next generation women, peace and security:
case studies on women’s inclusion
Lokshari Kunwar is a journalist active in the Kailali district of Nepal covering issues of gender-based violence. She is the winner of the 2018 N-Peace Award Untold Stories Nepal.
n-peace network

N-Peace is a multi-country network of peace advocates in Asia seeking to advance women, peace and security (WPS). It supports women’s leadership for conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding, and promotes the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, and the broader WPS agenda.

Rolled out in 2010, N-Peace is active in Afghanistan, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

The N-Peace network plays four key roles:

- It convenes dialogues between civil society, government and other key stakeholders on policies related to women, peace and security
- It builds capacity of women-peace advocates to advance WPS priorities, and broaden country and regional advocacy on the WPS agenda
- It facilitates knowledge-sharing of best practices in implementing UNSCR 1325 between peacebuilders
- It advocates for women’s engagement in peace and security, bringing to light stories of leadership and resilience.

In 2018, the N-Peace initiative launched the civil society small grants component to strengthen civil society action in some of the most remote and isolated peacebuilding contexts in the above countries. The pilot awarded small grants to 21 civil society organizations which resulted in approximately 8,474 direct beneficiaries.

This inaugural publication of Next Generation Women, Peace and Security: Case Studies on Women’s Inclusion chronicles how women and gender activists from N-Peace are using social innovation to respond to ongoing conflict and peacebuilding contexts, whilst rising to address emerging conflict concerns. Touching on all four key components of N-Peace, their work is fortifying gender equality from grassroots to international levels.

n-peace awards

The N-Peace Awards is the central component of the initiative. Launched in 2011, the awards are aim to give visibility to women, peace and security advocates at local, national, regional and international levels. Since the launch of the initiative over 70 advocates have been awarded. Early results of a sample survey of previous awardees conducted in 2018, found that 66.7% reported being included in formal and informal peace processes after winning the award, and 86% reported greater visibility for their work.

In 2018, online voting for individual awards saw 7,947 registered voters, from whom 5,557 cast verified votes from 98 countries.

Overall, N-Peace saw an increase in public participation across online spaces with Twitter #NPeaceAwards, achieving nearly 20 million timeline deliveries.

According to the Women, Peace and Security Index (2018) countries in South Asia overall scored below the global index expressing negligible numbers of women in decision making. N-Peace network members, including the 2018 awardees, have been working towards ameliorating the current baseline for participation. Highlights of their work are detailed in the following pages.
Habiba Sarabi, N-Peace Awardee (2016) and Deputy Chairperson of the High Peace Council, was part of a delegation of women leaders that addressed the United Nations Security Council on the importance of including women in the peace process.

Mary Akrami, N-Peace Awardee (2018) and Wazhma Frogh, Founder of the CSO Grant selected Women & Peace Studies Organization, launched the Twitter campaign #AfghanWomenWillNotGoBack – a campaign that captured online WPS advocacy globally and garnered international news media attention.

The four N-Peace Awardees from Afghanistan (2018) were featured on BBC Pashto for their efforts in promoting gender equality.

Mira Kusumarini was awarded the N-Peace Award (2018) for her gendered responsive approach to Rehabilitation and Reintegration of women returnees and deportees. Her work aims to build resilience of communities through comprehensive understanding of the gender dynamics behind violent extremism.

Suraiya Kamaruzzaman, 2012 Awardee, was profiled for protests in relation to this Bill. The PKW Bill has not yet been passed, but serves to address legal vacuum by broadening the scope of sexual harassment as a gendered crime.

At the UN Security Council meeting on mediation, Mossarat Qadeem, N-Peace Awardee 2016, spoke of the importance of investments in women’s meaningful participation.

Samira Gutoc-Tumawis, N-Peace Awardee (2018) announced her candidacy for Senator and accepted the nomination of civil society groups to be part of the opposition’s Senate slate.

Valentina Sagala, 2015 Awardee was featured on international news outlets giving commentary on the introduction of the draft Law on Elimination of Violence Against Women (commonly referred to as the PKW Bill).

A commission was formed for the protection of minority rights. Rubina Feroze Bhatti, 2015 Awardee, was selected to be a member of the fourteen person commission.

### Location, Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Awardees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>March 2018</td>
<td>Habiba Sarabi, N-Peace Awardee (2016) and Deputy Chairperson of the High Peace Council, was part of a delegation of women leaders that addressed the United Nations Security Council on the importance of including women in the peace process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>December 2018</td>
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<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>2019</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Indonesia</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>August 2018</td>
<td>Mossarat Qadeem speaks at the UN Security Council meeting on mediation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>October 2018</td>
<td>Samira Gutoc-Tumawis, N-Peace Awardee (2018) announces her candidacy for Senator.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>November 2018</td>
<td>Habiba Sarabi and Deputy Chairperson of the High Peace Council, attend a delegation of women leaders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Suraiya Kamaruzzaman, 2012 Awardee, was profiled for protests in relation to this Bill. The PKW Bill has not yet been passed, but serves to address legal vacuum by broadening the scope of sexual harassment as a gendered crime.</td>
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The N-Peace Civil Society Organization (‘CSO’) Small Grants were rolled out to all N-Peace participating countries in 2018, off the success of the pilot projects (2016) run in Indonesia and Nepal.

N-Peace received 57 proposals, from which 47 were cleared for online voting after thorough due diligence of the institutional capacity of the organizations to implement proposed projects. 2,937 verified votes were cast from 69 countries.

The implemented Women, Peace and Security orientated projects had approximately 8,474 direct beneficiaries.

