



United Nations Development Programme

UNDP/JAPAN
WOMEN IN
DEVELOPMENT
FUND 2005
10th Anniversary Report

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United Nations Development Programme
304 E. 45th Street
New York, NY 10017, USA

www.undp.org

Design: Hanako Tomikawa
Printing: Ten Print-Directors & Associates

Message from the Government of Japan

Since 1995, the Government of Japan has actively supported the empowerment of women in developing countries under the “Initiative on Women in Development” (WID).

The UNDP/Japan Women in Development Fund (JWIDF) was established in 1995 as a funding mechanism to the follow-up of the Beijing Platform for Action in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). To date, the JWIDF has funded 63 projects in 41 countries (as of September end 2005) in the amount of over \$15.1 million.

I am very pleased that this partnership has flourished over the ten years and has contributed greatly to the empowerment of many women around the world.

You will see in this report that each project addresses country specific gaps and challenges in the aim to empower women and promote gender equality.

In March 2005, a new Initiative on Gender and Development (GAD) of the Government of Japan was announced at the Commission on the Status of Women.

The GAD approach seeks to promote gender mainstreaming at every phase and every area of ODA activities including

(1) poverty reduction, (2) sustainable growth, (3) addressing global issues, and (4) peace-building^{*1}.

We hope that combining gender mainstreaming with specific measures for women’s empowerment will result in more effectiveness.

On behalf of the Government of Japan,

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to UNDP for remaining a vital development partner in the work of promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment.

I believe that continued cooperative efforts will further benefit the lives of thousands of women and men around the world and hence the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).



Shigekazu Sato
Director-General
Economic Cooperation Bureau
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Government of Japan

Message from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

We welcome the opportunity to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the UNDP/Japan Women in Development Fund (UNDP/Japan WID Fund: 1995-2005) in the context of two major commemorations: the 10th anniversary of the Beijing Conference on Women and the fifth anniversary of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. Both have carved a powerful framework for a common international agenda towards reaching gender equality and women’s empowerment.

UNDP’s new Administrator, Kemal Dervis, during his first speech to the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA on 6 September 2005, reiterated UNDP’s commitment to the promotion of the empowerment of women and gender equality:

“Critical to overall development success is, in my view, the need to address the gender dimension in all our work. Strong evidence from around the world confirms that gender equality accelerates overall economic growth, strengthens democratic governance and reduces poverty and insecurity. As we move forward with the implementation of the MDGs, it is important that we are fully committed to investing in policies and programmes that empower women and promote gender equality. It is a priority to which I am committed.”

I would like to express our gratitude to the Government of Japan for its invaluable partnership with UNDP and its generous support to gender equality and women’s empowerment through dedicated programmes funded by the UNDP/Japan WID Fund.

During the past 10 years, the UNDP/Japan WID Fund invested US\$ 15.2 million to support 63 projects around the world including 45 country based projects – 16 projects in Asia and the Pacific (US\$ 3.8 million), 12 in Africa (US\$ 2.6 million), seven in Latin America and the Caribbean (US\$ 1.6 million), seven in Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States (US\$ 2.0 million), and three in Arab States (US\$ 0.6 million). In addition, three regional projects (US\$ 0.7 million) and 16 global projects (US\$ 3.9 million) have received support for a broad range of initiatives, from building women’s leadership in Ecuador, to gender responsive budgeting in Mongolia and Uganda, and from enhancing women’s economic opportunities in Jordan to institution building and strengthening in the post conflict setting of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Each programme was carefully selected for its innovative approach and its strategic importance while being fully anchored in the realities and opportunities for change that each country offered. You will see in the following chapters how the UNDP/Japan WID Fund has made break-through contributions to the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women. The success of this Fund has many facets including multi-lateral/ bilateral partnership and greater visibility for concrete results that demonstrate both the UNDP’s and the Government of Japan’s commitment to the plight of millions of poor women around the world.

The 10th Anniversary Symposium organized in Japan in November 2005 will be a time to celebrate and further strengthen our joint efforts. The challenges ahead are probably far greater than what we have so far accomplished together. The UN reform agenda and the MDGs provide new frameworks for a closer partnership between UNDP and the Government of Japan to advance what the founders of the UN inscribed 60 years ago, in the first page of the UN Charter: the equal rights of women and men.



Shoji Nishimoto
Assistant Administrator and Director
Bureau for Development Policy
United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP)

^{*1} For complete document go to <http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/category/wid/gad.html>

I. Overview of the UNDP/Japan Women in Development Fund

Innovations for responding to global development challenges

By Asako Osaki, Gender and Development Specialist
(Former UNDP/Japan WID Fund Programme Manager)

In September 1995, thousands of women and men from around the world gathered in Beijing, China, to take part in the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Conference assessed the progress made in improving the status of women over the past decades and discussed ways forward. It led to the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action by representatives from 189 countries. The Beijing Platform for Action reflects a new international commitment to the goals of equality, development and peace for women all over the world. It defines strategic objectives and spells out the actions that must be taken by governments, the international community, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector to achieve these objectives.

During the Conference, the Government of Japan launched the Japan Women in Development Initiative (Japan WID Initiative) as their strategy for supporting women in developing countries to achieve gender equality through technical cooperation and official development assistance (ODA). The Japan WID Initiative had three main areas of support:

1. Education
2. Health
3. Social and economic participation of women

As a means to implement the commitment, the Government of Japan, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), established the UNDP/Japan Women in Development Fund (UNDP/Japan WID Fund) to follow-up on the Beijing Platform for Action. The Fund was located within UNDP to support its efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in developing countries. This was a strategic choice made by the Government of Japan in order to draw upon UNDP's vast field presence and years of experience in assisting developing countries deliver on international commitments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Initially, the areas of support focused on those covered by the Japan WID Initiative. The projects focused on empowering women at the grass-roots level in order for them to secure sustainable livelihoods and access to productive resources and social services such as credits and enterprise development, vocational training, education and health services.

Some examples of projects include:

- National Seminar on Education of Girls (Guatemala);
- Literacy and Vocational Education for Ethnic Minority Girls and Women (Vietnam);
- Integrated Women's Health (Egypt); and
- Women's Entrepreneurship Development (Ghana).

In 1999, UNDP transformed itself from a funding agency to a global network to advocate for change and to promote the sharing of knowledge, experience and resources among countries, in order to help people build a better life. The approach therefore shifted from funding project-based initiatives to providing upstream policy support so developing countries could better respond to global and national development challenges. With poverty reduction being an overarching goal, UNDP identified governance, crisis prevention and recovery, environment and energy, HIV/AIDS and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)* as the practice areas in which it had comparative advantage and expertise. Gender was positioned as a cross-cutting issue to be mainstreamed into everything done by the UNDP.

In line with UNDP's new priorities, the criteria of the UNDP/Japan WID Fund were reviewed and renewed in 2000. In addition to UNDP's shift in its priorities, there were some external factors that were taken into account in reshaping the strategies of the UNDP/Japan WID Fund. Changes include:

- The UN adopted gender mainstreaming as its main strategy for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women;
- Intensifying globalization created new challenges for impoverished women around the world; and
- Heads of States launched the Millennium Declaration at the Millennium Summit held in New York in 2000. Their commitments were translated into the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that outlined numerical and time-bound goals for poverty reduction and sustainable development.

In June 2000, 'Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century' (known as Beijing + Five) was held in New York to review the progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. It recognized globalization as an emerging challenge that affects women in developing countries, as was witnessed during the 1997 financial crisis in East Asia.

Many women lost formal jobs and were forced into informal jobs that offered no security, benefits or labour rights. Educated and skilled women who reside in urban areas and have access to information technologies may enjoy new opportunities, but those without such privileges may suffer seriously. More than ever, a global economic environment impacts poor, vulnerable women. Without gender-responsive measures at the policy level, a globalized economy may increase existing gaps – between men and women, and between the rich and poor.

Since the signing of the Millennium Declaration in 2000, the MDGs have become a common development framework in the international community. The overarching goal is to halve the population living in absolute poverty by 2015. It outlines numerical goals and targets within eight major development areas. However, it is critical to address gender gaps in each goal and monitor progress from a gender perspective, using sex-disaggregated data, in order to take concrete actions to close the existing gaps. Gender mainstreaming is the key to promote equitable growth and to achieve MDGs.

In light of these changes and new international norms, the UNDP/Japan WID Fund redefined itself as a fund for strategic investments in initiatives that:

Innovations

- Address the gender dimensions of emerging development challenges such as trade, macroeconomic frameworks, HIV/AIDS and ICT;
- Advocate for policy change and social transformation to respond to the needs and concerns of women;
- Have the potential to influence policies at a higher level to ensure that gender equality is integrated into the mainstream development agenda;
- Pilot innovative ways and develop methodologies for mainstreaming gender into development issues that can be replicated and up-scaled for larger impact; and
- Establish a link between grass-roots and upstream policy to ensure that the experiences and coping strategies of grass-roots women and networks feed into the policy-making processes at a higher level;

Partnerships

- Identify strategic partners and alliances at the global, regional, national and grass-roots level to draw upon the comparative advantages and expertise of each party; and
- Promote multi-bi collaboration between UNDP and Japan;

Dialogue

- Promote dialogue between grass-roots women's networks and upstream policy makers and entities;

Capacity development

- Focus on building capacities of key national and regional institutions to ensure ownership, sustainability and multiplier effect of UNDP/Japan WID Fund assistance.

In sum, the UNDP/Japan WID Fund shifted its focus from grass-roots, project-based assistance to strategic investments that

would create a larger policy impact and would help integrate gender into mainstream development policies and programmes. This shift, however, does not change the ultimate clients of the Fund – poor women. It kept the work of UNDP close to the ground as the only resource base in UNDP for gender projects in developing countries. Partnerships with grass-roots organizations and women's networks helped UNDP identify strategic entry points and priorities for policy discussions and development planning. In the long run, this approach will benefit a larger number of women.

To date, the UNDP/Japan WID Fund has supported 63 projects (as of 1 Oct, 2005) around the world. The Fund's project portfolio is a source of innovations and examples of how gender can be integrated into a wide range of development challenges. Experiences and knowledge are shared across regions through the UNDP Gender Equality Network and the UNDP/Japan WID Fund website. Some research-based projects identified priority areas of support and gaps that need to be addressed through larger-scale programmes and technical assistance.

For example, the UNDP/Japan WID Fund made interventions to address the differential impact of global trade frameworks on men and women; to advocate for resource allocations and public investments to promote gender equality; and to engender e-commerce policies and strategies to create an enabling environment for women handicraft artisans.

Examples of projects include:

- Gender Equality in Employment Creation and the Labour Market (Chile);
- Bridging the Digital Divide in Africa through Strategic Partnerships (Rwanda);
- China's Accession to WTO: A Challenge for Women (China);
- Awareness of Women's Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; and
- Capacity Development and Partnerships between Governments and Civil Society for Gender Equality Law Implementation (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

In March 2005, the Government of Japan launched the Gender and Development (GAD) Initiative at the 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women held in New York, which marked the 10th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration. The GAD Initiative states that Japan will make efforts to mainstream gender perspectives into its bilateral assistance. The UNDP/Japan WID Fund portfolio shall serve as a knowledge source that presents strategic entry points for mainstreaming gender in key development challenges.

The next section will examine how the UNDP/Japan WID Fund has made break-through contributions to the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women over the last 10 years across the globe. The Fund positions itself as a unique funding source to invest in innovative ways of addressing gender gaps in the key development agenda. Analysis will therefore focus on looking at the 'investment' side to see how the UNDP/Japan WID Fund has seized strategic opportunities.

*1 ICT later became a cross-cutting theme.

II. Strategic investments and innovations

Analytical review by thematic clusters

By Asako Osaki

This section will examine how the UNDP/Japan WID Fund has made break-through contributions to the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women over the last 10 years across the globe. The UNDP/Japan WID Fund positions itself as a unique funding source to invest in innovative ways of addressing gender gaps in the key development agenda. Analysis will therefore focus on looking at the 'investment' side to see how the Fund has seized strategic opportunities. In particular, the UNDP/Japan WID Fund has made significant contributions in the areas of: macroeconomic policies and frameworks; governance; and ICT for the economic empowerment of women.

Cluster 1: Macroeconomic Frameworks and Gender

Overview

A globalized economy impacts the socio-economic conditions and well-being of poor women around the world. Globalization can offer new opportunities to women, and can even help pull them out of poverty, but only when existing gender gaps and the differential needs of men and women are thoroughly examined and taken into account in the country's macroeconomic policies and frameworks. In many cases, however, macroeconomic policies and frameworks fail to address gender disparity and biases, often due to the assumption that macroeconomic policies are 'gender neutral'. This assumption, however, ignores the gender bias and inequalities that persist in the economic market (e.g. employment and production) and in society.

These gender biases are a major factor in generating the differential impact of gender-neutral or rather gender-blind policies on men and women. For example, privatization of social services may end up putting an additional care burden on poor women, who cannot afford such services if they are privatized. This would in turn mean more unpaid work caring for the elderly, sick and children, and less time for self-enhancement and for social and political participation, which would put them in even more disadvantaged, voiceless positions. Additional working hours may cause their health to deteriorate. This would lead to a further widening of the gap between men and women. Gender responsiveness in macroeconomic frameworks is therefore key for promoting equitable growth and pro-poor, pro-women poverty reduction.

The UNDP/Japan WID Fund has made a significant contribution to identifying strategic entry points for making macroeconomic frame-

works and policies gender-sensitive. It supported pioneering work in assessing gender disparities in trade, employment and national budgeting. Examples of UNDP/Japan WID Fund support include:

Employment

- research on the impact of trade liberalization on employment patterns and conditions of poor women and baseline survey for future monitoring; and
- systemic analysis of gender gaps in the labour market in countries where women are equally educated and skilled but are disadvantaged in employment opportunities and conditions;

Gender sensitive budgeting (GSB)

- promotion of GSB as a technique to allocate resources more effectively and strategically to achieve gender equality and poverty reduction; and as an advocacy tool to value women's contribution and push the gender agenda forward;
- capacity-building at regional/national levels through the Training of Trainers; and
- development of tools and manuals.

Underlying strategies of the UNDP/Japan WID Fund pilot initiatives in this area include:

• Advocacy for policy change

It helped build a knowledge-base through empirical research to address gender gaps and present alternative policy options. It also supported advocacy activities to translate such knowledge into actual policies and programmes for poverty reduction by working with policy-makers and key stakeholders.

• National capacity-building

It focused on building national capacities to ensure sustainability. National researchers and macroeconomists have been trained to analyse and link gender and macroeconomic frameworks.

• Potential for replication

The UNDP/Japan WID Fund developed research and advocacy methodologies as well as practical policy tools and training materials that can be adopted and replicated. This was in response to the high demand from developing countries for assistance in mainstreaming gender into macroeconomic frameworks.

In China, UNDP/Japan WID Fund supported the world's first country-level study on the impact of WTO entry on the employment patterns and conditions of poor women who are engaged in export zones, namely agriculture and industry. The study not only produced remarkable research paper and policy guidelines,

but it also helped teach China's national researchers and economists how to look at the macroeconomic picture from a different angle – that of vulnerable, poor working women. It also serves as important baseline data to track changes over time.

In South Africa, UNDP/Japan WID Fund supported a non-governmental local research institute in developing a micro-simulation model to assess the differential impact of anti-poverty policies by sex, race and locality. South Africa has a complex socio-economic demography. Poverty alleviation programmes and other social services have a different impact depending on race, sex, location age etc. This model helped South Africa's government agencies, such as the Department of Social Development, analyse current and future policy designs for key anti-poverty programmes, such as child support grants, pensions, disability grants and others.

In Chile, UNDP/Japan WID Fund provided support to the joint programme between UNDP and the International Labour Organization (ILO) on gender, poverty and employment, which focused on building a knowledge-base and awareness-raising to address gender disparity in labour market and employment policies. In Chile, 31.5 percent of households are headed by women. Yet, the average income of female-headed households is lower than that of male-headed households. The unemployment rate is highest among poor women at 28 percent. UNDP/Japan WID Fund supported a series of analyses on existing gender gaps in the labour market and conditions to be used for gender-sensitive policy making, followed by training workshops targeting representatives from the labour unions, policy makers, employment programme managers from the government, and NGOs.

The budget is a powerful policy instrument. Policies and projects must be supported by the necessary financial resources in order for them to be implemented. Budgets therefore illustrate a government's priorities and values. Budgets have been seen as 'gender neutral' but public investments have different impacts on men and women. GSB initiatives aim to promote methods of budget

formulation that will enhance gender equality. Not only is GSB an influential macroeconomic framework, but it is also a tool for good governance, helping to ensure that women have a voice in the government's choices.

To date, more than 60 countries have initiated GSB, and demands for instituting GSB initiatives are increasing globally. UNDP/Japan WID Fund responded to this demand by putting available resources on GSB in a handy virtual library, and training a cadre of trainers on GSB in the regions where the demands for such training workshops are high, for example in Asia and the Pacific, Europe and CIS, and West Africa. It also developed a user-friendly training manual.

The UNDP/Japan WID Fund project **in Mongolia** is a good example of a GSB initiative at the country level, especially in a transition economy. The project helped the country prepare the ground for initiating GSB initiatives. It began by conducting a gender analysis of budget allocations and budget-making processes in the key public finance sectors, including donor funding, social security and employment, which were seen as critical to addressing gender gaps. The findings of the research were shared widely across the country, from the officials at the Ministry of Finance to local NGOs. The stakeholders met and formulated initial action plans for promoting GSB in the government, civil society organizations and donors.

The link between macroeconomic frameworks and gender has been discussed and studied at the global level. Drawing on such studies, the UNDP/Japan WID Fund strategically focused on building national capacities to mainstream gender into macroeconomic policies and frameworks at the country level. It has therefore supported a number of specific pilot initiatives focusing on building a knowledge-base through empirical research to address gender gaps in existing frameworks and policies; developing national/regional capacities to analyse and link gender and macroeconomic frameworks; and advocating for translating such knowledge into actual policies and programmes for poverty reduction.

China	
Project Title:	China's Accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO): Challenge for Women
Context:	China entered the WTO in 2002. This accelerated China's participation in the world economy and it pushed the domestic reform agenda to comply with and respond to international trade rules and standards. Although these changes may mean increased opportunities for educated professional women, they can also increase existing inequalities and insecurities among less-skilled, less-educated women workers. China was at a critical point where policy-making could affect the employment conditions and socio-economic status of women engaged in the export zones.
Gaps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A global study on gender and trade established a case for the gender-based impact of macroeconomic transitions, but no empirical study was done at the country-level; and • National researchers and macroeconomists in China did not recognize the gender dimensions of China's WTO entry. There was no interest or capacity to incorporate gender perspectives into research projects that would have a direct impact on policy-making in response to the coming changes.
Entry points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity-building and awareness-raising of Chinese researchers (mostly economists) on gender analysis

	<p>through the preparation of research papers on the impact of WTO on employment patterns of poor women in critically affected sectors (i.e. industry and agriculture), with technical assistance from international experts and through a consultative process involving international organizations and other experts, including UNDP and ILO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy workshops targeting decision makers (government officials, people’s delegates and mayors) to raise awareness on the issue and their roles as policy makers.
Tools developed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive research papers (in a published form, bilingual); and • Advocacy handbook, summarizing the findings and policy recommendations.
Partnerships:	<p>UNDP, UNIFEM, China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchange under the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (Executing agency), national research institutions, including the Institute of Industrial Development Research under the State Development and Reform Commission, which is the key government body responsible for China’s macro-level reform. Advisory committee comprised of the UN theme group on gender, JICA and other bilateral agencies, the Ford Foundation, and ILO.</p>
Innovative aspects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership with China’s national research institute to demonstrate the importance of mainstreaming gender into China’s research agenda, particularly in macroeconomic frameworks, to national researchers and economists. Focus on national capacity-building is a strategic, sustainable way to mainstream gender in macroeconomic analysis and policy-making in China; • Direct involvement of the key development agency to make sure research findings and recommendations impact development planning; and • Recommendations applied not only to policy formulation by the Chinese Government but they also identified areas that needed further support from donors (for example, specific research areas, technology, knowledge and skills to be transferred in agriculture to meet international market demands, etc). The launch event attracted donor agencies and NGOs.

