

Supporting Women's Engagement in Peace-Building and Preventing Sexual Violence in conflict: Community-Led Approaches (Inception Workshop - Uganda, April 16 – 20, 2007)

UNIFEM staff members and several partners from the six countries involved in the above-mentioned DFID-funded programme gathered in northern Uganda (Lira) during the week of April 16 – 20 for the first time to set in place shared objectives and approaches for this \$6.5 million programme.

The overall objective of this workshop was to enable these six country efforts (Afghanistan, Haiti, Liberia, Rwanda, Timor Leste and Uganda), plus the headquarters component, to function as a whole and more than just the sum of its parts. This is a challenge in any global programme, and the approach taken here was first to debate the meaning of the programmes two outcomes for each country context, and second, to work closely together on the refining of the logframes and the monitoring and evaluation frameworks. The two outcomes of the programme, shared by every country project, are:

Outcome 1: Women engage in effective peace building initiatives from the communities to national levels.

Outcome 2: Women play key roles in strengthening community approaches to preventing SGBV and responding to the needs of survivors.

Participants at the workshop worked from common planning templates for designating outputs and activities, indicators, means of verification, and these templates fed into country-specific monitoring and evaluation frameworks. Participants also spent an afternoon visiting a range of community initiatives in the area related to the objectives of this programme (the Lira Police Family Support Unit, the former Rachele Rehabilitation Center formerly abducted children, an IDP return and early recovery area, a society of clan elders, etc).

In addition to these activities, the workshop included an evening panel discussion with several influential voices in the current Juba peace process. The discussion centered on the impact of the northern Ugandan conflict on women and on women's prospects for engaging in the peace talks and recovery process.

As follow-up to this workshop an intranet communications system will be established to provide access to a shared

programme calendar, good practices examples, and forward planning. Each project office will set up a baseline study in preparation for tracking impacts in two years at the end of the programme.

The GPS team is very grateful to the UNIFEM Uganda office, notably Signe Allimadi, Christine Nankubuge, Helen Amule and David Kayondo, as well as key members of the UNFIEM Nairobi team, notably Nyaradzai Gumbozvanda and Linet Miriti for their hard work, insightful contributions, and warmth in hosting this inception workshop. The GPS team thanks all of the other participants for their energy and good will in engaging in this work and looks forward to a productive working relationship throughout the life of this global programme. For the workshop report, and for access to the logframe and M&E tools, please contact Anne Marie Goetz, Hanny Cueva, or Stephanie Ziebell.

UNIFEM Rwanda Launches Peacebuilding & SGBV Prevention Programme

UNIFEM Rwanda launched the Rwanda component of the DFID-funded Peacebuilding and SGBV Prevention Programme on 23 & 24 April in Kigali and Ngororero, Rwanda. Members of the GPS team and a DFID representative were in attendance at ceremonies involving the Rwanda National Police, district and civil society partners. Highlights included presentations by Rwandan National Police Gender Desk representatives, UNIFEM civil society partners and beneficiaries.

Additionally, UNIFEM Rwanda & GPS, as well as the DFID representative participated in briefings and visits with HIV+ survivors of SGBV, an organization working with men as partners in AGBV prevention, and local leadership. For more information about these partners, the launch of the programme in Rwanda, please contact Stephanie Ziebell, Hanny Cueva, or Irene Zirimwabagabo at irene.zirimwabagabo@unifem.org.

UNSC 1325 Implementation: Good Practices Survey

In April 2007, UNIFEM supported the Inter-Agency Taskforce on Women, Peace, and Security by creating a good practice survey form for the collection of cases of good practices in the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Over the past four months, the GPS team has worked in collaboration with OSAGI to develop a concise but effective survey format on good practices for distribution to the UN staff at the field and Headquarters level. . The good practices form was well-received when presented to

the members of the IATF on WPS on 20 April and evoked productive conversations among IATF members on women, peace, and security work. After integrating the comments and edits from the IATF members, UNIFEM turned over the form to OSAGI, which is from now on responsible for the collection and analysis of good practices this year. The good practice survey form will be sent out on 27 April with the request for responses on the second annual review of implementation of UNSCR 1325.

