



GNWP

The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders



BUILDING FLOURISHING COMMUNITIES



For women's rights, peace and security

GLOBAL REPORT
Civil Society Organization (CSO) Survey for the
Global Study on Women, Peace and Security

CSO Perspectives on UNSCR 1325 Implementation
15 Years after Adoption

Acknowledgments

We thank the hundreds of civil society organizations around the world whose generous participation have made this report possible. We hope that it will inform the Global Study on Women, Peace and Security and help to ensure that CSO voices and priorities are adequately reflected in it.

This CSO survey for the Global Study on Women, Peace and Security was conducted by the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), in partnership with Cordaid, the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) and the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security (NGO WG on WPS), with inputs from UN Women and other members of the UN Inter-agency Standing Committee on Women, Peace and Security.

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Lead Author and Overall Project Coordinator: Danielle B. Goldberg

Survey Data Analysts and Co-Authors: Agnieszka Fal, Erin Kamler, Saadia Khan, Rebecca Stanger, Eleonore Veillet Chowdhury and Kelly Yzique

Project Advisors: Mavic Cabrera-Balleza, Dewi Suralaga

Editors: Louise Allen, Sanam Anderlini, Mavic Cabrera-Balleza and Dewi Suralaga

Survey Design and Analysis Consultant: Jan Beise

Copy Editor: Dulcie Leimbach

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List of Acronyms

AU	African Union
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CVE	Countering Violent Extremism
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
DPKO	United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EU	European Union
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GAI	Global Acceleration Instrument
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GNWP	Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
GR	General Recommendation
ICAN	International Civil Society Action Network
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IDP	Internally Displaced Person (s)
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
LAP	Local Action Plan
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MNC	Multi-National Corporation
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NGOWG	NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security
PoC	Protection of Civilians
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SMSG	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
SSR	Security Sector Reform
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNSCR 1325	United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325
WHRD	Women's Human Rights Defenders
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

Foreword

When the idea of the Global Study on UNSCR 1325 was proposed, some members of civil society did not welcome the concept. There were already countless studies and recommendations on the implementation of UNSCR 1325, so what would be the value of another study? Moreover, we knew where most of the gaps existed—both internationally and in national contexts. The Global Study was, called by UN Security Council Resolution 2122 "to highlight examples of good practice, implementation gaps and challenges, and priorities for action."

Yet, we also understood that the Global Study could be an important platform for highlighting persistent problems, such as underrepresentation of women in official peace negotiations, lack of local level action and the perennial lack of funding, particularly for women's peacebuilding work at the community level. To participate in the Global Study process, we set two conditions: that it be totally independent and that it accurately reflect the voices of civil society, given that activists—working at grassroots, national and international levels—have been the driving forces in making sure the resolution and its agenda remain active and relevant.

It was in this spirit that the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), Cordaid, the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) and the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security (NGOWG) embarked on a civil society survey to inform the Global Study. We also believed it was extremely important that there be a mechanism built into the Global Study to formally capture the experiences, challenges and recommendations of civil society around the world working on WPS.

The survey complements the commissioned research papers on different thematic issues, the reports from UN entities and Member States as well as the national and regional consultations that Radhika Coomaraswamy, the lead author of the Global Study, has conducted.

The survey generated responses from 317 CSOs in 71 countries. The focus group discussions in 16 countries and territories, namely Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guatemala, Israel, Nepal, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Rwanda, Serbia, South Sudan, Sweden, Uganda and the United Kingdom, further enhanced the survey outcomes.

The survey reaffirms the critical role that civil society plays in conflict prevention and resolution; responding to and preventing sexual violence; disarmament; governance; transitional justice and post-conflict recovery; and peacebuilding—all areas highlighted by the WPS resolutions. However, the recognition of women's role in the resolutions remains nothing more than a deferential acknowledgement with no concrete follow-up or action.

Fifteen years after the passing of UNSCR 1325 and numerous earlier studies on the issue, this survey reveals a continued absence of actual commitment and inaction by international and national bodies to fully engage and include women in peace and security processes. This reality is evident not only in the paucity of resources that are allocated to women's organizations, but also in the increasing repression demonstrated by conservative governments as well as constant threats to women's personal security from different armed groups for simply implementing the WPS resolutions and assert their rights.

The situation on the ground grows worse every day for the women who reflect the spirit and inspiration of this agenda, who live and lead by example on a daily basis all over the world.

The survey identifies such emerging issues as the specific impact of violent extremism and terrorism on women and girls; the intersection between climate change and natural disasters and violent conflict; the correlation between peace and security and health pandemics; and the effect of mass media and information and communications technologies. To address these cross-cutting challenges, the survey shows the importance of conflict “prevention” and redefining security, based on the experiences of women on the ground.

Going forward, we will continue to assert the recommendations made by civil society that remain relevant today but have not been acted on so far. The expertise and practical experience related to the WPS agenda still resonate strongly in civil society, as do the most innovative strategies and effective solutions to meeting the WPS standards. The most innovative strategies and effective solutions to these challenges also remain in civil society. The critical message to the UN, governments and donors is: do not reinvent the wheel and do not duplicate the work that has been done.

Instead, we believe that we should strive together to adapt, improve and increase current efforts so that everyone can succeed. The shared goal should be to collaborate with civil society as equal partners based on comparative strengths and division of labor.

We hope that the UN, governments, donors, media, academia, research institutions and fellow civil society actors will find the data, analysis and recommendations from the survey and focus group discussions important for improving their programming to prevent and end wars and to transform the lives of all women, girls, men and boys in conflict-affected situations. Furthermore, we call on all governments and UN agencies to enact an Implementation Plan based on the key collective recommendations presented in this survey, set out with a clear time frame and budget, including an independent review of such results in 2020.

The solutions exist clearly and within reach. Yet the most profound barrier is political will. As we look to the 15th anniversary of WPS, the message from civil society is simple: we are doing what we can under difficult circumstances and tremendous risks. Will the leadership of the UN and member states have the courage to stand by their own commitments and responsibilities? We hope so, and stand ready to work with you for a world rooted in peace, social justice, dignity for all and human security.

Mavic Cabrera-Balleza
Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

Sanam Naraghi Anderlini
International Civil Society Action Network

Dewi Suralaga
Cordaid

Louise Allen
NGO Working Group
on Women, Peace and Security

Executive Summary

The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), in partnership with Cordaid, International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), and the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security (NGOWG) distributed the CSO survey from **February to April 2015** to collect the views, concerns and recommendations of civil society organizations (CSOs).

To reiterate, the CSO Survey informs the Global Study, called by UNSCR 2122 to “highlight examples of good practice, implementation gaps and challenges, and priorities for action.” The survey was designed to examine the following guiding research questions:

- *How do CSOs assess overall implementation of UNSCR WPS resolutions? And what best practices and challenges have been observed or experienced?*
- *Who are the CSOs working on WPS issues; what are they doing and what are their achievements and challenges in the field?*
- *What are the obstacles and good practices that CSOs have experienced and observed in funding the implementation of the WPS agenda, and how do they recommend such mechanisms to be improved?*
- *How would CSOs like to see collaboration and coordination among different actors improved to better support implementation of the WPS agenda?*
- *What trends have CSOs experienced and how do they affect their work on women, peace and security? What has happened since 2000 worldwide that has affected women, peace and security issues?*
- *What are CSOs' priorities for action to improve implementation of the WPS agenda post-2015?*

The CSO survey report is based on **317 CSO surveys collected from organizations based in 71 different countries**, providing a wealth of quantitative and qualitative data reflecting the views of CSO working on the ground to implement the women, peace and security agenda.

The CSO survey data is enhanced through information provided by **17 focus group discussions (FGDs) and one international 1325 expert conference**, held in **16 countries with over 200 participants**.¹ Local organizers of the FGDs convened CSO representatives to complete the survey for their respective organizations and to discuss similarities, differences and common themes related to their answers in the survey. A separate report on the FGDs was submitted as a contribution to the Global Study, which is referenced throughout the CSO survey report. In addition to inputs in the Global Study, the FGDs

¹ Focus group discussions were organized by GNWP and Cordaid with local partners in Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guatemala, Israel, Nepal, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Rwanda, Serbia, South Sudan, Sweden, Uganda and the United Kingdom. The FGD report also incorporates relevant findings from the 2015 Netherlands - Civil Society input prepared by WO=MEN drafted on the basis of civil society input during the international 1325 expert conference held 16-17 February 2015 in Amsterdam and The Netherlands Civil Society Monitoring report Global Network Women Peacebuilders 2014.

provided a useful space for women’s CSOs to engage in dialogue and exchange experiences related to UNSCR 1325 implementation.

This report summarizes the findings from the CSO survey in nine core sections: *Key Recommendations; CSO Perceptions of UNSCR 1325 Effectiveness and Impact; Factors for Effective Implementation; UNSCR 1325 Effectiveness by Area of Work; Funding and Funding Mechanisms; Collaboration and Cooperation; Emerging Issues, Post- 2015; Global Priorities Moving Forward; CSO Respondent Demographics.*

The section on **Key Recommendations** summarizes recommendations provided by respondents to questions throughout the CSO survey. Respondents across all regions stressed the **urgent need to shift the focus from just global and national policy development to concrete actions on WPS at all levels. To do so, CSOs emphasize the need to prioritize local women, local initiatives and local implementation of global and national policies on WPS.**

The section on **CSO Perceptions of UNSCR 1325 Effectiveness and Impact** examines respondents’ attitudes and perceptions about UNSCR 1325’s overall effectiveness on women in conflict-affected communities since 2000. Many respondents note that **UNSCR 1325 has mobilized women around the world and lent credibility and structure to their work on WPS.** Nonetheless, findings consistently point to the **majority of respondents across regions rating UNSCR 1325 as “moderately effective” because many feel that the transformative potential of UNSCR 1325 has not been fulfilled.** While it has **shifted paradigms related to peace and security, there is widespread concern that shifting paradigms on WPS at the global level haven’t sufficiently impacted girls and women at the local level.** Respondents raise concerns about lack of political will and awareness about UNSCR 1325, even within the United Nations, as well as insufficient monitoring and accountability mechanisms, particularly in the implementation of National Action Plans. Many stress the importance of moving from ad hoc initiatives to long-term projects, resources and priorities coordinated among all actors.

In **Factors for Success**, respondents identify key cross-cutting factors they attribute to the success of their work on women, peace and security, in positively impacting the lives of women in their communities. They also describe the barriers they faced with their work they deemed least successful—reiterated across different areas on WPS throughout the report. **Collaboration with other CSOs was identified as the main factor for success across geographic regions, followed by support from international NGOs. A majority of respondents identified lack of resources as a barrier to their effective work,** followed by lack of trust and cooperation between government and civil society, gaps between international policies and action and local level realities not being addressed, as well as the misinterpretation of culture and/or religion related to women’s dignity. These barriers affect most CSOs in different ways, depending on the context where they work.

UNSCR 1325 Effectiveness by Area of Work findings reveal that respondents believe the greatest results from the resolution have occurred in women’s participation, followed by protection and promotion of women’s rights in conflict, prevention of violence, justice and accountability and post-conflict recovery. Following is a summary of key themes raised by respondents regarding UNSCR 1325 effectiveness by these areas of work:

- **Women’s Right to Participation and Representation:** A majority of respondents acknowledge an increase in women’s participation in all levels of decision-making, and global acknowledgement of the importance of women’s participation to sustainable peace, though participation levels are still far from sufficient, particularly participation in peace negotiations.

Respondents recommend that different stakeholders institutionalize participation of CSOs and conflict-affected women in national and global decision-making processes, which are typically top-down and exclusive, to ensure they can inform all policies relating to conflict prevention, resolution and post-conflict rebuilding.

