



*Bhagni Devi was among the three million people affected when a river breached its embankment and inundated vast tracks of land in the northern regions of Bihar, India's poorest state. Today she is the proud owner of a disaster-resistant house built the way she wanted under a pilot initiative focusing on women supported by the Government of Bihar and UNDP.*

# 4

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN

# Gender Equality in Crisis Prevention And Recovery

Guided by the priorities outlined in the Eight-Point Agenda for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality in Crisis Prevention and Recovery, BCPR made progress in protecting, empowering and improving the prospects of women and girls in crisis settings during 2010.

For its part, BCPR continued to implement its gender-sensitive resource allocation policy to ensure that at least 15 percent of all BCPR-supported project budgets were assigned to gender-related activities. For 2010, 29 percent of BCPR expenditure fit this category.

Senior Gender Advisors (SGAs) supported by seed funding provided high-level technical and strategic capacity in Burundi, Iraq, Kosovo, Liberia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Timor-Leste. Their activities helped UNDP Country Offices programme gender-responsive results-oriented initiatives designed to increase gender equality and women's participation.

### **UNDP in Action: Fulfilling Commitments on the Ground**

BCPR stimulated tangible progress on the Women, Peace and Security agenda in global and national programming and policy and made a significant contribution to policy shifts. Key achievements in 2010 included:

#### **Increased Women's Civic Engagement, Participation and Leadership in Peacebuilding**

In 2010 UNDP produced tangible results in improving the political participation of women and their ability to play a leading role in the consolidation of peace. Improved support by UN/UNDP to national authorities in Burundi contributed to a historic female voter registration and turnout in the country's 2010 elections. As a result of the elections, the 30 percent quota for women in elected public office was exceeded. Burundi currently has the highest level of women representation in the Senate among African countries and second in the world.

---

*With UNDP support women now constitute 50 percent of the Government's established cadre of mediators in Timor-Leste, under the newly created Department of Peacebuilding.*

---



*Timor-Leste public defender Laura Lay is sworn in by Public Defender General, Sergio Hornai, with the President of the Court of Appeal, Claudio Ximenes, looking on.*

With UNDP support women now constitute 50 percent of the Government's established cadre of mediators in Timor-Leste, under the newly created Department of Peacebuilding. These women assist with local land conflicts and other issues in communities targeted for the resettlement of IDPs.

In Nepal, women now have an increasingly important leadership role in the country's on-going political transition and constitutional design. Assisted by UNDP, women comprised 33 percent of the total of 601 delegates who participated in the country's constitutional process. The UNDP-supported Center for Constitutional Dialogue has trained 100 Constituent Assembly members, including women, on effective communication and negotiation.

#### **Increased Local and National Capacity to Respond to Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV)**

SGBV devastates human lives, shatters communities and seriously deters human development in conflict and post-conflict contexts. UNDP's priority and added value is the strengthening of national capacities to provide justice and security to women, in order to create

enabling environments where they can eventually participate in the economic, social and political spheres and where a culture of impunity, stigma and silence is eroded over time.

BCPR has developed programmes addressing SGBV in over 14 countries, enhancing women's security and access to justice. During 2010, over 4,000 survivors of SGBV received legal aid and assistance services primarily in Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kosovo, Nepal, Sierra Leone, as well as in Somaliland. An important part of this success has been the premium placed by UNDP on working through national justice and security sector actors, NGOs, paralegals and other service providers, as well as on strong partnerships with other international actors.

In Sierra Leone, UNDP supported six local NGOs to provide legal assistance to survivors of SGBV addressing the complaints of 1,879 women to date, resulting in 45 convictions. In 2009, before the programme began, there were no convictions.

In Haiti, UNDP supported communities affected by the earthquake to take preventive measures against SGBV. UNDP and the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) assisted the Haitian



## Victoria Nwogu, Officer in Charge & Gender-based Violence Specialist, Rule of Law Programme, UNDP Sierra Leone

SGBV remains a legacy of conflict in Sierra Leone. Recent legislation criminalizes SGBV, but due to logistical, technical, and linguistic barriers and the continuation of customary law in many localities, victims of SGBV have difficulty gaining redress.

Approximately 70 percent of the population use Local Courts or Chief's Courts which often do not apply national laws or meet acceptable human rights standards.

Since 2009, Victoria Nwogu, a Nigerian trained in law, has managed the UNDP Access to Justice project which helps victims of SGBV. Prior to joining UNDP, Victoria worked with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in Nigeria and Liberia on elections, governance, migration, and trafficking of women.

Victoria helps train officials of local courts, police prosecutors, civil society organizations (CSOs), and specialised police units that deal with SGBV on methods of bringing cases effectively to prosecution, and monitoring the activities of the formal and informal justice system. The formal justice system in Sierra Leone has limited reach with courts concentrated in three towns. A priority for Victoria is to assist CSOs to provide grants to women to cover the costs (for example for transport or medical certificates) of gaining access to these courts. "We need to empower CSOs that have a strong local presence as the main implementing partners." An independent evaluation in 2010 showed that the project has helped CSOs improve their knowledge of gender laws, respond to the needs of victims and their families more effectively, and establish a better working relationship with the family support units.

In collaboration with her team, Victoria works closely with national actors from governance institutions—the judiciary, the police, the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee, and the Human Rights Commission—linking them to CSO representatives of rural communities. "These linkages," she says, "are helping to promote the development of more responsive state policies, accountability for service delivery, and bridging the historical divide between state and society in Sierra Leone." Through these efforts the project has brought formal justice services to deprived rural areas and strengthened the administration of customary justice by training and monitoring personnel. This helps align their conduct with national law and international human rights standards. To date, there has been a 50 percent increase in reporting of SGBV offences to CSOs funded by the project, and a 141 percent increase in conviction for SGBV offences.