**Afghanistan**

Afghanistan is taking steps to increase women’s participation in accordance with UNSCR 1325 and its National Action Plan on Women and Security. As of 2018, women only make up 10.3% of the decision makers in public administration, and there has been an approximate 5% decrease in the number of women members of the High Peace Council since 2016. The 2018-2019 peace talks have only comprised of between 2% to 15% of women. In some of the most remote and inaccessible parts of Afghanistan, support has been provided by N-Peace for civil society to address inclusion at all levels, through engagement of civil society and gender equality advocates.

**WOMEN & PEACE STUDIES ORGANIZATION (WPSO)**

**Category:** Local Level Initiatives  
**Direct beneficiaries:** 80  
**Indirect beneficiaries:** 857

Women and Peace Studies Organization (WPSO), an institution founded with the aim of increasing women’s inclusion in Afghanistan, conducted research on women’s leadership conditions in Provincial Peace Councils (PPCs) in Herat, Kapisa, Parwan and Panjshir. Before the programme the gender representation in PPCs for all 34 provinces of Afghanistan was 750 men and 87 women.

This represents an increase of the 2012 proportion of 70 women in PPCs across the country. WPSO conducted pilot assessment of barriers towards inclusion of women in this forum in four provinces in Herat, Kapisa, Parwan and Panjshir.

**Anchored on the theory of change:**

“While WPSO conducts an assessment on meaningful participation of female Provincial Peace Committee members in the provincial peace process, then the recommendations will contribute to development of policies to take further action in ensuring meaningful participation.”
WPSO conducted interviews and focus group discussions with 80 PPC members on structural barriers to women’s participation. The resulting desk review and collation of data was shared with the High Peace Council and government actors in the form of recommendations. Overall the assessment revealed the interconnectedness and interdependence of peace, development and social justice in addressing women’s inclusion in Afghanistan; stating the following key barriers:

- Security continues to be the main concern for women who want to actively participate in policy making. The presence of armed forces from different conflict actors restricts women’s mobility and impacts participation. Women PPC members from the Northern Provinces of Kapisa and Parwan relayed that increased violence has led to less women taking an active role in peace and development, as they are under personal threat.

- A lack of access to technical skills and governance structures was further noted with geographical factors directly linked to socio-economic development and access to justice.

- The prevailing patriarchal society makes it difficult to vindicate women’s human rights.

RADIO AZAD

**Category:** Local Level Initiatives

**Direct beneficiaries:** 990

**Indirect beneficiaries:** approximately 500,000 (Listeners in Balkh Province)

Radio Azad, an Afghanistan radio station broadcasting primarily in Balkh Province, implemented a project which created radio programming on women’s rights and entitlements, with the aim that awareness would result in more women and girls claiming their rights.

Radio Azad launched a two-week campaign between 15 September 2018 and 1 October 2018 focused on Women, Peace and Security. During this period, six different one-minute-long promotional trailers were produced and broadcast several times a day. Given the success of this campaign, Radio Azad continued producing the one-minute long shorts through the grant period. A total of 30 shorts was produced by the 15th of February 2019. The shorts were centred around women’s legal rights in Afghanistan, international accords on Women, Peace and Security as well as religious orders and their impact on gender equality.

Live roundtable discussions were further held inviting multiple stakeholders to debate various aspects of women’s security and gender empowerment. Aired every Tuesday between 2-3 pm (local time), over thirty episodes were produced with participants including local government, academics, human rights activists and women’s organizations and Mullahs (religious leaders). This radio programme had a public engagement component which invited members of the public to participate.

PUBLIC AWARENESS TIME HOUR ORGANIZATION (PATH-O)

**Category:** Youth Led Initiatives

**Direct beneficiaries:** 1,893

Public Awareness Time Hour Organization (PATH-O) works to create an enabling environment for youth to actively participate in community development. Registered in Kabul, but operating primarily in remote northern provinces in Afghanistan, PATH-O was selected for the N-Peace CSO Small Grants for its project to mobilize youth groups in Faryab Province for Women, Peace and Security advocacy through the electoral process and other democratic participation activities. With the aim of ensuring that women were included in the provincial elections of 2018, the project model was designed around 5 main activities: coordination with stakeholders including local government, school administrations, youth groups and Peace Councils, capacity building and training, and finally youth mobilization.
PATH-O selected 9 schools in Maimana city to conduct this project and the gender disaggregated data for participation in the programme was as per the diagram below.

### BENEFICIARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SR</th>
<th>GROUPS</th>
<th>DIRECT BENEFICIARIES</th>
<th>TOTAL SCHOOLS</th>
<th>STUDENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>STUDENTS</td>
<td>TEACHERS</td>
<td>FEMALE</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gawhar Shad Begum Higher Secondary School</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1600</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sitara Higher Secondary School</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2470</td>
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<td>Afghan Kot Higher Secondary School</td>
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<td>Karte Sulh Higher Secondary School</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Mawlana Amrullah Higher Secondary School</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ali Obaid Jawzi High Secondary School</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Khat Khana High Secondary School</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1240</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Tajrobawi Arab Khana High Secondary School</td>
<td>180</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Amir Ali Shir Nawai Higher Secondary School</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Peace Council Members</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Direct Beneficiaries</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Indirect Beneficiaries</td>
<td>975</td>
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</table>

Over 1,600 students from different high schools were mobilized in a campaign in support of youth participation in Faryab Provincial Elections, and for women candidates to be meaningfully considered for electoral posts through the #GoToVote street and online campaign.

### Afghanistan Impact Analysis

Overall the organizations working in Afghanistan had approximately 2,163 direct beneficiaries, in spite of operations being frequently disrupted due to security concerns. Implementing projects in some of the most isolated areas of Afghanistan, the impact of the organizations was at grassroots level and national levels.