- **Conflict Prevention:** Respondents expect a reprioritization of conflict prevention, moving beyond a narrow focus of preventing sexual and gender-based violence to utilizing UNSCR 1325 to address gender norms that drive conflict and insecurity. They cite many examples of their work facilitating women's contributions to conflict prevention and advising national governments to address root causes of conflicts, including poverty, unemployment, poor governance and militarization of society. Respondents draw direct links between conflict prevention and investments in girl's education, livelihoods, the protection of women's land rights and increases in women's participation in decision-making on security issues.
- **Protection and Promotion of Women's Rights in Conflict:** Despite an increase in activism for women's rights, CSOs report great challenges in providing sufficient support to SGBV victims, particularly because of a lack of funds, unwillingness or inability of governments to tackle these issues, cultural norms and pervasive insecurity. CSOs stress the need for the international community to recognize the important work of women human rights defenders and peace activists and for greater resources to be devoted to ensuring the protection of these women.
- **Justice and Accountability:** Respondents in every region report generalized impunity regarding sexual violence against women in conflict. Findings indicate that efforts to adopt laws to protect women are considered more effective than efforts to ensure that such laws provide women greater access to justice. Nonetheless, respondents have successfully used creative grassroots mechanisms to remove hurdles for survivors to access justice.
- **Military Responses to Conflict:** Respondents emphasize the need to commit to a more gendered concept of peace and security, shifting the emphasis from military security to human security. In addition, findings suggest that new approaches are needed to address the dominant male culture of peacekeeping and security operations, and to better meet the needs of women in conflict.
- **Post-Conflict Recovery and Peacebuilding:** Respondents affirm that holistic approaches to post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding, including promotion of economic rights and psychosocial support, are critical for effective work in this area. Various CSOs describe how supporting women's economic and social recovery empowers women and contributes to peacebuilding. They also affirm the need for UNSCR 1325 to be more integrated in the broader peacebuilding agenda.

Findings on **Funding and Funding Mechanisms** reveal that respondents are affected by inadequate short-term funding mechanisms skewed toward international organizations, and note a disconnect between donor agendas and the reality of working in crisis settings. Respondents encourage constructive donor engagement, while allowing CSOs autonomy to set an agenda according to needs on the ground. They also recommend creating an exclusive global funding mechanism on WPS that includes civil society in decision-making.

Collaboration and Cooperation respondents identify **coordination and planning between civil society organizations as the model most successful for their work**. While most CSOs interact with the government, they identify this interaction as one of their least effective collaborations. Most CSOs interact with the UN; however, CSOs that do interact are constantly challenged by the UN's focus on elite organizations rather than on grassroots organizations; they must also contend with the UN's

bureaucracy. CSOs urge the UN to grant UN Women greater resources and power, though many expressed concern that political and financial support for the women, peace and security agenda is too centralized in UN Women. Above all, survey results show that when government, international agencies and civil society work together, with all elements accessible to each group and properly funded, the most successful projects materialize and the WPS agenda is best served.

Emerging Issues, Post-2015 sheds light on both emerging and re-emerging trends and systemic issues that are increasingly hindering the work of women's organizations and activists worldwide. On a global scale, **violent extremism is a significant issue affecting WPS work**, often described in tandem with issues of terrorism and counterterrorism. CSOs report that these new threats have closed spaces for them and others to operate effectively on WPS issues; that they have amplified the continuing vulnerability of women; and that they have claimed the attention of policymakers and donors, thus redirecting funding away from WPS work. **Many CSOs also contend that other emerging issues for many women's groups are really a reoccurrences of long-term, deeply entrenched issues** -- war, violence and discrimination, to name a few -- which require new strategies for protection and prevention, as well as continued funding.

Global Priorities Moving Forward: respondents shared their top priorities beyond 2015, by responding to the multiple choice question, *"If Women, Peace and Security was in the headlines of BBC, Al Jazeera and your national news in 2025, what would you want the headline accomplishment/s to read?"* Quantitative findings indicate that women's full and equal participation in all conflict prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction processes is a top CSO priority for post-2015 across all regions. A distant second priority is that survivors of sexual violence in conflict receive reparations and that perpetrators be brought to justice. Nonetheless, as one respondent in Israel noted, ranking priorities "is to compare apples with pears," a reminder of the importance of viewing all components of the WPS agenda in a holistic manner.

In the section on **CSO Respondent Demographics**, respondents identify their priorities on WPS related to advocacy, capacity building and direct services to survivors on a geographic basis. Results reveal that ensuring women's participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, peace negotiations and conflict recovery was identified as the top priority among respondents in Europe/North America (including Australia and New Zealand), Asia and Africa. Respondents in Latin America and the Middle East identified promoting laws that advance gender equality and women's rights as their top advocacy focus. Technical capacity building on UNSCR 1325, supporting resolutions and National Action Plans (where they exist) is a top priority across regions (with the exception of Latin America, for which gender concepts/terminology in relation to peace and security was most popular). As to direct services to survivors, education related to SGBV is by far the main areas of direct service to the victims of SGBV in Africa, whereas counseling and psychosocial services are the top areas of direct service in the Middle East and to a lesser extent, in Asia.

Regardless of the priorities of each respondent, a consistent theme expressed throughout the survey results was the importance of engaging grassroots CSOs -- particularly women's groups -- as equal partners in all matters related to peace and security. While the challenges are huge, and threats to security, especially regarding women's human rights defenders, have hit an all-time high, respondents affirm their ability to translate the mandates of UNSCR 1325 and sister resolutions to action on the ground in promoting peace and human security. As we learn from the past 15 years and prepare for the

post-2015 agenda, CSOs stand ready to work with all actors to achieve the transformative potential of this landmark resolution.

Introduction

The CSO Survey on Women, Peace and Security is both an assessment and a retrospective, mapping perceptions of 317 CSOs from 71 countries on UNSCR 1325 implementation. In addition to highlighting good practice, implementation gaps and challenges and priorities for action from the views of CSOs in the field, the survey also celebrates and galvanizes the advances that CSOs have achieved in promoting the women, peace and security agenda.

For security purposes and to ensure absolute candor, any identifying information that CSOs have provided has been kept anonymous.

The survey organizers sought to achieve the widest possible representation among respondents in order to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of the issues facing CSOs. The sample selection is not representative but rather self-selected; however, surveys results reveal key themes within the WPS agenda across geographic and cultural boundaries.

Though CSOs are often lumped together as a homogenous group, it is important to note that they represent a wide range of organizations in terms of size, scope, institutional positions, goals, culture and working environments.

The survey was completed by women and men representing women-led civil society organizations; civil society organizations working on women, peace and security; and female human rights defenders. The core requirement for participation was that the CSO works on advocacy and action on UNSCR 1325 and the related resolutions in the Global South, or on WPS issues without necessarily referring to it as 1325 advocacy.

“We must ensure that the Global Study on UNSCR 1325 promotes participatory approaches to identifying WPS priorities.”

- Global CSO based in
Austria-

Despite the limits of time, resources, language and access to technology, respondents took great care in providing thoughtful responses to the survey's 70 questions. As a result of their inputs, we received several hundred pages of qualitative survey data, providing a wide cross-section of views and experiences of CSOs working on women, peace and security issues around the world.

The promise of UNSCR 1325 cannot be realized without the full participation of civil society activists—a view shared at the global and local level alike. Civil society lobbied for the adoption of UNSCR 1325, contributed to its drafting and has stood at the forefront of its implementation, so its voice is a powerful contribution to the Global Study.

Key Recommendations

The following section presents **key recommendations on women, peace and security (WPS)**. Throughout the CSO survey, respondents could provide recommendations thematically, through open-ended questions. In addition to these recommendations, in the last qualitative question of the CSO survey, respondents were asked: *“What message, if any, do you want to send to the United Nations, the Security Council, and other policy makers about women, peace and security/1325 implementation in the post 2015 period?”* The respondent’s thematic recommendations and concluding messages have been consolidated and summarized in the key recommendations below.

“Speeches and reports must lead to real and practical implementation, with resources and commitments for action.”

- CSO in Nepal

Given that respondents across all regions stressed the **urgent need to shift the focus from global and national policy development to concrete actions on WPS at all levels**, the recommendations are presented as steps for action. These recommendations are organized into thematic sections adopted from the pillars of UNSCR 1325 as well as the sections of the CSO survey and the outline of the Global Study. Some of the key recommendations are aimed at all WPS stakeholders, including—but not limited to—United Nations (UN) system (the Security Council, Secretariat, specialized agencies, programs and funds), Member States, civil society and the donor community. Other recommendations are directed at specific WPS actors. These recommendations also integrate suggestions shared by respondents during the 17 focus group discussions (FGD) that the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), Cordaid and its partners organized worldwide to supplement the CSO survey.² Please note that these recommendations for action are derived from respondents’ individual messages and recommendations and not the recommendations of the authors of this report. Moreover, the civil society organizations that took part in the survey are not a homogeneous group, but include a wide range of organizations working in local, national, regional and global contexts—some conflict-affected, others not.

Localization as a Priority and Implementation Strategy

RECOMMENDATION 1: PRIORITIZE LOCAL WOMEN, LOCAL INITIATIVES AND LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION OF GLOBAL AND NATIONAL POLICIES ON WPS.

- The United Nations (UN), Member States and civil society must **regularly consult and closely collaborate with civil society organizations, local and indigenous women’s groups, women refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs)**, who all understand the needs of their communities, and therefore can propose the best solutions to conflict and the most suitable paths toward sustainable development.

² The FGDs were held in 16 countries: Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guatemala, Israel, Nepal, Norway, the Philippines, Rwanda, Serbia, South Sudan, Sweden, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

- The UN, Member States and civil society must **adopt localization as an implementation strategy**, whereby local authorities, traditional leaders and local women groups are directly engaged in the translation of UNSCR 1325 into local policies and their implementation.

Regardless of the thematic focus, the adjectives “local” and “grassroots” and the term “localization” were prevalent throughout the survey respondents’ messages and recommendations. Respondents working in Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Pacific stressed the importance of **tailoring the implementation of the WPS resolutions based on the local realities of women and girls and ensuring that such programming reaches women and girls in remote areas.**

Women’s Rights to Participation and Representation

RECOMMENDATION 2: AIM HIGHER FOR WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION BOTH IN NUMBER AND IMPACT.

- The UN and Member States must **take affirmative actions toward achieving equal gender representation.** The UN must **lead by example and increase the representation of women in its own institutions**, especially in leadership positions, and increase the level of women mediators in peace processes.
- Civil society must **continue to advocate for higher participation of women at all levels** of decision-making and at all stages of peacebuilding. It must also advocate for inclusive, gendered decision-making in the design, implementation and monitoring of protection of civilian (POC) strategies in humanitarian settings, including those responding to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).
- The UN, Member States and civil society must **set targets and benchmarks for women’s participation and representation in decision-making and peace processes at all levels.**
- The UN does not need to reinvent the wheel—**instead, it should look to international/national NGOs for solutions that they are developing and implementing in all areas** (e.g., localization of NAPs; inclusive/gender-sensitive mediation, such as the Better Peace Tool; and gender-sensitive peacekeeping).

“Women are a resource to all peacebuilding and peace sustaining societies and no conflict can be successfully and creatively resolved without full participation of women. All decisions must include women in order to be legitimate and for all signatories to be held accountable.”

- CSO from Sweden

Women's full and equal participation in all conflict prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction processes is a top CSO priority for post-2015. Over a third of CSOs (42 percent) across all regions identified women’s full and equal participation as the top priority (out of three) they would like to see as the headline accomplishment in their national news in 2025. Participants in the Focus Group Discussion in Guatemala stressed the need to go beyond numbers and **measure participation by impact and the existence of spaces for women to organize themselves.** Respondents (including organizations working in South Sudan and Sudan, Germany, Colombia, Guatemala and the European Union called for targets and benchmarks that reflect better the obvious: that women make up half of the world’s population. One respondent from Cameroon that works in Central and West Africa posited that UN peacekeeping teams must also be composed of at least 50 percent women.

Prevention and Protection

RECOMMENDATION 3: PRIORITIZE CONFLICT PREVENTION, DISARMAMENT AND DEMILITARIZATION AT THE CORE OF THE WPS AGENDA.

- The UN and Member States must **address root causes of conflicts and violent extremism, such as poverty, unemployment and militarization by investing in education, job creation and social development and including women in decision-making on security matters.**

Respondents across regions stressed that there is an urgent need to reclaim the original intention of UNSCR 1325, which is *not to make the war safe for women but to prevent violent conflicts*. Highlighting the importance of women’s participation in curbing militarization, a respondent organization working with Arab women in Israel noted that *“militarization can be challenged by greater inclusion of women in public discussion, for example, in the media.”* Respondents also stressed the importance of committing to a more gendered concept of security by providing trainings to security forces and limiting the use of military force; and recognizing the link between women’s participation, peace and development. In this regard, participants in the Focus Group Discussion in Norway called on the UN to agree to support a strong stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on Peace.

“Preventative action [against conflict] must be taken and strategies developed—in terms of research, funding and support.”

- CSO based in Fiji, working in Fiji, Solomon Islands and West Papua

Justice and Accountability for Grave Violations of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law against Women

RECOMMENDATION 4: END IMPUNITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS TARGETED AT WOMEN AND HOLD ALL PERPETRATORS ACCOUNTABLE, INCLUDING UN PEACEKEEPERS.

