

WOMEN, NATURAL RESOURCES & PEACE

A JOINT PROGRAMME OF UN ENVIRONMENT, UN WOMEN, THE UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND THE UN PEACEBUILDING SUPPORT OFFICE

Since the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in 2000, there is a growing body of evidence showing that the participation of women contributes not only to the conclusion of peace talks, but also to the implementation of peace agreements and the sustainability of peacebuilding processes.

While there has been a gradual increase in the number of women taking part in conflict resolution and peace processes since the adoption of the resolution, many barriers remain in ensuring that they have the opportunity to engage substantively and the capacity to influence key outcomes.

Largely overlooked in gender-related peacebuilding programming to date, interventions around natural resources, environment and climate change provide significant opportunities to empower women politically and economically, and to strengthen their contributions to peace.

The Joint Programme on Women, Natural Resources and Peace was established in 2016 to promote natural resource-based interventions as a tool for strengthening women's participation in three areas:

- Participation in dialogue, mediation and conflict resolution efforts
- Participation in governance and decision-making at all levels
- Contributions to economic recovery and sustainable development.

The Joint Programme is rooted in the strong partnership of four organizations that contribute distinct yet complementary expertise to the design of innovative integrated solutions to complex multidimensional challenges. Though global in nature, the Joint Programme is committed to dedicating a minimum of two-thirds of its resources to working directly in conflict-affected countries.



PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

1. PILOT PROJECTS

Pilot projects are being conducted to test opportunities to strengthen women's political and economic empowerment through natural resource-related interventions in conflict-affected countries. Pilots focus their interventions in one or more of the following four areas:

- i. conflict prevention, conflict resolution and social cohesion;
- ii. democratic governance,
- iii. livelihoods, income generation and reintegration, and
- iv. protection and access to justice.

Pilot projects are currently being implemented in Sudan (North Kordofan) and Colombia (Chocó and Antioquia).

2. TOOLS

Based on the learning from the pilot projects, the Joint Programme is developing tools to support peace and development actors to better understand and integrate these approaches within country programming. Tools developed by the Joint Programme will include:

- A programming guide
- Training (in person and online)
- A web platform

3. ADVOCACY

The Joint Programme is dedicated to advocating for gender-responsive natural resource programming in peace processes and raising awareness of the opportunities through inspiring storytelling, documentary films and other materials, as well as engagement of key stakeholders.

PILOT PROJECTS

Strengthening women's roles in natural resource governance, conflict prevention and conflict resolution in North Kordofan, Sudan (2016-2018)



Building on interventions conducted under UNDP's Community Security and Stabilization Programme (C2SP), this pilot project seeks to strengthen women's roles in local peacebuilding processes over natural resource-based conflicts by building women's capacity to participate more effectively in local planning and decision-making bodies that govern access to and use of natural resources in Al Rahad, North Kordofan, a community that is beset by climate-related environmental degradation and increasing conflicts over natural resources. This is achieved by focusing resources and interventions around three main areas that build on the interventions that the Community Security and Stabilization Programme is implementing, in addition to a strong monitoring and evaluation component that will ensure that best practices and lessons learned are systematically documented:

- ensuring women's economic empowerment through gender-responsive natural resource based livelihoods
- strengthening women's participation in resource governance through community environmental action planning
- increasing women's capacity and opportunity to participate in natural resource conflict prevention and resolution.

Realizing the vision on gender equality and sustainable natural resource management in the peace process in Colombia (2018-2019)



This pilot project aims to support the government of Colombia to realize the vision on gender, rural development and environment presented in the Havana Accords, by:

- strengthening local and national capacities to ensure that the needs and priorities of diverse groups of women related to natural resource use, ownership, governance and benefit-sharing are clearly articulated and integrated in the territorial planning process, as well as other key policies and programmes contributing to the peace process; and
- strengthening women's capacities for conflict prevention and resolution efforts over natural resources.

A key contribution of the project is to develop a model for meaningful engagement of diverse groups of women in the territorial planning process that will be conducted in prioritized municipalities in Chocó and Antioquia (Bajo Cauca and Northeast Antioquia), which can be replicated elsewhere in Colombia as the peace process unfolds.

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