The combination of the mass media through Radio Azad meant that a broader pool of indirect beneficiaries were realized particularly in Balkh Province. Models engaging youth groups in women’s empowerment discussions had a positive effect with the 2018 elections in Afghanistan seeing the highest number of female candidates in recent history – over 400 women.
Indonesia

Indonesia has over 75 ethnic groups and 240 different religions, across 17,000 islands. Over the last decade, growing tensions have migrated from subnational communal violent conflicts, to broader religious friction. In this changing landscape, Women, Peace and Security efforts are aligned with improving participation and developing community resilience against violent extremism and the impact of this form of conflict on women and girls.

Natural Aceh is an organization based in Banda Aceh, Indonesia. Under the N-Peace grant, Natural Aceh implemented a project to impact Aceh legislation to ensure that conflict and disaster affected women with disabilities are included in public forums. With the view of strengthening the tabled Bill to strengthen women’s participation (MUSRENA), Natural Aceh galvanized the support from civil society through its networks to successfully advocate for the passing of the Banda Aceh Mayor’s Regulation No. 1/2019, which makes provision for accessibility measures to decrease the physical and social obstacles faced by differently abled women - particularly in government infrastructure and public forums.

Broadly stated the activities included consultations with local non-governmental organizations (NGO) on data categories to assess the levels of data that State actors use in the development of policies. From this analysis Natural Aceh identified data points that were points of concern and convened workshops and trainings with 24 women’s rights organizations and focus groups discussions with local government officials under the theme: Inclusion of Marginalized Women in Decision-Making.

According to the focus group discussions, consultations and data assessment, it was noted that women with disabilities are often marginalized and report physical and social barriers to access to decision making forums. Media and street campaigns were then organized around advocating for strengthening of the Banda Aceh MUSRENA – a tabled Bill, to include provisions that would lead to increased participation of disabled women. A television campaign on 'Disabilities and conflict affected women’s rights' was organized to support the radio programming advocacy. The radio programs were aired in all 4 districts of Aceh on Serambi News Radio.

Natural Aceh’s seminars with government served as a mediation forum between officials, civil society and women populations living with disabilities. The public made submissions for the drafting of the Mayor’s Regulation No. 1/2019, and local officials expressed a lack of data on disabilities – a task that Natural Aceh and the network of civil society committed to provide support.

THE ASIAN MUSLIM ACTION NETWORK (‘AMAN INDONESIA’)

AMAN Indonesia was awarded two grants based on two independent proposals – one for strengthening capacity for participation of girls in Indonesia, and the other for a multi-country initiative which used inter-faith dialogues as a means to address regional peace concerns in Myanmar and Sri Lanka. Both programs used interfaith methodologies to foster social cohesion.

With the objective of promoting UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security, AMAN Indonesia received 142 applications from girls from different islands in Indonesia, from which 46 were selected. Aptly named ‘Girl Ambassadors for Peace’ and based on a module developed by 10 experts, the 3 week camp provided training on the aforementioned security council resolutions, identified the issues faced by young women and girls from diverse backgrounds, and further provided a venting clinic which acted as a safe space to share experiences of gender-based violence, provide sexual reproductive health education, and mental health support.

As Ambassadors for Peace, the young women were encouraged to start similar projects. Outcome monitoring revealed that various initiatives by the girls have already been initiated which include:

- Using fashion to bring visibility to issues of violence against women, one of the alumni has begun production line of T-shirts; and

- Another alumni has begun to facilitate tolerance and peace building lessons for approximately 150 children a week at her local mosque every Friday.
Like all situations of conflict, violence in Myanmar has resulted in detrimental and differentiated impacts on the rights of women and girls. Despite the positive step Myanmar has taken, the National Action Plan on Resolution 1325 is yet to be developed and women have a limited voice at all levels of the current peace process. Women’s activists and organizations play an active role in ensuring that women’s experiences and expertise are included in peacebuilding processes. N-Peace 2018 Awardee, Cynthia Maung, has been working at the Thai-Myanmar border, providing emergency and maternal healthcare for refugees, displaced persons and surrounding communities.

MYANMAR

Selected organizations from Indonesia worked primarily on the participation pillar of the UNSCR 1325, with Natural Aceh’s activities touching on protection of women with disabilities. AMAN Indonesia’s interfaith methodology for participation of young women and girls galvanized peace ambassadors who have already begun work creating community resilience to conflict and extremism. Their work is set to create a framework for peace engagement in the region, as will be illustrated in the following section (Myanmar).

Support provided by Natural Aceh in facilitating public discussions on women with disabilities in Banda Aceh and nationwide, and further linking various civil society networks to provide data assisted with the passing of official regulation.

THE ASIAN MUSLIM ACTION NETWORK (‘AMAN INDONESIA’)

Category: Cross-Border/Multi-Country Initiative

Direct beneficiaries: approximately 50

AMAN Indonesia used the methodology of interfaith dialogues to facilitate an expert group meeting of delegates from Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines and representatives from ASEAN to share on how this methodology can be used to respond to the growing threat of violent extremism. The aim of the meeting was to create a framework for different peace actors to respond to concerns about the Women, Peace and Security situation in Myanmar. From the discussions with civil society, government and academics, the organization compiled a set of recommendations which included:

• The need to engage community leaders with this methodology to build religious tolerance at a grassroots level;
• Commitment by institutes to conduct collaborative studies on the intersections between conflict, its effects on gender and the use of interfaith dialogues as a method of negotiating peace; and
• Regional collaboration by civil society to advocate for methodology.