The UN and Member States must ensure that perpetrators as well as ongoing human rights violations and violence against women are brought to justice and ensure access to justice, truth and recovery.

- Member States must **strengthen police and judicial institutions to end impunity for human rights violations, including violence committed against women human rights defenders (WHRD) and SGBV; conduct timely, thorough investigation, prosecution and conviction of perpetrators; and provide reparation to victims and their families.**
- The UN, Member States and donors must **broaden and deepen services to care for victims of sexual violence**, including through the provision of psychosocial care and long-term rehabilitation, as offered by some NGOs (e.g., Omid Foundation in Iran).
- The UN and Member States must **adopt an international accountability framework to end impunity on crimes committed by security sector personnel** during international deployments in peacekeeping missions. This includes thorough investigations of crimes committed by security personnel, prosecution according to the law and proper reporting at the national level and to the families of victims.
- The UN and Member States must **ensure effective and mandatory training on gender mainstreaming, including UNSCR 1325, 1820 and the supporting WPS resolutions before,**

during and after deployment of UN peacekeepers and UN personnel. Member States must guarantee training before and after deployment.

Ending impunity entails security sector reform (SSR) and national and international accountability mechanisms (such as the African Court of Human and People’s Rights). It also **requires awareness-raising and engagement of the security sector in implementing the WPS resolutions and National Action Plans (NAPs), in accordance with regional and international human rights and humanitarian law.** Likewise, respondents from Colombia and Egypt also emphasized the need to protect humanitarian workers and women human rights defenders, who are increasingly targeted by government authorities and insurgents.

One organization based in **Ireland** that works in conflict-affected areas worldwide stressed that it is impossible *“to insist on policy change at government level while double-standards and impunity are cultivated via inaction on these matters within UN systems.”* Other respondents emphasized the need for more women in peacekeeping operations and for systematic training of peacekeepers on WPS. Gender advisors must be appointed in all UN Missions. One respondent from South Africa suggested the use of a Women’s Peace Corps in UN and African Union peace missions.

Peacebuilding and Recovery

RECOMMENDATION 5: ENSURE THAT LOCAL SOLUTIONS ARE EMBEDDED IN A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO PEACE, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT AND REWARD INNOVATION.

- The UN and Member States must **adopt a comprehensive, integrated approach** that encompasses gender equality, policy, security, development, human rights and the rule of law and reinforces the confluence of these areas. This approach must also **address the root causes of conflict.**
- The UN, Member States and donors must **reward CSOs, institutions and governments that demonstrate effective approaches and transformational change on WPS through awards, public recognition and funding.**
- The UN, Member States and donors must **promote and fund the application of technologies to build peace and assist communities in sustainable development,** including the introduction of information and communication technologies (ICTs) that offer new avenues for participation in peacebuilding and conflict prevention, rather than continuing to invest in new technologies that drive war and conflict.

“Gender must be at the heart of socioeconomic development and peace consolidation. Supporting women in their initiatives is supporting the entire nation.”

- CSO in **Burundi**

Respondents across regions stressed the need for gender to be at the heart of peacebuilding and socioeconomic development. Respondents working in conflict-affected communities in South Sudan, Yemen, Burma, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines echoed recommendations to reward CSOs, institutions and governments that champion WPS. Many respondents—the majority from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)— also highlighted the devastating impact of new technologies of war on the rate of violence committed against women in girls, including SGVB, and the importance of encouraging technological innovation that can be used to build peace.

Key Actors on WPS, Collaboration and Coordination

RECOMMENDATION 6: ADOPT, IMPLEMENT AND MONITOR NATIONAL ACTION PLANS IN STRONG COLLABORATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND ALL RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS.

- **Member States must adopt NAPs that respond to local needs and realities and duty bearers' implementing capacities;** include specific targets, deadlines as well as implementation and monitoring mechanisms; and ensure they are adequately funded. CSOs must be included in all stages of NAP development, adoption and implementation and at all levels of WPS programming—global, regional, national and local.
- The UN, Member States and civil society must **monitor the implementation of NAPs.** This can be done **using complementary monitoring and accountability mechanisms such as CEDAW General Recommendation (GR) 30 on Women in Conflict Prevention, Conflict and Post-conflict Situations, which obliges states parties and signatories to CEDAW to report on UNSCR 1325 implementation.**

“Governments [must] take concrete measures and monitor the budget to implement National Action Plans. This will strengthen full and equal participation for women in post-conflict decision-making processes and positions.”

- CSO in Iraq

Despite challenges implementing NAPs, adopting one was recognized as an important first step at the national level, indicating political will. It was stressed that high-level government support and local ownership and participation are needed for a NAP's long-term effectiveness.

RECOMMENDATION 7: HOLD MEMBER STATES ACCOUNTABLE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WPS AGENDA, INCLUDING RESPECT FOR PEACE AGREEMENTS.

- Civil society must **continue its advocacy efforts to push the WPS agenda forward and to monitor the implementation of WPS resolutions, NAPs and peace agreements.**
- The UN must **support civil society advocacy** by making government obligations public, and where appropriate, pressuring national governments by introducing sanctions or setting up monitoring mechanisms.

Many respondents focused on **pressuring governments to include women in peace processes.** In particular, a respondent from Ghana asserted that peace processes without equal, meaningful participation of women must not be considered legitimate. Women's participation must be a requirement for funding and other logistical support for all peace processes, including peacekeeping. This ensures provisions for building the capacity of women in peace agreements.

RECOMMENDATION 8: STRENGTHEN WPS LANGUAGE IN UN RESOLUTIONS, DOCUMENTS AND BRIEFINGS IN CONSULTATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY.

- The UN Security Council must **integrate WPS concerns when considering crisis situations and emerging threats**, and uniformly request that Senior UN officials and Special Envoys address these in their Council briefings. Further, it must ensure all Security Council mandates include specific language related to WPS. This includes **the need for effective protection and meaningful participation of women and girls, robust reporting with sex-disaggregated data, as well as public reporting on these issues.**

RECOMMENDATION 9: IMPROVE COORDINATION, COLLABORATION AND INFORMATION-SHARING AMONG CSOs, MEMBER STATES, UN, ACADEMIA AND OTHER WPS ACTORS.

- The UN, Member States, civil society and academia must **establish a central information system or database on WPS (open resource) at global, regional and national levels to avoid project duplication and encourage better coordination.**
- Member States must **establish or reconfigure national and local steering committees; develop long-term WPS strategies; and work closely with CSOs** in order to improve better coordination of government-led WPS activities at national and local levels.
- All UN missions must **institute a UNSCR 1325 advisory group** made of local civil society, donors, government and UN officials in order to provide early warning systems, facilitate proactive measures on specific issues and ensure all stakeholders have direct access to UN leadership across agencies. These UNSCR 1325 advisory groups should be **connected to a rotating independent, global high-level civil society group** (such as the Civil Society Advisory Group, established in 2010), with access to UN senior leadership (not just UN Women) and networks on the ground. This arrangement will enable proactive efforts and rapid response, so women’s voices are heard early on at the international level, and women’s CSOs are not excluded from missions, briefings and other related forums.
- Special Representatives of the Secretary General must **bring civil society partners to the UN when they are reporting to the Security Council (UNSC)**, so they can speak directly to Council members about their country situation and the mandates for the UN missions.
- **Mass media and information and communications technologies (ICTs)** must be used to share information on WPS and enhance collaboration among different actors. Respondents stressed that access to ICTs for women and girls must be complemented with training on how to use these technologies.

“There needs to be: more opportunities for continuous dialogue between [the] multiple [WPS] stakeholders, not only in meeting rooms, but also on the ground, involving local women peacemakers, practitioners and CSOs; as well as an effective coordination mechanisms between the UN, the government and CSOs.”

- CSO based in **India**, working in Southeast Asia

RECOMMENDATION 10: ENGAGE YOUTH, MEN AND RELIGIOUS AND TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS ON WPS.

- The UN, Member States and civil society must **provide opportunities for young women and girls to participate in WPS programs and to share their perspectives on**

“Working with men, religious communities and local authorities resulted in a change of attitudes towards women in local areas, including increased attention to sexual and gender-based violence.”

- Focus Group Discussion (FGD) in

WPS at all levels, including global advocacy spaces such as the UNSCR 1325 anniversary and annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women.

- The UN, Member States and civil society must **ensure that boys and men and religious and traditional leaders take part in awareness-raising and capacity-building on the WPS agenda, yet not deprive women of ownership over these processes.**

Girls are the future leaders of the world. It is essential to invest in youth leadership and education on WPS issues. In addition, participants in Focus Group Discussions in Burundi, the Netherlands, Norway, South Sudan, Sweden and Uganda emphasized the importance of **engaging men in women’s empowerment and WPS agenda realization.**

Funding and Funding Mechanisms

RECOMMENDATION 11: INVEST IN WPS PROGRAMMING AND ESTABLISH FUNDING MECHANISMS THAT ENSURE RAPID, STRAIGHTFORWARD ACCESS TO RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY FOR LOCAL WOMEN’S ORGANIZATIONS.

- The UN, Member States and donors must **provide significant, predictable and flexible financial resources to support effective advocacy and programming on WPS; ease reporting requirements to be more streamlined and less time-consuming; and increase allocations to core funding for CSOs. Funds must not only be for short-term projects but also for long-term institutional and capacity building of CSOs.**
- The UN, Member States and civil society must **establish funding mechanisms on WPS that enable rapid disbursement, avoid bureaucratic procedures and take into account local women’s human security needs**, with a focus on women and girls’ leadership and capacity building, empowerment and participation in UNW conflict prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction.
- **The UN needs to ensure civil society participation in decision-making, particularly regarding the allocation of resources for WPS work.** Fifty percent of funds received need to be allocated for the work of civil society, as proposed by CSOs involved in discussions on the Global Acceleration Instrument (GAI) on WPS.
- **The UN, member states and other international organizations should support the Global Acceleration Instrument** on women, peace and security to be launched in October 2015, as called for by the FGD participants in the Netherlands.

“Member States, the United Nations and other international bodies are called upon to (...) support the Global Acceleration Instrument (GAI) on women, peace and security to be launched in October 2015.”

- FGD in the Netherlands

“There has to be enough investment in civil society organizations by funding their activities, developing their capacities and providing them with political backing, as these organizations are your ears and eyes at the community level.”

- CSO in Afghanistan

Respondents across regions stressed that resource allocations must **support and/or complement local women’s efforts and foster collaboration among local CSOs.** It is also crucial for funding mechanisms to ensure that funds allocated to WPS programming actually reach the intended targets, whether they be victims of SGBV or women candidates in local elections. Furthermore, while respondents highlighted that donors, UN agencies and international NGOs must provide advice and guidance to help contribute to the

success and longevity of WPS programming, **they must not set the agenda of a project or an organization.** Lastly, participants in the Focus Group Discussion in Guatemala and other survey respondents noted that insufficient resources—in particular, inadequate core funding for the long-term survival of CSOs—leads to competition and mistrust among WPS civil society actors. Therefore, increasing the available funds for WPS and establishing funding mechanisms that foster collaboration is paramount.

Emerging Trends and Changes, Post-2015

RECOMMENDATION 12: TAKE CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS SERIOUSLY, AS THEY HAVE A DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND GIRLS AND POSE A REAL THREAT TO PEACE AND SECURITY.

- The UN, Member States and civil society must **raise awareness on the impact of climate change and natural disasters on the lives of women and girls and their links to WPS.**
- The UN and civil society must hold Member States accountable to international treaties on climate change by **demanding that women play an active role in planning and policymaking processes, and that policies integrate climate risks** and promote development of natural resources that is economically, socially and environmentally responsible.
- The UN, Member States and donors must take into account the effects of climate change to **ensure that women have more adaptive capacity to secure their livelihoods amid increasing climate variability.**

"There is a need to integrate climate change [into intervention strategies] so that the women affected by conflict have stronger adaptive capacity to secure their livelihoods [despite] increasing climate variability."

- Global CSO, working in Northern Uganda

CSOs working in the Philippines, Tunisia and sub-Saharan African countries particularly warned of droughts, floods and water warfare related to climate change. These conditions can aggravate existing conflicts or cause new ones.

RECOMMENDATION 13: RESPOND URGENTLY TO HEALTH PANDEMICS AND PUT IN PLACE GENDER-SENSITIVE PREVENTIVE MECHANISMS, RECOGNIZING THE CORRELATION BETWEEN HEALTH CONCERNS AND WPS.