South Africa	
Project Title:	Engendering Macroeconomic Policy in South Africa
Context:	<p>Poverty reduction is a major challenge faced by South Africa. Although South Africa is considered a middle-income country based on average per capita income, there is an enormous gap between the rich and the poor. Race is the main factor for determining socio-economic status, together with other factors such as sex, age, location and so on. Equitable social policies and programmes (e.g. social security, welfare, housing, health services, unemployment, etc.) that are responsive to the different needs of the diverse socio-economic groups are therefore key to poverty alleviation in South Africa. In order to develop such equitable policies and programmes, the government needs to understand the socio-economic backgrounds and situations of poor people and households, and the differential impacts of their existing and/or planned social policies and programmes on poor people. This will help the government reach the most vulnerable groups, who might otherwise be left out, and promote equitable poverty reduction efforts.</p>
Gaps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of a practical and user-friendly policy tool to analyse the differential impact of social policies and programmes on different socio-economic groups. This limited the government’s ability to reach the most vulnerable groups and to provide targeted support for maximum impact.
Entry points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a user-friendly tool for policy analysis to engender macroeconomic policies through assessing the differential implications of past, existing and/or planned social policies on different groups of people; and • Drawing on a larger framework of UNDP-led initiatives on engendering macroeconomic and international economic policies, which involved the Ford Foundation and the University of Utah, to bring together cutting-edge conceptual and empirical experiences to link gender, macroeconomics, and poverty reduction. This particular project focused on developing a practical policy tool.
Tools developed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social policy simulation model, which included 10 modules (tax, unemployment insurance, pension,

	<p>disability, child support, basic income, care dependency, housing subsidy, health and transportation).</p>
Partnerships:	<p>UNDP, National Institute for Economic Policy, Ministry of Welfare, Commission on Gender Equality and civil society organizations.</p>
Innovative aspects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a user-friendly policy-analysis tool that can be easily adopted in the work of any line ministry. This model can be replicated in other countries.

Global	
Project Title:	Gender Sensitive Budgets: Investing in Poor Women to Reach MDGs
Context:	<p>GSB is not a separate budget for women. Rather, it is a method for analysing how public resources are allocated and how they benefit men and women differently. It is a tool that can help the government effectively use its limited resources for poverty reduction and for achieving the MDGs. GSB also advocates for a participatory budget-making process to ensure that the contributions made by women are accounted for, and their voices are heard when making decisions on public investments that greatly impact women’s socio-economic conditions and well-being.</p> <p>Gender sensitive budgets have been initiated in both developed and developing countries alike, by different parties including women’s NGOs, governments, parliamentarians and so on. They provide an effective means to promote equitable and effective public investments and to advocate for women’s participation in budget-making processes.</p>
Gaps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although a wide range of resource materials on GSB have been produced world-wide, these materials are scattered and there is no single, comprehensive source for all this information; and • Despite the increased demands from countries for initiating GSB, there are only a few international experts and trainers on GSB who can respond to such needs. Regional-level capacities in GSB to provide support to countries are extremely limited.
Entry points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a virtual library on GSB; • Developing regional pools of experts on GSB to provide advice and technical support to regional and country initiatives; and • Raising awareness and advocacy to increase general understanding of GSB and its link with MDGs.
Tools developed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CD ROM (virtual library); and • GSB training manual
Partnerships:	<p>UNDP, partnering institutions for Training of Trainers (Academy of Civil Service under President of Russia, Asian Institute of Management, National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, and Center for Asia-Pacific Women in Politics), BRIDGE, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK.</p>
Innovative aspects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutually beneficial partnership with a research institute (BRIDGE) that had a comprehensive knowledge product on GSB but a limited capacity for global distribution, especially within developing countries; • Use of a CD-ROM to disseminate a great volume of resource materials in a user-friendly manner; • Focus on building regional capacities for GSB so that countries are not solely dependant on a handful of international experts on GSB; this contributes to transfer of knowledge to national/regional levels and sustainability; and • Partnerships with mainstream national training institutions to disseminate knowledge on GSB so it becomes a part of their training curriculum and knowledge base.

Mongolia

Project Title:	Capacity-building for Gender Sensitive Budgeting
Context:	<p>Since the 1990s, Mongolia has been undergoing a transition from a centrally planned economy to a market economy. This transition, combined with the fact that the State now plays a minimal role in the economy, has led to the emergence of poverty as a new problem in Mongolia. Thirty-six percent of the population lives below the poverty line and female-headed households have higher levels of poverty than others. The economic changes have impacted women and men differently. Women are usually disadvantaged in the employment market, and have lower income levels and less social security. Macroeconomic policies have a direct impact on poor women. Thus, the first step towards mainstreaming gender into macroeconomic policies and frameworks would be to analyse and identify their differential impact on men and women. This analysis will guide the government on how to allocate resources and how to enforce macroeconomic policies and measures to achieve gender equality and human development.</p> <p>In 2002, UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labour and the Ministry of Finance and Economy, organized a workshop on GSB for government officials, NGOs, academia and UN agencies. The Government of Mongolia expressed interest in receiving assistance to build its national capacity in GSB.</p>
Gaps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the economic transition taking place in Mongolia, poverty has emerged as a major problem. Poverty impacts men and women differently, but these differences are not adequately analysed and translated into Mongolia's national poverty reduction strategy and national budgetary allocations.
Entry points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness on GSB concepts within the Ministry of Finance and Economy and among civil society organizations; • Direct partnership with the Ministry of Finance to influence the budgetary processes and build technical capacities to conduct GSB; • Capacity building both at national and sub-national levels to create a pool of resource persons and researchers; and • Production of research/analytical papers by national research institutes on the gender-specific impact of donor assistance, employment, and social security and welfare.
Tools developed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research papers assessing the gender-differential impact of selected development sectors, including donor assistance, employment, social security and welfare; and • Training manual.
Partnerships:	UNDP, Ministry of Finance and Economy (execution agency), international consultants, National Council on Gender Equity (as a monitoring body and standing committee for promoting GSB; the Council consists of representatives from the Parliament, line ministries, NGOs, private sector and media).
Innovative aspects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Finance and Economy is taking the lead in establishing a mechanism and capacities within the government to monitor national and local budgeting from a gender perspective; • Project also forges a trilateral link of cooperation among researchers, NGOs and the government to promote GSB; and • Project intends to reach local governments and it will help mainstream gender into fiscal decentralization efforts.

Chile

Project Title:	Gender Equality in Employment Creation and Labour Market (This project is a country-level initiative within the framework of ILO's large-scale regional programme, the Institutional Strengthening Programme for Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Employment Generation, known as the GPE programme.)
Context:	Chile experienced fast economic growth and dramatic poverty reduction in the 1990s. However, the rate of

growth slowed down and has remained stagnant in recent years. Women-headed households constitute 23 percent of total households, of which 16.4 percent live under the poverty line. Securing women's employment is crucial for accelerating poverty reduction in Chile. Although women in the labour force are more educated than men, they are at a disadvantage in terms of access to jobs, wages and social protection measures. This is a common trend in Latin America.

UNDP and ILO worked together on a joint GPE programme, which developed a common framework for mainstreaming gender into national employment generation strategies in Latin America.

Gaps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of female-headed households is very high, and a large portion of these households is considered poor; and • Gender gaps are evident in the labour market; women workers are usually well educated (high school equivalent) and their level of education is higher than that of men. However, women are at a disadvantage in terms of their access to job opportunities, wages and social protection.
Entry points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying both gender gaps in the Chilean labour market as well as the link between poverty, gender and employment, in preparation for developing gender-responsive public policies; • Developing a gender-sensitive intervention model, using an existing social policy aimed at poverty reduction, to assist policy makers in designing gender sensitive poverty eradication and/or employment policies and programmes; • Capacity-building and awareness raising among key policy makers and programme managers involved in employment policies/programmes to mainstream gender considerations; • Raising awareness among civil society actors (e.g. unions, businesses, NGOs and women's organizations) on the link between employment, poverty and gender; • Promoting knowledge-sharing and debate at the regional level on this issue; and • Drawing on ILO's overall GPE programme and engaging ILO's tripartite constituencies (i.e. labour unions, government and businesses) as consultative and advisory entities to promote dialogue and raise awareness.
Tools developed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytical study entitled 'Diagnosis of Gender Gaps in the Labour Market and Gender Determinants of Poverty in Chile'; and • Gender review/analysis of the existing poverty alleviation and employment generation policy, entitled 'Social, Demographic and Labour Characterization of Women Beneficiaries of the Social Protection System: Chile Solidario', and proposals for engendered versions.
Partnerships:	<p>UNDP, ILO (executing agency), civil society organizations (Foundation for Alleviation of Poverty and Centre of Study on Women), and a tripartite consultative council consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, the Ministry of Planning and Cooperation and the Ministry of Women's Affairs; • Entrepreneurs (Committee Women Entrepreneurs, Confederation of Production and Trade); and • Labour unions (women's department, Central Workers' Union).
Innovative aspects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership with ILO, which has vast experience in promoting poverty reduction through effective employment strategies as well as through dialogue among government, employers and labour unions; • Strong focus on making an impact on employment strategies at the policy level; employment is a critical entry point for poverty reduction efforts in Chile and addressing gender disparities is crucial to ensure that women and female-headed households are pulled out of poverty; and • Networking with other GPE countries in the region to share experience and knowledge and to promote south-south cooperation.

Cluster 2: Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Gender

Overview

ICT is transforming the world in which we live, creating new opportunities and challenges for developing countries and for social groups within them. The potential of ICT to enhance access to knowledge resources and enable sharing and networking, facilitate participation in decision-making and leverage economic opportunities by women is tremendous. Yet harnessing the potential of the ICT revolution for the empowerment of women does not occur automatically.

A specific focus on the gender equity and empowerment dimensions of ICT is essential to prevent an adverse impact and a perpetuation of existing inequalities and social and economic discriminations with the introduction of ICT in a situation where such inequalities and factors structure access to ICT. This focus can be achieved through interventions at the policy and programme levels. Women in many countries face restrictions in access to ICT. In regions where education and literacy levels of women are lower, ICT can bring little benefit. Left unaddressed, inequitable access to ICT can create a new basis for inequality.

It is also critical to leverage the positive benefits of ICT for women. These range from benefits of projects and programmes that facilitate skill development, and efficiencies for small businesses and commerce activities, as well as from the more general benefits that accrue from enhanced access to knowledge resources and networks, and public services.

The UNDP/Japan WID Fund support strategically focused on exploring the potential of ICT as a tool to promote women's economic and political empowerment. For example, it piloted the use of ICT to:

1. build management capacities of women's organizations and support groups to ensure sustainable operations;
2. enhance communication and networking within women's organizations that have branches in rural communities;
3. provide a means to access a wider market and networks to expand business and employment opportunities;



4. develop an online information source to provide information and knowledge vital to maintain and improve women's livelihoods and businesses; and
5. develop training programmes in ICT skills for women workers so they can access better employment opportunities.

In most of the pilot initiatives, special attention was given to the following:

- Grass-roots – upstream policy linkage: the projects deliberately made interventions both at the grass-roots and policy levels so that grass-roots experiences and voices were reflected in national ICT strategies and policies as well as in regulatory frameworks; and
- Potential for replication: projects aimed to develop replicable models and tools so as to contribute to the sharing of lessons-learned and good practices in the context of south-south cooperation.

In Ukraine, UNDP/Japan WID Fund worked with the Ukrainian Council of Women Farmers to deploy ICT to build capacities of women farmers in entrepreneurial and business management skills as well as organization and networking skills. The project provided local women farmers with access to a vast source of information and knowledge on agricultural products and technologies as well as to market information. It also helped them understand changes in agrarian practices, especially changes in the laws and regulations that came about as a result of the agrarian reform in the country. By acquiring new knowledge and information, women farmers empowered themselves with knowledge and developed their organizational skills to voice their views in the political and legal arenas.

In Bhutan, the UNDP/Japan WID Fund piloted an e-commerce scheme for women handicraft artisans residing in remote areas, who have limited access to vital market information. It helped women improve the marketability of their products and gain access to a wider market. The project strategically worked both at the upstream policy level and the grass-roots level to connect policy-makers with end-users for the common goal of creating an enabling environment for e-commerce and e-business that rural women can take advantage of.

In Rwanda, the UNDP/Japan WID Fund piloted an innovative approach, linking ICT-trained women workers and successful African-origin ICT entrepreneurs residing abroad, primarily in Europe and North America. This was one of the country-level pilot projects of the global African Digital Diaspora Initiative supported by UNIFEM, which aimed to use untapped resources in the African diaspora to promote African women's economic security and rights. The project succeeded in generating ICT-related training, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women in Rwanda.

In India, the UNDP/Japan WID Fund works with the Self Employed Women's Association, known as SEWA, to use ICT for very specific purposes, namely, to increase efficiency of both the production management of micro-enterprises owned by rural women, as well as of SEWA's existing microcredit operations. This helped women entrepreneurs become more organized, effective managers of their micro-businesses. Application of ICT to microcredit operations will lower transaction costs and increase efficiency, which will enable SEWA to improve their outreach in remote, rural areas.

Ukraine

Project Title:	Sustaining Women Farmers in Ukraine
Context:	Ukraine is an agrarian country, and women make up the majority of the farming population. Not only are they farmers, but in many cases women manage their own farms as well. The Council of Women Farmers of Ukraine is a self-help organization that supports women farmers through eight branches across the country. The timing of the project coincided with the agrarian reform taking place in the country. Collective agricultural enterprises, a legacy of the communist era, were dissolved and peasants were issued land and property certificates that entitled them to land ownership. The transition meant new opportunities for women farmers but the bureaucratic process was complicated and required up-to-date knowledge and information on laws and taxation, to which women farmers had limited access.
Gaps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited access of women farmers to knowledge and information crucial to their farm ownership and farming technologies; and • Lack of effective information management and communication facilities within the Council of Women Farmers.
Entry points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of ICT to strengthen the facilitation role of the Women Farmers Union. The project focused on online-network building and developing a knowledge and information source.
Tools developed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific web content for women farmers; and • Training programme and manual
Partnerships:	State Committee of Ukraine on the Development of Entrepreneurship, Centre for Agrarian Reforms, Ukrainian Council of Women Farmers.
Innovative aspects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of ICT for empowering women with knowledge and information; • Use of ICT for developing women's organization and networking skills to facilitate and voice their opinions and needs in legislative and political arenas; • Proved ICT can be a powerful tool to organize women and women's groups in remote areas, increasing outreach and networking capacities; and • Provided a good example of how ICT can not only promote women's economic empowerment, but can also serve as a tool for good governance by promoting women's participation in political discussions.

Bhutan

Project Title:	E-commerce for Women Entrepreneurs and Handicraft Producers in Bhutan
Context:	Bhutan is a land-locked, mountainous and rugged country, located in the remote eastern Himalayans. Eighty percent of the Bhutanese population resides in rural areas. With a significant percentage of men migrating to urban areas as seasonal workers, rural women play a vital role in looking after the households and generating additional cash income to sustain their families. Handicraft production, such as weaving and wood carving, is a major source of income for many households in rural areas where poverty persists. Producers are predominantly women and they are responsible for generating cash income in the absence of men.
Gaps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of a means of communication prevents the access of rural women in remote areas to vital information on market prices and market needs/trends, and thus to larger market opportunities; and • E-commerce was seen to have good potential for producers and entrepreneurs in Bhutan, but the specific needs and potentials for rural women handicraft producers were not explored at the policy or programme levels.
Entry points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of ICT to improve rural women's access to information and to build their capacities for business management, in order to increase marketability of their products and efficiency in production management; • Capacity-building of women entrepreneurs in the intermediate level of handicraft sale to team up with

	women producers so as to benefit from wider market opportunities; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy advice to the Ministry of Trade and Industry for creating enabling policy and regulatory frameworks for e-business that would take into account the needs of rural women producers, starting with a review of exiting frameworks.
Partnerships:	Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Communication, National Women’s Association for Bhutan (an NGO with a network across the country), Asia and Pacific Telecommunity (based in Bangkok to provide support in policy development).
Innovative aspects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of e-commerce as a tool for widening market opportunities for handicraft producers in remote areas; and • Combination of grass-roots support to rural women producers and upstream policy support to integrate the needs of rural women artisans into national policy and regulatory frameworks for ICT.

Rwanda	
Project Title:	Bridging the Gender Digital Divide in Africa through Strategic Partnerships: Pilot Initiatives in Rwanda
Context:	<p>Rwanda is a small, landlocked country that has gone through ethnic-based civil wars and genocide. Ninety percent of the total population resides in rural areas. Women constitute 54 percent of the total population, and an estimated 34 percent of all households are female-headed. Over 90 percent of the working population engages in agriculture, while 7.2 percent is employed in the service sector and 1.7 percent in the industrial sector. Although Rwanda’s economy is still at a recovery stage, the ICT sector has grown remarkably over the last few years. The ICT sector offers stable employment opportunities, but a shortage of skilled technical personnel in this field remains a challenge. The Government, with assistance from UNDP, UNECA and USAID, launched a comprehensive ICT policy, which aims to transform Rwanda into an information-rich, knowledge-based society and economy by modernizing key sectors using ICT. This links with the country’s goal to achieve a middle-income status by the year 2020.</p> <p>UNIFEM launched an innovative global programme involving the African digital diaspora, which was designed to foster strategic partnerships between women in African countries and successful ICT-oriented businesses in Europe and North America that are owned by African-origin entrepreneurs. The programme aims to promote African women’s economic security and rights and is piloted in eight countries in Africa.</p>
Gaps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national ICT policy has been launched, but women face constraints in accessing ICT because of disadvantages arising from low literacy and education levels, remote locations, heavy workload, and so on. UNIFEM and the government are working together to address gender gaps in access to ICT and the constraints faced by women. However, more efforts must be made to include women in the policy-making process so that their needs are integrated into national policies; and • ICT as a potential tool to promote women’s economic security and rights has not been explored adequately. Despite the employment and business opportunities offered by the ICT sector, there is no systematic support to train women in ICT skills to enable them to tap into the employment market and entrepreneurship opportunities offered by the ICT sector.
Entry points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity-building of women’s business organizations in the use of ICT with assistance from ICT and business experts from the African diaspora; • Establishment of a telecentre for local women entrepreneurs for ICT training; and • Facilitation of networking opportunities between women ICT entrepreneurs in Rwanda and ICT entrepreneurs in the diaspora to exchange knowledge and information as well as to create business opportunities.
Tools developed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training programme tailored to the needs of Rwandese women business organizations.
Partnerships:	UNIFEM, Global Advisory Committee for the African Digital Diaspora, and Kigali Institute of Science,

	Technology and Management. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unique partnership with the African diaspora, linking successful African-origin entrepreneurs who wish to assist women in Africa. This presents an opportunity to use the untapped resources of the African diaspora, their knowledge and expertise; • This pilot project has a high potential for replication in the African region and in other parts of the world; and • The project has set up a mechanism to address the needs and constraints of local women entrepreneurs and ICT workers and to ensure that these needs are reflected in national ICT policies. This is done by synergizing with other ongoing policy-oriented initiatives supported by UNDP and UNIFEM.
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India	
Project Title:	Building Capacity of Women Micro Entrepreneurs in the Informal Sector through ICT
Context:	<p>Gujarat suffers periodically from natural disasters such as earthquakes, drought and cyclones. With low wages, low literacy, crippling debts and high rates of forced migration, the communities have only been able to exercise limited coping strategies to secure their livelihoods. Government’s relief efforts focus on public work programmes, which leave little room for women. Women play a vital role in generating income. However, they are predominantly engaged in paid work in the informal sector, which offers little security and no formal access to credit or financial services.</p> <p>SEWA was formed in 1972 as an organization of poor, self-employed women workers who work in the informal sector to support each other. It has 300,000 members in India, mostly in Gujarat, and offers a wide range of services, including financing, health care, child care and so on. SEWA has played a leading role in applying ICT to poverty alleviation, micro-enterprise development, and disaster management.</p>
Gaps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEWA’s outreach is limited in remote areas because of high transaction costs; and • ICT has been piloted in some areas of SEWA’s services as mentioned, but as yet it has not been used to increase the efficiency of production cooperatives.
Entry points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of an online platform within SEWA headquarters to better connect with remote branches; • Establishment of community telecentres and a web-based information source to improve rural members’ livelihood security and business development opportunities; • Development of software applications to manage production systems as well as to increase efficiency of microcredit service operations; and • Development of a training programme in the effective use of ICT to teach women members how to better manage their micro-enterprises and production processes.
Tools developed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Software applications for production management and microcredit operations.
Partnerships:	SEWA
Innovative aspects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific focus on developing software applications for production management and microcredit operations, which can be adopted and replicated by other organizations in India and elsewhere.