MYANMAR IMPACT ANALYSIS

Efforts were focused on protection and prevention pillars of the UNSCR 1325 and the broader Women, Peace and Security Agenda. The regional interfaith dialogue as well as the work of the Mae Tao clinic, is affected by the migration of people outside Myanmar. Though the number of direct beneficiaries is relatively low, the interfaith methodology does have the potential to be fortified as a framework of engagement for ongoing and future conflict in the region.
Nepal

Nepal was the first country in South Asia to launch a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 in February 2011. In 2018, Nepal realized 33% proportion of women with seats in the National Assembly, achieving the constitutionally mandated quota. With the move to the federal system in Nepal’s work has been focused on identifying areas that require amelioration for successful implementation of the next phase of the plan.

DIGO BIKASH SAMAJ

Category: Local Level Initiatives - Nepal

Direct beneficiaries: 2,587
Indirect beneficiaries: approximately 15,000

Digo Bikash Samaj worked on the creation of community action groups for advocacy of women’s participation in local politics in Kailali District, Nepal. Through the training of local village leaders (‘Bhalmana’) on Women, Peace and Security, DBS formed ten community action groups each with several identified Peace Accelerators who worked as community mediators. Two cases of polygamy were mediated by the Peace Accelerators with support from the Community Action Groups, and one case of intended child marriage was intercepted and mediated by the community.

The media mobilization component of this project garnered the most community engagement, with the open air street dramas on violence against women had approximately 889 viewers who signed in for the performances. Youth engagement and sharing of short stories on domestic violence and discrimination also saw high engagement, and efforts of DBS expanded beyond the action groups, with the commissioning of radio jingles on women’s constitutional rights on Radio Trisakti FM (est. 15,000 listeners).

During the project period, five women were elected as Bhalmana committee members, and there was an increase in the number of women in the Joshipur rural municipality’s road construction consortium.

CONDUCTED ACTIVITIES

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<tr>
<th>S.N.</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>PARTICIPANT</th>
<th>REMARK</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>FEMALE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Workshop meeting with government</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Community Action Group Formation</td>
<td>54</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Leadership Training</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Peace Accelerator Recruit</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>CAG mobilization</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Group mobilization training</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Street Drama</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Radio Jingle</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Story Writing Competition</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
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</table>
SAMABESHI FOUNDATION

Category: Local Level Initiatives - Nepal
Direct beneficiaries: 148

Samabeshi Foundation implemented a research project to identify the state of inclusion of Dalit women in political office. The study, entitled ‘State and Impact of Dalit Women’s Representation in Federal Parliament and Provincial Assemblies: A Survey,’ assessed the current local, provincial and federal laws on inclusion of Dalits and women against the current state of representation in provincial and federal assemblies.

A questionnaire prepared in consultation with civil society, researchers, activists and Members of Parliament was shared with 50 political leaders from different houses of Parliament. The findings were collated by researchers and presented as a research book, launched with the support of the Minister of Women, Children and Senior Citizens. The following were the key findings:

- Quota vs electoral systems: minority groups often enter into office based on the quota system rather than through the electoral process. With factors such as caste, socio-economic status and religion being taken into consideration;
- Despite making up 13.6% of the population, Dalits only make up approximately 8% of the House Representatives;
- Training of Dalit women leaders were identified as still being an obstacle with 55% of the respondents stating that they were not fully informed of their roles and responsibilities as MPs. This affected confidence and perception of whether individual members could play a significant role in terms of legislative and policy change – 65% of women voiced that they could not compared to 27% of male respondents; and
- Other challenges included lack of economic and family support, and negative perceptions of Dalits in their constituencies.

FKWDF was founded by N-Peace Award winner (2015), Kaushila Chaudhary with the aim of providing support to former women bonded labourers (‘Kamaiya and Kamlahri’). Through the project implemented mobilized former women bonded labourers as human rights defenders on women’s security in their communities. Due to the high incidence of issues of child marriage, domestic violence and exclusion of former Kamaiya and Kamlhari women from government – the human rights defenders took a permeating multi-sectoral approach to influence changes in policy on the ground.

From the initial 32 women who were trained from different civil society organizations and local officials in Dhangadhi sub-metropolitan city, 12 networks were formed across Kailali district, 165 human rights defenders on women’s rights were identified and a further 553 were trained through their networks.

The network is institutionalized through collaboration with district government officials, local police, the media and non-profit organizations (58). The network currently works with newly formed judicial committees on gender responsive decisions under their jurisdiction.

Recognizing the formation of the judicial committee as a political process, one of the challenges experienced by network members was to ensure the strengthening of the rule of law and create environment of ‘social harmony’ while navigating political and judicial landscapes.

Through local newspapers and online news sources, FKWDF shared messages about their work in Kailali, in hopes that this would bring substantive changes to the gendered issues that former women bonded labourers continue to face.

SAMABESHI FOUNDATION

Category: Local Level Initiatives - Nepal
Direct beneficiaries: 768

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From the initial 32 women who were trained from different civil society organizations and local officials in Dhangadhi sub-metropolitan city, 12 networks were formed across Kailali district, 165 human rights defenders on women’s rights were identified and a further 553 were trained through their networks.

The network is institutionalized through collaboration with district government officials, local police, the media and non-profit organizations (58). The network currently works with newly formed judicial committees on gender responsive decisions under their jurisdiction.

Recognizing the formation of the judicial committee as a political process, one of the challenges experienced by network members was to ensure the strengthening of the rule of law and create environment of ‘social harmony’ while navigating political and judicial landscapes.

Through local newspapers and online news sources, FKWDF shared messages about their work in Kailali, in hopes that this would bring substantive changes to the gendered issues that former women bonded labourers continue to face.