- The UN and Member States must **adequately fund and put in place both ongoing preventive health measures and emergency responses to pandemics. Such measures must be gender-sensitive and address the unique social and economic impacts on women.**
- UN, Member States and CSOs must **collect and use sex- and age-disaggregated data, and ensure that public-health messages reach women and girls in remote and urban locations and that these parties get the health care they need.**

War produces many health hazards specific to women, requiring WPS programs to adapt to address a wide range of issues that may not originally have been included in the program.

- CSO in Nigeria

HIV-AIDS, Ebola and the resurgence of tuberculosis were among the serious health issues mentioned by respondents in Burundi, DRC, Liberia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Such pandemics were identified as a

cross-cutting theme affecting many programs, given that health concerns are tied to conflict, poverty and underdevelopment.

RECOMMENDATION 14: HOLD MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND PRIVATE SECURITY CONTRACTORS ACCOUNTABLE FOR ANY POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS AGAINST WOMEN’S RIGHTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES.

- UN and Member States must put in place **preventive measures to regulate the exploitation of natural resources that harm the environment and local communities and that contribute to resource-based conflict, the creation and activities of armed groups and increased militarization.**

Respondents from Colombia and numerous sub-Saharan African countries (DRC, Ghana and Cameroon) stressed the need to hold accountable multinational corporations (MNCs) and private security contractors for the impact they have on local communities, particularly through the exploitation of natural resources. Specific impact that increases the vulnerability of women, particularly in a conflict, include land grabbing and displacement of people from poor, rural communities (Philippines) and an increase in organized crime and armed conflict (DRC). A respondent in Indonesia also expressed concern over **the increase and legitimization of militarization by state security forces (and private security contractors) to secure areas of natural resource extraction.** This concern also raises the issue of how governments can benefit from and perpetuate the harmful effects of natural resource exploitation.

“In my country, armed conflicts are related to the exploitation of natural resources, which is funded by multinationals.”
- CSO in DRC

RECOMMENDATION 15: NEW EMERGING ISSUES MUST NOT DIVERT FUNDING FROM OR OBSTRUCT VISIBILITY OF PERSISTENT PROBLEMS, SUCH AS SGBV, LACK OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND LACK OF WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION IN PEACEBUILDING AND DECISION-MAKING.

- The UN, Member States and civil society **must ensure political accountability for the application of the full WPS agenda across existing and emerging issues, recognizing their intersection with women’s rights.**
- The UN and Member States **must fully consider nonviolent strategies and follow a human-rights approach to countering violent extremism and terrorism.**
- The UN, Member States, donors and financial institutions **must ensure continued funding and reliable funding mechanisms for CSOs working in crisis environments.**

Respondents from the United States, Canada, Guatemala, Israel, Serbia and Sweden indicated that many emerging issues are actually a re-emergences or intensification of deeply rooted systemic issues affecting WPS, such as militarization, gender inequality and violence against women. Respondents from Belgium, Burundi, DRC, Norway and Uganda raised concerns that **efforts to counter violent extremism and terrorism, often military in nature, have claimed the attention of donors and policymakers at the expense of the WPS agenda and have contributed to shrinking space for civil society.** Moreover, respondents in Rwanda and the Netherlands noted that resources that are available for CSOs are either blocked because of heightened financial regulations stemming from counterterrorism laws, or cancelled because of a crisis. Respondents in DRC, Libya and Uganda raise concerns that at the same time, CSOs, particularly women’s human rights defenders (WHRDs), are increasingly targets of

terrorism and violent extremism, further thwarting their efforts and increasing the risks of women's participation in public decision-making processes.

“Women’s groups are trapped between terrorism and countering terrorism; on one hand they are working in a very dangerous context, where terrorists exist, and on the other hand their chances to deliver their voice to the international community is shrinking with the name of countering terrorism, [due to] such as difficulties as getting visas, money transfers, etc.”

- CSO in Libya

CSO Perceptions of UNSCR 1325 Effectiveness and Impact

Introduction

In the context of the 15th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 and the Global Study on Women, Peace and Security, our research sought to understand the general attitudes and perceptions of CSOs working on women and peace and security (WPS) issues worldwide. To understand the guiding research questions, *“How do CSOs assess overall implementation of UNSCR WPS resolutions? In turn, what best practices and challenges have the observed or experienced?”* we asked:

“On a scale of 1 (least effective) to 6 (most effective), how effective do you think UNSCR 1325 and supporting resolutions have been in making a difference on the situation of women in conflict-affected communities?”

In addition to assessing respondents’ attitudes and perceptions about UNSCR 1325’s effectiveness on women in conflict-affected communities, we sought to understand how CSOs around the globe perceived the changing context in which UNSCR 1325 and supporting resolutions operate. This inquiry responds to the guiding research question, *“What has happened since 2000 in the world that has had an impact on women, peace and security?”* To better understand this issue, we asked:

“In your view, what are the three most important results that have taken place globally since 2000?”

After assessing respondents’ views about changes on a global level, to better understand the local context and changes that have been made in individual countries as a result of UNSCR 1325 and its supporting resolutions, we asked:

“How has UNSCR 1325 transformed your organization’s priority areas of work on women, peace and security since 2000?”

The following is an assessment of respondents’ cross-cutting observations on UNSCR 1325 effectiveness and impact. Where relevant, analysis includes an assessment of cross-cutting best practices and challenges of CSOs in their own work.

Quantitative Analysis of Cross-Cutting Views

1. *The majority of CSO respondents rated UNSCR 1325 as “moderately” effective.*

Results indicate that while some CSOs have strong opinions of 1325 as being very ineffective or effective, overall responses reveal that **the greatest percentage of respondents (31 percent) rated effectiveness of UNSCR 1325 and supporting resolutions as “moderately effective” (3 on a scale of 1-6)** in making a difference on the situation of women in conflict-affected communities. The average effectiveness rating of all answers was 3.33. Furthermore, more respondents (54 percent) rated UNSCR 1325 less effective (between 1-3 on a scale of 1-6) than more effective (between 4-6 on a scale of 1-6) (37 percent).

Table 1: Global UNSCR 1325 Effectiveness Rating

Q27. 4.a. On a scale of 1 (least effective) to 6 (most effective), how effective do you think UNSCR 1325 and sister resolutions have been in making a difference on the situation of women in conflict-affected communities?				
Responses	Count	Assigned Weight	%	Percentage of total respondents
1 – Least effective	15	1	5%	
2 – Below moderate	57	2	18%	
3 – Moderate	98	3	31%	
4 – Above moderate	67	4	21%	
5 – More effective	35	5	11%	
6 – Most effective	15	6	5%	
(Did not answer)	30	NULL	9%	
Average Score: 3.33				
Total Responses	317			

2. Overall, CSOs across regions reported similar perceptions toward UNSCR 1325’s effectiveness, though respondents in Africa gave the highest rating on average, and respondents in Latin America gave the lowest.

The following data present a closer look at these responses across five regions where participating CSO respondents are based (Europe/North America, Latin America, the Middle East, Africa and Asia). A noteworthy limitation to these assessments is that aggregated data by region is according to where a CSO respondent is based, which may be different than where a respondent works. It is also important to note the wide range of sociopolitical conditions in each region.

Results by region do not differ significantly. Ratings from highest to lowest by region area are as follows: **Africa (3.43); Asia (3.34); Middle East (3.31); Europe/North America (including Australia and New Zealand) (3.21); Latin America (3.08).**

Consistent with the global average rating of 3.33 among all regions, with the exception of Latin America, the majority of respondents gave a rating of 3, or “moderately effective.” Half of all respondents in Latin America (composed of CSOs primarily from Guatemala, as well as three CSO networks and indigenous groups in Colombia) gave a rating of 2. In their open answers, many of these Latin American

“On its content, the resolution is good. However, in practical terms, there is little impact because it remains unknown. It is necessary not only to promote it, but also review how it can be used.”

- CSO in Guatemala

CSOs expressed concerns over lack of political will, awareness of the resolution at all levels and practical impact in addressing human rights violations against women in conflict settings.

When comparing percentage of respondents per region who rated UNSCR 1325 “more effective” (1-3 on a scale of 1-6) versus less effective (4-6 on a scale of 1-6), **Africa showed the most even split**. Forty-six percent of respondents based in Africa rated UNSCR more effective vs. 41 percent rated it less effective, indicating a wide diversity of experiences and perceptions in groups working on women peace and security in this region. Those that gave lower ratings tended to focus on the persistence of conflicts and lack of implementation to address the increasing number of victims of sexual violence, whereas higher ratings focused more on the achievements made by CSOs themselves, using UNSCR 1325 as a tool to impact women in conflict.

In contrast, among the few respondents in Latin America, answers were significantly weighted toward lower ratings. Sixty-four percent of respondents rated UNSCR 1325 less effective versus 21 percent rating it more effective, likely reflecting that the majority of respondents are working with indigenous communities in Guatemala and Colombia and areas experiencing similar challenges.

Table 2: UNSCR 1325 Effectiveness Rating by Region

Q27. 4.a. On a scale of 1 (least effective) to 6 (most effective), how effective do you think UNSCR 1325 and sister resolutions have been in making a difference on the situation of women in conflict-affected communities?					
Responses	Africa %	Asia %	Europe/ North America %	Latin America %	Middle East %
1 – Least effective	9%	1%	1%	0%	6%
2 – Below moderate	9%	23%	24%	43%	15%
3 – Moderate	28%	27%	38%	21%	41%
4 – Above moderate	23%	26%	20%	0%	15%
5 – More effective	12%	8%	11%	14%	12%
6 – Most effective	6%	5%	1%	7%	6%
Number of Respondents per Region	122	77	70	14	35
Number of Responses	106	70	66	12	32
Average Score	3.43	3.34	3.21	3.08	3.31

Statistics are based on the percentage of total respondents per regional data set, bearing in mind that not all respondents answered.

Interestingly, while Africa produced the highest average rating, it had the highest percentage of respondents giving the lowest possible rating of 1 out of 6 (9 percent). Moreover, while Latin America had the lowest average rating, it had the highest percentage of respondents that gave UNSCR 1325 the top rating of 6 out of 6 (7 percent). As described later in the open-answer results, perceptions of effectiveness of UNSCR 1325 are influenced by a wide range of factors spanning far beyond the region in which a CSO works.

3. Organizations working at national and/or local levels rated the effectiveness of UNSCR 1325 and its supporting resolutions slightly higher than those working at global and/or regional levels.

In seeking to understand whether an organization's scope of work impacted their perceptions and attitudes about the effectiveness of UNSCR 1325 and its supporting resolutions, we compared the responses of CSO respondents who self-reportedly worked at global or regional levels³ (i.e., worldwide, in global policy spaces or in neighboring countries) with those who self-reportedly worked only at national and/or local levels (i.e., within the capital or big urban centers or in rural areas or specific provinces).

Broadly, respondents from organizations working across all scopes of work reported similar impressions about the effectiveness of UNSCR 1325 and its supporting resolutions. Respondents working only at a local and/or national scale produced a slightly more positive average rating of effectiveness of 1325 (3.34 on a scale of 1-6) than those working at a regional or global scale, in addition to possibly other levels (3.29). This even spread suggests that in general, scope of work has little effect on the perceptions of CSOs in rating effectiveness.

Qualitative Analysis

Cross-Cutting Issues

The following is a qualitative analysis of explanations that respondents provided regarding their general perceptions and attitudes about the effectiveness and results of UNSCR 1325, and how their work has transformed over the last 15 years.

Analysis is first outlined according to cross-cutting issues. Views will be analyzed in a later section within the major elements of the emerging discourse on WPS (participation, prevention, protection and promotion and peacebuilding and recovery), as well as other relevant themes addressed in the Global Study.

- 4. Overall, responses reveal that respondents rate UNSCR 1325 as "moderately effective" because many feel that the transformative potential of UNSCR 1325 has not been fulfilled.*

CSOs largely recognize the transformative potential of UNSCR 1325. They see the resolution as a great achievement and can identify many positive results for their own organizations, other actors and globally. Nonetheless, many respondents rate it as moderately effective because the groundbreaking gains have not been fulfilled; in some cases it has perpetuated existing structures and practices.