Cluster 3: Women's Political Empowerment and Democratic Governance

Overview

Democratic Governance is a crucial area for promoting women's empowerment and gender equality. Participation, transparency and accountability are key ingredients of good governance. Do women, who are active economic agents as well as care providers who nurture the human capital of the nation, have a strong voice in government? Does the government deliver on its commitment to women's empowerment and gender equality by allocating resources? Women's full participation in the electoral process, legislative and justice systems, as well as in management of resource allocation at national and local levels is the only way to enable them to voice their needs and priorities. If the voice of half of humanity is denied and marginalized, then there can be no good governance or democracy, both of which are now considered important prerequisites for sustainable development and growth. In light of this, UNDP has been mainstreaming gender in the organization's work on governance by, for example, building women's capacities to participate in government, electoral processes, legislation, civil services and resource allocation in order to ensure full partnership between men and women.

UNDP/Japan WID Fund support focused on three areas: implementation of a national gender equality law to mainstream gender in legislation; the promotion of women's political participation; and gender sensitive budgeting (GSB). Examples of UNDP/Japan WID Fund support include:

Legislation

1. Alignment of the gender equality law with other laws (such as labour laws, family laws, legislation related to decentralization etc.) as well as legal processes and procedures;
2. Establishment and/or capacity-building of a key entity to take the lead in gender mainstreaming; and
3. Awareness-raising among the public, policy makers and law enforcement personnel, of the law itself and how it relates to their lives and practices.

Political participation

1. Lobbying for Quota Law;
2. Voters education to ensure women are aware of the electoral process and how they can be involved; and
3. Training of a cadre of women candidates for political and public office to equip them with advocacy and leadership skills as well as knowledge of a wide range of issues to help them shape the agenda that they wish to push.

GSB as a way of promoting good governance

1. Promotion of GSB as a tool to incorporate gender perspectives into local development policies and programmes;
2. Development of a virtual library of resources and literature related to GSB; and
3. Regional Training of Trainers to create a cadre of trainers in each region to respond to the increasing demand for training in GSB.

Many of the UNDP/Japan WID Fund pilot initiatives addressed the following:

- Grass-roots – upstream linkage. The projects strategically made

interventions and partnerships to establish linkages that would ensure that voices and experiences from the grass-roots feed into the policy-making process;

- Focus on addressing information gaps. Access to information is crucial for promoting participation and transparency. The UNDP/Japan WID Fund projects produced and disseminated a number of high-quality educational and informational tools and resources for women, policy-makers, legislators and other key actors;
- Capacity-building of key national and local institutions to ensure sustainability and ownership. Development of needs-based training programmes and organization of seminars and workshops are an integral part of most of the projects. They also developed training programmes and manuals and offer workshops to empower women and stakeholders to take action; and
- Strategic partnerships at all levels. The UNDP/Japan WID Fund made deliberate efforts to identify the best partners who can provide the expertise and networks most relevant and effective to the given objective. It works with global partners, including research institutions and UN agencies, national government, municipalities and grass-roots women's organizations.



In Ecuador, the project helped the nation-wide women's network to push for the Quota Law and create a cadre of women leaders and candidates to run for office to translate the Law into reality. Through effective media campaigns, it also generated a movement among women across the country to take part in addressing issues of their interest and shaping the political agenda through active participation in elections and political discussions.

In Iran, the project launched an information hub for Iranian women to gain knowledge of their legal rights, which are legitimized by the Islamic Law, and to learn how to exercise them in day-to-day life. The information centre provides comprehensive support to women, as well as to those engaged in gender mainstreaming activities, through a unique combination of research, training and hotline units. It places special emphasis on educating young women on how to exercise their rights.

In Uganda, UNDP/Japan WID Fund assisted in mainstreaming the national gender policy into the decentralization process to ensure

that gender equality becomes an integral part of local governance efforts. UNDP/Japan WID Fund worked with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), which specializes in local governance, Uganda's national and local government, as well as with a women's NGO that pushes for gender equality and democracy. The project introduced GSB as a tool to mainstream gender into local development policies and programmes.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNDP/Japan WID Fund supports a comprehensive approach to establish a national machinery to take the lead in gender mainstreaming primarily through the implementation of the newly-passed Gender Equality Law. It focuses on strengthening a coordination mechanism to ensure that gender is

mainstreamed into the wide range of issues as envisaged in the Beijing Platform for Action.

In the Republic of Congo, the UNDP/Japan WID Fund contributed to UNDP's large-scale programme on promoting gender equality in the post-conflict democratization process. UNDP/Japan WID Fund gave specific support in the areas of women's political empowerment and legal support to women. The project trained a cadre of women candidates in advocacy skills and equipped them with knowledge to run for political office. In the 2002 election, the percentage of women in the National Assembly rose by 7 per cent (from 2 per cent to 9 per cent) and in the Senate also by 7 per cent (from 9 per cent to 16 per cent).

Ecuador	
Project Title:	Women's Leadership and Citizenship
Context:	Even though women constitute a little over half of the population and voters, they hold 13 percent of seats and only three governmental ministries are headed by women. Though participation of women has increased in government offices, statistics indicate low participation in policy and decision-making settings. A quota of 20 percent was applied for the first time in the elections of December 1997 to appoint representatives for the National Assembly on Constitution Reform. This resulted in seven women being elected, the highest number so far achieved in an election. Nevertheless, the perception of the role of women in society continues to interfere with the achievement of women's empowerment.
Gaps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of opportunities and capacities for women to exercise political leadership and act on the issues that affect them. No systematic assistance to train women on leadership. Women's views and voices are not yet adequately reflected in national and local decision making processes; and • Women's rights are recognized in the Constitution but they are not fully integrated into legal frameworks nor implemented through public policies and programmes.
Entry points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of policy and advocacy tools to promote implementation of the Quota Law; • Development of a cadre of potential leaders for political office and other decision making positions in society; and • National campaign to create awareness for women's political participation and generate a movement to voice women's needs and concerns in political and legal frameworks.
Tools developed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book entitled 'Alternative Leadership', which examines women's participation in politics, was published and disseminated; • Published a research paper entitled 'Women's and Men's Leadership', which reviewed the history of Ecuadorian women's political participation; • Produced 'Guide to Women's Human Rights', a booklet for policy makers; and • Quota Law proposed and passed by the Congress.
Partnerships:	Coodinadora Politica de Mujeres Ecuatorianas
Innovative aspects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused on addressing qualitative challenges to implementing the Quota Law, which include lack of a pool of women candidates and leaders, and low public interest in the importance of increasing women's presence in the national decision making mechanism and processes. The project strategically aimed to develop a methodology to train a pool of qualified women leaders; and • The project also succeeded in generating a movement to call for women's active participation in politics, using the media and networking among women's organizations across the country.

Iran	
Project Title:	Strengthening the Role of Women in the Islamic Republic of Iran
Context:	<p>In Iran, women are, in general, highly educated. Female students constitute over 50 percent of the student body in higher education. In the last decade, the role of Iranian women in society has become more active, particularly in the political arena. In the 1999 local council elections, many young women ran for political positions and some of them won. These positive changes have brought attention to women's legal rights and privileges. Efforts are being made to interpret provisions on women in the Islamic Law more progressively and liberally and reflect such positive interpretations in specific legal frameworks, such as labour laws and family laws.</p> <p>The Centre for Women's Participation (CWP) was established by the Government to take the lead in mainstreaming gender in development policies and programmes as well as to raise public awareness on women's rights. The CWP developed an action plan to eliminate gender inequality, but it needs further refining and strategizing for actual implementation.</p>
Gaps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender-based gaps in employment opportunities, particularly for highly educated women. Women make up only 12.2 percent of the workforce in the formal employment sector. Most women are employed in the informal job sector, which does not provide social security schemes; • Information gap among women on their legal rights and the legal protections to which they are entitled; • Lack of capacity (especially in human resources) of the CWP as a main governmental body to mainstream gender and raise public awareness; and • Action plan for gender equality needs to be refined and strategized for actual implementation.
Entry points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a central information hub for gender equality and women's rights. This hub would generate informational and research materials and enhance women's access to such resources and training opportunities; • Development of an institutional mechanism and capacity-building within the above hub to carry out research, conduct training workshops on women's legal rights and provide legal advisory services; and • Development of educational materials on women's issues for dissemination in colleges and secondary schools to encourage young women.
Partnerships:	Centre for Women's Participation, Office of the Advisor to the President, Ministry of Education.
Innovative aspects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific focus on addressing information gaps to enhance women's knowledge of their legal rights, which are legitimized by the Islamic Law and thus by religious authorities. Production of a sourcebook on the provisions related to women's rights and protection in the Islamic Law, which is ground-breaking and extremely useful; and • Establishment of an information hub to house the three mutually-reinforcing functions of research, training and practice (i.e. legal advisory services). The hub serves as a link between the experiences of grass-roots women and discussions at the policy-level. Information on the needs and situations of women gathered through the legal services can be documented and analysed by the research team. This information can then feed into upstream policy-making and be reflected in training programmes, especially those conducted for policy makers and government officials.

Uganda	
Project Title:	District Development Programme 2: Gender Mainstreaming
Context:	Uganda has one of the most ambitious decentralization policies in sub-Saharan Africa, as stipulated in the 1995 Constitution. The 1997 Local Governments Act (LGA) provides a detailed legislative framework for decentralization. Uganda is made up of districts, counties, sub-counties, parishes and villages. It currently has 56 districts, which are further sub-divided into 43,000 villages. Uganda has strong policy frameworks for gender mainstreaming at the national level. The National Action Plan on Women 1999-2004 was formulated as

	<p>a follow up to the Fourth World Conference held in Beijing in 1995 to promote the empowerment of women in several focused areas. The National Gender Policy 1997 mandates the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to spearhead and coordinate gender-responsive development. It also imposes a duty on local governments to mainstream gender. However, it is not complemented by an enabling law, nor is it adequately supported by the Local Government Act 1997, which is the primary law related to the management and operations of local governments.</p> <p>Progress has been made in implementing these two main gender policies at the central government level and there has been some coordination with the Laws. However, little has been done at the local council level to either reflect these policies in legal frameworks, or to strengthen institutional capacities to implement them.</p>
Gaps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak linkage and coherence between the national gender policies and existing legislation on decentralization, including the 1997 Local Government Act, which is necessary to translate the policy into actual actions at local and grass-roots level; and • Weak institutional capacities of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and district bodies (including the community services department, local councils and women's councils) to implement the gender policies and mainstream gender into all phases of the local development processes.
Entry points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to develop policy alignment and coherence between the National Gender Policy and other development policies and legal frameworks, such as the Local Government Act, to serve as a common framework; • Development of policy tools for mainstreaming gender in local governance and development processes; • Capacity development of key national and local institutions for gender mainstreaming; and • Promotion of GSB as a tool to incorporate gender perspectives into local development policies and programmes (e.g. District Level Development Plan).
Tools developed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Database of good practices on gender mainstreaming; and • Training programme and manual on GSB.
Partnerships:	United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), Forum for Women in Democracy (an NGO), Ministry of Labour, Gender and Social Development.
Innovative aspects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic and strong partnerships among the grass-roots women's organization (including women's caucus), local and national governments, and a UN agency that has expertise in local governance to translate national law and policies on gender equality into concrete actions at the local level; and • Use of GSB as a tool to promote women's leadership within local governments and mainstream gender into public investments.

Bosnia and Herzegovina	
Project Title:	Implementation of the Law on Gender Equality and Policy Development in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Context:	<p>The Dayton Peace Agreement in December 1995 established Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) as a state with two entities, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and the Republika Srpska (RS), and granted each a great deal of autonomy with their own governments and civil structures. The BiH state government has faced challenges in meeting the different needs and priorities of the two entity governments. Complicated government structures and mechanisms add to such challenges, especially in implementing common policies and strategies that require coordination.</p> <p>In 1995, BiH became a state party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) through the state accession to the Convention from the former Yugoslavia.</p> <p>The BiH Parliament adopted the Gender Equality Law in March 2003 as a result of strong lobbying by the UN Gender Group and NGOs. The Parliament also responded to encouragement by the EU Community Framework Strategy on Gender Equality, which urges member states to build institutional capacities for gender mainstreaming. The Gender Equality Law addresses a wide range of gender issues including education,</p>

employment, social welfare, participation in decision-making, and violence. It envisages that the establishment of effective institutional mechanisms and capacities for gender mainstreaming is the first step towards gender equality in the country.

- Gaps:**
 - Lack of institutional mechanism and capacities to implement the Law on Gender Equality and Equity in a coordinated and effective way.
- Entry points:**
 - Establishment and capacity-building of a government gender machinery;
 - Preparation of guidelines for the implementation of the Gender Equality Law;
 - Preparation of a strategy and formation of working groups on the major thematic areas covered by the Law to prepare the ground for its implementation;
 - Integrating the Law into legal processes and procedures to ensure actual enforcement; and
 - Public advocacy to raise awareness on the Law.
- Tools Developed:**
 - Gender Equality Law guidelines
- Partnerships:** BiH State Government, Gender Centres, UN Gender Group in BiH.
- Innovative aspects:**
 - Can serve as an example of a comprehensive approach to establish an institutional and legal mechanism at the national level to promote gender equality in complex, post-conflict situations;
 - Particular emphasis on ensuring coordination among key stakeholders, which is necessary to implement the Law in practice; and
 - Preparation of practical guidelines and manuals for judges and law enforcement personnel to ensure thorough implementation and practice of the Law.



Republic of Congo

- Project Title:** Promoting Equity between Women and Men
- Context:**

During the 1990s, the Republic of Congo suffered from political instability and armed conflict, including three devastating civil wars, until the cease-fire was accorded in 1999. The civil wars had a devastating social impact. Women were the primary victims of these successive wars and violence. Social reintegration and rehabilitation of communities are the top priorities of the war-torn country. Despite their critical role as care-givers of the family and community, cultural and traditional norms position women as inferior to men, excluding them from the mainstream reconstruction process at the community level. Full participation of women in these processes is essential and crucial to reflect their needs and priorities in the reconstruction road-map.

Women’s political participation has always been minimal. Women were under-represented in the executive, legislative and judiciary branches of the State. In 1999, women made up only two percent of the National Assembly and nine percent of the Senate. Wider political participation of women is crucial, especially at a time of major transition to a democratic country. Their needs and priorities should be fully addressed in the decision-making processes that will shape the new legal and institutional frameworks of the country.
- Gaps:**
 - Percentage of women in political and public office is low, and their representation is even smaller in regional and local governments;
 - Traditional and social norms that limit women’s participation in politics and their rights to productive resources;
 - Lack of opportunities for women to learn about the electoral process and how they can be involved as voters and candidates; and
 - Lack of information and knowledge on the steps and skills required to run for public office.
- Entry points:**
 - Nation-wide awareness campaigns on democracy and women’s rights, and voters education to disseminate knowledge about the electoral process and how women can participate;
 - Support to women candidates for local legislative and senatorial elections to equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to run for office;
 - Support to translate gender-related legal provisions into actual practices and norms; and
 - Establishment of legal clinics in major cities to provide advisory services.
- Tools developed:**
 - Training modules for potential women leaders; and
 - Review by women lawyers of existing legal frameworks and gaps in line with the Beijing Platform for Action, and resulting recommendations.
- Partnerships:** Ministry of Promotion of Women, Association of Congolese Women Legal Professionals
- Innovative aspects:**
 - Systematic support to increase women’s political participation through voters’ education and training for women candidates through community-based resource centres as a means to enhance their involvement in the post-conflict reconstruction process of the country and ensure gender sensitive democratization; and
 - Partnership with the women lawyers’ association in setting up legal clinics to provide free legal consultations to women whose rights and physical integrity have been violated. This not only helps individual women, but also helps legal professionals to articulate the problems many women are faced with and raise awareness on such issues.

UNDP/Japan WID Fund: A case of institutional good practice and lessons learnt

By Yoriko Meguro, Ph.D.

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Japan-UN collaboration for women's empowerment

Since it became a member of the UN, Japan has actively participated in the activities of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Although Japan was highly committed to advancing women in the international arena, it was only in 1991 that the government produced an ODA-related report on women in development and set up a unit focusing on women in development at Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Japan's launching of the Women in Development Initiative at the Fourth World Conference of Women in 1995 was the first declaration of its commitment to support women's empowerment in developing countries, though the underlying concept was based on 'women in development' and not 'gender and development.' Following the Conference, the Government of Japan established the UNDP/Japan WID Fund and located it within UNDP. Japan also initiated the action to establish the fund for violence against women located within UNIFEM and continued to support it as a major donor.

The UNDP/Japan WID Fund initially emphasized three areas, namely, education, health, and social and economic participation of women, and acted as a funding mechanism to assist women at the grass-roots levels as a follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action. The Outcome Document of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly, 'Women 2000', brought attention to new areas of concern that emerged after the Fourth World Conference of Women and also to those areas that were of increased importance. The Agreed Conclusions and Resolutions coming out of the CSW meetings since then reflect renewed concerns such as globalization, ICT, post-conflict reconstruction, violence and HIV/AIDS.

As stated in the previous section, a radical shift in the approach of UNDP/Japan WID Fund took place in 2000, after the Fund's criteria were reviewed and renewed. With new external factors such as the MDGs, the role of the Fund was redefined, and shifted from funding project-based initiatives to providing upstream policy support in accordance with the transformations in UNDP policy. The new approach was to clarify and push forward the strategic dimension of thematic project-based activities, so that each grass-roots project would not only produce specified outputs but would also result in logically-related outcomes that would help achieve the goal of gender equality for sustainable human development.

According to the Analytical Review by Thematic Clusters, the UNDP/Japan WID Fund redefined itself as a fund for strategic investments, emphasizing innovations, partnerships, dialogue and capacity development. In accordance with its revitalized role, the Fund has been actively investing its financial and human resources, despite its small scale, in areas of increasing significance in global contexts by implementing projects in specific local contexts with frameworks that can be replicated in other local contexts.

The themes of the projects selected by the Fund reflect the Beijing Platform for Action, the Outcome Document 'Women 2000', MDGs, and discussions at the CSW that have highlighted the critical importance of both the role of women in decision-making as well as of promoting the economic empowerment of women in order to make further progress in achieving gender equality at the state level.

UNDP/Japan WID Fund - a case of institutional good practice

After producing the Beijing Platform for Action and the Outcome Document 'Women 2000', a strong message coming out of the CSW discussions was to emphasize implementation and action rather than further negotiations. Identifying good practices and learning lessons from experiences was adopted as a methodology for speeding-up effective implementations. There is a tendency to take for granted that good practices produce clear outputs successfully. However, there is no clear-cut standard to judge whether a case is a success or not. An institution's minimum practice is to achieve goals set forth in the form of project objectives. In order to make the practice a success, the project plan must have a framework that logically connects the objective of the project to the mission of the institution itself. Only in such a case is the experience of the project applicable to other contexts.