SAMABESHI FOUNDATION

Category: Local Level Initiatives - Nepal
Direct beneficiaries: 148

Samabeshi Foundation implemented a research project to identify the state of inclusion of Dalit women in political office. The study, entitled ‘State and Impact of Dalit Women’s Representation in Federal Parliament and Provincial Assemblies: A Survey,’ assessed the current local, provincial and federal laws on inclusion of Dalits and women against the current state of representation in provincial and federal assemblies.

A questionnaire prepared in consultation with civil society, researchers, activists and Members of Parliament was shared with 50 political leaders from different houses of Parliament. The findings were collated by researchers and presented as a research book, launched with the support of the Minister of Women, Children and Senior Citizens. The following were the key findings:

- Quota vs electoral systems: minority groups often enter into office based on the quota system rather than through the electoral process. With factors such as caste, socio-economic status and religion being taken into consideration;
- Despite making up 13.6% of the population, Dalits only make up approximately 8% of the House Representatives;
- Training of Dalit women leaders were identified as still being an obstacle with 55% of the respondents stating that they were not fully informed of their roles and responsibilities as MPs. This affected confidence and perception of whether individual members could play a significant role in terms of legislative and policy change – 65% of women voiced that they could not compared to 27% of male respondents; and
- Other challenges included lack of economic and family support, and negative perceptions of Dalits in their constituencies.

Province Wide Participation of Dalits

This graph provides a visual depiction of province wide participation of Dalit Provincial Assembly members against the total Province members.

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- Despite making up 13.6% of the population, Dalits only make up approximately 8% of the House Representatives;
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- Other challenges included lack of economic and family support, and negative perceptions of Dalits in their constituencies.
SDCC had the project aim of increasing the capacity of the newly formed judicial committees in responding to domestic and sexual violence cases, and strengthening the institutional capacity of local officials to respond to issues affecting women in Parsa district, Nepal.

Engaging 55 local officials from Jira Bhawani Rural Municipality, SDCC conducted workshops on gender responsive budgeting. The organization further lobbied for and prepared the 2018-2019 budget for the municipality under the guidance of resource officials from the trainings. Five social contracts were signed by the chairs of the five wards to refrain from discriminating against marginalized community members, cultivating a culture of peace and further ensuring that enabling environments for gender equality are fostered within their communities.

Members of the judicial committee were trained on decision making that takes into account the Constitutionally mandated principles of gender equality and women’s empowerment. With the judicial committees often chaired by Deputy Mayors, SDCC’s training extended to DMs in three municipalities: Parsagadgi, Jira Bhawani and Sakhuwa Parshauni. All twenty-six Deputy Mayors identified for the training were women leaders from different ethno-religious and political backgrounds. This led to the formation of the Deputy Mayor’s Club, a platform to provide training and mentorship support in their representative roles.

The pivot of the project - the judicial committees - saw some improvement with three gender-specific matters adjudicated on child marriage and domestic violence and divorce claims.

Nepal Impact Analysis

Responding to the changes in the governance structure and the move to federalism, the selected organizations worked on engaging local, district and federal officials in creation of gender responsive policies to respond to the intersectional challenges in different regions.

The direct beneficiaries in Nepal totalled approximately 3,454. The programming was directed towards ameliorating the qualitative state of women’s empowerment and leadership to support the robust laws in the country on inclusion.

Pakistan

In 2018, Pakistan held its general elections. Despite the limited progress in women attaining seats in the National Parliament, there is a consistent upward trend in women’s contestation on the general seats of the national and provincial assemblies over the last four general elections with 454 women contesting during GE-2018. Additional efforts are required to increase women’s representation on general seats in the parliament. Initiatives working through the N-Peace Small Grants component held mentorship training programmes which connected aspiring women candidates with mentors who either served or still serve in the National Assembly. The aim is to increase participation to beyond 2012 levels, when women held 22.5% of national parliamentary seats.

Peace & Justice Network (‘PJN’)

Category: Local Level Initiatives - Pakistan
Direct beneficiaries: 177

Peaceland Justice Network is a Lahore based organization that works to promote the principles of SDG 16 to promote peaceful and inclusive society for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. PJN’s implemented project aimed to strengthen legal and policy institutions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The ethos of PJN is that structural inequalities in different sectors contribute to overall gender inequality. The aim of the project was to build capacity of women local representatives to enhance women’s political participation in the decision-making process, so that they would be further empowered to take up women’s issues in their tehsil (‘council’).

In order to achieve its aims, PJN proposed and implemented a holistic programme anchored on the training of women councillors, which included:

1. Conducting a needs assessment leading to the formulation of a training manual on women, peace and security advocacy, gender empowerment, and dispute resolution in political and legal spaces;
2. A six-day training of 177 women councillors from 169 village and neighbourhood councils;
3. Development of a referral directory for District Haripur for use by government officials and service providers; and
4. The setting up of a legal aid clinic.
With assistance from PIN, women councillors filed 676 of the initially planned 720 cases with relevant government bodies. The aim of this exercise was not only to map out the cross section of issues facing women and girls in District Haripur, but also to provide the trained women councillors with the skills to approach certain ministries with difficulties faced by constituents.

Girls’ education is at the forefront of concerns making up 24% of the total of the cases filed. Concerns were primarily the lack of high school education for girls in many villages and neighbourhoods, with some such as Padhana, Khablubat township and Banda Mughal reporting that there was no middle school education for girls. The need for a vocational school was reported across the 26 districts in the province. Impediments to education were further linked to the availability of sanitation services at local schools. Fourteen percent of the representatives cited sanitation as a key issue, with some mentioning that sanitation services at high and middle schools were a cause for concern.