- Reflecting the desire for UNSCR 1325 to support transformative changes in women's equality in all levels of decision-making, a respondent in **Nepal** observed: *"The resolution is yet to witness groundbreaking achievement for strengthening the status of women in Nepal."*
- According to a respondent based in the **Netherlands** working in **Asia** and the **MENA** region, *"Though UNSCR 1325 in its origin carried the seeds for a transformative approach to*

³ Out of 317 survey respondents, 148 reported working at global or regional levels, while 163 reported working at national and/or local (but not global) levels. Some organizations working at global or regional levels also reported working at national and local levels. For the purposes of comparison, however, we chose to separate those maintaining a broader operational scope from those with a sharper focus on local projects and communities.

peacebuilding, much of the work implemented in the name of UNSCR 1325 ended up confirming and supporting existing structures and practices, rather than providing a fundamental critique of existing frameworks and offering an alternative.”

5. Among positive reflections on the effectiveness of UNSCR 1325, respondents note that it has mobilized women around the world and lent credibility and structure to their work on WPS.

When reflecting upon how their work on WPS has transformed since 2000, many CSO survey respondents indicated that UNSCR 1325 has been instrumental in galvanizing women’s efforts on a broad range of peace and security issues. It has also become a framing tool and source of legitimacy to demand action from governments and the international community.

- Remarked a respondent in **Burundi**. *“It helped us to focus our energy on the real needs and priorities of girls and women in relation to women, peace and security.”*
- A national CSO in **DRC** further elaborated: *“Resolution 1325 and related resolutions brought substance to my organization. At least we have a document we can use to conduct our activities toward different targets.”*
- According to a CSO working in **Afghanistan, Pakistan and India**, *“[UNSCR 1325] has provided a tool for civil society and also generated more awareness and debates amongst civil society itself.”*

“R1325 has transformed the intervention areas of our organization by giving us a field of action globalizing all issues related to women.”

- CSO in **DRC**

6. Many respondents believe the resolution has produced some positive shifts in paradigms related to women, conflict and peacebuilding.

“The resolution has helped make countries consider women’s role in peace and security for the first time.”

- CSO in

UNSCR 1325 is praised as the first UN resolution to acknowledge women’s contributions to international peace and security, recognizing that peace is inextricably linked to equality between men and women while calling for the protection of women in armed conflict. As a result, according to CSO respondents, this international recognition has produced some shift and greater understanding of views on gender, peace and conflict in the fields of international development, security and foreign policy.

- A **US**-based global organization stated: *“The resolutions on WPS are important steps in shifting the paradigm/perception at the global level from women being victims to women being agents of change and peacebuilders.”*
- One global CSO based in **Zimbabwe** said, *“UNSCR 1325 has resulted in a conceptual shift in conflict and post-conflict states in that planning for consultation, prevention, protection, negotiations, relief and recovery and other processes are gendered to some extent.”*
- According to a global **Swiss** CSO, *“The WPS resolutions have changed international norms and raised international expectations/standards: no longer is rape considered to be something that*

happens in war, and no longer is the absence of women in peace negotiations considered to be acceptable. These normative changes have been leveraged into concrete action in certain cases, such as Colombia.”

CSOs also indicate that UNSCR 1325 has shifted their understanding of conflict and increased their own work and awareness about the role and needs of women in conflict.

- One respondent working in conflict areas in **Pakistan** observed, “UNSCR 1325 has facilitated in us [greater] understanding [of] women's issues in times of conflict and therefore we are able to make programmes for the community to give them a basic understanding of women's separate needs, especially in camp settings etc. The meaning of conflict has expanded from war to any kind of conflict where women's peace is disturbed.”

7. There is widespread concern that shifting paradigms on WPS at the global level have not sufficiently impacted girls and women at the local level.

Numerous CSOs recognize that global gains have not translated into much impact on the ground, and observe a systemic gap between global and national normative frameworks and local implementation.

- One **US**-based global organization, which recognized the global paradigm shifts, noted that “...the bigger challenge now is to ensure that they are actually implemented in local communities. Unfortunately, many women and girls do not feel the impact of the resolutions.”
- A CSO in **Northern Uganda** reiterates this view, stating, “The policy initiatives are lacking wider dissemination at the local levels, with the support of competent organizations to achieve long-term objectives.”
- Likewise, in the case of the **Western Balkans** security sector, one respondent in **Serbia** said that while the sector has reformed, opening to greater women’s participation and initiating programs for women and girls, “They do not reach deep enough into the grassroots level to make a sustainable change and to empower women of the society to behave as equals and to use their rights to be protected and/or active agents of violence prevention.”

“The words of 1325 are a huge achievement by acknowledging the importance of women's inclusion and equality. However, the physical implementation of 1325 in local communities and at the national level has been disappointing.”

- CSO in **Egypt** working the
WFP/UNFPA

Despite concerns about the rift between normative frameworks and physical implementation on the ground, grassroots actors remain essential for driving innovation and momentum on issues related to women, peace and security:

- As a **US**-based respondent working in conflict-affected areas said: “Until local women actors began to take action, our organization did not focus on the need to address issues related to 1325.”

Similarly, according to a global CSO working in **South Sudan**, “In a country such as South Sudan, such UN resolutions are not considered at national level, which at this point is dysfunctional. The advancement that has happened has been because the women themselves decided to take action.”

8. Respondents observe that effectiveness is hampered by lack of awareness of UNSCR 1325 at all levels.

Many respondents expressed concerns that on local, national and global levels, many people are still not fully aware of UNSCR 1325. The fact that government officials are not aware of the resolutions is very problematic. Some respondents also observed some limited awareness among UN officials in their country, who should be championing this resolution.

“UNSCR 1325 in South Sudan is still not well known and it is not being used effectively yet by the government and the CSOs.”

- CSO in South Sudan

- Awareness-raising is a core concern for many CSOs. As noted by one respondent in **Pakistan**, *“Awareness about 1325, sister resolutions and CEDAW is essential to reinforce understanding on gender equality and women’s rights, and provide a legal basis for human rights approach to conflict and disaster situations.”*
- Nonetheless, according to a CSO in **Cameroon**, *“UNSCR 1325 is still unknown by the vast majority of people in our community, including UN agency staff. A survey recently conducted in the country completely confirmed this assertion.”*
- Stated a respondent in **Fiji**, working also in Papua New Guinea, West Papua and Solomon Islands: *“We don’t hear a lot of the women leaders we work with refer to UNSCR 1325 at all. These women who are practitioners are not aware of or have very little awareness of the UNSCR 1325.”*

In areas where awareness has been raised, the results have been positive. For example, according to a CSO in **DRC**, *“Some women are familiar with the contents of Resolution 1325 and other resolutions, the NAP is known in large urban areas (cities).”* As a result, *“These women denounce violations and mobilize to join decision-making bodies at the local level.”*

9. Respondents affirm that UNSCR 1325 implementation needs to move from ad hoc initiatives to long-term projects, resources and priorities coordinated among all actors.

In order to effectively address all areas of the women, peace and security agenda, particularly conflict prevention, several respondents expressed concern about the short-term, ad hoc nature of UNSCR 1325 implementation. This includes concerns that new resolutions were adopted before previous resolutions had fully taken effect.

- A **Dutch** CSO working in conflict areas in **Asia** and the **MENA** region noted: *“UNSCR 1325 is often implemented in an ad-hoc manner, without long-term structural implementation and addressing the roots of conflict.”*
- Echoed by a **US**-based global organization, *“Policy is important but needs to be linked to long-term resources and priorities rather than short term projects and ad hoc initiatives. It takes times for policy to be owned by all relevant actors.”*

10. Lack of political will to implement UNSCR 1325 is attributed to the false perception that UNSCR is nonbinding and attempts by governments to bypass international frameworks and to lack of internalization of the WPS agenda within the UN Security Council.

Numerous respondents expressed the concern that UNSCR 1325 implementation is hindered by lack of political will, resulting in minimal differences in the lives of women and girls in conflict countries. This is validated further later in this report, in Table 4, which shows that only 8 percent of respondents indicated that the success of their work was attributed to sufficient political will.

“All too often, governments see the resolutions as a policy document and not legally binding, which translates into weak National Action Plans that do not allocate funding or support NGOs.”

- US-based CSO working in **Burma** and **Iraq**

Though UNSCR 1325 is legally binding upon states that are signatories of the UN Charter, many attribute lack of political will to the perception that the resolution is nonbinding. CSO Survey results indicated that this false perception is also held by civil society organizations, which can hamper their ability to effectively advocate for full implementation of the WPS agenda. Several respondents in **DRC** reasoned that governments do not implement their commitment to UNSCR 1325 and its related resolutions because they are not binding.

- For example, one CSO in **DRC** noted *“The content of these resolutions are not binding, which makes it impossible to force policymakers to implement them. Therefore, their implementation dependent on the political will of States.”*

Based on this false perception, CSOs in **DRC** and **Burundi** stressed the need to make it clear that UNSCR 1325 is a binding resolution, thus revealing the need to raise awareness about the legal status of UNSCR 1325 and other UNSC resolutions at all levels.

Even with awareness of the legal mandate of UNSCR 1325, respondents described governments' unwillingness to comply with international norms and regulations as a hindrance.

- This was particularly highlighted by a CSO in **Guatemala**, which noted that *“the Guatemalan State does not comply with international treaties and agreements on human rights, especially the rights of women.”*
- Moreover, global CSOs working in **Afghanistan**, **Pakistan** and **India** observed different ways government avoid compliance, saying: *“Out of the 3 countries where we work . . . only Afghanistan recognizes it has ‘conflict’ or any place for 1325. In the case of Pakistan, you cannot even use 1325 in your documents nor work on this issue . . . there is a push to not call IDPs . . . ‘temporarily’ displaced persons [rather than internally displaced], in order to avoid having to adhere to international guidelines and norms.”*
- Another CSO **Pakistan** confirmed this view, noting: *“The government of Pakistan is very sensitive to UNSCR 1325 and doesn't want NGOs to work around this concept.”* To avoid this

hurdle, they have been using the three P's concept: participation, prevention and protection, rather than UNSCR 1325.

Regardless of whether the definition of “conflict” is in question, it is important to identify UNSCR 1325 as not only a mechanism that can be applied to countries in conflict, but rather as a vehicle and framework for including women in peacebuilding and decision-making activities in all global contexts. Moreover, for Western states, adherence to WPS agendas should also be implemented at home: as a **UK** CSO stated: *“The fact that UK (and other Western states) place 1325 NAPs in their 'foreign policy' basket means they do not use them for conflicts, or immigration and asylum (to inform, for example, treatment of refugees from sexual violence), at home.”*

Besides lack of political will at the government level, a global **US**-based CSO reports that consistent commitment to the 1325 mandate is lacking within the UN Security Council:

“Although there is a strong normative framework on WPS, the Council has not truly internalized the WPS agenda. For example, when considering crisis situations in countries that have peacekeeping or political mandates, the Council rarely addressed WPS concerns, despite its consideration of WPS in its regular discussions on these countries. Similarly, briefings from senior UN officials included reference to WPS inconsistently, regardless of the inclusion of WPS in the mandate on which they were briefings.”

According to this CSO's recent analysis, the only examples of a balanced approach to the full implementation of WPS across the Council's agenda were in the contexts of Afghanistan, Libya, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire. The Council must therefore *“Integrate WPS concerns when considering crisis situations and emerging threats, and uniformly request that Senior UN officials and Special Envoys address these in their Council briefings and ensure all Security Council mandates include specific language related to WPS issues.”*

11. Many respondents highlighted the challenges of assessing UNSCR 1325 effectiveness, given weak or no mechanisms to monitoring tools. The need to move beyond monitoring numbers to assessing shifts in norms, values and overall culture in peace and security was also stressed. Moreover, CSO monitoring reports should be funded and strengthened by government action.

Respondents consistently raised concerns about the absence of strong, effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanisms. When later asked about strategic actions that national government can take to address these concerns, many urged governments to ensure that National Action Plans include specific targets, deadlines and implementation mechanisms. Moreover, many suggested measures to require both consistent M&E with CSO participation and compliance among governments.

- A CSO in **Guatemala** recommended *“a permanent process of evaluation and monitoring, since their policies and plans change every four years (with a new government).”*
- Similarly, a **Dutch** respondent working in **Guatemala** and **Burundi** affirmed that *“measures [must be] taken with states that do not comply with the resolutions, or any UN instrument that has been ratified.”*

- Another **Dutch** CSO, working in the **MENA** region and in Asia, aptly observed that monitoring and evaluating effectiveness of UNSCR 1325 based on numbers does not give a full picture of impact: *“Within monitoring and evaluation, emphasis is laid on numbers (amount of women in military, amount of gender trainings), instead of taking into account shifts in norms, values and overall culture in peace & security.”*

“Monitoring reports are powerful tools for evidenced based advocacy.”