I have examined the work of the UNDP/Japan WID Fund to find that the design of projects has a logical framework in which specific goals of a project (x) are meaningful tools to achieve a broader and more abstract objective (X) which is logically related to satisfy the mission/ultimate goal of the Fund(Y). Their success, possibly a unique case within UNDP, was made possible by the committed agreement by the donor and the Fund and the creative competence of the parties involved, including those in the fields.

In order to achieve gender equality for sustainable human development, which is the ultimate goal of the UNDP/Japan WID Fund, the first Thematic Cluster, Gender and Macroeconomic Framework, was chosen as a more concrete objective. Then, mainstreaming gender in non-traditional development issues was identified as a more concrete strategic goal. Operative goals were then selected to assess gender disparities in macroeconomic policies and frameworks such as trade, employment and national budgeting; and to develop user-friendly tools for incorporating

gender into the macroeconomic policy making process. Specific local contexts were then chosen to organize field projects. There is thus a logical process of operationalization from a highly abstract goal to more concrete goals. This process makes it possible to relate direct outputs of a project to expected outcomes of achieving the ultimate goal.

The second Thematic Cluster, Women's Political Empowerment and Governance, was also chosen as another concrete objective to achieve the ultimate goal of the Fund. We find the same logical process in the design of projects in this cluster. The design of projects in the third Thematic Cluster, Gender and ICT, is less complicated than the first two clusters since ICT is a much more concrete concept than macroeconomic framework or governance.

The outputs of the projects are many, and include review/research/analytical papers, training manuals, advocacy handbooks, a virtual library (CD ROM), database of good practices, Gender Equality Law guidelines, website content and software applications. These products can easily provide ideas that can be applied to other local contexts.

A noteworthy feature of the projects described in this report is their innovative aspects such as the selection of the focal point (the recipient of the Fund's assistance) and the excellent partnership among critical stakeholders. The choice of focal point is not limited to an administrative body in charge of women/gender issues or women's groups/organizations. Rather, the focal point is chosen from among bodies in charge of trade, technology, statistics, etc., depending upon the theme of the project. This flexibility is important for gender mainstreaming to be a success. When the objective is to mainstream gender into institutional and state policy matters such as governance and macroeconomy, it is essential to have effective partnerships with line ministries; institutions at the international, national and local levels; and professionals and experts. Workshops and campaigns to gender-sensitize policy makers at different levels as well as the general public produced intended changes due to effective participation of relevant parties and networking with those beyond the local site, country or region.

Related to the above is the development of linkages with existing projects supported by other donor agencies. This strategy seems to be an efficient method of strengthening the existing project by adding a new dimension and also helps avoid duplication of the work necessary to start a project. It may also produce some multi-dimensional outcome of projects with two different origins.

Gender mainstreaming requires fact finding, advocacy, training for capacity building, and political will. Since its policy shift in 2000, the UNDP/Japan WID Fund has been the front-runner in attempting to mainstream a gender perspective in significant areas of life by sowing seeds through small-scale projects so that the outcomes will flourish on larger scales through the support of other donors.



Lessons to be learnt

As the donor of the UNDP/Japan WID Fund, Japan can also utilize the products of the Fund in its bilateral ODA activities. For example, the Fund followed-up on Japan's project to activate a women's centre in the Philippines by supporting targeted advocacy activities and support-service facilities. Another example is the narrowing of the gender gap in Guatemala's primary education system. Japan's aid focused on the construction of schools and human resource development while the Fund provided policy support.

Japan can benefit from several practices that are followed by the UNDP/Japan WID Fund: in particular, the logical framework of the project plan; and innovative aspects, which I have mentioned above. Projects should be designed to fit local contexts, but the project goal must be logically linked to the higher objectives of the UNDP/Japan WID Fund. Gender mainstreaming is a concept that has not gained common understanding in Japan, even among those in the circle of Japan's ODA. By learning the strategic method of selecting the focal point, partners and the tools – such as workshops, manuals and papers – for capacity building of human and institutional resources, which requires analytical research before making project plans, Japan's ODA projects should be able to produce more visible outcomes for sustainable development.

In March 2005, Japan launched the GAD Initiative at the 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women – 'Beijing + 10' – held in New York to replace the Women in Development Initiative. The GAD Initiative is based on the GAD approach, and incorporates many of the positive components found in the policies of major donors; it takes a holistic approach, which recognizes that different sectors of life are inter-linked. The GAD is in accordance with the framework of Japan's ODA Charter and the Charter's medium-term plan, but the fact that it begins with an affirmation of support for CSW's efforts towards women's empowerment and gender equality implies that gender mainstreaming is crucial for achieving gender equality for sustainable human development.

III. UNDP-Japan Partnership

Global advocacy and actions on the ground

When UNDP and Japan formed a partnership in 1995, they shared a common goal: to achieve gender equality for sustainable human development. They pooled their expertise and experiences in programme countries to help to build capacities from the community to the global level. Today, the UNDP-Japan collaboration, through the UNDP/Japan WID Fund, has flourished, becoming a worldwide network of activities that has changed the lives of poor women in 41 countries.

Cooperation on the ground

In Guatemala, two projects – the National Seminar on Education of Girls, and Support to the Programme on Girls' Education – best exemplify the field-level success of the UNDP-Japan partnership. Eliminating the existing gender gap in primary education has long been at the top of the list of priorities of the Government of Guatemala, and UNDP and Japan have been supporting the Ministry of Education in this important step.

Japan assisted the Ministry in the construction of schools and the promotion of bilingual teaching methods (Spanish and indigenous languages). Its strategic approach also included supporting human resource development to build institutional capacities that will create sustainable girls' education programmes. To this end, Japan has been dispatching education experts from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to Guatemala. Volunteer specialists provide advice on administrative as well as pedagogical issues to Guatemalan teachers and administrators, who, in turn, are invited to Japan to participate in a training exchange programme.



UNDP, on the other hand, lends policy support to the Guatemala Ministry of Education. In accordance with the provisions of the 1996 Peace Accords, UNDP assisted the Ministry in reforming the educational system to include gender equality as a central goal. In addition, UNDP has contributed, through the UNDP/Japan WID Fund project, to the development of a five-year strategy for girls' education.

UNDP's policy support, in combination with Japan's assistance in human resource development, has created a synergy that is helping to narrow the gender gap in the country's primary education. The partnership is paving the road that will lead to better opportunities for the new generation of Guatemalan women.

In the Philippines, the Programme for the Advancement of Filipino Women through Strategic Support Mechanisms for Economic Empowerment is another success story. It aims to support the Philippines Plan for Gender Responsive Development as well as national policies on the development of micro, cottage and small enterprises.

The programme builds on the capacities of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) women's centre, which is a large-scale vocational training facility built with Japanese bilateral assistance. JICA provided technical assistance to develop staff and institutional capacities to run needs-oriented vocational training programmes. UNDP helped strengthen the contents of the centre to establish a link between the vocational training programmes and employment opportunities. UNDP/Japan WID Fund support strategically focused on increasing access to credit and



markets through targeted advocacy activities and strengthening pilot support-service facilities for women entrepreneurs at the provincial level. The programme also offers a coherent response system of strategic support-service mechanisms and strengthens institutions to promote access to employment opportunities.

In Cameroon, UNDP discovered a strategic entry point for using the benefits of ICT to promote the economic empowerment of women. The project Develop E-competencies among African Women for Local and International Markets' aims to assist the Association pour le Soutien et l'Appui à la Femme Entrepreneur (ASAFE), a local women's business organization, in serving as a regional hub of ICT training for women and women entrepreneurs. The project aims to develop ICT training modules for women who seek ICT-related jobs and for women entrepreneurs who want to improve their management and marketing capacities. Training courses are provided at the state-of-the-art ASAFE ICT centre, which was built with assistance from the Government of Japan. The UNDP/Japan WID Fund added value to Japan's grass-roots assistance by providing technical support to strengthen the contents of the centre and broadening the scope of the assistance to employment generation.

Global advocacy

The strength of the UNDP-Japan partnership also lies in its ability to translate progress on the ground into advocacy tools for global poverty reduction and sustainable human development.



The Joint UNDP-JICA workshop held in Tokyo in February 2002 is an example of a fruitful UNDP-Japan global advocacy endeavour. The event brought together international gender experts to share their experiences and good practices and make recommendations relevant to global poverty reduction and sustainable human development.

During the workshop, leading Japanese scholars and other experts from JICA, UNDP and NGOs focused on the challenges of gender mainstreaming in the issues of peace-building, ICT for development, and HIV/AIDS. They presented corporate strategies and good practices with a view to promoting greater collaboration.

The following year in 2003, the first field-level UNDP-JICA joint workshop was held in Phnom Penh (Cambodia). It brought together gender experts and focal points from UNDP and JICA offices in the neighboring countries to discuss gender dimensions of the MDGs and methods of mainstreaming gender in the efforts to achieve MDGs. UNDP, as a scorekeeper and campaign manager for MDGs, presented entry points for engendering the MDG process, including gender sensitive budgeting (GSB) as a way to track commitments through investments. Challenges faced by grass-roots communities were reported on by JICA experts, which was timely given that the focus of the MDGs was shifting from global commitments to national action that aims to transform the everyday life of poor women and men in communities.

Ways forward

At the UNDP/Japan WID Fund's 10th Anniversary Symposium, UNDP and the Government of Japan will discuss ways of furthering their partnership to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. The partnership will build on the UNDP/Japan WID Fund's 10 years of experience, during which many innovative and strategic interventions have changed the lives of women in developing countries. This continued partnership will contribute greatly to global efforts to achieve MDGs.

IV. Success stories from around the world

Raising women's voices through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Experiences from the Gender and MDGs Project in Kenya¹

Overview

Numerous development strategies over the past decades have failed to yield results for the poor women of Kenya. The question asked by many of these women now is can the MDGs deliver on improving their lives. The UNDP project, Gender and MDGs in Kenya, is trying to do just that by mainstreaming gender into poverty reduction strategies at all levels of government, and to start, by promoting poor women's voices so that the MDGs work for women in the poorest communities.

In 2004, a workshop on community-level poverty dialogues on the MDGs was conducted among 800 poor women, local government authorities and district leaders from Kisumu, Rachuonyo, Garissa and Ijara districts located in two of the poorest regions in Kenya, the North East and Nyanza Provinces.

Kenyan women are clearly fed up and skeptical about government promises not delivered. Says a local women's advocate in the North Eastern Province, "We are tired of empty promises. We stand here today to demand our rights in line with the MDGs on poverty, education and gender gaps."

Women in Kenya

"If gender is not mainstreamed at all levels through policies and legislation, poverty will continue to stalk Kenyan women especially in marginalized regions," stated Alice Manan, a Media Consultant in Nairobi.



In Kenya, more than 56 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, of which more than half are women. The number of female-headed households has grown to 32 percent, of which 80 percent live below the poverty line. Macroeconomic reforms and structural adjustment programmes over the past decades have done little to improve opportunities for women. Studies have shown that women bear a disproportionately large share of the costs of these reforms, and see little of the benefit ('The Working Group on Gender and Economics', 1995).

Despite the new, democratically elected government that was formed in 2002, Kenyans still face major challenges in terms of poverty, HIV/AIDS and other diseases, and a lack of vital infrastructure such as paved roads, clean water and sanitation.

Kenya also faces a huge task in reducing child mortality and maternal deaths. During the last decade, there has been little improvement in access to hospitals, doctors or other trained professionals to assist women in childbirth. Most poor Kenyan women continue to bear children at home. Kenya's maternal mortality ratio is estimated at 414 deaths per 100,000 live births ('Kenya: Gender Facts and Figures', 2003).

In an attempt to reverse some of these trends and make progress on the education goals, the government enacted a legislation in 2003 introducing free primary education. However, girls are still not enjoying the full benefits of this new law.

As Mitha Nazim from UNICEF explains, "More than 1.5 million girls of school-going age remain locked out of the school despite the introduction and implementation of free primary school education by the government in 2003. This high number of girls not going to school poses a great challenge for Kenya's future development and her attainment of the MDGs."

Raising women's voices from the local to national level

During the MDG and poverty dialogues several key issues emerged. Initially, the women were skeptical that the MDGs could work for them. However, as they learnt more, they began to feel empowered. A journalist from the Association of Media Women in Kenya, who covered the event in print and on television, reports, "[F]or the poorest of women in Kenya these dialogues on the MDGs acted as an eye opener. The women now boldly demand provisions of basic services from the local authori-

ties and change agents working within the grass-roots networks." The dialogues with the women helped to illuminate how the MDGs could work to improve women's lives. For instance, they helped explain how the goal on child mortality is also about women because women are the primary caregivers of children, and how the goal of reducing hunger by half was also a women's issue since



women are the primary providers of food for their families.

In Garissa district, a woman named Halima received a letter inviting her to the dialogues, and this is

what she had to say, "When the letter inviting me to this forum came, I called my son to read the letter for me. When I heard that it was a meeting to discuss issues affecting women I was very happy. My hope today is that we shall not just discuss these issues and leave them in this room, but that something will be done about them."

Halima cannot read or write and she represents 93 percent of women in North Eastern Province who are illiterate. This compares to 70 percent of men who are illiterate. For Halima and millions of other women, their lack of education is rooted in the negative societal perceptions of girls' education.

For the MDGs to be meaningful to Halima and the other women like her, government authorities have to do more to reach out to girls who are prevented from attending school even though it is free. "This free education is not free for everyone. Some of us have even no schools nearby where we can take our children," one woman lamented.

Insecurity also presents many difficulties in the access to medical facilities. There is only one hospital, five health centres and 15 dispensaries in Garissa district. The average distance to a health centre is 50 kilometers. In addition to the geographical distance and lack of paved and secure roads, there is the cost of hospital care, which many poor women cannot afford.

Finally, the lack of vital infrastructure such as clean water and sanitation is a major concern for women. Many women and girls spend one to two hours a day hauling water along unsafe and unpaved roads. The women want their national leaders to prioritize providing safe and accessible water sources to the community so that the hours spent in search of water in dangerous conditions can be converted into more productive use of their time and work.

Key lessons

The mandate is obvious. The MDGs must be made to work for Kenyan women at all levels of society. Starting at the community level to raise poor women's voices and address their concerns is one sure way to empower women to play a central role in formulating and monitoring MDG-based poverty reduction strategies at all levels of government.

"Approaching gender as a cross-cutting issue in addressing the MDGs is essential as women are at the centre of poverty in Kenya and the rest of Africa. Failure to mainstream gender would be tantamount to addressing less than 20 per cent of the problem as women define poverty and on the same breath present the greatest opportunity for addressing the same." AMWIK representative.

This article is a summary from a collection of interviews conducted during the MDG and Poverty Dialogues in Kenya, 2003, by the Association of Media Women in Kenya, Womankind and Women's Action Forum Network, with support from UNDP Gender and MDG Project, executed by UNIFEM. It drew secondary information from the UNIFEM media briefing kit, 'A Fair Share for Women: A Briefing Kit on Gender and Millennium Development Goals - Kenya'. Principal authors are Frederick Ochieng and Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, UNIFEM Kenya.



¹This is a multi-funded project with assistance from UNDP/Japan WID Fund, UK Department of International Development, and UNDP Poverty Thematic Trust Fund. The project supports five pilot projects in Kenya, Peru, Morocco, Cambodia, and Kyrgyzstan.

Peru: Putting MDGs and gender equality on the public agenda^{*2}

By Gaby Cevalco (Peruvian journalist and writer)

According to Jorge Chediek, UNDP Resident Representative in Lima, "The integration of gender aspects into the MDGs has concrete significance: none of the MDGs will be reached unless there is progress in the area of gender equality." Chediek added that the project "first of all, places women's needs on the MDG agenda, allowing progress to be made in various indicators. Secondly, it seeks to ensure that a gender perspective is included in the MDGs, making gender a cross-cutting issue not only in the indicators, but also in design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation."

Women in Peru today

Peru is a country with many inequalities, which have a particular impact on women. Of the country's approximately 28 million inhabitants, 54.8 percent live in poverty, and the rate is especially high in rural areas and among women. On the rural coast, 50.8 percent of women live in extreme poverty, while the same is true of 47.2 percent of women in the rural highlands and 48.3 percent of women in the rural jungle areas (FAO Report on the state of rural women, 2005).

According to Blanca Fernández, director of the Flora Tristán Women's Center, which implemented much of the project, a great deal of work remains to be done before the country will acknowledge that poverty affects women differently because of gender considerations. "Even though statistics demonstrate this differentiated impact, the gender focus does not permeate all government action," she said. "That is why this project is so important, despite the limitations of the MDGs, because it will measure the commitment of governments to the issues of poverty and gender equality."



In Peru, 20.4 percent of households are headed by women (National Institute of Statistics and Informatics). Women represent 47 percent of the total labour force, but their per capita income is 50.4 percent of men's per capita income (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Country Profiles, Peru, Gender Statistics, 2005).

Peruvian women are increasingly aware of this inequality, and this has motivated them to work through their organizations. The project has offered the opportunity to provide them with new tools, as Nelly Damián of the Task Force on Oversight of Sexual and Reproductive Rights in the district of Independencia (Lima) pointed out, "The workshops have been important, and all women should know about the MDGs. We women have rights, but we are generally unaware of them. The organization is helping women stand up and fight."

Nelly Damián said that understanding the MDGs has given her a greater ability to make proposals in the participatory budget process in her district, especially in the areas of health and violence. Work is currently under way to set up a shelter for women who are victims of violence. "We know that at the World Summit, the government committed to combat violence against women, so we're going to demand that it provide our district with the resources to open the shelter," she said.

Dorila Huamán, of the district of San Juan de Lurigancho (Lima), who is also a member of the Task Force on Oversight of Sexual and Reproductive Rights, said that understanding the MDGs has reinforced her work, which is aimed at youth. "We are concerned about our young people. There are more and more unwanted pregnancies, more and more young people infected with HIV/AIDS. The MDGs are a new avenue for demanding support from the government," she said.

Response from authorities

The Peruvian government has committed to a gender approach through conventions and agreements promoted by the United Nations, as well as by inter-American and Andean Region bodies. This approach is also incorporated into national legislation, from the Constitution to the National Accord signed in 2002 by the government, political parties and other sectors of civil society, which proposes policies for the coming years that are designed to lay the groundwork for the consolidation of democracy.

In public statements, Dr. Pilar Mazzetti, the Health Minister, has always expressed her sector's interest in reaching the MDGs.



Making the right to health a reality in Peru requires efforts by all sectors, according to Dr. Mazzetti, but she believes that "the two indicators proposed for following up the Millennium Development Goals (maternal mortality and the percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel) are an inadequate basis for analysing maternal health." She believes that it is "indispensable to include other indicators, such as unmet demand for family planning services, percentage of teen pregnancies and incidence of gynecological cancer."

She added that the poorest people, "because they have less access to education and health care, are the ones most likely to become ill and die. The most relevant impact, therefore, would be in changes in health indicators, an increase in the coverage of users protected by some contraceptive method, attended births and post-natal care, which would lead to a decrease in maternal and infant mortality."

She stressed that "meeting the targets for this objective will depend exclusively on the Peruvian government's interest in and commitment to implementing specific programmes aimed at excluded populations, to overcome the great gaps or inequalities that exist in the interior of the country."

At the local government level, the district of Jesús María has taken the lead in working to make the MDGs a reality. One participant in the meeting of government officials was Jesús María Mayor Carlos Bringas Claeysen, whose district has a Women's Programme with activities that "are designed to contribute to fulfillment of the MDGs on gender equality and women's self-determination." He stated that women's participation has been most significant in local government activities in 2005, and that the municipality is placing an emphasis on generating revenue, developing skills and improving health and welfare.