Access to social services included services to widows and female-headed households and access to community parks and child-care. Unpaid care work elements were added to this matrix as it was noted that women are the primary carers for young children and the elderly. There were a few reports of the impact of the dowry system on girls which were also factored into this matrix.

Women’s access to health services made up 11% of the cases filed with access to a gynaecologist, and maternal healthcare being a common concern. Access to a medical dispensary was also factored in. Akin to security and access to legal services, the need for female staff was a common theme.

Infrastructure remained a recurring issue and impeded the overall achievement of the quantitative targets. Out of the 180 goal of women leaders trained, PIN achieved 177, and out of the planned 720 cases filed, PIN achieved 676. The respondents who were unable to participate in these activities cited poor road and transport systems as impediments to participation. The resources developed through this project, nevertheless, will be scaled up and have been presented to the Provincial Secretary for Local Government for adoption in all 26 districts.

SOCIETY FOR MOBILIZING ADVOCACY AND JUSTICE (‘SMAAJ’)
Category: Local Level Initiatives – Pakistan
Direct beneficiaries: 189

SMAAJ operates in Jafferabad, Balochistan to address issues of gender-based violence which have led to honour killings. In 2017, Balochistan passed the Balochistan Commission on the Status of Women Act which increases protection of women’s security rights by strengthening reporting, monitoring and redress mechanisms particularly in instances of violence and personal security infringements. Pakistan continues to report some of the highest statistics related to honour killings and violence against women on the basis of ‘dishonourable conduct’, referred to as kari.

SMAAJ implemented a project to change the perceptions of citizens in Balochistan to eliminate the practice through curated counselling sessions for victims and the community as well as the formation of activist networks to monitor and report instances of the practice. Over the grant period SMAAJ conducted 15 counselling sessions with 159 women beneficiaries, and formed 5 women’s activist groups in the following villages: Dhani Nakhsh Khosa, Faqir Ghulam Muhammad Khosa, Mubh Ali Khosa, Murad Colony and Zaffar Ali Khosa. From these sessions and the meetings of the activist groups a toolkit was developed for community member mediation response to instances of honour killings. Acknowledging the link between disenfranchisement of women in the decision making process and violence, an IEC toolkit was also developed to empower more women to run for elections.

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Achievements of Quantitative Targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Achieved</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SMAAJ</td>
<td>Women leaders trained</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Planned cases</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>676</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Local and national government ministries, human rights organizations and CSOs reviewed the toolkits, and further signed a Memorandum of Understanding to end acid attacks and honour killings against women in Balochistan. SMAAJ has been invited to review forthcoming regulations and draft Bill to strengthen the implementation of the Balochistan Commission on the Status of Women Act.

UMANG DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (‘UDF’)
Category: Local Level Initiatives – Pakistan
Direct beneficiaries: 497

UDF identified 5 local communities in Lahore for the implementation of the ‘Peace for Women’ project. The aim was to create a safe space for women to share their own insights on gender based violence, and sensitize the community on legal instruments available to women such as the Punjab Protection of Women Violence Act and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Through the Agahe Bethak UDF conducted sensitization sessions for approximately 516 women in different community clusters. Women action groups were formed in each of the 5 community clusters. The women composed of teachers, health workers and social activities. The 118 women in the action groups were orientated and conducted door to door campaigns in their communities to sensitize the broader population on the rights of women.
In order to strengthen the process by which women vindicate their rights, women in the action groups were further provided with paralegal training so as to be able to provide mediation support where they noted points of friction in their respective communities.

INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND DIPLOMATIC STUDIES (‘IPDS’)  
Category: Cross-Border/Multi Country Initiatives  
Direct beneficiaries: 22

IPDS implemented a project to promote knowledge sharing and support between women leaders from Afghanistan and Pakistan. Entitled ‘Afghanistan and Pakistan – Emerging Young Women Leaders Congress’, the summit 22 women leaders in early and seasoned phases of their careers mobilized to create joint programmes and support networks to respond to new forms of violence in their communities, increase their voices and promote women’s rights.

Two joint initiatives were formed from this meeting – Weave for Peace and #YouArePowerful. Weave for Peace is geared towards providing a digital platform for women in conflict zones to market their products to the global marketplace, refugee camps and IDPs. Upon introducing these products to the global marketplace, the proceeds will be used to facilitate health and education options for conflict affected women.

Tied with the narrative of digital solutions, #YouArePowerful is used on social media spaces to share stories of gender inclusivity and women’s empowerment, primarily targeting younger audiences.

YOUTH ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (‘YAD’)  
Category: Youth-Led Initiatives  
Direct beneficiaries: 202

YAD is an organization operating in Quetta and Balochistan Pakistan. Drawing on the pillars of WPS as articulated in UNSCR 1525, YAD conducted research on the interlinkages between gender discrimination in socio-economic activities and violence against women through honour killings.

In this regard, the research entitled ‘Pathways towards Women’s Peace and Security by ending Honour Killings and Exclusionary Practices’ gathered information from focus group discussions with local government, youth groups and civil society. Over 200 individuals were interviewed, and the results show that the disenfranchisement of women in socio-economic activities and the normalization of violence against women are contributing factors to the growth of intolerance and further exclusion of the marginalized.

YAD has disseminated this research and is currently a part of legislative consultations on how the provisions of the Balochistan Commission on the Status of Women Act can be actively executed to reduce impunity for gender violence. The research has since been awarded the Commonwealth Innovation for Sustainable Development Award for Peace.