- CSO in **Serbia**

Lacking regular government monitoring mechanisms, many CSOs have taken it upon themselves to monitor UNSCR 1325 implementation, as reflected in the growing number of CSOs contributing to GNWP’s annual publication “Women Count – Security Council Resolution 1325: Civil Society Monitoring Report.” In 2014, 20 countries and one region participated, including CSOs based in nations with and without a NAP.

Using a standard set of indicators, they sought to provide accurate quantifiable data on the situation of women in conflict zones.⁴

Several CSO respondents reference their contributions to these monitoring reports as an effective area of work. According to a CSO in **Eastern Uganda**, *“The fact that CSOs are able to monitor through research the implementation of the NAP and 1325 and disseminate results is a constant reminder to governments on their obligations.”*

While the monitoring reports have raised awareness on all levels, a CSO in **Colombia** pointed out, *“Monitoring reports can only reflect some results”* and still require active commitments from governments to monitor implementation. Relaying a similar concern, a CSO in **Serbia** said: *“In very rare cases government seriously took recommendations of women's NGOs.”*

Despite the efficacy of this work, some respondents noted that such research can be time-consuming and exhaust limited NGO resources, particularly given the dearth of available data and access to such information. In DRC, 10 CSOs addressed this challenge by pooling funds to conduct surveys and produce the monitoring report. To avoid such challenges in the future, another CSO from **DRC** stated, *“The government should make financial resources available to support CSOs in the monitoring and implementation of resolutions 1325 and 1820.”*

Similarly, a CSO in **Libya** recommended that INGOs and foreign governments *“Partner with women’s organizations to provide them with financial and technical assistance to systematize monitoring of the government in relation to implementation of UNSCR 1325 and reporting to CEDAW committee and the Universal Periodic Review of the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights.”*

12. Respondents see National Action Plans as a key tool to effectively implement and monitor UNSCR 1325, though it is not the only avenue available.

Respondents worldwide highlighted the lack of NAPs in many countries as a key concern for the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

⁴ In 2014 countries and regions monitored in GNWP’s “Women Count” publication included: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Burundi, Canada, Colombia, DRC, Fiji, India, Iraq, Kenya, Libya, Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sweden and Uganda

- A respondent in **Colombia** noted that not having a NAP “makes it difficult to track the commitments regarding Women Peace and Security.” However, “there is no political will on the part of the State institutions. They argue that there is no need for more plans to work on the specific issue of gender and the R. 1325.”
- This also applies in the **MENA** region, where, as a CSO based in **Egypt** noted, “Only 1 NAP has been adopted--by Iraq. Women throughout the world still see themselves left out of peace talks and negotiations and post-conflict decision-making, despite the fact that over and over again the data shows that women's inclusion in such efforts leads to longer-term stability and prosperity.”

To address these concerns, as proposed by a **UK**-based global CSO, “There needs to be a concerted push for all countries to have a NAP (including accountability mechanisms for implementation, time line and allocated funding) as soon as possible, as this will allow for funding opportunities to be tied to an effective framework. The push should occur even before conflict sets in.”

While ensuring that all countries not only write a NAP and implement it, CSOs continue to find other avenues to support WPS work in the meantime. According to a CSO in **Zimbabwe**, a NAP is not the only entry point to carrying out the agenda: “Zimbabwe was once on the agenda of the Security Council and there is a perception that making a UNSCR 1325 NAP will put the country back on that agenda. However, aspects of protection and prevention have been incorporated in other policies and action plans of government.” Many of the respondents in the survey demonstrate this through alternative plans to implement elements of UNSCR 1325, such as the localization program.

“Look beyond NAPs. 1325 is more than just NAPs.”

- CSO in the Netherlands

13. Even where a National Action Plan exists, many respondents observed limited or no implementation due to lack of political will and funding, lack of coordination among all actors, and lack of clarity or awareness of the NAP.

Many respondents welcomed the adoption of NAPs in the countries where they work, as these have provided policies that allow the CSOs to establish programs and raise awareness among different actors. They see it as a great achievement that 48 nations have adopted NAPs.

“While we welcomed the adoption of the NAP 1325, we are still waiting to see the beginning of its implementation. That's why we give a rating of 4, taking into account the fact that a lot remains to be done.”

- CSO in DRC

Nonetheless, respondents frequently report little to no implementation once NAPs are adopted, requiring CSOs to come together even more to push the agenda. Many attribute this to lack of political will and/or sufficient funding for the NAP, as expressed by several CSOs, such as in **Uganda**; lack of expertise, capacity and clarity about the NAP within government and civil society also contribute to minimal or no implementation. In addition, many emphasized the need for more coordinated efforts among all government agencies, the UN and CSOs.

- As explained by a **UK**-based global CSO, drawing from their field experience in **Somalia, South Sudan, Myanmar** and **Afghanistan**, “Where political will is limited, NAPs will not provide impetus for WPS, especially as often no specific resources are allocated to its implementation.”

Respondents in **DRC**, **South Korea** and **South Sudan** specifically noted that their governments have not yet implemented their NAPs, while a respondent in **Indonesia** stated that CSOs have spent seven years assisting the government to develop its NAP. CSOs in **Uganda** and **Myanmar** say implementation or follow-through has been minimal.

While awareness-raising is important, it must be accompanied by implementation. According to a respondent in **Nepal**, who conducted action research in **Palestine**, only 4 of 140 Palestinian conflict-affected women interviewed knew about the NAP in 2013.

Lack of funding for NAP implementation was a frequent source of concern among respondents. As noted by a CSO in **Uganda**: *“In terms of legislation, there have been some changes, but in terms of implementation there is still very little. The NAP in Uganda is just a piece of paper with no budget to implement it.”*

Funding for implementation must also include resources for women’s groups. As an **Australian** CSO said: *“The NAP is not financially resourcing women’s organisations as priority constituents in peacebuilding and conflict recovery. It remains rhetorical. Others are paid, NGOs are expected to volunteer.”*

14. Respondents highlighted how localization has been an effective implementation strategy. Where there are NAPs, local action plans have helped to harmonize local and national development plans.

CSOs in **Colombia**, **DRC**, **Nepal**, **the Netherlands**, **the Philippines**, **Serbia** and **the US** referred to GNWP’s “Localization” Program--engaging local governments and community women to create Local Action Plans on UNSCR 1325--as a strategy to mainstream UNSCR 1325.

As one example of such a strategy, a respondent in **Serbia** noted that as a result of the Localization training led by GNWP on UNSCR 1325 in the Municipality of Pirot in 2014, *“They drafted guidelines for efficient localization of UNSCR 1325, which can serve as a model of good practice for other municipalities.”*

Moreover, with support from INGOs, local and national government, they incorporated UNSCR 1325 and parts of the NAP into the Local Action Plan (LAP), including women’s empowerment activities for women from refugee and displaced population. As result, they improved “security of women ex-combatants and their families, and educating and sensitizing the members of the Municipal Assembly of Pirot on gender perspective in politics, defense and security.”

“Women on the ground have shared that the most effective WPS initiatives have been projects working on the localization of the NAP....”

- **Dutch** CSO working in conflict areas world-wide

A CSO in the **Philippines** reported *“A conscious effort to include women in local peace mechanisms because of our localization program.”* Respondents from the country noted that NAP localization, supported by the Office of the Presidential Advisor on the Peace Process (OPAPP), and international networks like GNWP, has aided in mainstreaming the NAP. One positive result was inclusion of women in the Bodong Council, which was previously open only to men. As a result, *“There are now more*

community women who feel more empowered that they can participate in preventing conflicts and in conflict resolution.”

Exchange of such information about effective localization practices in **Serbia**, the **Philippines**, **Nepal** and elsewhere has benefitted CSOs around the world. Both focus group discussion participants and CSO survey respondents also suggested that training women to lead UNSCR 1325 localization processes is imperative in impacting women’s lives.

Survey results and FGD data affirm that shifts toward a localization strategy have led to a “bottom up” approach to UNSCR 1325 implementation. However, to ensure such initiatives do not become a “bottom-bottom” approach, national commitment is still essential. As one CSO in Colombia seeking a new tool to establish UNSCR 1325 in local development plans noted, without a NAP in Colombia, “*There is no harmonization of R. 1325 with national development plans.*”

Factors for Effective Implementation

Introduction

Throughout the survey results, respondents consistently describe cross-cutting factors affecting their work on women, peace and security issues. In particular, in describing areas of their work that they considered most or least effective in impacting the lives of women in their communities, respondents were asked to identify the successful factors as well as the barriers/problems that hindered their work.

“The resolutions have not been effectively implemented due to lack of sufficient resources (money, political will and a serious and concerted effort to shift power balances).”

- CSO in Indonesia

Details of these factors will be described in more depth throughout this report; however, they are identified first here as an important point of reference. The data below presents both a quantitative and qualitative assessment of some of the most important cross-cutting factors affecting respondents' work.





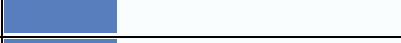

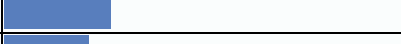
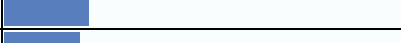
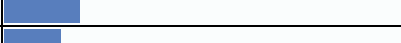
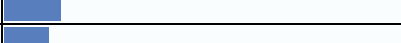


Factors for Success

- 1. Respondents regarded collaboration with other CSOs as a primary factor for success in their own work.*

A vast majority of CSOs regarded collaboration with other CSOs as a major factor for success in their work on women, peace and security (64 percent). Support from international CSOs ranks a distant second with 41 percent (multiple answers possible). Adequate funding (22 percent), support from local government (21 percent) and support from national government and UN agencies were both mentioned by every fourth-to-fifth CSO as being a major factor for their success. Least important were political will (8 percent), as described previously, and policy reforms (10 percent).

Examples of how CSOs have worked most effectively with these different actors will be elaborated further in the section on Collaboration and Coordination. In addition, funding models will be reviewed in the section on Funding and Funding Mechanisms.

Table 4: Factors contributing to the success of CSO respondents’ work on WPS

What factors contributed to the success of this effective area of work?					
Responses	Count	%	% of total respondents		
Collaboration with other CSOs	203	64%			
Support from international NGOs	131	41%			
Adequate funding	69	22%			
Local government support	65	21%			
Support from UN agencies	64	20%			
National government support	63	20%			
Media coverage	60	19%			
Support/pressure from the international community	46	15%			
Other(s) (Please specify):	42	13%			
Policy reforms	31	10%			
Sufficient political will	25	8%			
Total Responses	812				
Multiple answers per participant are possible, thus the total percentage may exceed 100 percent. No answers: 13 respondents (4 percent).					
Notable Differences Between Regions	Africa	Asia	Europe/N America	Latin America	Middle East
Local government support	23%	30%	18%	7%	6%
Media coverage	24%	14%	14%	7%	29%
Support/pressure from the international community	9%	15%	20%	79%	18%
Total Respondents per region	122	77	70	14	35

Other factors for CSO success described by respondents included:

- Local women’s active participation (Guatemala, Philippines)
- Social media such as Facebook and Twitter (Libya)
- Volunteers (Nepal)

The majority of notable success factors across geographic regions are rather consistent, particularly collaboration with other CSOs, which ranges from 54 percent (Asia) to 77 percent (Africa). The greatest notable variations not covered elsewhere in this report include the use of media coverage as a factor of success, as well as support/pressure from the international community. Local government support also varied significantly, with Africa and Asia reporting greater success engaging local government than those in other regions.

Findings reveal that respondents in Africa and the Middle East have been more successful in using media coverage to raise awareness of their work. Several respondents in DRC noted how they use radio and television coverage to have greater impact on the ground.

It is also interesting to note that a significantly higher percentage of respondents in Latin America identify support/pressure from the international community as a key factor for their success (79

percent). While most of the 14 respondents (primarily from Guatemala) identified the influence of international community pressure, open answers across regions provide much richer insights into the role of the international community.

- Respondents in **DRC** attributed pressure from the international community for passing a law on the punishment of sexual violence, and *“to the fact that the activities led by national NGOs such as UNSCR 1325 have benefited from special attention from the government at all levels.”*
- A global CSO based in the **UK** contended that *“strategic support (but not pressure!) from the international community based on thorough conflict analysis and a commitment for the long-term is also very important.”*
- In other cases, such as in **Libya**, a CSO reflected that its concerns have been largely forgotten and neglected by the international community, stating, *“The women on the ground are fed up with male decision-makers worrying about their status, money and power.”*





Obstacles to CSO Success

The following describes the most common challenges identified by respondents that limit the effectiveness of their work.

