

Implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in South East Europe, phase I and phase II

Duration: Phase I – three years; Phase II – four years

Dates: Phase I, 2005 – 2008; Phase II, 2008 - 2011

Countries Covered: Kosovo, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina

I. About the Programme:

The development goal of the project is to strengthen democratic governance, and to promote and protect women's human rights in the Western Balkans by advancing the implementation of UNSCR 1325. The project aims at achieving this result through: i) strengthening the capacity of United Nations, regional, international, and national security actors (as duty bearers for fulfillment of women's human rights) to integrate gender perspectives within their institutions and agendas (Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), and sub-regionally); and ii) supporting women as rights holders to claim their rights to participation in peace negotiations and peace-building processes, and to influence the agenda of security actors (Serbia, Kosovo, BiH, and sub-regionally). Currently UNIFEM is implementing *Women Building Peace and Human Security in the Western Balkans: Implementing SCR 1325 – Phase II* (2008 – 2011), which encompasses two broad components: gender-sensitive security sector reform, and women's engagement in peace-building and policy-making processes.

II. Activities and Results:

A. Monitoring the Implementation of UNSCR 1325

- Women's NGOs Kosovo Women's Network (KWN) in Kosovo and Zene Zenama (ZZ) in Bosnia and Herzegovina engaged in an ongoing monitoring of the implementation of UNSCR 1325 since 2004, which has been instrumental in helping to promote gender equality in the security sector. Both reports were launched (respectively the Kosovo report in December 2007 and the BiH report in March 2008) and the recommendations were shared with wide audience. Based on the report's recommendations, in close collaboration with women activists and with the support of UNIFEM, the KWN developed an action plan for furthering the implementation of the UNSCR 1325. A second edition of the KWN's monitoring report was launched in June 2009.

B. Inter-ethnic Dialogue within Kosovo

- Initiation of the inter-ethnic dialogue through women's NGOs LA NORMA (formed by the Association of Women Lawyers in Prishtina) and outreach of Serbian women living isolated and in enclaves. This led to the creation of a *coalition of women*, consisting of Albanian and Serb NGOs and provided support to inter-ethnic peace-building roundtable discussions at central and local levels between Serbian women and members of the Kosovo Institutions.
- Support to the dialogue between Serbian women/Serbian community and Kosovo Police.

C. Support and Capacity-Building of Minority Groups

- Capacity-building of Serbian women's non-governmental organizations in Kosovo, as a means to increase their capacity for coalition-building, self-representation and negotiation. A mapping study on Serbian NGOs in Kosovo, in order to better address their organizational, operational and human capacity development needs. The launch of this mapping study led to the creation of the Kosovo Serbian Women's Network (KSWN).

- Support to the Kosovo Gender Studies Centre (KGSC) as the implementing agency to help the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE) Women's Network (RROGRAEK) to re-establish itself as a formal organization with an agreed upon governance structure and a designated coordinator and to help them in building their capacities for the self-sustainability of the network itself. With KGSC's support, the network was provided inputs to the Kosovo Strategy for RAE, and also to increase public awareness about the work of the network and about the situation of RAE women in Kosovo.

D. Civil Society

- The Kosovo Women's Network (KWN) is one of UNIFEM's traditional partners. The KWN was established in 2000 as an informal network of women's groups and organizations from all over Kosovo. Since its inception, KWN has grown into a key advocacy network on behalf of Kosovar women at the municipal, national, regional and international level. It is now a leading network and represents the interests of more than 85 women's organizations from throughout Kosovo. The Network also includes women's groups of various ethnicities and helps them building their capacity to work effectively on behalf of their communities. In 2002 – 2003 KWN greatly contributed to the development of the Kosovo Action Plan for Achieving Gender Equality, a document that was developed through a year-long participatory process facilitated by UNIFEM. KWN together with women in politics also played a large role in successfully advocating the government of Kosovo to adopt this plan. In partnership with UNIFEM, KWN mobilizes large numbers of NGOs and individual supporters in Kosovo-wide public awareness campaigns on topics such as women's participation in politics, women's health, violence against women, and trafficking, which aim to inform citizens throughout Kosovo – including decision-makers, elected leaders, relevant institutions and civil servants – about the National Programme for Gender Equality, Gender Equality Law, Anti-discrimination Law, Family Law, and UNSCR 1325. Such initiatives helped to: 1) increase Kosovar citizens' awareness of available national and international laws as well as how to realize their rights under these laws; and 2) increase awareness among decision-makers (local and international) on how they can further the implementation of the existing laws and mechanisms.
- UNIFEM supported the NGO Medica Kosovo, in its efforts to amend a Law on Victims of War, which recognized wartime rape victims *in Kosovo* recognized as victims of war and eligible to receive the same public benefits and status as other civilian victims of war.
- In 2007 – 2008 UNIFEM supported capacity building and awareness raising on youth issues in Kosovo by providing technical assistance to the drafting of the Youth National Action Plan (KYAP). UNIFEM also supported the Kosovo Youth Network to undertake a baseline survey on the status of youth and gender equality in Kosovo, to promote gender equality in youth issues and to advocate for an engendered Youth Law and Kosovo Youth Action Plan.