YAD research on intersections

‘Pathway Towards Women’s Peace and Security to Fight Against Mass Atrocities, Ending Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity’,

Pakistan Impact Analysis

Lack of women’s participation in policy making and other socio-economic roles was a consistent theme of the work of the selected organizations. This, together with tackling of customs that promote practices such as honour killings, was a topic of community engagement and multi-country network formation.

The programming had 1,087 direct beneficiaries. An analysis of these beneficiaries, nevertheless, reveals the strategic intent of the organizations in making sure that those already in positions of power begin to shift attitudes on women’s empowerment.

As a result, the outputs of the CSO activities reveal changes in policy and legislation at national and local levels. In Lahore, UDF trained influential women in communities as paralegals for mediation, in Balochistan, SMAAJ and YAD are actively working on gender responsive drafting of regulations and policies attached to honour killings and violent extremism, in District Haripur, PIN works with local government to create inclusive environment for women and girls as per SDG 16, and IPDS engages national level politicians on regional WPS advocacy to name a few.
**Philippines**

With the signing of the Bangsamoro Organic Law in July 2018, N-Peace provided support in training of women leaders from indigenous communities in WPS advocacy within this new legal framework. In December 2018, with support from N-Peace, a regional dialogue was held with women mediators in the N-Peace network in ASEAN countries. The women mediators aim to create a regional network which will respond to violent extremism concerns at local levels.

CORDILLEN YOUTH CENTRE (‘CYC’)

**Category:** Youth Led Initiatives

**Direct beneficiaries:** 85

CYC, with support from N-Peace, focused on the documentation of human rights violations related to the WPS Agenda through consultations with women representatives in Abra and Baguio. In November and December 2018, CYC conducted a series of consultations with the national human rights commission in Luzon, Philippines, and filed over a dozen cases with the Commission. The cases detail allegations of indigenous groups being unfairly treated by authorities. The investigations for these cases are ongoing.

In consultation with LGBTI civil society organizations, CYC held two provincial caucuses in Abra and Baguio to sensitize 30 women leaders per meeting and a cross section of activists on the human rights approach to gender, peace and security and create networks to advocate for inclusion.

**ASIA YOUNG INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ NETWORK (‘AYIPN’)**

**Category:** Youth Led Initiatives

**Direct beneficiaries:** 538

AYIPN mobilizes youth groups in Cagayan Valley to advocate for the rights of indigenous women in the region. With support from the N-Peace small grant, the network conducted a series of training workshops to identify and address the intersectional challenges faced by agrarian communities with particular reference to the rights young indigenous women and their access to land tenure. Cagayan Valley contains primarily agrarian communities and land tenure is often not afforded to women.

AYIPN has created networks which raise awareness of the rights of women in the region to participate in decision-making processes, and to also have an active role in the economy as rights-holders. The direct beneficiaries of the two regional trainings and local dialogues were the indigenous communities in Didipio, Nueva Vizcaya, Allacapan and Lal-lo in Cagayan province. 260 young women were identified for the training on electoral processes, and a position paper entitled ‘Provincial Youth Agenda’ was created and presented to legislators in Cagayan Province. From the initial regional trainings on human rights approaches to the democratic process and Women, Peace and Security, an additional 5 new chapters were mobilized in various communities for ongoing advocacy.

In the run up to the Philippines National Mid-term elections, this position paper was further used in network formation and advocacy for women candidates to be elected. This assisted in linking the youth network with national indigenous women’s networks and international forum - International Indigenous Women’s Forum (FIWI).

Akin to CYC, AYIPN assisted the women in their training sessions in drafting affidavits to counter marginalization on the basis of ethnicity and gender identification. These cases were submitted to the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Region 2 - the investigation is ongoing.

KADTABANGA FOUNDATION PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT ADVOCATES, INC. (‘KFPDAI’)

**Category:** Local Level Initiatives

**Direct beneficiaries:** 71

KFPDAI used the grant received by N-Peace to conduct trainings on women’s entitlements as articulated in the Philippines’ National Action Plan on WPS as well as The Bangsamoro Organic Law (BoL), bringing indigenous women’s rights closer to the national conversation on Women, Peace and Security. BoL’s legislation passed in July 2018 establishing the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region; the ratification of which will be determined by a plebiscite vote scheduled to be held between 21 January 2019 and 6 February 2019.

Kadtabanga engaged 71 women leaders in training and focus group discussions with 25 focus group discussions to better understand the application of the National Action Plan at a community level, while giving context to the salient women, peace and security repercussions of The BoL. 45 percent of the participants have committed to lobbying for greater representation of WPS concerns in Mindanao.

An open-air film of the role that women leaders play in Bangsamoro was produced and screened to communities in Mindanao to facilitate broader community engagement.
Philippines Impact Analysis

Youth engagement and the importance of an inclusive, human rights based gender, peace and security framework was the focus of efforts in the Philippines. With 492 direct beneficiaries, organizations worked to increase the capacity of women leaders and youth groups to the changing geo-political and security situation in the Philippines.

Sri Lanka

The constitutional crisis of late 2018, saw N-Peace network members providing support to local and district level women politicians to respond to the root causes of tension in their communities. Currently Sri Lanka does not have a National Action Plan on WPS, however, in 2018, members of the N-Peace Network went on an exploratory mission to Nepal to investigate the strengths and weaknesses of the Nepalese National Action Plan to advocate for a curated Sri Lankan National Action Plan. Policy documents from surveys of women community leaders in Eastern Sri Lanka were also produced to contribute to ongoing discussions on the content of a potential National Action Plan.

