

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



Women and Girls in Crisis

Key statistics

Overview:

Women make up half of the world's population (more than **3.3 billion people**), yet experience the brunt of the world's poverty, illiteracy, under-representation in public life and decision-making, and sexual and gender-based violence.

Peace building:

Women have comprised only **eight percent** of negotiating delegations in UN-mediated peace processes since 1992 and formed only **two percent** of signatories to peace agreements. A recent review in six post-conflict countries from UNIFEM (now part of UN Women) found on average of just **four percent** of budgets allocated to activities aiming to address women's needs or advance gender equality.

Access to political representation:

Although the global share of women in parliament continues to increase slowly and has reached an all-time high of **19 percent** in 2010, nearly one third of the world's countries only have **10 percent** (or less) of women parliamentarians. The percentage of women in national assemblies is uneven across and within regions, ranging from **12.5 percent** in Arab states and **12.6 percent** in Pacific states to **41.6 percent** in the Nordic countries. Less than **10 per cent** of countries have women heads of state or government.

Poverty:

There is a rise in the number of female-headed households in post-crisis contexts whilst women represent the majority of the unemployed and poor. In crisis and post-crisis contexts, **70 percent** of the world's hungry people are women and girls and **45 per cent** of women in developing countries suffer from anemia and malnutrition. Across the globe, every day about **1,000 women** die because of complications related to pregnancy or childbirth, and more than **30 million** girls are out of school.

Security:

The UN Secretary General's UNiTE to End Violence Against Women Campaign estimates that up to **70 percent** of women will experience violence in their lifetime. Worldwide, it is estimated that **one in five** women will become a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime.

Call to Action

In 2007, UNDP launched an **Eight Point Agenda for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality in Crisis Prevention and Recovery**. The action plan offers a comprehensive approach to address the needs of women and girls in crisis and gives them a voice in the recovery process. This call to action aims to:

1. Strengthen women's security in crisis: Stop violence against women;
2. Advance gender justice: Provide justice and security for women;
3. Expand women's citizenship, participation and leadership: Advance women as decision-makers;
4. Build peace with and for women: Involve women in all peace processes;
5. Promote gender equality in disaster risk reduction: Support men and women to build back better;
6. Ensure that recovery responds to women's needs: Promote women as leaders of recovery;
7. Transform government to deliver for women: Include women's issues on the national agenda; and
8. Develop capacities for social change: Work together to transform society.

UNDP in Action

UNDP has enhanced women's participation and leadership in informal peace processes, alternative community-led conflict mediation and in constitution making.

In **Nepal**, UNDP's support has been instrumental in encouraging women to play a leadership role in the constitution-building process. UNDP supported Constituent Assembly women members to organize its first Women's Caucus. More broadly, UNDP helped organize constitutional dialogue meetings in which more than **41,000** women participated.

In **Nigeria**, UNDP forged a peace agreement mediated by women's groups after violent conflicts took place in the rural agrarian community of Agila in the state of Benue, in Central Nigeria.

In **Fiji**, UNDP supported women's groups and women leaders to establish the first independent platform for dialogue between state officials, members of the military council, and civic organizations since the military-backed advent of the current interim government.

In **Burundi**, UNDP and sister UN agencies worked with the government to encourage women to register, vote, and train to run for elected office. As a result, a historic election in 2010 had **51 percent** of women voters and a total number of women in public offices that exceeded the country's **30 percent** quota for women in council, communal administrator, legislative, and senatorial levels. Burundi now has the highest levels of women in Senate in Africa, and the second highest globally.

UNDP has developed programmes addressing sexual and gender-based violence in countries like **Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, and Kosovo**. In 2010, over **3000** victims of sexual and gender-based violence received direct free or subsidized legal aid from UNDP-funded local partners.



Iraq: Judicial security reforms take aim at gender-based violence: Opening of the new Family Protection Directorate in Baghdad. A representative from Ministry of Human Rights talks with police representatives from Ministry of Interior. (Photo: UNDP)

In **Sierra Leone**, UNDP supported programmes providing legal assistance to **1,879** survivors of sexual and gender-based violence – resulting in **45** convictions (compared to none in 2009).



Haiti: Providing job opportunities and boosting economic activity: Cécile Bélizaire was employed by UNDP's cash-for-work programme. "With the money I received from my work I plan to pay off debts and buy food for my children". Photo: UNDP.

In **Somalia**, where tensions between formal and traditional legal systems often perpetuate gender inequality, UNDP facilitated the establishment of a referral system, through which Clan elders refer cases of gender violence to formal courts, resulting in a **44 percent increase** of referrals compared to 2009 – dealing with **109** cases so far, of which **89** involve minors.

Helping women to help themselves in the wake of disaster or conflict is a crucial step in fostering effective early recovery. It also lays the foundation for more resilient communities capable of driving long-term development.

During the first half of 2010, sustainable livelihoods and viable job opportunities were created for **2,925** female ex-combatants and women associated with armed forces and groups with UNDP support in **Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kosovo, Nepal, the Republic of Congo, Sudan and Uganda**.

In **Honduras**, UNDP programmes provided **440,000 work days of work** for **14,840 men** and **7,340 women** affected by tropical storm Agatha. Participants have benefitted from emergency jobs that have enabled them to start rebuilding their houses, businesses and public infrastructure. The result has been a quicker recovery of the local economies with businesses up and running, social basic services in place and hospitals and schools fully functional again.

For more information, visit: www.undp.org/cpr
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