Reflections

Jorge Chediek, UNDP Resident Representative in Peru, stressed that the integration of a gender dimension into public policies has an impact on the very concept of good governance. "Such integration leads to a reconfiguration of the public and private spheres and a redefinition of the state and its relationship with society," he said. He added that in practice, "the integration of the gender dimension into the design of public policies allows for a more equitable and inclusive model of governance, better focusing of the emphasis of public policy, and results that have a greater impact and are more sustainable."

Gender mainstreaming: UNDP links energies across Latin America

By Beiby Vaca

Do people in Ecuador know what people in Argentina are doing on governance and political participation with a gender perspective? Do people in Argentina know what progress Colombia has made in integrating this perspective into local and national citizen security policies? How much do those who promote gender equality know about progress and experiences in other countries around the Latin American region? How many good practices do we have on hand to respond to the frequently asked question: How do we mainstream a gender perspective into our organizations' policies and programmes?

To respond to these and other questions, the Knowledge Management Platform on Gender Equality in Latin America and the Caribbean started in July 2005, with economic support from the UNDP/Japan WID Fund. This project aims to link up energies and efforts around gender mainstreaming made in the different countries and in settings including academia, the public sector, social organizations and international donor agencies.

Despite the advances made in the region in recent years, compared to men, women are still less likely to receive an education, to earn a decent living, to run for office or to run corporations, or to even feel safe in their own homes. This is still the situation, even though 30 years have gone by since the first World Conference on Women, where strategies were mapped out to make societies more just for women and men, with equal rights and opportunities. Greater incentives, energy and political commitment are still needed.

Latin America has produced a veritable cornucopia of research, methodologies, tools and experts on this subject. Even so, large segments of society are still unaware of this information and argue that they lack the tools for putting a gender perspective into practice. Therefore, a pending priority is to systematize these



*2 Ibid.

lessons so we can learn from their successes and failures.

Along these lines, the Platform is going to furnish specialized information, provide technical assistance, create venues for analysis and discussion, and build capacities through knowledge management.

This project will last two years and in this first phase, the countries that will become the most actively involved in its different components are being identified. As Platform coordinator, UNDP El Salvador is currently responding to specific requests—primarily for technical assistance—that are channeled through the Gender Focal Points (GFP) in the region's various UNDP offices.

Three years after initiating an internal process for reflection, sensitization and examination of the relationships between the women and men who work there, the UNDP El Salvador office became a regional reference centre on the subject. UNDP El Salvador Resident Representative Beat Rohr believes they have the capacity needed to implement an initiative of this magnitude, adding that, "the office has shown what UNDP can do nationally with the different partners—government, civil society and donor agencies."

This commitment to making the most of good practices also led this office, with support from the Bureau for Development Policy (BDP of UNDP), to produce an institutional handbook, 'How to Develop a Gender Strategy for a Country Office'. This has already been translated into English and was distributed in UNDP at a regional seminar with the GFPs this past June. There, a preliminary inquiry was made into the needs and desires for research, human resources, specialized training and related issues that the Platform could address.

Expectations

Through knowledge management, this project aspires to contribute to capacity building in the different sectors working on the gender issue, especially the public sector. Awareness about this issue has increased in recent years, which is a positive sign that can hopefully be translated into greater political will and commitment to the issue by decision-makers in the countries, according to Platform advisor Neus Bernabeu.

Some GFPs, such as Sandra Bareyre (Honduras) and Marión Bernier (Panama), hope that the Platform will help simplify their daily work, given that making progress on gender mainstreaming is not at all easy.

They would like to see a regional gender equality network created, where ideas can flow and be exchanged, efforts linked up, experiences shared and good practices broadcast. Bernier sees this as a way to break down the isolation experienced by many of the people working on gender. According to Bareyre, the region should capitalize on its advantage that most people share a common language.

"The project is ambitious in its objectives, and although the resources may seem meager when looking at the number of countries in the region, we believe that the Platform can attract other donors and can coordinate with other initiatives to expand on its accomplishments," Bernabeu said optimistically.

Forming partnerships is a key strategy when working for gender equality. Scattered resources and energy only lead to burnout in this work, where it is already so hard to see results. "These are slow, complex processes requiring behavioral changes," points out Beat Rohr, but there have already been successful examples of integrating a gender perspective into public policy, and this has had a direct impact on the lives of women and men.

Knowledge Management Platform on Gender Equality in Latin America and the Caribbean

- Regional network of gender mainstreaming experts;
- Showcase of model projects in the region;
- Virtual consulting (providing experts, project development, materials searches, fundraising, etc.);
- Mapping good gender mainstreaming practices in the region by governmental and non-governmental actors, agencies, etc.;
- Expert technical assistance;
- Regional seminars;
- Virtual and on-site discussion forums;
- Virtual newsletter on gender mainstreaming for the Latin America and Caribbean regions;
- Gender mainstreaming training module to be developed in conjunction with universities already offering gender studies; and
- Placing gender on regional development agendas (meetings and conferences, decision-making venues, debates and discussions on human development in the region).

For further information, please visit www.genero-pnud.org.sv

UNDP/Japan WID Fund support sustained: A report from Ukraine

Ukraine has taken significant steps towards its consolidation as an independent state committed to the values of a democratic society and a market-economy. On its path towards integration with its European neighbors and the global community at large, gender issues are becoming increasingly prominent in national and community dialogue. The basic principles of gender development in Ukraine are set in the Constitution. The Government of Ukraine shares the belief that gender equality is the foundation for a democratic society and a precondition for sustainable human development. The most recent evidence of the state's recognition of the importance of gender issues is the Presidential Decree on 'Improving Central and Local Governments' Performance in Promoting Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men', signed on 26 July, 2005 and the Law guaranteeing equal rights and opportunities for women and men.

However, in 1999-2000, when the project to support women farmers was being implemented in Ukraine, it was difficult to put

gender issues on the agenda. As a Soviet legacy Ukraine acquired on the one hand stable stereotypes concerning guarantees of equality for women, strengthened by the paternalistic system concerning women, and on the other hand, visible gaps in status, political representation and economic opportunities for women. Discrimination against women, which, in fact, was widespread in the country, was even more visible in the case of rural women. Despite the fact that rural women were educated, they were



forced to work under primitive conditions and received minor income due to lack of economic opportunities.

When the country faced 'division of land into shares' (transferring kolkhoz land to rural inhabitants into property), women had the chance to receive a piece of land and to organize their own farm-businesses. Yet, most women found it difficult to take advantage of this opportunity, as not only did they lack the necessary knowledge, but they also lacked access to relevant information.

The UNDP/Japan WID Fund supported informational centres equipped with Internet access for women farmers, thus providing them with new opportunities. This support has had a very positive impact on women, helping them to improve their economic situation.

By acquiring information and knowledge, forming organizations and networks, and participating in national and international conferences, rural women were able to raise the issue of their status at the state level, marking the first time that this was ever done. In 2001, to fulfill the Beijing Platform for Action, a national plan of action for improving the status of women and achieving gender equality was adopted. This Government document stipulates special measures to improve the situation of rural women. In addition, a special programme for rural women was developed and initiated. The responsibility for its execution lies with local bodies of power and separate ministries (five ministries were engaged in the programme's implementation).

The women farmers' informational centres served as rallying points for women anxious to improve their status and contribute to society. They helped bring women together, and this in turn led to the creation of the All Ukrainian Union of Rural Women. This organization was headed by Halyna Skarga – director of the Zykivsk Informational Centre of the Poltava region, which is one of the most developed agricultural oblasts in Ukraine. This organization has offices in 20 oblasts and unites 4187 women. It is one of the most influential women's organizations in the country. Members are very active in protecting their rights and they support various projects that contribute to the revival of rural areas and the development of women's entrepreneurship.

Halyna Skarga is now the deputy of a village council. She takes part in the decision making process, and helps other women become economically and politically independent. With this aim, and under

the aegis of Zykivsk Informational Centre of the Poltava region, the credit union, numbering 587 members, was created. This provided women with new opportunities for small business development and answers to many social questions. Following Halyna, four more women directors of informational centres have been elected as deputies of local bodies of power. Rural women have become active participants in political life, striving to improve both the political and economic status of rural women.

Out of the 10 informational centres created in 1999-2000, eight continue to actively function. These eight centres have increased their activities and expanded their sphere of services. Nowadays, not only do the centres provide access to information and support to the women's network, but they also serve as resource centres for the development of villages and rayons. For example, in Zynkov, the School of Future Farmer has been established. The methods of teaching developed there are actively used by other centres. Seven similar schools have been created in other regions as well. Several hundred young women and men have completed the classes and are now successfully working in the farming sector. This experience is very interesting and valuable, because it encourages young people to stay and work in rural areas, rather than migrate to the cities. This is particularly important in Ukraine, because rural areas tend to get 'older' as young people are reluctant to stay and work there after they have completed school. This practice is very innovative and has helped in the development of Ukrainian villages.

Based on this experience, UNDP's Equal Opportunities Programme supported the creation of informational gender centres under state oblast administrations; gender education centres under universities; and centres for men against violence, which have greatly helped in the prevention of family violence against women. The idea of developing such resource centres as informational cells was born from the experience of the informational centres for women-farmers. These centres have demonstrated their sustainability, and have played a major role in promoting cooperation among women, improving their status and also bringing attention to the issues of rural women at the state level. They have shown how women, strengthened by knowledge and access to information, can influence the decision-making process.



V. Summary of 2004 - 2005 activities

AFRICA

Cameroon: Developing E-competencies for Local and International Markets (US \$289,900)

Achievements	<p>The implementing partner, ASAFE, carried out interventions at three levels: advocacy around ICT issues, empowering young men and women through technology literacy, and capacity building of ASAFE.</p> <p>Organized a seminar-workshop on writing for websites for media professionals, which was attended by 12 journalists from the national audio-visual and written press. Trained journalists on the wide gamut of opportunities that ICT, and more specifically the Internet, offers (18 March, 2005).</p> <p>Developed multimedia CD ROMS that demonstrate vocational training techniques (see Outreach below), and are being used in communities.</p> <p>Set up a community resource centre for entrepreneurs with limited financial resources. ASAFE trainers help entrepreneurs integrate the use of ICT in their business. On an average, four to five women seek this service daily.</p> <p>Launched an inter-college competition to create school websites on 16 April, 2005. Brought together computer clubs from four colleges.</p> <p>Developed an IT training package with three training modules: job seeking, creating an enterprise, and hundreds of addresses and useful contacts – the ASAFE database.</p> <p>An intranet solution for 20 users is in place and functioning.</p> <p>Completed a report on the national ICT employment seminar on policies and practices for decision makers in Cameroon, held in Yaoundé from 26-28 November, 2003. Conducted three studies to measure the e-readiness of Cameroon.</p>
Outreach	<p>Website: www.asafe.org</p> <p>Three CD ROMs were produced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlocking the potential for wealth creation: une brève présentation de ASAFE réalisée en 2003; • Training materials on manufacturing of soap and yoghurt, and dying of cloth; and • Two presentations: 1) networking or Cisco by two students; 2) an old student from ASAFE in her own telephone/business booth
Synergies	<p>This initiative feeds into UNDP's work under the Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD III) initiative. Both the Suivi de TICAD III project and this project are working together for a better use of ICT for the development of the private sector with an emphasis on women.</p>

Ethiopia: HIV/AIDS and Gender and Development (US \$348,434)

Achievements	<p>Finalization and publication of the 'HIV/AIDS and Gender in Ethiopia' study. This case study from two regions attempts to: 1) document the basic cultural norms, attitudes and values that render women and the community vulnerable to HIV/AIDS; 2) identify existing social capital that are accepted and practiced by the community at large; and 3) suggest programme/policy interventions to bring about individual and societal changes in attitudes towards gender. This report was presented to all donor representatives, NGOs, UN agencies, etc., at a workshop held on 10 August 2004.</p> <p>In August /September 2005, various HIV/AIDS activities were mainstreamed into the traditional festival <i>Ashenda</i>, which celebrates the coming of age of young girls in the Tigray region. This led to several girls getting tested for HIV/AIDS, and a community discussion on HIV/AIDS issues. The Tigray Women's Association facilitated the events. As a follow-up activity and to build on the momentum created during the festival, Community Conversations that are specially structured to deal with women's rights issues will be conducted.</p>
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Outreach	<p>Several local media productions/articles have been produced on the <i>Ashenda</i> festival activities. The festival itself and its focus on HIV/AIDS was aired on TV and radio, and articles appeared in local newspapers (we are still awaiting the reports from the Tigray Women's Association indicating the number of productions etc.)</p> <p>A publishable report on the gender study has been prepared and is to be distributed to all partners. The UN country team Gender and Advocacy Taskforce has prepared a brief summary of the gender study to be used as an advocacy tool by policy makers and heads of agencies to address gender and women's issues in public forums. A draft has been prepared and the final version will be distributed in November 2005.</p>
Synergies	<p>The programme is closely linked to the UNDP HIV/AIDS and Development Programme (2002-2006), which comprises of a Leadership Development Programme, Community Conversations, mainstreaming and arts and media.</p> <p>This programme aims to address the underlying behaviors and norms that fuel the spread of HIV/AIDS. The gender study has provided sound data on the linkages between gender issues and the spread of HIV/AIDS that will feed into mainstreaming activities and Community Conversations. Furthermore, in collaboration with UN Headquarters and UNIFEM, UNDP Ethiopia is piloting a new Community Conversations methodology that focuses on women's rights. This new methodology will be used in the Gender and Development Project to expand and upscale the Community Conversations in areas where gender is a particular issue.</p>

Nigeria: Women's Economic Empowerment Programme (US \$250,000)

Achievements	<p>An assessment was undertaken on the capacity of local NGOs, women's development centres, MFIs, women's businesses and groups, on their potentials for growth and capacity to absorb technology, and on the opportunities within local environment for business diversification in three selected local governments (LG). This has provided a baseline on the socio-economic status of the women in the local government agencies (LGA) and has also provided an inventory of the opportunities available to women to grow their businesses.</p> <p>Start-up training of the staff of identified NGOs and women's development centres to implement components of the project has been carried out. This training was organized for the partners in Port Harcourt from 15-17 August, 2005 for elected LG officials, planning and budgeting officers, and selected staff from Ministry of Women's Affairs in the three selected LG of Akwa Ibom, Delta and Rivers States. The meeting focused on gender responsive budgeting and women's economic empowerment.</p> <p>A management structure has been put in place, which helped identify the three participating local government councils through an assessment. This was done in conjunction with local NGOs and in collaboration with the states' Ministries of Women's Affairs. A total of 25 proposals were received and three NGOs were eventually selected. The selected NGOs are the Afro Centre for Democracy, Peace & Justice, Community Partners for Development, and Development Initiatives. Contracts have been signed with the NGO partners.</p> <p>This project started recently, with the implementation of its first set of activities in July-August 2005. However, the training carried out has gained the support of local officials.</p> <p>The Chairmen of the three local councils have pledged their commitment to the success of the project by providing counterpart resources to ensure its sustainability and by supporting the women's development centres that will anchor the project in their respective LGs. There is now a heightened interest in budgeting to support women's businesses within the LG councils.</p>
Outreach	<p>The project has just completed start-up activities. During the assessment missions and training, it was made very clear to the government and local partners that the project was being funded by UNDP/Japan WID Fund.</p>
Synergies	<p>This project contributes to UNDP's expected output of mainstreaming gender responsive policies into national development, as well as improving participation of the citizenry in governance through increased access to information, adoption of relevant ICT tools, and strengthening of capacities for good governance and service delivery at decentralized levels. Over all, this project contributes to the MDGs 1, 3 and 7.</p> <p>The programme has already gained acceptance among local government officials who have pledged their commitment to GSB, which includes support for women entrepreneurship and strengthening of women's development centres.</p>

Rwanda: Bridging the Gender Digital Divide in Africa through Strategic Partnerships (US \$236,500)

Achievements	<p>ICT sensitization workshop: ICT for information and entrepreneurship. Built awareness and shared experiences on the potential of ICT for women's economic empowerment. Participants came from both the private and public sectors, as well as from women's organizations working in ICT. The workshop addressed the potential of the Internet to enhance communication among potential partners such as business-oriented organizations within Rwanda and abroad, and to explore new markets.</p> <p>Follow-up was done through a post-training programme to ensure that members of women's organizations that had</p>
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	<p>participated in the ICT training used their acquired skills and transferred their know-how to their colleagues. The programme also assisted women's organizations in acquiring Internet connections, setting up their websites and using ICT as a tool for business.</p> <p>Technology transfer through participation of African diaspora experts. The project aimed to utilize diaspora experts to provide ICT training to targeted women's NGOs, while building the ICT capacity of the Kigali Institute of Science, Research and Technology staff. Three African diaspora experts provided 5-6 week courses on web design, e-commerce, and management of information systems/database management.</p> <p>Launch of the business linkage component of the project. A meeting was convened at UNIFEM headquarters on 21 October, 2004 to launch the business linkage component of the project. The objective of the meeting was to officially recognize the International Business Mentorship Committee (IBMC), which is composed of African diaspora entrepreneurs in the U.S. and others who work in related business sectors, and facilitate discussion to develop key strategies for the implementation of the business linkage component. IBMC members agreed on the following key activities for implementation under the component: the establishment of a for-profit arm for one of the project's key NGO partners, AVEGA (Association of Genocide Widows); the establishment of a venture capital fund for ICT entrepreneurs; the launch of an ICT scholarship fund; and the establishment of a small grants programme for entrepreneurship activities relating to ICT.</p> <p>Establishment of the Gitarama Women's Community Telecentre. The pilot community telecentre aims to support the promotion of rural women's businesses through ICT use. The project has helped the centre formulate and operationalize a business plan. The main services available at the telecentre are: telephone and fax services; photocopying, word processing, document scanning and data entry; production of promotional material (business cards, brochures, etc); bookkeeping; informal teaching of basic skills for information retrieval using the Internet; and specialized training courses on computer networking.</p>
Outreach	<p>National Television (TVR); articles in the tri-weekly English newspaper, <i>The New Times</i>, and UNIFEM's e-newsletter, <i>Currents</i>.</p> <p>Brochures for the telecentre; DVD of the launch; and photographs of the launch.</p>
Synergies	<p>This project is an innovative initiative that uses the untapped resources of the African diaspora. In addition, its focus is clearly on the economic empowerment of women in the ICT sector, areas in which UNFEM and UNDP have built substantial experience and comparative advantage. The project reflects very well the spirit of the Tokyo agenda for action of the TICAD III, with particular reference to the goal of developing micro, small and medium enterprises, including the informal sector, with particular attention to women's enterprises.</p>

Uganda: District Development Programme: Gender Mainstreaming Component (US \$300,000)