The IATF's work to collect good practices is grounded in the Security Council's request that the Secretary-General "collect and compile good practices, lessons learned and identify remaining gaps and challenges in order to further promote the efficient and effective implementation of resolution 1325" (S/PRST/2006/42). In response to this request, the Secretariat (IATF) seeks to draw some common understanding of 'good practice' in the area of women, peace, and security in order to improve implementation of SCR 1325. The submissions will contribute to the content of the upcoming Secretary-General's report on women, peace and security, which will be presented to the Security Council in October 2007. This collection of good practices is the first step towards developing a knowledge and information system that can be accessed publicly.

To see the best practices template, please contact Kara Piccirilli.

Update on UN Action Against Sexual Violence

Focal point strategy meeting on 11-12 April & presentation to the Executive Committee on Peace and Security (ECPS)

Focal points from eight of the ten UN entities comprising *UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict* met in New York on 11 and 12 April. The primary purpose of the meeting was to finalize the Strategic Framework for UN Action, forging agreement on medium term objectives and short term outputs for 2007. At the two-day strategy meeting, the focal points agreed to arrange UN Action's work around three pillars: advocacy, support for UN system action at the country level, and knowledge building. Following this meeting, the focal points and the group's coordinator drafted language for the Strategic Framework and the strategy meeting report. In mid-May 2007, the focal points will present the two documents for approval by the ten UN Action principals.

On 24 April, UN Action was invited to present the plans for its work and recommendations to the Executive Committee on Peace and Security – an apex information-sharing body comprised of UN peace and security

agencies and chaired by the head of the Department for Political Affairs, Mr. Lynn Pascoe. Kathleen Cravero (UNDP-BCPR) spoke on behalf of the UN Action partnering entities. The following members of ECPS were present: DPA (chair), DPKO, OLA, OCHA, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, DPI, DDA, OSA, WFP. The meeting was successful in that the ECPS endorsed, in principle, UN Action and its plans for its future work, and asked for minor revisions to the 2-page document submitted by UN Action. . It is noteworthy that there was overall agreement on the need for the UN Action initiative in that ECPS members recognized a clear need for a UN system-wide coordinated, concerted effort on the issue.

The report on the focal point strategy meeting, Strategic Framework, and the concept note prepared for the ECPS will be available on the UN Action intranet site: <http://67.59.138.42/UNAction/>

For more information contact Anne Marie Goetz or Kara Piccirilli.

United Nations SSR Taskforce

At its last two meetings on 29 March and 25 April 2007, the SSR Taskforce members have made some progress in designating the Taskforce members and establishing the SSR Support Unit. Further, the group members have begun to develop rapport and to share information, as it relates to the mandate of the Taskforce and the group's future work. One of the outstanding issues that the Taskforce members have discussed at length is the nature of the mandate for a Secretary-General's report on SSR in the context of the UN's work. Dependent on the report of the C-34, the Taskforce will have to decide on the sequencing of its presentation of the SG report (to the GA and SC, respectively) and on the main messages to be communicated in the SG's report. At the moment, there stands only a 'suggestion' for a SG report on SSR from the SC in its PRST (S/PRST/2007/3) of 21 February 2007. Nevertheless, the Taskforce will proceed in its work to develop an annotated outline for a SG report. This will likely be released in November or December 2007. The Taskforce will know if it has a mandate from the GA (via C-34) by/on 15 May. The official release will take into account the standing mandate for the report and the political environment in the GA and SC. It's noteworthy that as the Taskforce pursues its work, it will attempt to communicate with the Rule of Law-CRG and draw connections between the two inter-related areas of work.

As of late April, the group welcomed the first full-time staff member (funded and secured by DPKO) for the SSR Support Unit. The staff member, Jared Rigg, has come from UNMIK with experience and knowledge that will likely support the Taskforce's adoption of a human

security and women's rights approach to its future work. Over the next two months, Jared plans to pursue a consultative process with the UN entities participating in the Taskforce to formulate a baseline work strategy and plan for the group. In this regard, he will assess the individual and collective needs and goals of the members, as well as compile information for a SSR depository. It is noteworthy that the Support Unit initially will grow its capacity through secondments from participating UN entities.

In time for this month's SSR Taskforce meeting, UNIFEM finalized the summary report from the from the SSR and women, peace and security roundtable co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of Canada, UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and International Crisis Group (ICG) at the Mission of Canada to the UN in New York City on Monday, 12 March 2007.

For a copy of the report contact Kara Piccirilli.