2. Respondents regarded a lack of resources as a primary barrier to the effective implementation of their own work.

A majority of respondents identified lack of resources as a barrier to their work (39 percent), followed by a lack of trust and cooperation between government and civil society and gaps between international policies and action and local realities not being addressed (29 percent each). The misinterpretation of culture and/or religion related to women’s dignity, identified by 27 percent of respondents, is a theme that respondents describe as an impediment to their work. That is particularly so in promoting women’s participation and protection against gender-based violence in conflict. Increased militarization, identified by 22 percent of respondents as a barrier, is a theme that will be elaborated much more in findings related to militarized responses to conflict, as well as emerging issues.

Table 5: Barriers affecting WPS work

Q13. 2.e. What barriers/problems hurt your work the most? (Please select at most 3 options)			
Responses	Count	%	% of total respondents
Lack of resources for this specific work	125	39%	
Lack of trust and cooperation between government and civil society	93	29%	
Gaps between international policies and action and local realities are not being addressed	92	29%	
Misinterpretation of culture &/or religion related to women’s dignity	87	27%	

Limited institutional capacities, including lack of expertise on WPS issues	81	26%	
Increased militarization and diminishing space for civil society	70	22%	
Security	65	21%	
Current efforts are heavily focused on sexual violence prevention and not prevention of conflicts themselves	43	14%	
Other(s) - please specify	28	9%	
Competition for visibility & resources among organizations working on WPS	27	9%	
Tension between networks and organizations involved in WPS issues	18	6%	
Total Responses	754		

Multiple answers per participant are possible, thus the total percentage may exceed 100 percent. No response: 25 respondents (8 per cent).

Notable Differences Between Regions	Africa	Asia	Europe/N America	Latin America	Middle East
Increased militarization	11%	24%	30%	43%	42%
Security	16%	31%	13%	21%	36%
Lack of resources for this work	51%	35%	41%	43%	18%
Lack of trust between government and civil society	24%	36%	31%	36%	36%
Limited institutional capacities	25%	25%	31%	43%	18%
Total Respondents per region	122	77	70	14	35

“Other” barriers not listed above, described by respondents within their own work or within the countries where they work, included:

- Absence of a NAP (Armenia, Azerbaijan)
- Difficulty in maintaining sustainable action (Bangladesh)
- Governments place 1325 NAPs in their foreign policy basket and do not use them for conflicts at home (UK)
- Heavy mistrust by the government and the UN Security Council (Zimbabwe)
- High collaboration between private sectors and military officers (Indonesia)
- Impunity and machismo (Guatemala)
- Lack of information among the people about the provision & legalization for women guaranteed by the state (Nepal)
- Lack of will to break the culture of silence at all political levels (Global Irish CSO)
- Low priority given to implementation of SCR 1325 by relevant officials within elected government (New Zealand)
- Misperception by the government about UNSCR 1325 (Pakistan)
- NAP distorts 1325 into "making war safe for women" (Canada)

- Patriarchal system (Rwanda, Somalia)
- Slow legal system (Israel/Palestine)

3. Responses often varied considerably among regions. Respondents from Middle East and Latin America indicated militarization as the principal challenge they faced.

Many of the factors outlined are relevant to most CSOs, though to different degrees in different contexts. Militarization--an issue examined throughout the survey--was indicated as a challenge in all regions, though it was selected as one of the three principal challenges most often in the **Middle East (42 percent)**, and in **Latin America (43 percent)**.

- A respondent working with **Arab women in Israel** indicated that ***militarization and a narrow notion of security make it difficult to include women and a gender perspective in decision-making.***

4. Limited institutional capacities, including lack of expertise on WPS issues, were recognized as a consistent challenge, as well as a priority among many CSOs.

Limited institutional capacities were among the responses most often indicated by the CSOs. In particular, **43 percent** of respondents from **Latin America** indicated limited capacities, including lack of expertise on WPS issues, as a major cross-cutting challenge.

- A respondent working at the subnational level in **Choco, Colombia**, indicated that there was ***no trained staff to analyze progress of women’s projects and prepare better advocacy strategies;***
- A respondent working at the national level amid the conflict in **the Philippines** noted that there is ***no technical knowledge on UNSCR 1325*** and women activists are not used to relying on NAP in their advocacy.

In light of these findings, it is important to note that many respondents indicated technical capacity building on advocacy (26 percent) and UNSCR 1325 (34 percent) as their top capacity building priorities (See Table 26 in “CSO Respondent Demographics”). Capacity building in these areas is thus perceived not only as particularly challenging, but also a top priority.

5. Political divisions were recognized as a factor hindering the implementation of WPS agenda.

Twenty-nine percent of respondents indicated lack of trust between government and civil society as the greatest obstacle in their least-effective area of work, and **30 percent** said it was the major cross-cutting challenge they face. Lack of trust was indicated most often by respondents from **Latin America (36 percent)**, and featured most prominently in answers from organizations working in **post-conflict contexts (50 percent)**.

Although lack of trust was not explicitly linked to political divisions in a country, several organizations that responded with “Other” and gave an open-ended answer pointed to the political context and political divisions as a major challenge affecting their work.

- A respondent based in **Israel**, working in the **Palestinian Territories**, noted that the Israeli right-wing government treats Palestinian civil society organizations with hostility, by refusing to provide them with resources, among other matters.
- A respondent from **South Korea** remarked that a women’s exchange program with North Korea aimed at building mutual understanding was hindered by the South Korean government barring women from traveling across the border.

UNSCR 1325 Effectiveness by Areas of Work

Introduction

The following section examines general perceptions and attitudes of UNSCR 1325’s effectiveness and impact, as well as best practices and challenges, according to the major elements of the emerging discourse on WPS (participation, prevention, protection and promotion and peacebuilding and recovery), as well as other relevant themes addressed in the Global Study (including justice and accountability for grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law against women and Militarized Responses to Conflict: Peacekeeping and Security Forces).

Despite all obstacles, CSOs are conducting transformative, high-impact work on women, peace and security around the world. It is important to recognize the achievements and challenges of CSOs and their partners, as well as to learn from their work. Such firsthand knowledge will allow us to better adapt and transfer best practices to other areas, identify lasting solutions to challenges and leverage activities that are succeeding on the ground.

Following the CSO Survey’s Guiding Research Questions: *“How do CSOs assess the impact of their work, the work of other actors, and overall implementation of UNSCR WPS resolutions? In turn, what best practices have they observed or experienced?”* and *“Who are the CSOs working on WPS issues; what are they doing, what are their achievements and challenges in the field?”* this analysis looks at respondents’ answers to the following questions from the CSO survey:

- Of your priority areas of work, which do you think has been the most effective and least effective in providing a direct beneficial impact on the lives of women and girls in the communities where you work? (By impact, we mean increasing women’s participation in decision-making and peacebuilding; preventing SGBV/providing service to victims; promoting a gender perspective and more).
- For most effective areas of work, what were specific beneficial outcomes of this effective area of work?
- For least effective areas of work, if possible, give us a specific example of how you experienced these barriers that affected this work.
- What are the two strategic actions that other actors could do to help address these problems, and which actors would be responsible?

In an effort to assess best practices and challenges of civil society organizations (CSOs) working on women, peace and security around the world, it is important that we view these efforts within the context of their self-identified priorities of work. Respondents were therefore asked to describe their organization’s priorities according to advocacy, technical capacity building and direct services, where relevant. These priorities are described and analyzed in the “CSO Respondent Demographics” section.

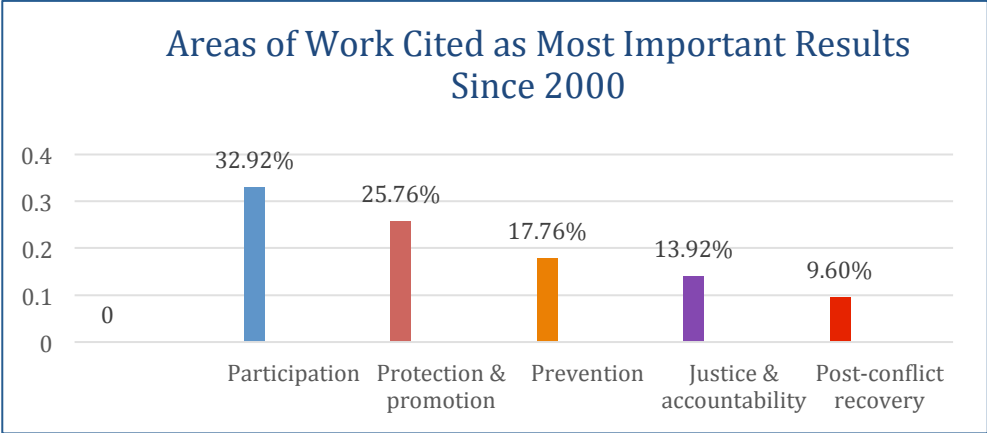
For each question above, respondents were also asked to describe the most and least effective work of “other actors.” Open answer results indicated that CSO respondents were often engaged in some way in the work they described of “other actor.” Moreover, in many cases, many of these actors were other CSOs. Therefore, in the following qualitative analysis of open answers, no distinction is made between the results to these different questions, unless respondents distinguished between their own work and the work of other actors.

Quantitative Analysis

- 1. *When asked to assess the most important things that have taken place globally since 2000, women’s participation ranked highest, followed by protection and promotion of women’s rights in conflict, prevention of violence, justice and accountability and post-conflict recovery.*

To understand respondents’ perceptions of the WPS agenda on a macro-level according to area of work, respondents were asked the open-answer question: “In your view, what are the three most important results that have taken place globally since 2000? Please also select to which area of work each result relates.”

Table 6: Areas of Work Cited as Most Important Results Since 2000



When tabulating answers according to respondents’ own categorization, women’s participation ranked highest in respondents’ assessment of the most important results that have taken place globally since 2000 (32.92 percent) (see Table 6 above).

Bearing in mind that respondents had the option to present three results, the data shows the percentage of the total results given, related to each category of work. Results were grouped according to the parameters of justice and accountability; women’s participation; prevention of violence,

protection and promotion of women’s rights in conflict; and post-conflict recovery. These categories were self-selected by respondents; hence, we have incorporated them as guidelines for our analytical framework.

2. Respondents identify initiatives to increase women’s participation across all levels of decision-making as one of their most-effective initiatives, while also being one of their greatest challenges.

To understand respondents’ perceptions on a micro-level, respondents were asked these multiple choice questions: (i) “Based on your knowledge or direct experience, what WPS initiative led by other actors do you believe has been most effective in providing a direct beneficial impact on the lives of women and girls in the communities where you work? Select one”; and (ii) “Now, in contrast, what WPS initiative—if any—led by other actors do you believe has been least effective in providing a direct beneficial impact on the lives of women and girls in the communities where you work? (Please select one).”

Table 7: Most-Effective and Least-Effective Areas of Work

	What WPS initiative by other actors do you believe has been most effective in providing a direct beneficial impact on the lives of women and girls in communities where you work? (Please select one)		What WPS initiative led by other actors—if any—do you believe has been least effective in providing a direct beneficial impact on the lives of women and girls in communities where you work? (Please select one)	
Women, Peace and Security Area of Work	Count	% of Respondents	Count	% of Respondents
Promoting laws that advance gender equality and women’s rights	58	18%	22	7%
Women’s <i>participation</i> in local decision-making	47	15%	17	5%
Women’s <i>participation</i> in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, peace negotiations and conflict recovery	45	14%	32	10%
Civil society input to/participation in National Action Plan (NAP) development processes	36	11%	16	5%
The promotion of a gender perspective across all sectors (security, policy, etc.)	26	8%	18	6%
Access to justice in response to violations of women’s rights in conflict	16	5%	44	14%
Women’s participation in national decision making	16	5%	23	7%
The prevention and protection of women from sexual and gender-based violence in conflict	14	4%	25	8%
Research, monitoring and evaluation of the	12	4%	20	6%

implementation of WPS resolutions and NAPS (If your country has a NAP)				
Other(s) - Please specify	10	3%	8	3%
Total Responses	317		317	

When comparing the single WPS initiative that respondents perceived as most and least effective in their communities, **more respondents selected some form of participation (i.e., peace processes, national or local participation) as “most effective” as well as “least effective” than any other initiative.** Such disparity suggests that work on increasing women’s participation, while identified as producing the greatest results (per Table 6), is viewed by CSOs as having the greatest the potential and the greatest challenge in achieving.