Achievements	<p>Developed gender budgeting guidelines and analytical tools for higher and lower local governments, which included concrete recommendations for addressing major weaknesses in planning and budgeting processes provided by local governments. Similarly, developed budgeting training manuals for higher and lower local governments, which is now mainstreamed into local governments' generic and mandatory training modules.</p> <p>Established the Gender Technical Forum^{*1} to support the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. It continues to operate effectively.</p> <p>Trained 490 women councillors and leaders in six districts on their roles and lobbying / advocacy skills to promote gender sensitive planning and resource allocation.</p> <p>Supported pre-budget women's caucus meetings for women councillors to enable them to contribute to the district budgets. Supported women leaders and women's NGO forums to promote coordination and collaboration of activities geared towards women's advancement. The women leaders' forum is chaired by the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, the Honorable Rebecca Kadaga. Members include women parliamentarians, representatives from the private sector, Makerere University Gender and Women Studies, and civil society organizations.</p> <p>Revised the National Gender Policy and developed an action plan. The revised policy is in its final draft form and is awaiting cabinet approval.</p> <p>Published and disseminated 10,000 copies of the guidelines for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the National Action Plan on Women. Stronger gender mainstreaming skills were evidenced in local government programmes, which now focus more on women/girls^{*2}.</p> <p>National-level poverty analysis given priority.</p> <p>Poverty Eradication Action Plan engendered with technical inputs from the Uganda Gender Forum.</p> <p>Men in key positions brought on board and trained, which led to improved understanding on gender issues.</p> <p>Improved coordination among the gender donor group.</p>
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	<p>Additional funds in the amount of US \$15,500 received from the Royal Netherlands Embassy, UNIFEM, UNFPA and UNDP.</p>
Outreach	<p>Frequent coverage of project activities on local TV, radio and newspapers: training events for women leaders, meetings including district level women leaders' forum and pre-budget women's caucus meetings, and consultative workshops on the revision of the National Gender Policy.</p> <p>Developed a 30-minute video documentary on gender mainstreaming activities.</p>
Synergies	<p>The revision of the National Gender Policy filled the gaps of earlier initiatives supported by UNDP under the Government of Uganda / Country Cooperation Framework (CCF) programme.</p> <p>The development of gender budgeting manuals for higher and lower local governments made a concrete contribution to the local governments' generic capacity-building training modules that were supported by UNDP, among other donors.</p>
<p>^{*1}Composed of members from the MOGLSD, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MFPED), the Ministry of Local Government, the Poverty Monitoring and Analysis Unit under the MFPED, Uganda Participatory Poverty Assessment Project Plan for Modernization of Agriculture Secretariat, Uganda Women's Network, Forum for Women in Democracy, the Royal Netherlands Embassy, the World Bank, UNDP and UNCDF.</p> <p>^{*2}In Kayunga, a quota system targeting women for labour-based road works was raised to 30 percent; in Kabale, women identified the health sector bicycle ambulances as a priority, and the district purchased them; in Arua, affirmative action has been instituted in farmer groups, giving women a chance to participate in decision-making.</p>	

ARAB STATES

Egypt: Integrated Women's Health (US \$352,673)

Achievements	<p>After the completion of the two health units in the villages of Sarabioum (Ismailia Governorate) and Shershema (Sharkeya Governorate), the renovation of a third unit for women's reproductive health as well as the establishment of a women's club, both within the health centre in Ismailia City, was undertaken in late 2004. The Ministry of Health leveraged the project funds to complete the renovation of all health centres and to purchase and upgrade the equipment for the women's club. The outputs of the joint efforts are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's reproductive health unit renovated and the women's club established within the premises of the health centre, which was also completely renovated; • Medical equipment for the reproductive health unit upgraded with the purchase of a sonar; hot air oven; loop insertion kits; scale; examination bed; and upgrading of the laboratory; • Women's club established, comprising of two rooms for literacy classes, computers, and training as well as an educational kitchen; and • Equipment such as television, video, satellite dish, kitchen utensils, bookshelves, sewing machine and tables purchased for the women's club; in addition, there are plans to purchase computers, an air conditioner and a knitting machine. <p>Organized training for local and religious leaders on the project and its objectives, issues in the advancement of women, over-population problem in Egypt; and for outreach workers on the role and management of women's clubs.</p>
Synergies	<p>With the support of the Italian government in Egypt, UNDP and the Governorate of Ismailia are implementing the project 'Participatory Slum Upgrading' in the areas of El Hallous and El Bahtini to improve the living conditions of slum dwellers through a comprehensive and participatory approach. To increase the participation of women in the project and to demonstrate gender mainstreaming in development projects, UNDP and the Ministry of Health agreed to renovate the women's reproductive health unit servicing the community and to establish the women's club along the lines of the other two health units supported earlier by the project.</p>

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Bhutan: E-Commerce for Women Entrepreneurs and Handicraft Producers in Bhutan (US \$212,180)

Achievements	<p>Conducted capacity-building workshops for various stakeholders based on the training needs assessment for women. Workshops included: creative dyeing and weaving; sample analysis; quality and costing; and product diversification and designing.</p> <p>Implemented innovative marketing strategies to provide rural weavers with direct market access. Strategies included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High profile launch of the United Colours of Bhutan textile products (Her Majesty the Queen Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuck, a patron of textile development in Bhutan, was the chief guest at the launch ceremony^{*3}); • Subsequent sale of hand woven contemporary collection in Thimphu on 10-11 June, 2005; • Wide coverage of the launch in both print and audio-visual media (national TV station presented the event as a programme); and
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design, printing and distribution of marketing materials. <p>Provided high exposure to product development ideas, quality control and standard setting and marketing. The project organized a study tour for a group of stakeholders and weavers, taking them to a weaving community in northern Thailand to study their weaving enterprises and institutes. Supported the participation of a rural weaver and a member of the project staff in the Second Santa Fe International Trade Fair in New Mexico to facilitate networking and exposure to e-business initiatives being undertaken in other countries.</p> <p>Developed websites to connect rural weavers to potential markets through the Internet. http://www.mti.gov.bt/colorsofbhutan/ and http://www.colorsofbhutan.org.bt/ are in the final stages of development.</p> <p>Made recommendations on national level ICT policies. The draft report on 'Expanding Markets through Bhutan's E-business Pilot Project on Textile Handicrafts – Trudging from Tradition to Innovation', is being reviewed by the Ministry of Trade and Industry.</p> <p>Conducted e-business related training sessions.</p> <p>Weavers are committed to high quality materials, and now use quality vegetable-dyed yarns for all their textile products.</p> <p>Weavers are now selling most of their products to the market in Thimphu, where market outlets are provided by the National Handicraft Emporium (this indicates selection of better markets).</p>
Outreach	<p>Extensive coverage of the capacity building workshops (http://www.kuenselonline.com/article.php?sid=4863) and the product launch event (http://www.kuenselonline.com/article.php?sid=5591) by the national newspaper Kuensel; and on national TV – the Bhutan Broadcasting Corporation.</p> <p>UNDP Bhutan country office website – http://www.undp.org.bt/</p>
Synergies	<p>The e-business project is also working with the US \$4 million UNDP-funded project Rural Enterprise Development (RED) in the creation and implementation of a national strategy for the development of arts and crafts in Bhutan with particular emphasis on textiles. As of August 2005, a separate component (over US \$100,000) has been incorporated in the RED programme, focusing on the creation of a national strategy for arts and crafts development for 2005 and 2006. This was done based on e-biz project initiatives and lessons learnt.</p>
<p>³The launch was attended by ministers, senior government officials, district administrators, people's representatives to the national parliament, major tour and travel operating agencies, international donor community as well as some rural weavers</p>	
<p>India: Building Capacity of Women Micro Entrepreneurs in the Informal Sector through ICT (US \$315,000)</p>	
Achievements	<p>Supported the setting up of a network of 21 Cluster Learning Centres (CLCs) equipped with computer hardware and software, catering to 10-15 villages across nine districts. CLCs have become a forum for on-going community education and training, and are a hub for community development initiatives and for disaster preparedness in an area that has suffered from recurring natural disasters.</p> <p>Conducted ICT trainings that helped build capacities of women at the grass-roots level in their respective trades and also contributed to their development as leaders and implementers. Women members now not only use ICT tools in their regular trade activities, but have also generated revenue-earning opportunities. Many of the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) members found employment in IT training institutes. The trained members carry out data entry activities for SEWA as well as for other organizations to earn additional income. A total of about 100 members have been given employment till date.</p> <p>The benefits of ICT trainings experienced by the women have led them to accept other projects with a lot of enthusiasm. As a result, an ERP package for the craft trade is being implemented. This will integrate the entire crafts process and provide real time data on market preferences, order status, costs etc. Training to use the ERP is being provided under the project. The readiness of producer groups to use integrated online packages is a significant aspect of this project. Many commercial and business enterprises are balking at such ideas, primarily due to the management issues involved. But, the enterprising women who have struggled so hard to have their voices heard are open to these changes, which will ultimately benefit them.</p> <p>Placement of ICT equipment in CLCs and districts has reduced the mystery and myth of computer hardware and software and brought ICT to the doorstep of the villager. Older women realize that even if they themselves do not use these tools, at least the younger generation, especially girls, will regularly utilize ICT, which will expose them to the world outside. The setting up of CLCs and the resulting exposure to the outside world will open up many employment opportunities for the younger generation.</p> <p>Efforts to upgrade and provide CLCs with the required equipment and establish CLCs in other villages are being made.</p> <p>Integration with government services is also being explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLCs will be connected to a nation-wide initiative, 'Mission 2007 – Village Resource Centres', which will provide a host of public services like e-governance, commercial information, supply chain service and information on marine conditions, disease diagnostics and banking to women in the project districts; • Linkages with government institutions, medical institutions and local agencies are being explored, and talks with the

	<p>government to facilitate availability of government forms at the CLCs are in progress; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing networks between the CLCs as well as with the district hubs to provide effective connectivity to enable women to access information and better manage their activities is being planned.
Outreach	<p>A video is being produced for the UNDP/Japan WID Fund's 10th Anniversary Symposium. A brochure and posters have also been produced.</p>
Synergies	<p>UNDP India supported a programme on ICT for development in collaboration with the national government, and one of its themes is the use of ICT for women's empowerment. The partners under the programme focusing on women's empowerment are learning lessons from the UNDP/Japan WID Fund-supported programme. These are being shared with other policy makers and the civil society under the ICT for Development programme. Linkages have also been established with the state government of Gujarat, where other UNDP-supported projects under the ICT for Development programme are being implemented. The processes and lessons emerging from the UNDP/Japan WID Fund initiative are being shared with the state government. Further linkages with the state government will help women access online government-related information through their CLCs.</p>
<p>Islamic Republic of Iran: Awareness of Women's Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (US \$134,000)</p>	
	<p>The national executing agency, Centre for Women's Participation of the Office of the President, faced institutional difficulties resulting in no project activity during the reporting period. UNDP will seek possible ways to re-activate the project under the new management of the centre.</p>
<p>Mongolia: Capacity Building for Gender Sensitive Budgeting (GSB) (US \$113,700)</p>	
Achievements	<p>Three studies on gender were undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A gender analysis of public budget in both the social welfare and employment sectors respectively, resulting in reports and short fact sheets; • Gender and poverty analysis of donor aid and loans in the employment and social security sectors, resulting in a report and short fact sheet; and • Engendering economic transition: GSB experiences from Mongolia and their implications for transition countries (manual). <p>Raising awareness on gender and GSB concepts among central and local governments and NGOs; training was conducted in five regions of Mongolia.</p> <p>Capacity building of national research institutions and government focal points on gender and GSB.</p> <p>Second phase project document produced, which is to be implemented by the Budget Coordination Division of the Ministry of Finance.</p> <p>Cooperation among academia, NGOs and government to support and monitor GSB by the government.</p> <p>The project provided support to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key national policy-makers, including Ministry of Finance and Economy/Poverty Research Group, Ministry of Social Welfare and Labour and Parliament Budgeting Standing Committee, helping them to analyse budgets from a gender perspective; and • The National Gender Equity Council, selected academia and NGOs, enabling them to further monitor a government budgeting process from a gender perspective.
Outreach	<p>The Ministry of Finance organized a two-day capacity-building workshop on performance based GSB in November 2004. The workshop covered topics such as gender analysis as a basic tool for mainstreaming gender in policies and programmes, data/statistics from a gender perspective, what results-based/performance-based budgeting and gender budgeting are and how are they linked. Participants included representatives of line ministries, academia, NGOs, donor organizations, news, TV and project staff. Recommendations of the workshop were reflected in the design of the second phase project document.</p> <p>The GSB project was attached to the UNDP/SIDA Poverty Research and Employment Facilitation project that supports the Poverty Research Group in the Ministry of Finance. The Poverty Research Group is now formally integrated into the Ministry of Finance, and falls within the Economic Policy department, whose mandate is to provide decision makers with key tools for macroeconomic management and planning.</p>
Synergies	<p>The GSB project also linked to the Asia Pacific Gender Equality Network Phase 2, particularly to its component on women's economic rights and engendering macroeconomic policies, which aims to promote the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of macroeconomic policies and poverty reduction strategies, with special attention to equal rights of women to economic resources, employment opportunities and social protection; and building capacity of civil society organizations to conduct gender analysis of government budgets and/or public expenditures, at both national and local levels.</p>

Vietnam: Entrepreneurship Development Programme for Women in Rural Areas (US \$380,000)	
Achievements	<p>The project had directly and indirectly assisted 1,103 entrepreneurs/beneficiaries. 577 of these beneficiaries have been trained under the project's field-based training programme; 136 were trained by the Danang Rural Resource Centre and 390 were trained by the project's trainers with funding mobilized by the Women's Union.</p> <p>Through trainings, women entrepreneurs were able to achieve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 72 percent reported an increase in monthly sales; more than 50 percent had a 50 - 217 percent sale increase. This was achieved through improving their efforts to meet clients' demands; • 72 percent expanded their market; 37 women entrepreneurs said that they were able to replace 'lost clients' with new ones, thus preventing a loss in their business; • 41 percent of those trained reported an increase in their assets by purchasing additional machines such as grinders, drying trays and additional working capital; this increase in assets was funded from their additional profits and additional loans; • 75 percent have improved their packaging and identified their niche markets, and are able to implement product differentiation and keep transaction records; • 82 percent reported longer product shelf-life as a result of applying improved production processes, and food hygiene and safety methods; reduced spoilage contributed to increased income; • 82 percent are producing better quality products; • There has been a remarkable improvement in food hygiene and safety; borax, chemicals, etc. are no longer used, and HACCP principles are applied; • New products have been developed; • A traditional village of rice paper producers and a fish sauce group were revived by identifying their niche markets and improving product quality; and • Self-confidence increased, resulting in positive changes in business and family relations (decision making). <p>The lease-purchase programme allowed women to purchase equipment (such as a pumping system in the fish sauce factory), freeing them from heavy labour and increasing productivity and free time.</p> <p>The project also contributed to environmental protection. Husk-burning stoves reduced the demand for firewood, and training on waste treatment improved women's awareness on the importance of keeping the environment clean.</p> <p>Capacity building of the Women's Union in Da Nang, Hue and Quang Nam and the Rural Resource Centre/Vocational Training Centres</p> <p>Formation of self-help groups enabled the Women's Union to better assist women entrepreneurs by linking them to credit sources, facilitating bank loans, etc.</p>
Outreach	<p>The <i>Vietnam Investment Review</i> featured a story in April 2004.</p> <p>On 26 June, 2005 the project held a wrap-up workshop in Danang, which was attended by representatives from the Women's Union, Danang People's Committee, five provincial Women's Union offices, development organizations, UNIDO, and women entrepreneurs.</p> <p>In June 2005, 1000 brochures were printed in order to disseminate the experience among development organizations operating in Vietnam, donor agencies and government organizations.</p>
Synergies	<p>Qualified trainers trained by the project and training manuals are invaluable resources for the Women's Union and other institutions. Trainers and training manuals have been used in training courses funded by other resources in Da Nang; trainers in Hue were involved in consulting women entrepreneurs for World Vision, ILO; and trainers in Quang Nam have been invited to participate in a project supported by the Danish government.</p> <p>Training materials developed by the project are being used in Phase II of the project, which is being implemented in Ha Tinh, Quang Binh and Quang Tri.</p> <p>Other projects such as the Rural Development Projects in Thua Thien Hue, and other NGOs such as Holt International in Quang Nam are considering using the training manuals and trainers to expand coverage to other women entrepreneurs. The Danang Food College is using the training guide to teach its students.</p>

EUROPE AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES	
Belarus: Support to Expanding Public Space for Women (US \$320,000)	
Achievements	<p>More than 250 graduates of multi-level training programmes gained theoretical knowledge and completed practical training, which improved their competitiveness and enhanced their motivation to participate in decision-making. Training programmes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master's programme in Business Administration for women; • Summer school programmes such as 'It is Always Time to be a Leader!', and seminars such as Projects' Strategic Planning for girls/young leaders. Summer school participants have continued the network and have organized several joint projects including student exchange; • One-year certification programme for students of women's institutes; • Seminars on 'Civic Participation: Another Dimension of Women's Leadership', for women activists/NGOs; and • Basics of Business Administration programme for women entrepreneurs. <p>To assess the impact of the project's educational programmes on their alumni's lives and activities, a special survey will be conducted during the final conference on 7 October, 2005. The conference will be attended by over 60 women, representing the entire spectrum of the project's training activities. These women comprise almost 10 percent of the direct beneficiaries of the project's educational efforts.</p> <p>The project assisted in the development of the concept of the Draft Law on Equal Opportunities; three round table discussions were held with lawmakers, officials, scholars and NGO representatives on 'Gender Equality – a Precondition for Effective Country Development'. The project also assisted in integrating this law into the list of legal acts suggested for improvement by the Council of Ministers.</p> <p>Project suggestions on the National Action Plan for Gender Equality in the Republic of Belarus for 2001-2005 were prepared and shared with the Plan's authors.</p> <p>The findings of project research, and the experiences of developing and implementing gender-balanced policies in Lithuania (the project has organized a visit by a Member of the Lithuanian Parliament to Belarus, where she will meet with Belarusian decision-makers) and Sweden (within the study tour organized by the project) have been shared with members of the National Assembly, lawmakers and high-level state officials.</p> <p>The Government has approved almost all amendments to the Family Code, promoted through the project's efforts. These amendments will thus also be accepted by the Parliament. The renewed Family Code will have, for example, a separate article on the equal rights and equal responsibilities of both men and women in family relations.</p> <p>Negotiations for the establishment of a lobbying group in parliament are underway; Anna Burova, an expert in the project, is carrying out these negotiations, and women deputies gathered to discuss the prospects of such a step. Challenges, however, remain. The women were unofficially advised to refrain from group activities, and lack recognized leaders.</p> <p>Gender manuals for journalists have been published; the number of gender-related publications has increased in both print and electronic mass media.</p> <p>Production and publication of a manual for lawyers: Twenty-six lawyers – lawmakers from the National Legislation Centre under the Auspices of the President of the Republic of Belarus, practitioners, university professors in law – learnt about the gender aspects in law from our publication and participation in the project's events.</p>
Outreach	<p>Media coverage: The <i>Capital television</i> TV channel telecast 'She is] The Maker of Her Own Destiny', prepared along the lines of the project's activities (16 TV programmes have been prepared and screened).</p> <p>The project's events and achievements have been covered by local TV channels, newspapers, Internet portals on women's empowerment, and local UN bulletins.</p> <p>PR materials: all the project's materials are available for screening and can be downloaded from the project's website, www.gender.by, a leading Russian-language Internet portal that deals with issues of gender equality and women's empowerment.</p> <p>A report on the advancement of women – 'Towards a Gender Balanced Society' – has been prepared in both Russian and English, and has been published and distributed to statesmen, learned community, teachers, etc.</p> <p>A public service advertising clip entitled 'A Professional' has been created. The clip won first prize at the XIY International Festival of Advertising (Moscow, Russia, 2004).</p> <p>The social advertising series, 'Time to be a Leader', has been continuously broadcast on national TV channels, and has been distributed via CD ROMS in both Russian and English to women's NGOs and lecturers on gender related courses.</p> <p>The project's social advertising is rotated in cinemas in Minsk before movies.</p>