Update on Security Council: April 2007

Under the UK Presidency, the Security Council (SC) considered the following issues (not exhaustive):

Climate Change

On 17 April, the UK president of the Security Council hosted a SC Open Debate on climate change, aimed at examining the relationship between energy, security, and climate. Margaret Beckett, British Foreign Secretary chaired the meeting, and fifty delegations made interventions at the Open Debate. It's is noteworthy that a number of UN Member States drew the inter-linkages between conflict prevention, exploitation of natural resources, and environmental degradation. At the same time, a number of States, including China and Russia, argued that climate change does not fall in the purview of the SC's mandate.

Sudan/Darfur

The UN will amplify its current 'light support package' for the AU Mission in Darfur to a 'heavy support package'. This new provision will include \$300 million over its first six months, the UN will supply more than 2,200 troops, 350 police and 1,100 civilian staff. The support to AMIS is with a view to forging a hybrid UN-AU peacekeeping mission in Darfur, which will consist of 17,000 troops and 3,000 police officers.

"The members of the Security Council welcome the decision by the Government of National Unity to accept in full the United Nations 'heavy support package' to the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS), as outlined in the Secretary-General's report of 23 February 2007. They call on the Government of National Unity to now facilitate the immediate deployment of the package. The President of

the Council is writing to the Secretary-General to enable him to request funding for the package from the General Assembly."

"The members of the Council stress there can be no military solution to the crisis in Darfur. They call for an immediate ceasefire, a reinvigorated political process, an improvement in the humanitarian situation and the deployment of an effective African Union-United Nations hybrid operation. They express their full support for the efforts of the United Nations and African Union Special Envoys for Darfur, and call for their work to advance with all possible speed and with the cooperation of all relevant parties."
--From the Security Council Press Statement (SC/8999)

Somalia

In a closed-door briefing, held on 24 April, the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. John Holmes, told the Security Council that the fighting in Somalia is probably the worst in 16 years, since the impoverished country stopped having a functioning national government. More than 320,000 people have fled Mogadishu since the start of February, and hundreds of others are reported to have been killed.

SC Fact-finding Mission to the Balkans

SC members, led by the elected SC member Belgium, visited the Balkans with a particular view to garner first-hand understanding of the social, political and economic situation in Kosovo. In particular, the mission assessed whether agreed standards – a set of eight overall targets that include building democratic institutions, enforcing minority rights, creating a functioning economy and setting up an impartial legal system – have been implemented.

Kosovo

Last month, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the future status process Martti Ahtisaari asserted that the only viable option for Kosovo, where ethnic Albanians outnumber Serbs and other minorities by nine to one, is independence in a phased process with initial supervision by the international community.

As reported in the Security Council Report's *May Forecast*: "Throughout April there was a flurry of diplomatic activity. The Chinese deputy premier and Russia's foreign minister made separate visits to Serbia in mid-April. Serbia began its own diplomatic offensive with visits to South Africa, Indonesia and Qatar to court the non-permanent members of the Council. The EU and members of the Contact Group on Kosovo (the US, the UK, France, Italy, Russia and Germany) met in Moscow on 20 April and held several meetings at different levels at the end of April. For more information on the political dynamics regarding the situation of Kosovo, visit: <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/>

UN Rule of Law Coordination and Resources Group: Joint Planning Meeting (26-27 April, 2007)

The Deputy Secretary General's Rule of Law CRG held its first planning meeting in late April at the UN HQ. The purpose of this meeting was to review the comparative strengths and current programmes in rule of law work, as well as the forward plans, of the main participating entities (Department of Legal Affairs, DPA, DPKO, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNIFEM, UNDP, UNODC). The Rule of Law CRG aims to improve system-wide coherence and impact in a wide range of rule of law work, from norms and standards-setting, to practical operational interventions to improve the access to justice of ordinary people. Although the smallest entity participating in this group, UNIFEM's experience in supporting the ratification and implementation of CEDAW, and its wide range of efforts to support gender-sensitive law reform and women's access to justice is recognized as a significant contribution to building justice for socially excluded groups. The Rule of Law CRG contains many UN members of the UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict group, each of whom, in their presentations, urged that the Rule of Law CRG take very seriously the problem of sexual violence against women in conflict and crises, and make this a flagship example of the need for UN coherence and coordination. The Rule of Law CRG will produce a joint work plan and will agree shared objectives and these will be shared with UNIFEM staff as and when available.

For more information contact Anne Marie Goetz.