been a marked change in the political landscape - the number of local congress women in the States increased from 44 to 54 (25 of which participated in the SUMA training). There was also increases in the number of women municipal councilors (123 up to 150) and the number of women municipal presidents (28 up to 39), some of which directly benefited from SUMA training and others from SUMA's widespread campaigning around the elections.
	Funding: US \$3, 048, 086 2012 – 2013 Grantmaking Cycle

South Africa	Sisonke Rural Women's Empowerment Programme
Rural Women's Movement	In the Sisonke District of South Africa, rural women face social, economic and cultural marginalization and high unemployment rates and are under-represented in local government structures. This programme seeks to mobilize and organize rural women into self-governing bodies in order to increase their access to and control over resources and assets, including land, skills and technology, and assist them in improving their income and general well-being. It employs a combination of strategies including: training poor rural women in food gardening, poultry farming, commercial craft, information technology and basic business management; advocacy and lobbying to change discriminatory legislation and policies on land ownership and tenure; and institutional strengthening and networking of local indigenous women's organizations so that a women's agenda can be debated and gain momentum and prominence.
	Funding: US \$220,000 2012 – 2013 Grantmaking Cycle

CLOSED PROGRAMMES

Ecuador	Governability and Institutionalization of a Focus on Equity and Gender in the Cuenca District
Fundación Waaponi (Closed)	In order to promote gender equality standards within decision-making bodies, particularly within rural governing boards, this programme built upon existing social networks linked to rural communities to disseminate information and catalyze momentum for progress towards gender equality. In total, eighteen local government officials and 400 local women received training on gender analysis and effective strategies to strengthen women's positions on the local Parish Councils. In addition to the 16 women's agendas that were developed and adopted by Parish Councils.
	Funding: US \$489,657 2009 – 2011 Grantmaking Cycle

Serbia	Roma Decade: Equal Opportunities for Roma Women and Men
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Women's Space	This initiative specifically focused on the intersections between CEDAW and the Serbian Roma Decade Framework, and addressed the specific needs of Roma women, who are subject to discrimination on the basis of both ethnicity and gender. Aiming to support systematic solutions for the improvement of the status of Roma women, the programme strengthened the leadership skills of over 275 Roma women and raised awareness of over 3,800 local stakeholders on the needs of local Roma women in seven municipalities. Moreover, seven municipalities adopted Local Actions Plans for Roma Women in 2011.
BIBIJA Roma Women's Centre (Closed)	
Funding: US \$120,625 2009 – 2010 Grantmaking Cycle	

Global level	Strengthening Governance Systems and Indigenous Women's Networks
International Indigenous Women's Forum (Foro Internacional de Mujeres Indígenas) (Closed)	Through the strengthening of indigenous women's networks, this programme increased indigenous women's participation, visibility and leadership capacity at the local, regional and international level. Indigenous leaders participated in consultation processes for the United Nations General Assembly Millennium Development Goals Review +10 Summit. It trained 400 activists, many of whom participated at regional and international meetings on women and indigenous people, engaging relevant stakeholders in a process of dialogue, consultation and advocacy in order to infuse gender equality perspectives into the work of the indigenous people's movement and indigenous governance systems.
Funding: US \$300,000 2009 – 2010 Grantmaking Cycle	

México	Empowerment of Rural Women for Gender Equality
Asociación Nacional de Empresas Comercializadoras de Productores del Campo, A.C.	The programme implemented by ANEC leveraged its broad network of civil society and government partners in 18 Mexican states to increase rural and particularly indigenous women's economic opportunities. Women's participation in the Annual General Assembly of ANEC increased from 6 to 50 per cent (2010–2011). It was agreed that gender mainstreaming would be introduced to 220 ANEC members and that a minimum of 30 per cent of decision-making positions would be allocated to women. Towards this end, ANEC developed (and will continue to develop) strategies and activities designed to level the playing field for women's economic activities, particularly in the agricultural sector.
Funding: US \$495,000 Closed	