	<p>The young designers' community of Belarus was invited to take part in a competition to create a flash animation on 'Equal Rights – Equal Opportunities'.</p> <p>An e-manual for journalists, 'Women's Leadership and Mass Media', has been created and distributed to journalists via the Internet (available for free download on the project's website).</p>
Synergies	<p>The project initiated and conducted the flash animation contest on 'Equal Rights – Equal Opportunities' in cooperation with UNICEF.</p>
<p>Bosnia and Herzegovina: Development of Capacity and Partnerships between Government and Civil Society for Implementation of the Gender Equality Law (US \$275,000)</p>	
Achievements	<p>The state-level gender agency has been established under Ministry of Human Rights Refugees (MHRR), as stipulated in Article 22 of the Gender Equality Law, as the main body to supervise and coordinate the implementation of the Law, while ensuring that institutional capacity at the state level is efficient and oriented towards improving coordination with the gender centres as well as with civil society organizations.</p> <p>The director of the agency has been appointed, and UNDP is providing technical support and capacity building.</p> <p>More than 60 draft laws have been reviewed in line with the Gender Equality Law. To date, 11 laws have been passed.</p> <p>Fifty municipal gender commissions were established. The commissions play a crucial role in ensuring the implementation of the Law. Furthermore, the commissions have been the project's primary partners in the implementation of UNDP's small grants support to civil society organizations.</p> <p>In line with the Law, seven Thematic Working Groups were established for media, public life, employment, access to resources, education, social and health care, and sports and culture. In addition, a working group for commentary on the Gender Equality Law was also set up. These Groups aim to create or amend policies, rules and regulations in their respective areas of expertise. NGO representatives are assigned to each of these Working Groups.</p> <p>The first Training of Trainers based on the analyses and recommendations of the Media Working Group was conducted in June 2005. Seven more trainings, as per the modules developed by the Working Groups, are planned from October 2005 to the end of December 2006.</p> <p>The first training with judges in the Republika Srpska (RS) was organized and has received excellent feedback.</p> <p>Seven NGO consultation meetings have been held. A number of NGOs working on gender issues have shared their experiences and expertise in women's rights and gender equality. The objective of the meetings is to strengthen the partnership between civil society and government representatives as well as to exchange information and ideas on measures and steps to be taken for the implementation of the Gender Law. Civil society representatives now have a better understanding of the Law.</p> <p>The small grants support to civil society organizations has been successfully completed within the project activities during the period April-September 2005. Eleven NGOs benefited from this support. Projects have been implemented in 20 Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) municipalities.</p> <p>The gender project steering board consists of representatives from MHRR, the gender centres from the two entities, the NGO sector, the Governments of Japan and Canada as well as potential donors, UNDP, UNOHCHR, UNICEF, UNFPA and ILO. The SBM is also open for those who are interested in the implementation of the Gender Equality Law.</p> <p>Statistical brochures on women and men were published at the BiH state level and at the level of both entities (the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska) by the statistical bureau; the BiH level statistic institute has been a crucial member of the above mentioned Thematic Working Groups.</p> <p>A Gender Working Group has been established within the Economic Policy Planning Unit (EPPU), a unit for implementation and monitoring of the Mid-Term Development Strategy - Poverty Reduction Strategy in BiH (MTDS-PRSP). The Working Group members – local gender experts from different fields – held preparatory consultations on the engendering of PRSP. In the process of reviewing the MTDS-PRSP, the EPPU director organized a three-day workshop with members of the sectoral Working Groups, which was led by experts from the Gender Working Group.</p> <p>The gender project has led to increased regional cooperation. The convening of regional conferences on gender equality (one in 2003 and two in 2004) and the First Balkan Gender Conference (Sarajevo, 1-3 November, 2004), as well as the organization of two meetings of the Western Balkan Women in Science Network (Sarajevo, 6-7 December, 2004 and Podgorica, 18 August, 2005), have contributed to the exchange of lessons learnt and good practices beyond BiH. Knowledge networking among neighbouring countries has strengthened communications among Balkan countries. These positive developments led to the Canadian International Development Agency extending its support to the gender project.</p> <p>A two-day regional conference on Beijing + 10 (Sarajevo, 14-15 September, 2005) was organized by UNDP BiH in cooperation with the Gender Equality Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The conference was attended by over 150</p>

	<p>representatives of governments, parliaments, gender policy and human rights institutions from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania and Romania.</p>
Outreach	<p>The project was presented to the general public in February, 2004. The project was titled 'For the First Time in BiH, a Project to Bring the Law into People's Everyday Life', as a way to focus on the implementation of legislations. A number of representatives from international organizations and embassies as well as from civil society organizations actively participated in discussions on collaborations for the implementation of the Gender Equality Law.</p> <p>Through the gender project, cooperation with the media was greatly enhanced and developed through PR campaigns, periodical meetings with journalists to update them on Gender Law implementation and regional cooperation, press conferences as well as round tables and workshops.</p> <p>Over 100 articles were printed in more than 20 different daily and weekly newspapers and magazines throughout BiH. In addition, articles are now also being published in Serbia and Montenegro.</p> <p>Over 10 hours of programming (reports, interviews, programmes) on the implementation of the Gender Law as well as on gender issues were broadcast on various TV and radio stations all over BiH, and recently in Serbia and Montenegro.</p> <p>Promotional posters, gender agency leaflets and a Gender Law brochure have been printed and are being disseminated through different sources: NGOs, at seminars, during meetings and fairs etc.</p>
Synergies	<p>The UNDP introduced the national human development report (NHDR) on MDGs in various civil society organization meetings and to the NGO council. As a result, a local women's organization established a micro MDG fund for grassroots organizations that initiate activities on gender equality (MDG 3). Consultations with civil society organizations have increased. Under the aegis of the country office's MDG promotion initiative and the gender project, a joint workshop between civil society organizations and the government was held. The objective of this MDG workshop was to increase the civil society organizations' capacity to monitor MDG 3 indicators and benchmarks enumerated in the National Human Development Report (NHDR) on MDGs. A set of gender indicators was presented with specific examples in a local context, and ideas were exchanged with civil society organizations on how to enhance monitoring processes and how the activities of civil society organizations feed into the development of MDG indicators.</p> <p>The gender project cooperates closely with the UNDP Judicial Training Project – MOC. The training of MOC judges in international standards and human rights includes an emphasis on the gender aspect of international standards with special attention to CEDAW and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).</p> <p>There is increasing synergy with the Rights-based Municipal Assessment Project (RMAP). The gender project contributed to the presentation on women's rights and government gender institutions at the RMAP staff education seminar.</p> <p>The framework for the UNDP BiH mainstreaming process lists gender as one of the four cross-cutting thematic areas (human rights, gender, environment and ICT) that will be mainstreamed in every new project developed by the UNDP BiH.</p>
<p>Kazakhstan: Expanded Microcredit Support for Women in Semipalatinsk Region (US \$500,000)</p>	
Achievements	<p>In January 2004, UNDP sub-contracted the micro-lending organization Bereke to undertake the project activities till its completion. Bereke was founded with support from this project in May 2003. A microcapital grant agreement was signed between UNDP and Bereke on 27 February, 2004.</p> <p>Project activities have continually expanded, covering rural areas, providing individual soft-collateral loans for rural entrepreneurs and group consumer loans for rural residents.</p> <p>Independent consultants conducted an outcome evaluation in September 2004. Findings showed that 87 percent of the borrowers interviewed improved their businesses, 21 percent increased the number of employees in their businesses, and 13 percent saw no changes.</p> <p>Bereke increased its loan portfolio to over US \$1,000,000 in November 2004.</p> <p>A round table meeting was held in Semipalatinsk on 4 June, 2005 to officially conclude the UNDP Semipalatinsk programme and discuss its impact. Speakers included Yuriko Shoji, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative and Nobumitsu Hayamizu, First Secretary, Japanese Embassy to Kazakhstan. Participants came from all parts of the Semipalatinsk region and included beneficiaries, local government representatives, media and project staff.</p>
Outreach	<p>Frequent media coverage: an article based on the results of the final evaluation was published in the newspaper <i>Kazakhstanskaya Pravda</i>; the TV programme <i>Khabar Zher</i> – a short film about a Bereke village client; the Bereke website will be ready by the end of October 2005; and on 19 August, 2004 Gael Guichard, correspondent of <i>Liberation</i>, met with our borrowers.</p> <p>PR materials include a presentation of Bereke and its activities at the first conference of the Association of Micro Finance Organizations of Kazakhstan (AMFOK); the Bereke Annual Report 2004; a photo album titled 'Overcoming Poverty in Semipalatinsk - A Message in Pictures'; the final evaluation of the UNDP Semipalatinsk programme outcomes; a brochure on the UNDP programme in Semipalatinsk; and information on microcredit activity was aired over</p>

	the radio and published in local newspapers (periodically in the <i>rayons</i> , where the project has expanded).
Synergies	The project has been implemented as part of the UNDP Semipalatinsk programme, which includes two other UNDP projects (Business Skills & Support Training, and Extension of Small Grants to NGO/CBOs). All projects exchange information, participate in business centre trainings, and refer clients to the business centre for business consultations and trainings. The successes of Bereke as a microcredit organization is often used as an example in Kazakhstan, especially for work with women. It will be quoted as a best practice example in a new report by UNDP on microfinance, to be published in 2005.
Lithuania: Capacity Building of Lithuanian Women through ICT and Networking (US \$272,930)	
Achievements	<p>Conducted training for the staff of beneficiary organizations and target groups (rural women, business women from regions, women who want to participate in business development) of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European computer driving license courses, January- February 2004; • Correll and Photoshop courses, February-March 2004; • Courses by the beneficiary organizations, July-September 2004; • Three-day intensive training seminar on Effective Team Building and Team Work, May 2004; • Strategic planning for women NGOs, January 2005; • Two-day training seminar, June 2005; • Intensive, one-week accounting courses, March 2005; and • Power Point presentation skills courses, March 2005. <p>Invited a strategic planning and NGO development expert to conduct an evaluation of the beneficiary organizations. Final closing conference of the project held in September 2005.</p>
Outreach	Media coverage of the project by local newspapers in five regions of Lithuania; a radio talk show for women (one time presentation); information board; websites of the organizations; data base www.lygus.lt. PR materials included booklets, articles and, short presentations at different events.
Synergies	The project is part of UNDP Lithuania's gender programme. At the operational level, it complements the initiatives of the UNDP and the Women's Issues Information Centre, made through the gender mainstreaming project. The project is also linked (mainly in its cooperation phase with the Lithuanian Labour Exchange and small and medium enterprises) to the Women in Business project.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Chile: Gender Equality in Employment Creation and the Labour Market (US \$100,000)

Achievements	<p>Knowledge building. Study of the relationship between gender and poverty and the fundamental role of employment in poverty alleviation. The study provided a guideline for discussion with the members of the Consultative Council and for the formulation of policy proposals. 'Women, Equity, Gaps and Labour Market in Chile' was published and presented in July 2004.</p> <p>An analysis of the socio-demographic and labour profile of women beneficiaries of the selected poverty alleviation strategy, the Chile Solidario System of Social Protection.</p> <p>Consultancy on practical proposals to strengthen the gender perspective within the Chile Solidario System of Social Protection.</p> <p>Study of the implementation of the Chile Solidario System of Social Protection at the local level in two municipal districts in the metropolitan region.</p> <p>The three studies mentioned above were published in the book 'Challenges of Gender and the Chile Solidario System' (2005).</p> <p>Institutional strengthening through training and sensitization. A national training workshop was held in January, 2004, and was attended by public sector professionals, representatives of workers' unions and social actors from Santiago and other regions of the country.</p> <p>Three regional training and sensitization workshops were held in Puerto Varas (Los Lagos Region), Valparaíso (Valparaíso Region) and Antofagasta (Antofagasta Region).</p> <p>An international seminar on Poverty Alleviation, Employment Generation and Gender Equity was held in Santiago from 26-27 July, 2004. It featured speakers from Chile as well as from other countries, and convened approximately 80 policymakers and representatives from workers' unions, the business sector and civil society. The seminar was inaugurated by the Chilean Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Ricardo Solarí; Cecilia Pérez, National Women's</p>
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	Minister; Irene Philippi, Representative of the UNDP; and Andrés Marinakis, Representative of the sub-regional office of the ILO. A representative from the Japanese Embassy was present during the whole seminar.
	Two seminars/workshops on Decent Work for Women, a Goal in Poverty Reduction were held in two cities (Valparaíso, 4-5 May, 2004 and Antofagasta, 10-11 June, 2004).
Outreach	Information on the project's activities was disseminated through national and regional media. Media coverage of the regional workshops in Valparaíso and Antofagasta was provided on both radio and television, and included interviews with both the project coordinators and the experts participating in the events. A press release was prepared on the international seminar held in July, 2004, and the event was covered by the national newspaper, <i>El Mercurio</i> . Two in-depth interviews on the issue of women, poverty and employment were also aired on the <i>Radio Tierra</i> radio station.
	As part of the dissemination activities, an information leaflet and project folders summarizing the project's objectives, activities and methodologies were produced. Counterparts were also provided with the GPE Programme's Training Manuals (Reader's Guide and Trainer's Guide).
Synergies	The experience of UNDP and ILO in the struggle to eradicate poverty, promote gender equity and generate employment enabled them to develop a positive collaborative relationship. In addition, the vast experience accumulated by the ILO in similar projects in 10 other countries of the region contributed greatly to the Chilean initiative, providing opportunities for exchange among project coordinators, and participation in workshops on project-related subjects as well as participation in the international seminar held in Santiago at the conclusion of the project. The series of books published as part of the GPE projects also constituted an important resource for public policy formulation.

El Salvador: Knowledge Management Platform on Gender Equality in Latin America and the Caribbean (US \$330,420, approved in April 2005 under Partnership Fund)

Achievements	<p>Project implementation began in July 2005. The principal activities during the start-up phase have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of a project team; • Dissemination of information on the project throughout the region; • Identification of countries that will participate in the project; • Negotiations for website start-up; • Technical missions requested by UNDP offices of Brazil, Paraguay and the sub-regional resource facility (SURF) in Panama; • Scheduling of other technical missions (e.g. to Honduras and Mexico); • Technical assistance to review documents from several UNDP offices (Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, SURF Panama, Panama and El Salvador); • Preparation of terms of reference for website, regional assessment, etc.; • Establishment of a project monitoring system; • Follow-up and advice for preparing gender assessments and strategies for UNDP offices in Latin America; and • Timeline prepared for participation in regional meetings through the end of the year. <p>Negotiation for alliance building were held with other agencies and bodies: UNIFEM, INSTRAW, UNICEF, PRIGEPP/FLACSO, etc.</p>
Outreach	Work during this first phase has focused on establishing contacts and collaboration with national equality offices and mechanisms and other agencies and bodies. Inputs were provided to support the UNDP presence at the 38th meeting of Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Mechanisms that will facilitate greater advocacy and visibility on the issue, such as the website, are being instituted. Through the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) gender network, a fortnightly thematic newsletter on gender is sent out by e-mail.
Synergies	The regional project is providing follow-up and advice to the projects funded by the UNDP Gender Thematic Trust Fund in several Latin American countries. These projects are primarily aimed at preparing a gender strategy for the country offices that will facilitate gender mainstreaming in all UNDP activities, as well as in CCA/UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) processes and other interagency gender activities. At the same time, coordination has begun with the SURF in Panama to strengthen the gender perspective in the products and services provided by the SURF to the entire region (UNDP offices and partners).

Jamaica: Gender Training Research (US \$189,223)

Achievements	<p>Key activities undertaken in the Gender Training Research (GTR) project between April 2004 and August 2005 include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of a gender and development database, which boasts over 1700 records on various themes including Gender and Culture, Gender and Legislative Reform, and Men and Masculinities. The website is being hosted by the
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	<p>Centre for Gender and Development Studies and the URL is www.uwi.edu/cgds. The site has proved to be a useful resource for researchers, academics and practitioners in the area of gender and development;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The completion of an annotated bibliography on gender-based violence, which integrates new material from a bibliography previously compiled by UNIFEM. The launch of the annotated bibliography took place on 14 October, 2005, and was attended by officials of the Japanese Embassy and JICA; and • The provision of fellowships to certificate and M.Sc. students of the University of the West Indies (Jamaica). Fellowships totaling US \$24,180 were awarded to 18 students (10 pursuing certificate courses, and eight graduate students) pursuing gender studies at the University. This allowed students to engage in a rigorous training programme on gender and development, which facilitated a thorough analysis of pertinent issues and built capacities in the area of gender mainstreaming. <p>This project is relatively small in financial terms, but its capacity for wide and meaningful impact is undisputed. By introducing a gender certificate programme at a regional University, the project is impacting students and professionals in 18 countries in the region.</p>
Outreach	<p>Development of a database on gender and development issues, available at the following URL: www.uwi.edu/cgds. Media coverage of the launch of the annotated bibliography on gender-based violence held on 14 October, 2005.</p>
Synergies	<p>The principles underlying the GTR project have been quite influential in guiding some of the processes in which the country office is currently engaged. In the CCA/UNDAF consultations for example, UNDP has been tasked with chairing the Sustainable Development Theme Group, in which gender is one of the critical components of the analysis. An important reason for this focus on gender is the fact that key persons associated with the GTR project have attended these meetings and seek to ensure that this issue is well represented and mainstreamed. It is expected that in the final Sustainable Development Theme Group report, gender will be given primary importance, and as such will influence the upcoming five-year programme of the UN system.</p> <p>Based on staff discussions on the project, a recommendation was made to invite a regional UNDP advisor to conduct a gender assessment of the country office's programming and projects. This is scheduled for October 2005.</p> <p>The partnership with UNIFEM is broadening the visibility of the project within the region and is ensuring greater synergies with other projects, as well as better quality outputs. The ongoing research on gender-based violence that is being conducted in four countries is also expected to influence public discussions, teaching curricula and possibly policy discussions in the region.</p>

GLOBAL

Gender Sensitive Budgets: Investing in Poor Women to Reach the MDGs (US \$495,000)

Achievements	<p>Organization of the Training of Trainers workshop in west Africa: The Regional Bureau of Africa, the Bureau for Development Policy and SURF/west and central Africa organized a regional gender budgeting Training of Trainers workshop in Dakar (Senegal) from 1-4 June, 2005. The training brought together UN agencies and government technicians from about 15 countries in west and central Africa. The workshop took place in CESAG, a highly recognized regional training centre that hosts most World Bank and UN training sessions. The centre will adopt the training manual that came out of the Training of Trainers workshop and will use it for its regional gender training programmes.</p> <p>A training module is being finalized by the consultant.</p> <p>A group of 30 experts, which includes two parliamentarians, have been trained and are now sharing a network (electronic) of GSB through which information and tools of GSB are being discussed.</p> <p>A proposal has been made for synergies to be built amongst the various initiatives that are being currently undertaken by UNIFEM, IDRC, NDP and the network of experts.</p>
Outreach	<p>Reported to the new Administrator as one of the best practices of the work done by the Gender Unit, Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP</p>
Synergies	<p>The Asia Pacific Gender Mainstreaming Programme will conduct a regional workshop on GSB, 'A Follow-up and Way Forward', from 8-9 November, 2005 in Colombo (Sri Lanka). This will serve as a follow-up to a regional Training of Trainers organized in Manila in July 2004, funded by the UNDP/Japan WID Fund. This workshop resulted in a trainer's manual, which awaits inclusion of Asia/Pacific case studies; and the training of a regional pool of trainers in GSB. The objective of the proposed workshop is to follow-up with the original pool of trainers from the 2004 workshop and in addition, bring together participants from the government and civil society. The workshop will also be used as a venue for representatives from different countries to provide an update on the status of GSB-related work. At the end of the workshop, a three year action plan on GSB initiatives will be produced.</p>

	<p>For follow-up activities in the Europe and CIS region, please see section on Highlights.</p> <p>A global conference will be held in Tokyo in 2006 to take stock of the regional and country level initiatives and identify future areas of concentrated action.</p>
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Gender and the MDGs (US \$286,667)