E. Advocacy

- In 2006 UNIFEM's Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman visited Kosovo and, among others, met with women from women's shelters and women activists. On November 26, 2007 UNIFEM, Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman and a large number of partners launched an Internet campaign on ending violence against women today. Titled, "Say NO to Violence against Women", the campaign invites people to add their names to a virtual book on a web site that has been developed specifically for this purpose: www.saynotoviolence.org. Urging hundreds of thousands - even millions - of people around the world to participate, the campaign aims to send a strong message to decision-makers to place ending violence against women high on the global agenda. On November 2008, the "Say No Violence" Petition Signing Ceremony took place in Kosovo.

Among others the petition was signed by: President of Kosovo, the President of Kosovo Parliament, Ministers of Interior, Justice and Energy and Mining.

- In 2009 - 2010 the aim of the same campaign is to undertake as many actions towards the elimination of violence against women as possible. In this regard, UNIFEM's office in Kosovo organized a series of coordination meetings with relevant partners and stakeholders in order to plan and produce a joint calendar of events and activities to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and the 16 Days of Activism 2009 and reaching both women and men across different ethnicities in Kosovo.

F. Security Sector

Another important part of UNIFEM's work with mainstream institutions has been its support to the Security Sector in Kosovo, specifically with the Kosovo Police, the Kosovo Protection Corps and most recently, during phase II, the work with Judiciary.

- **Kosovo Police (KP):**

From 2004 UNIFEM Kosovo supported KP in the creation of a gender architecture comprised of the newly established Human Rights and Gender Equality Unit; Gender Focal points in each station (for grand total of 30 stations); KP internal advisory board on Gender equality; and KP gender equality task force.

Mechanisms to mainstream gender and to integrate a gender perspective into KP's structure were also developed, resulting in an increased number of women occupying high positions within KP; awareness raising of gender, women's human rights, domestic violence, security issues and UNSCR 1325 among staff and general public; an increased collaboration between KP and women NGOs; the development and inclusion of five days mandatory training on Gender Equality, Women's Human Rights and Women's Human Security for all Kosovo Police officers (both newly recruited and for career officers); and the creation of a pool of qualified trainers-police officers to deliver gender training.

Furthermore, UNIFEM supported gender mainstreaming at policy level. As such: the implementation of UNSCR 1325 has been adopted as a mandate for the KP Human Rights and Gender Equality Unit; the gender dimension has been incorporated into the Operational and Procedural Manual of Kosovo Police; a system for regular reporting on gender issues (i.e. domestic violence cases, trafficking in human being cases) through regular internal coordination meetings has been developed; dialogues between police, women, judges, municipal authorities took place, so to identify gaps on implementation of gender based violence policies; and a dialogue initiated between KP and Serbian women's NGOs, resulting in the establishment of a communication channel between KP and the Kosovo Serbian village leaders in Prishtina region.

- **Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC):**

In the period 2005 – 2008 UNIFEM has supported the creation of the gender architecture in KPC leading to the establishment of the Gender Equality Board and the development of regulations governing the Board; the mainstreaming of gender within training curricula; the capacity-building of the Board and the Top Management on UNSCR 1325; the inclusion of a gender dimension into the KPC Resettlement Programme; and the development of an Action plan.

- **Judiciary:**

From December 2008 to January 2009, UNIFEM supported the Kosovo Judges Associations (KJA) to conduct a survey on "The Participation of Women and Minorities in the Justice System in Kosovo" with the aim to collect evidence on the composition of the

justice system (gender, minorities). The findings of the survey were discussed in a participatory manner – through five workshops and a conference – with the aim to develop and submit to relevant authorities and stakeholders in the justice sector recommendations to improve the inclusion of women and minorities into the justice system.

In July 2009, as a follow up to the conference's recommendation, UNIFEM supported the Kosovo Judicial Institute (KJI) to invite groups of judges, prosecutors and lawyers from around the country to participate in the first training on Gender and Justice to discuss international women's human rights frameworks, the laws and the Constitution of Kosovo, and the direct application of CEDAW within the Kosovo legal system. The training was successful in raising awareness on the importance of applying the international human rights standards and norms, including CEDAW and UNSCR 1325 among representatives of judiciary sector, especially considering that, with the exception of few participants, very few people had had any kind of gender training before.