TOWARDS RESPONSIVE CITIZENS

Category: Local Level Initiatives – Sri Lanka

Direct beneficiaries: 268

Towards Responsive noted that though the Constitution of Sri Lanka (2015), requires that a third of the parliamentary seats be allocated to women, this quota is not being filled. In order to understand why some women are not running for political office at local levels in areas that were most impacted by the conflict, Towards Responsive has engaged in Focus Group Discussions with women political leaders and community members in the Eastern Province. As a result of the war, the Eastern Province has one of the highest populations of women-headed households in Sri Lanka which has resulted in this region recording skewed gender ratios and increased gender vulnerability. This is illustrated by low remuneration for labour, with women labourers earning distinctly less than men, as well as high instances of sexual violence and disenfranchisement of women’s legal entitlements. Given this context, Towards Responsive is working towards identifying reasons impeding the women’s assumption of decision-making roles. These insights will be drafted and provide the basis for a ‘Womanifesto’ – a policy document aimed at advocating for greater visibility of women. This document will also be used to lobby for a National Action Plan on WPS in Sri Lanka.

ASSOCIATION FOR WAR AFFECTED WOMEN (‘AWAW’)

Category: Cross-Border/ Multi-Country Initiatives

Direct beneficiaries: 75

AWAW works at local, national and international levels to address the root causes of conflict. Using dialogues between military widows of both Sinhalese and Tamil ethnic heritage who share a common set of challenges around marginalization as a framework, AWAW assessed common challenges around forced prostitution, and trafficking in the aftermath of conflict.

With support from N-Peace, the organization went on an exploratory mission to remote areas in Nepal to investigate how women activists and civil society support the development of the Nepalese NAP on WPS and the Nepalese Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Lessons drawn from this mission are aimed to be foundation of an advocacy document to be presented to relevant ministries in Sri Lanka. The document was presented to Members of Parliament and other high ranking officials in Sri Lanka, and efforts to lobby for the adoption of a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. The document details a plan to holistically address women’s security concerns in the Sri Lankan context.

WOMEN’S RESOURCE CENTER (‘WRC’)

Category: Local Level Initiative – Sri Lanka

Direct beneficiaries: 225

The Women’s Resource Center is based in Kurunengala District in Sri Lanka, with the aim of advocating for women’s rights and women’s inclusion in conflict resolution and peace. The organization was awarded the small grant for a community healing project which mobilized military widow and war affected women from different ethnic-religious backgrounds to claim Constitutionally afforded rights through the Right to Information Commission and leadership training of women leaders. Through a project design encompassing storytelling and healing workshops for a cross-section of women reflecting Sri Lanka’s demographic, mobilization of community...
groups and training of women leaders, WRC implemented a project that had 223 direct beneficiaries. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation will be carried out for future scale up and roll out of the programme to the approximately 5,500 war widows and war affected women in Kurunegala.

The key outputs included the successful training of 29 women leaders on gender equality advocacy, high level training on gender responsive policy making for government officials, and the initial phase of inter-ethnic community healing was initiated in Kandy and Kurunegala, with plans to roll out the project to more communities. Initially 21 families filed applications for investigations into enforced disappearances during the sessions.

### Sri Lanka Impact Analysis

**Women, Peace and Security challenges in Sri Lanka** presented multi-focal challenges, which all the organizations responded to by calling for the root causes of the conflict to be addressed with the aim to build an inclusive and sustainable peace.

**Efforts were at local and national levels, with social cohesion concerns at community level being addressed by WRC and Towards Responsive, while AWAW lobbied for a National Action Plan that would permeate across all social structures. There were 566 direct beneficiaries**

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### capacity building and knowledge sharing

Capacity building is one of the four components of N-Peace. The workshops are focused on building knowledge and capabilities for effective WPS advocacy which includes equipping participants with the tools to identify and address WPS gaps in their respective communities. Workshops and trainings are conducted in partnership with the Washington D.C. -based think tank Inclusive Security, based on their curriculum, Women Waging Peace. This is an important component building leadership capacity and ensuring the scalability and sustainability of the initiatives implemented under the small grants component. According to online surveys conducted of previous winners, over 53 percent report greater visibility for their work and increased capacity due to capacity training. In 2018, two capacity building workshops were conducted with support from N-Peace.

In February 2018, during the N-Peace Awards Week the 2017 awardees were trained on lobbying for the launch of National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security. Since this period, an estimated 40 percent of participants have since identified issues relating to Women, Peace and Security and began lobbying for changes in their respective communities. In August 2018, N-Peace hosted a capacity building workshop in support of the CSO Grant awardees. This workshop was focused on training CSOs on Results-Based Management for their then forthcoming projects with N-Peace. Approximately 81.8 percent of CSOs reported that RBM training was highly useful and integrated it into the planning of their projects.

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### engagement and dialogues

In December 2018, with support from N-Peace, a regional dialogue was conducted with women mediators from the N-Peace networks in the ASEAN countries, to discuss and review the need for a CSO women mediators’ network in the region, and to help mediation efforts at the local level especially within the context of violent extremism. As a follow-up to the meeting, UNDP will be working with the group on the next steps, including the possible introduction of a chapter to N-Peace on Women, Peace and Security and mediation.

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*Members of the Association of War Affected Women (AWAW).*
In 2018, 45 percent of overall expenditure supported the civil society small grants. 20 percent was used for capacity building while 15 percent supported the N-Peace Awards.

Each component is implemented to support the overall aim of creating institutional shifts to increase women’s inclusion in decision making roles at all levels. By prioritizing grassroots work through the small grants, N-Peace aims to create substantive changes in the perception of women in both local and provincial levels. The capacity building training was provided to all CSOs and N-Peace Awardees. This further provided the women, peace and security advocates with a forum to engage in shared learning exercises and develop multi-country networks for increased advocacy at a regional level.
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