Achievements	<p>Concrete models and results for strengthening the gender equality and women's rights perspectives in MDG processes at the country level are emerging. As the specific reports on country level activities will show, each pilot initiative has continued to develop diverse and innovative entry points and approaches to demonstrate how the UN system, government partners, civil society organizations, bi-lateral donors, and media can use the MDGs to strengthen action and accountability for gender equality.</p> <p>While there is diversity in the innovations and entry points in the five countries of Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Cambodia, Peru and Morocco, a number of common threads are also emerging. Programmes in three of the countries – Kenya, Kyrgyzstan and Cambodia – are linking with initiatives on Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) in their respective countries. Multi-stakeholder teams are seen by all as being critical to securing widespread buy-in of the MDGs. And the continuing lack of general awareness about the MDGs amongst key constituencies – community-based groups, women's organizations and youth, for instance – is noted as an obstacle.</p> <p>UN country team members are playing leadership roles and incorporating the approaches and results from this programme into related initiatives. Additionally, government partners are also playing key roles and using programme results in their broader MDG and gender equality initiatives.</p> <p>Kyrgyzstan Key activities and achievements By working in collaboration with the Gender Theme Group, tangible results have begun to emerge in relation to pilot project activities in the areas of advocacy and capacity building.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process of creating a harmonized system of gender indicators (as reported in the August-December 2004 period) whereby an expert working group screened sets of indicators available in the MDGs, PRSP, Beijing Platform for Action and the CEDAW and incorporated these indicators into one system, has increased the awareness level of sectoral gender focal points in different government ministries. • Using the system of harmonized indicators as a basis, a gender monitoring mechanism was developed in cooperation with the National Council on Women, Family and Gender Affairs, 16 gender experts from government ministries, the UN system and NGOs. This mechanism is envisioned to serve as a platform for mainstreaming gender into national plans and socio-economic programmes like the PRSP. An unanticipated but positive consequence of the project is that the status of the Secretariat of the National Council on Women, Family and Gender Equality Affairs has been strengthened significantly as a result of its leading role in the process of establishing the gender monitoring mechanism. Moreover, the National Poverty Reduction Strategy Monitoring Unit and the President of Kyrgyzstan have expressed their willingness to take the gender monitoring mechanism under consideration. • A communication strategy was developed based on a series of discussions with the Gender Theme Group and other relevant partners. The strategy, geared toward raising awareness and encouraging advocacy on gender and the MDGs includes use of local mass media like TV, radio and print. The strategy also encompasses the training of journalists, using peer training and securing the cooperation of leading journalists. • To support the incorporation of a gender analysis into the Kyrgyzstan MDG reporting process, the project team prepared fact sheets on gender and MDGs that highlight the gender dimensions of each of the MDGs. The fact sheets identify challenges in regard to gender and the MDGs and present statistical data that helps describe the situation of women and men from the perspective of global and national MDG indicators. The aim is to provide user-friendly information on the gender dimensions of MDGs for policy and decision makers, civil society organizations, mass media and the general public. <p>Morocco Key activities and achievements In line with the implementation strategy developed by the pilot project in Morocco, activities took place with a great degree of government buy-in and ownership, and were geared directly toward the drafting of an engendered national MDG report. Unanticipated but important outcomes of the pilot project activities include enhanced awareness of the need for coordination between Common Country Assessment and MDG processes as well as possibilities for engendered MDG costing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Abdessalam Fazouane (a statistical expert) and the institution Groupe de Recherche et d'Etudes sur le Genre et le Développement⁴ were brought on board to provide technical input and worked with the lead implementation team to prepare a draft methodology to guide the preparation of the engendered national MDG report, the main output of the project. • In January 2005 a national kick-off seminar was held to inform national partners that the formulation of the 2005 national MDG report was underway. Some 180 representatives from governmental departments, parliament, women and development NGOs, the private sector, academia, the UN system and bilateral donors attended the seminar.
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During the seminar, the lead team was enlarged to include the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment.

- The national MDG report has incorporated the recommendations of the Millennium Project report 'Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals'. A total of 29 new targets and 89 new indicators have been proposed. For reporting on goal 3, the lead team recommended the inclusion of three new gender equality targets in the areas of employment and access to resources, decision-making, and legal discrimination and violence against women.
- In line with the above, and to validate the draft chapters, six thematic workshops were organized in May and June 2005 by the concerned line ministries for each MDG. The outcomes of the discussions will be integrated in the 2005 national MDG report.
- Work is being done on a costing exercise for the next three years, taking into account the resources needed to achieve the MDGs in Morocco in accordance with the priorities set out in the upcoming 2005 localized and engendered MDG report. The outputs will reflect the GRB work being carried out by the Ministry of Finance.

Peru

The pilot project in Peru has integrated gender sensitive messages in national level MDG campaigning and has raised awareness and advocacy capacity of youth and women's organizations.

Key activities and achievements Worked closely with a leading national women's organization – Flora Tristan – to undertake a wide range of capacity building and advocacy oriented activities.

- Organized three workshops for women leaders from Lima, Piura (on the northern coast) and Huancayo (in the central Andes) in April and May 2005. Produced a training module, 'Millennium Development Goals and Citizen Watch for Women's Community Based Organizations'.
- Supported the publication of the bulletin *Sumando Voces (Adding Voices)*, the fourth issue of which was dedicated to MDGs. The bulletin is published by Mesa de Vigilancia Ciudadana en Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos, a watch group on sexual and reproductive rights formed by 26 grass-roots women's organizations.
- Commissioned a study entitled 'Policy Recommendations for the Fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals'⁴, which is geared toward policy makers and offers recommendations relevant to both local and national-level analysis and implementation of MDG report findings.
- Launched a small grants contest for university researchers, awarding selected candidates a grant to undertake research in the area of gender and the MDGs. The call for proposals raised awareness on gender and the MDGs among university students in Peru. Over 190⁶ young researchers submitted proposals on a wide range of topics including urban and rural poverty, labour markets, domestic violence, education, maternity health and political participation. A total of 10 grants were awarded. UNDP and UNFPA offices in Peru provided funds for additional grants.

Kenya

Key activities and achievements The initiative in Kenya has built on a number of inter-linked enabling processes taking place simultaneously with this project:

1. the Government of Kenya emerged from its 2002 elections with stronger commitments to gender equality and women's rights;
2. the new government has been engaged with reviewing the Poverty Reduction Strategy and modifying it to an Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation, which created opportunities to bring project partners and findings into a mainstream economic policy process; and
3. the Millennium Project and the UN in Kenya created opportunities to mainstream gender equality into the larger analytical framework as a pilot for MDG costing.

Supported the launch of the African Women's Millennium Initiative in Nairobi, which provided an advocacy platform for 50 rural women from Kenya, as well as representation from an additional 10 African countries, to bring their concerns and perspectives to the attention of cabinet ministers, UN representatives and other decision-makers. The consultation generated widespread media coverage.

The Association of Media Women in Kenya finalized the production of the gender and MDG briefing pack ('A Fair Share for Women'), and held briefings to build the capacity of journalists in gender responsive reporting of the MDGs. Twenty-two journalists participated in these briefings.

Worked closely with the Ministry of Gender, Sports Culture and Social Services to provide ongoing input into the gender and MDG needs assessment. This has involved technical advice, as well as strategic convening of different stakeholders.

Cambodia

Put the issue of planning and protection for the livelihoods of women garment workers and others affected by the Multi-Fibre Trade Agreement on the national policy agenda in Cambodia. Showed that MDG analysis can shed light on women's economic security and that building a multi-stakeholder partnership for targeted attention and action in response to changes in trade and macroeconomic policies can be an effective strategy for concretely linking the MDGs to poor women's rights and their demands for change.

Key activities and achievements

The project's research findings have been taken to the level of national development planning through a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue that took place in January 2005 to raise public awareness and advocate for policies to address the gender impacts of trade reform and its implications on women's poverty.

The Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training (MOLVT) requested support to produce a gender responsive employment and vocational training policy, which was a first step in influencing the National Strategic Development Plan. MOLVT will take a leading role in bringing gender-related trade issues into policy dialogue for the National Strategic Development Plan and in discussions on targets for the MDGs in Cambodia.

An existing set of policy briefs on gender and the MDGs entitled 'A Fair Share for Women' – produced in preparation for this project (see <http://www.unifem-eseasia.org/CMD-Fair%20Share%20Mar05.htm>) – was translated into Khmer to use for advocacy in government offices.

In order to build and encourage women's leadership, a women's leadership forum on reducing women's poverty in Cambodia, presided by the Minister of Women's Affairs, was held; 64 senior leaders from civil society organizations, the parliament and government (both legislature and executive branches) attended the forum.

Women ministers from participating pilot countries took part in a UNDP-World Bank panel on gender and the MDGs that was held during the UN Commission on the Status of Women (New York, March 2005), and a summary of the project was included in an inter-agency folder distributed at the same event.

Morocco: Main TV networks followed each Thematic Working Group workshop; individual journalists were provided with continuous information on the processes and measures being implemented for engendering MDG reporting; leaflets and folders were produced for every workshop, supporting sensitization efforts.

Peru: A brochure on MDGs targeting grass-roots organizations entitled 'Cómo te gustaría que fuera el mundo?' or 'How would you like the world to be?' was produced. It explained each goal in the Peruvian context and gave an update on the progress made toward meeting each MDG. An e-bulletin on gender and the MDGs was disseminated to mass media (radio, television and daily newspapers).

Cambodia: Policy briefs available at www.unifem-eseasia.org.

A monthly national radio programme launched on 15 May, 2005 featured a discussion on gender issues and the MDGs, held between the Head of the Department of Gender Equality, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Gender Technical Assistant to MOWA and the Executive Director of SILAKA.

Kenya: The focus on women has had a number of spin-off effects. Project results have been incorporated in the planning and implementation of additional UN country team pilot projects in the districts of Garissa, Muranga, Bungoma and Ijara. Project results have also supported the development of gender equality plans at the district level as strategies for mainstreaming gender into local government poverty reduction plans. The district level resource centres being established through the UN system's UNVIS programme have helped ensure that the issues and concerns of rural women are taken into account.

Outreach

The priorities articulated by women are also being taken into account in government, UN and NGO activities related to budget processes. For example, the Kenya 2005/2006 budget recognizes women's priorities by eliminating the VAT on basic commodities like mealie meal and cooking oil.

Peru: The Health Ministry requested the project's main counterpart organization, Flora Tristan, to organize along side Mesa de Vigilancia Ciudadana en Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos a National Forum on Maternal Health in the framework of the MDGs. The forum, held in May 2005, helped government authorities and officers recognize the contribution of community-based organizations toward fulfilling the MDGs related to maternal health.

UNDP Peru is building on the project's findings and partnerships to elaborate indicators disaggregated by sex that can be included in the DEV INFO system to support monitoring progress toward meeting the MDGs.

Cambodia: Collaboration with the ILO on garment workers' issues and the close collaboration of the gender and MDG project with the UN country team have provided national coordinators with access to government ministries. Findings from the pilot project have been used by the UNDP-sponsored impact assessment on trade reform to strengthen the gender equality perspective in its work.

Synergies

Global: UNDP is producing a how-to guide on the MDGs for UN country teams, which will have both print and on-line components and will be distributed throughout the UN system. Case studies documenting the entry points, strategies, achievements and challenges in these pilot projects are being finalized for inclusion in UNDP's resource material.

⁴ English translation: Study and Research group on Gender and Development.

⁵ The report is available at: <http://www.flora.org.pe/pdfs/jennuy.pdf>

⁶ The volume of proposals received was greater than expected with 192 researchers submitting proposals (53 percent of the proposals were sent by women and 47 percent were sent by men. 43 percent of the proposals were sent by youth from provinces and 57 percent came from the capital). A network called Friends of MDG's or amigasoslosobjetivosdelmilenio@groups.msn.com has been established by junior researchers who participated in the contest. Currently, 60 people have joined the discussion group.

VI. Annex

PROJECT PORTFOLIO

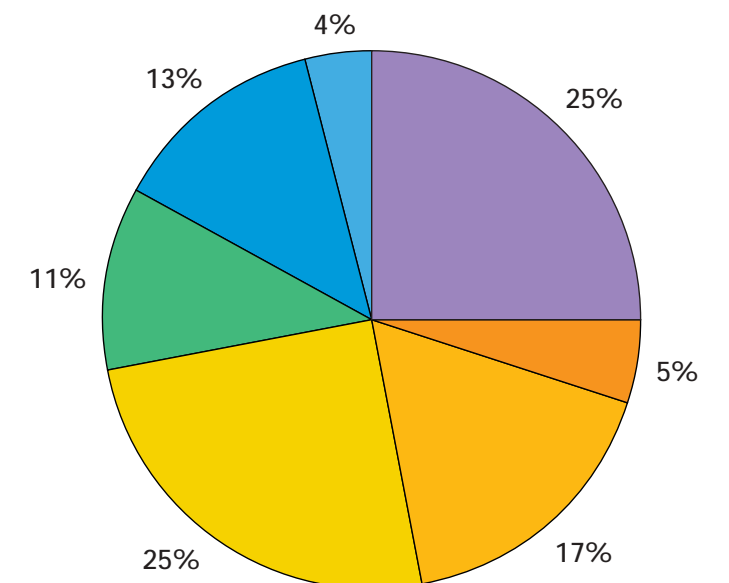
Year/Area	Title	Approved Amount
1996		
Global	Asia/Africa Forum for Empowerment of Women	\$330,500
Global	Micro-Credit Schemes: The Experience on Women's Empowerment and Poverty Eradication	\$180,500
Indochina	Promoting Women's Participation in Economic Development in the Countries of Indochina	\$151,525
Jamaica	Women and Micro-Enterprise Development	\$100,000
Ghana	Women Entrepreneurship Development	\$85,000
Cambodia	Women's Participation in Economic Development	\$194,775
1997		
Jordan	Enhancing Vocational Training and Employment Opportunities for Jordanian Women	\$245,000
Vietnam	Literacy and Vocational Education for Ethnic Minority Girls and Women	\$160,000
Pakistan	Maternal Child Health: Promoting Reproductive Health	\$99,500
Global	Micro-Credit Summit: Micro-finance as a Tool for Economic Empowerment of Women	\$100,000
Guatemala	National Seminar on Education of Girls	\$200,000
Indochina	Promotion of Small Business in Indochina	\$200,000
Kenya	Support to Women's Access to Financial Resources through Existing Banking Institutions	\$75,000
Palestine	Empowerment of Women through Education	\$110,000
Global	World Bank: Special Programme for Africa	\$44,000
1998		
Laos	Support to Lao Women's Union	\$180,000
1999		
Global	PR Initiative for the JWIDF	\$214,438
South Africa	Engendering Macro Economic Policy in South Africa	\$166,696
Fiji	Economic Empowerment of Women through Sustainable Livelihoods	\$293,370
Ukraine	Support to Women Farmers	\$190,800
Cambodia	Micro-finance in Rural Areas	\$210,300
Global	Women, Micro-credit and Poverty Eradication	\$300,355
Egypt	Integrated Women's Health	\$352,673
Ethiopia	Capacity-building for the Former Women Fuelwood Carriers Association	\$125,600
Ethiopia	Capacity-building for Specialized Financial and Promotional Institutions	\$74,500
Guatemala	Support to the Programme on Girls Education	\$310,000
Global	Japan-UNDP Partnership for the Advancement of Women	\$370,000
2000		
Ecuador	Women's Leadership and Citizenship	\$313,760
Nepal	Participatory Disaster Management	\$410,001
Vietnam	Entrepreneurship Development Programme for Women in Rural Areas	\$380,000
Bangladesh	Matlab Reproductive Health Programme	\$297,616
Uruguay	Promotion of Economic and Social Integration of Rural Women in the "Colonias"	\$398,425
2001		
Philippines	Programme for the Advancement of Filipino Women through Strategic Support Mechanism for Economic Empowerment	\$319,580
Global	JWIDF Management Programme	\$206,470
Palestine	Establishment of Women's Design Center in Bethlehem	\$260,000
Global	LDC III Pre-Conference on Gender Mainstreaming	\$150,000
Kazakhstan	Expanded Micro-credit Support for Women	\$500,000

Global	Organization of the Africa/Asia Women's Parliamentarians Forum	\$397,100
Belarus	Support to Expanding Public Space for Women	\$320,000
China	China's Accession to WTO: Challenge for Women	\$315,000
Iran	Awareness of Women's Rights in Iran	\$134,000
2002		
Romania	Economic Empowerment of Rural Women	\$250,000
Global	JWIDF Management Programme Phase II	\$229,680
Tajikistan	Gender and Rural Financial Sector in Tajikistan	\$200,000
"Republic of Congo"	Promoting Equity between Women and Men: Phase II	\$298,874
Ethiopia	HIV/AIDS and Gender and Development	\$348,434
Lithuania	Capacity Building of Lithuanian Women Through ICT & Networking	\$272,930
Bhutan	E-Commerce for Women Entrepreneurs and Handicraft Producers in Bhutan	\$212,180
Mongolia	Capacity Building for Gender-Sensitive Budgeting (GSB)	\$113,700
Nepal	Natural Disaster Management Phase II	\$200,000
2003		
Jamaica	Gender Training Research	\$189,223
Uganda	District Development Programme 2: Gender Component	\$300,000
Cameroon	Development of E-competency among African Women for Local and International Market	\$289,900
Global	JWID Fund Management Support	\$250,000
Chile	Gender Equality in Employment Creation and Labour Market	\$100,000
Rwanda	African Digital Diaspora: Country Pilot Initiative in Rwanda	\$236,500
Global	Gender Responsive Budgets: Investing in Poor Women to Reach the Millennium Development Goals	\$495,000
Bosnia	Development of Capacity and Partnership between Governments and Civil Society for Gender Equality	\$275,000
Global	Gender and MDGs	\$286,667
India	ICTs for Local Development and SMEs	\$315,000
2004		
Nigeria	Economic Empowerment of Women	\$250,000
Global	JWIDF Management Support Phase III*1	\$200,000
2005		
El Salvador/ LAC	Knowledge Management Platform on Gender Equality in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)*1	\$330,420
Global	JWIDF Management Support Phase III*1	\$91,260
TOTAL		\$15,201,252

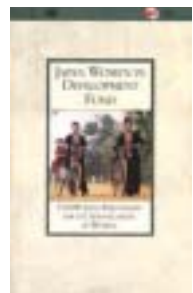
*1 Funded by Partnership Fund (WID/GAD Component)

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION

Global	\$3,845,970	Latin America & Caribbean	\$1,611,408
Regional	\$681,945	Europe and CIS	\$2,008,730
Africa	\$2,603,177	Arab States	\$615,000
Asia & Pacific	\$3,835,022		



Outreach



1. Japan Women in Development Fund 2000 Brochure (English and Japanese)



2. UNDP/Japan Women in Development Fund 2001 Annual Report (English and Japanese)



3. UNDP/Japan Women in Development Fund 2002 Annual Report (English and Japanese)



4. UNDP/Japan Women in Development Fund 2003 Annual Report (English)



5. Video: 'Girls' Education in Guatemala' (English, 26 minutes; also available in Japanese)

This documentary introduces the UNDP/JWIDF project entitled 'Girls' Education Programme' in Guatemala. The Peace Accords, which was signed in 1996 after 36 years of internal armed conflict, expressed the urgent need to reform the educational system of the country and improve equal educational opportunity regardless of ethnicity, gender and geography, in order to build a sustainable culture of peace. This documentary shows UNDP-Japan collaboration in supporting Guatemalan education system to promote gender equality in primary education. In the video, Ms. Tomoko Nagano, TV Asahi anchor visits project sites in Mayan communities.



6. Video: 'Economic Empowerment of Women in Post-Conflict Cambodia' (English, 26 minutes; also available in Japanese)

This documentary introduces the UNDP/JWIDF project entitled 'Women's Participation in Economic Development' in Cambodia. It illustrates how local women have been able to actively participate in the reconstruction of their war-torn community with the support of the ACLEDA microfinance institution. It also shows how multi-lateral support through UNDP and bilateral assistance through the Government of Japan created a synergetic effect on post-conflict reconstruction. The video features Ms. Misako Konno, UNDP Global Goodwill Ambassador. Ms. Konno is a Japanese actress and writer.



7. Gender & Budgets: Cutting Edge Pack

This BRIDGE Cutting Edge Pack on CD provides key materials on gender-sensitive budgets as a tool for advancing gender equality. It provides accessible explanations of key concepts, geographically and context diverse case studies, practical tools, guidelines, training materials, popular education materials, web resources and networking contacts. This supports progress towards achieving the ultimate goal of the formulation of a gender-sensitive budget. It was produced in partnership with UNDP/Japan Women in Development Fund.

8. Website www.undp.org/gender/japan/





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