- **Security and Gender Coordination Group (SGCG):**

UNIFEM initiated the establishment of the Security and Gender Coordination Group (SGCG); and chairs and acts as a secretariat of the SGCG. The SGCG is composed of all the UN agencies present in Kosovo, representatives of EULEX, ICOR, and OSCE, as well as Kosovo Police and the Government of Kosovo at Deputy Prime minister level or ministerial level. In June 2009 the SGCG provided a common inputs contribution to the Kosovo Security Strategy.

G. Governmental Institutions

- During 2006 and 2007, UNIFEM supported the Prime Minister Advisory Office for Good Governance (AOGG) to integrate women's human rights into the Human Rights Strategy. In 2008 UNIFEM supported AOGG in the finalization of the Strategy and in organizing a public discussion on the *"Inclusion of Human Rights in Kosovo draft Constitution, with emphasis on Women's Human Rights"*.
- UNIFEM supported the Agency of Gender Equality (AGE) on preparing the CEDAW official report and the Kosovo Gender Study Centre (KGSC) on preparing the CEDAW Shadow Report.
- In June 2009 UNIFEM provided technical assistance to the Agency for Gender Equality in carrying out a capacity development workshop on UN Human Rights Treaty Monitoring System, including the specific application of CEDAW in Kosovo, and the Review Process and Advocacy at the CEDAW Committee for AGE staff and the gender and human rights officers from the relevant line ministries.

H. Regional Programme

- The Kosovo Women's Network (KWN, Prishtina) and Women in Black (WiB, Belgrade) established the Women's Peace Coalition (WPC) to form a cross-border, inter-ethnic women's network for peace and security.
- Women leaders from civil society and politics formed the Regional Women's Lobby for Peace, Security and Justice in South East Europe (RWL), a network of women – including women in high level government positions – that has established an ongoing exchange of experiences, news, and ideas across the region.

- Members of the RWL met with the Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Kosovo, Martti Ahtisaari, and United Nations Security Council members, concerning resolution 1325 and the future status of Kosovo. As a result of these meetings, the draft Security Council resolution on Kosovo based on Mr. Ahtisaari's proposed package, included a direct call for the implementation of UNSCR 1325.
- UNIFEM also supported gender equality advocates in Serbia by providing funding to Women in Black (WiB), Belgrade. WiB is a women's solidarity network for peace and non-violent resistance to violence against women, war, militarism, and nationalism. The activities of WiB are an important contribution to the public debate in the context of Serbian politics. Among other activities, WiB is monitoring war crime trials at the Special Court in Belgrade, Serbia, with the aim of bringing those accused of war crimes committed in Suva Reka, Kosovo, to justice. At the court sessions, WiB communicates with and offers support to the families of victims as a means of facilitating reconciliation. Following the sessions, WiB produces and disseminates reports of the court proceedings to raise awareness and advocate for a change in attitude toward crimes committed in the past. In addition WiB reached out to women throughout Serbia in an initiative to address such topics as Serbian national movements and alternatives for peace and security and was engaged in research on the issue of women, peace and security, which will provide data to use as the basis for its advocacy work surrounding the importance of a secular state.
- Women leaders from the Kosovo Women's Lobby (KWL)¹ and Kosovo Women's Network (KWN) successfully advocated for and achieved quarterly meetings with the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) in Kosovo and gained the inclusion of women in expert working groups that supported the Kosovo negotiation team in talks between Prishtina and Belgrade on Kosovo's status.

III. UNIFEM's Partners:

Kosovo women's Network (KWN), Kosovo Gender Study Centre (KGSC), Serbian Women's Organizations, Kosovo Serbian Women's Network (KSWN), Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE) Women's Network (RROGRAEK), Kosovo Youth Network (KYN), Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN), National Democratic Institute (NDI), Women in Black (WiB), Municipal Majors, Municipal Gender officers and committees, women MPs (Members of Parliament), Line Ministries, Kosovo Institute of Public Administration (KIPA), Advisory Office on Good Governance (AOGG), Agency of Gender Equality (AGE), Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), Kosovo Police Service (KPS) / Kosovo Police (KP), Kosovo Judges Association (KJA), Kosovo Judicial Institute (KJI), United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) - Office for Gender Affairs (OGA), United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG), UN Agencies, International Civilian Police, NATO Force in Kosovo (KFOR), European Union Planning Team (EUPT), European Union Delegation, International Civilian Office (ICO), EULEX, OSCE.

¹ The Kosovo Women's Lobby (KWL) is a group of women leaders from politics, civil society and the economic sphere who engage in and support progressive actions around important women's development issues in Kosovo