Victoria's work engages UNDP and media organizations in dialogue to determine how the media can advocate against and report responsibly on SGBV. Victoria trains journalists, studies incidents reported in newspapers, shares them with relevant partners for their follow-up, and helps develop guidance for media and incentives for journalists who report on SGBV, such as awards and fellowships.

Victoria is highly encouraged by the visible impact of the project. "The fact that women are now able to come out and report rape is a great motivation." Impunity with respect to rape and SGBV has dropped dramatically. "Nowadays it is very gratifying to see much more cooperation of the legal system, their willingness to apply standards and protect the laws. We're not there 100 percent but it gives you willingness to engage further."

National Police to establish special police groups for surveillance in sites for IDPs. This activity reduced the number of cases of SGBV.

The UN Task Force on Gender-Based Violence in Kosovo, led by UNDP, improves coordination to prevent and respond to SGBV. UNDP supported the development of the draft law on domestic violence. It provided technical assistance in Timor-Leste for the same purpose. In Iraq, the shelter policy for the Kurdistan Regional Government for SGBV survivors was drafted and has undergone consultations, while a Domestic Violence Bill draft is awaiting approval.

In Central America, UNDP contributed to the integration of gender related issues in all regional initiatives on violence reduction that have been endorsed by national authorities.

**Increased Gender-responsive Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration**

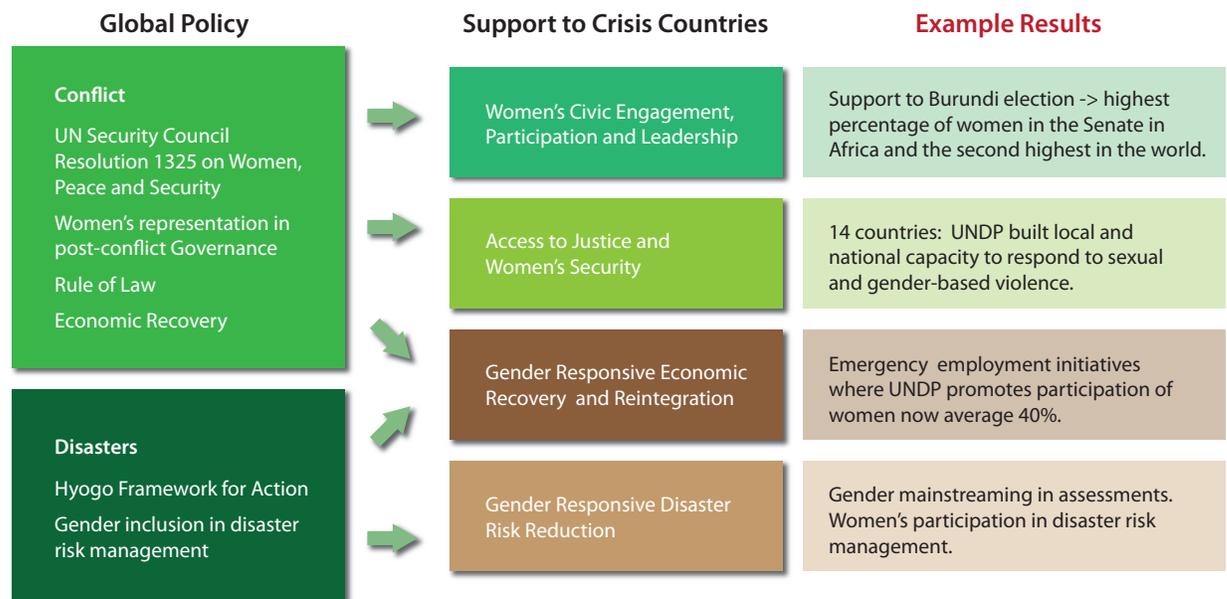
UNDP helped create viable job opportunities for 7,340 female ex-combatants and women associated with armed forces and groups in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kosovo, Nepal, the Republic of Congo, Sudan and Uganda.

In the Republic of Congo, UNDP supported the economic integration of 1,056 female ex-combatants (out of 3,000 estimated in the country). This was done using a community-based approach to reintegration that identified market opportunities, used revolving microcredit, and included monitoring and counselling services.

**Increased Support to Gender-responsive DRR Programming**

Women are often affected more seriously by disasters than men. UNDP promotes the use of gender analysis to differentiate women's risks, impacts and needs from those of men and encourages women's participation and leadership. In Pakistan, a UNDP-led consultation conducted in the aftermath of the floods utilized gender disaggregated data including specific MDG indicators. These data are currently being used in the national recovery programme. In addition, as a result of the consultation, more than 50 female governmental, non-governmental, and private sector representatives participated in the planning and delivery of road construction and protection of slopes to avoid landslides.

**Women's Empowerment in Crisis**





UNDP/PAPP

*Fadwa (left), is enjoying an education for the first time in 26 years. The wood crafting skills she is being taught as part of a UNDP-supported initiative in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, will allow her to earn money to support her husband and seven children.*

In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UNDP supported the Crisis Management Centre (CMC), which established a Gender Team mandated to promote and ensure gender equality and to address the needs of vulnerable groups (including women) before, during and after crises.

**Increased Gender-responsive Economic Recovery and Reintegration**

UNDP supports initiatives that bridge the gap between women’s immediate assistance needs and longer term economic recovery by increasing the number of emergency jobs and employment made available to them.

The Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP) in the occupied Palestinian territory has enabled UNDP to assist 18,652 people become wage-earners in agricultural enterprises and community based organizations. Over 200 new graduates (60 percent female) received skills training in management, community development and livelihood recovery and were placed in various NGOs, community-based organizations and government departments for periods up to 15 months.