Interestingly, “women’s participation in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, peace negotiations and conflict recovery,” demonstrated the greatest disparity in perceptions of effectiveness. This initiative was the third-most selected “most effective” initiative (14 percent), and the second-most selected “least effective” initiative (10 percent), suggesting that this top priority, when given the right support, can have the greatest impact. Without sufficient support, effectiveness is limited.

3. Respondents overall see efforts to adopt laws to protect women as more effective than efforts to ensure that such laws provide women greater access to justice.

Regarding single initiatives, “promoting laws that advance gender equality and women’s rights” was identified as most effective by a slight margin (18 percent). This was also identified as an advocacy priority by 28 percent of respondents (see Table 24 in “CSO Respondent Demographics” section). Yet “access to justice in response to violations of women’s rights in conflict” was most-identified as least effective (14 percent). This quantitative data, examined in more depth later in in this section, is complemented by open answer responses that indicate that while there have been gains in legislation to support women’s rights, overall, such laws have not had enough impact in ensuring that women have greater access to justice.

- As one case in point, according to a CSO in **Jordan**, *“Many laws and legislation were issued and amended in Jordan to protect women and their families and to grant them with more rights in order to achieve gender equity and equality, but the problem is in implementing these laws.”* The CSO attributes this to lack of cooperation and coordination between local, national and international organizations. They also attribute this to barriers posed by culture and tradition, noting that *“religion has nothing to do with this issue as all form of violence are not accepted in Islam and in all religions.”*

Such findings are further validated by the fact that respondents identified the broader work of justice and accountability as producing the greatest results only about 14 percent of the time (see Table 6), whereas, in Table 4, only 10 percent of respondents indicated that policy reforms were a factor contributing to the success of their work.

Qualitative Analysis

Disparities among answers regarding effectiveness and impact across the pillars demonstrate that what is considered to have been very effective in one context has sometimes been ineffective in another. One global CSO working in conflict-affected areas around the world experienced this when trying to provide a collective answer reflecting the views of its various country offices, noting that *“It [was] impossible to provide one answer as the perspective from the different country teams differs.”* Quantitative results therefore are not generalizable. To gain a clearer picture of various views on effectiveness and impact, results must be coupled with the following qualitative answers, describing the context for each respondent’s answers.

Women’s Right to Participation and Representation

4. A majority of respondents acknowledge an increase in women’s participation at all levels of decision-making, and increased global acknowledgement of the importance of women’s participation to sustainable peace. Yet women’s participation levels are still far from sufficient.

When asked to assess the effectiveness and major results of UNSCR 1325 since 2000, and how their work in WPS has changed, a vast majority of respondents from every region observed some increase in women’s active and meaningful participation in all levels of decision-making, from peace negotiation spaces to local and national conflict reconstruction processes to participation in UN peace missions. They also cited an increase in local laws and global instruments that favor women’s political participation, while noting that such laws do not guarantee political participation without corresponding political will.

Moreover, as also noted in the focus group findings and CSO surveys, while **creating space for women at the decision-making level** does not guarantee that women’s interests will be fully represented, **it is an important first step in ensuring that their common objectives are identified** at many social levels within communities.

Learning about UNSCR 1325 and their ability to defend their rights encouraged more women to vote and to run for election.

- CSO in **Burundi**

Many also identified **increased awareness and recognition of the right of women to participate, including among women themselves**, as an indicator of effectiveness. As highlighted by CSOs in **DRC, Guinea, Burundi** and **Palestine**, UNSCR 1325 has catalyzed the establishment and increased the capacity of many CSOs and networks dedicated to promoting women’s participation.

In addition, respondents observed increased international awareness of the importance of women’s participation in peace processes and post-conflict reconstruction efforts **not only from a human rights perspective, but also as a measure of effectiveness**. States a CSO in **Burma**, there is *“Growing recognition that women’s participation is key to sustainable peace.”* As said by a CSO in the **UK**, this includes passing of *“UNSCR 2122 (2013), because it sets out more explicitly than ever before the need to challenge the deficit of women’s participation in conflict prevention AND the need to tackle root causes of conflict.”*

Respondents raised notable examples of increased participation in decision-making at all levels from their own countries and others, including:

- Appointment of Miriam Coronel-Ferrer as 2012 Chairperson of the Government of the Philippines's Peace Panel in negotiation with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. States a CSO in the **Philippines**, this was *"A huge step in women's participation in high-level formal peace negotiations."*
- Election of women as heads of state in post-conflict countries, such as President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in **Liberia**, and the appointment of women as Chief Justice and Speaker of Parliament in Ghana (raised by respondents in **DRC** and **Ghana**).
- *"Discriminatory clauses that limited the number of women in Police and Military Academy were abolished, enabling more women to enter police and military"* (CSO in **Serbia**).
- Increased participation of Afghan women in politics and other councils, as well as other facets of life, including professional, educational and social ones; and more women in higher ranks of the military and police force being placed by the government, resulting in a cultural shift within the Interior Ministry (highlighted by CSOs working in **Afghanistan**).
- A new law requiring gender equality in electoral lists and a reasonable number of women to be elected in Parliament (2011 and 2014) in **Tunisia**, a result of *"awareness campaigns for women on their rights and outreach to members of the government (lobbying),"* as well as regular CEDAW shadow reports.
- Similarly, in **Guatemala**, the Constitutional Court ruled positively to create rules to enforce women's participation in elections as candidates for public positions.

At the same time, many respondents noted examples of how participation levels are still too low, particularly at local levels. Moreover, as stated by a CSO in **Yemen**, from its experience, recognition does not necessarily translate into actual commitment. For example:

- A CSO in the **Philippines**, while acknowledging increased women's participation in peace and security matters at the national level, noted, *"Much remains to be done for community women to meaningfully participate and become actively involved in peacebuilding in local mechanisms."*
- According to a respondent in **Armenia**, *"The women's representation in peace initiatives is very weak in OSCE Minsk group, which is an active player in peaceful resolution of Azerbaijan and Nagorno Karabakh conflict."*
- States a CSO in **Zimbabwe**, *"Women's participation in negotiations remains minimal, and UNSCR 1325's implementation depends on the good will of the actors involved. There is something very wrong with a system where the most violent (rebels) are recognised and entrusted to shape the future of a population. The military institution continues to be a block to building sustainable peace since it promotes the use of violence and militarism."*
- Describes a CSO in **Libya**, *"The international community plans meetings and conferences without demanding CSOs be present in these talks. Dealing only with the male-dominated*

government of Libya made things worse in the last year or so. Even though we are available, we are always sidelined and neglected.”

5. When asked to identify which priority areas of a CSO’s work has been most effective, a majority identify their efforts to increase some area of women’s participation.

Thirty-five respondents, a majority among open-answer responses, identified their efforts to increase women’s political participation and representation in decision-making processes as key to improving the lives of women in their communities.

This assessment of CSO effectiveness is in line with CSO priorities identified later in Table 25 in the section “CSO Respondent Demographics,” where women’s participation in peace processes and in local/community decision-making were top advocacy priorities across all respondents. Africa and Southeast Asian respondents composed the majority that identified women’s participation as most successful area of work. Latin America (apart from Guatemala) did not.

Participation in peace processes and negotiating tables were the main areas of focus by respondents. Examples include:

- Participation of women in the collection of weapons from young ex-combatants of M23 in the territory of Rutshuru, **DRC**.
- Dialogue between **EU** policymakers and CSOs related to peace and conflict, which resulted in bringing women civil society representatives to the table to discuss gaps and challenges in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 by the EU and its Member States (referenced by a **Belgium** CSO working throughout the **EU**).
- As a result of CSO mobilization in **Colombia**, led by a global **Swiss** CSO, “Appointment of two women in the Government delegation conducting peace talks with the FARC and later, the establishment of a Sub-Committee on the negotiations on Gender in 2014. Despite these gains, women in civil society do not have formal space in negotiations.”
- Women’s participation in peace processes in **Guatemala**, which has contributed to public policy to institutionalize a national reparations program, and psychosocial health programs for women victims of SGBV that take into account women’s and indigenous people’s perspectives.

Respondents also emphasized the importance of women’s participation in local decision-making in order to improve women’s economic, social and political empowerment.

- A respondent in **Georgia** noted that as a result of their training and workshops for women leaders, including the creation of a Club of Women’s Voters in eight cities in western Georgia,

they supported the significant inclusion of women in the decision-making processes in 13 municipalities in two different regions.

- According to a CSO in **Afghanistan**, women’s concerns are now being addressed as a result of increased women’s participation in local decision-making, *“Though there are still some stereotypes in the communities, the participation of women is now accepted and their voices are now being heard and they have also gained respect from other community members because of their participation.”*
- A **UK**-based global CSO noted that *“Enhancing women’s participation in local and community decision-making has allowed women to contribute to the design of facilities and service provision that are gender responsive.”*

6. Respondents frequently attribute gains in women’s participation to capacity building efforts.

In order to ensure that women are better equipped to meaningfully participate, respondents referenced the importance of disseminating educational materials and training on issues related to UNSCR 1325 to both men and women to improve the plight of women in their communities. This is further validated by the fact that 23 percent of all respondents indicated that training on advocacy skills on women, peace and security issues was a priority work area (see Table 26 in “CSO Respondent Demographics”).

- A CSO working in **India** supported women’s participation in government through training, prompting elected women representatives to take a more active stance on women’s issues.
- Stated a CSO in the **Philippines**, *“Women we trained on dialogue and mediation now feel more confident about helping to mediate community conflicts and have also formed an organization where they can share lessons learned from actual conflict resolution experiences.”*
- In **Rwanda**, a CSO described the outcomes of their training to improve skills and capacities to negotiate for full participation: *“Women are aware and ready to participate. Eight women are parliamentarians and remain the result of the work that has been done.”*

“I have trained many elected women representatives and have seen them coming out to address larger women’s issues. In earlier days, they were simply the puppets in the hands of their menfolk and were merely elected because of 33% reservation policy at the grassroots local bodies.”

- CSO in India

Given the impact of such training, according to a CSO in **Colombia**, governments and other stakeholders should *“increase financial and technical support in order to strengthen the capacity of women on issues such as participation or involvement.”*

7. When asked to identify which priority of a CSO’s work has been least effective, respondents most frequently cite their efforts to increase women’s meaningful participation, particularly in peace negotiations.

“There needs to be knowledge and awareness of what women's organisations are doing [in peace processes] and acceptance of their participation as equally important as those of the combatants.”

- CSO in **Australia**

While a majority of CSOs described progress made in their work to increase women's participation, when asked to describe *“the least effective in providing a direct beneficial impact on the lives of women and girls in the communities where you work,”* participation was also most often recognized as the least-effective area of activity. Such findings do not negate reports on the effective work of CSOs to increase women's participation, though they do highlight the need to address the many challenges that prevent CSOs from achieving sufficient results at all levels of participation.

This is especially true given that a majority of respondents also indicated women's participation as their top priority. Seventy-six percent of respondents indicated some kind of women's participation as their top priority, with 38 percent pointing to women's participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, peace negotiations and conflict recovery; 25 percent to women's participation in local/community decision-making; and 13 percent to women's participation in national decision-making.

Some respondents raised concerns that *“participation” is not sufficiently equated with meaningful decision-making.*

- Stated a **Belgium** CSO working throughout the **EU**, identifying civil society input/participation in NAP development processes as its least-effective area of work: *“Some EU states see it as a ‘ticking a box’ and don't hold meaningful consultations (Italy), although some do (e.g. Netherlands, Ireland).”*
- Moreover, a **Swiss** CSO working globally noted: *“Advocacy for women's participation that does not address structural changes is counterproductive. Current overemphasis on adding women sets interventions up to fail.”*

8. Limited effectiveness of work to increase women's participation is often attributed to cultural perceptions and harmful stereotypes of women, among other challenges.

When asked to describe the barriers/problems that affected this least-effective area of work, several CSOs noted how **women's participation in the public sphere is viewed as contrary to local culture and tradition**. In particular, as later outlined in Table 7, 27 percent of respondents identified “The misinterpretation of culture and/or religion related to women's dignity” as a barrier to their work. This poses problems for women's participation in decision-making and peace processes. In some cases, a society, adhering to patriarchal values and perspectives, sees women as unfit to make decisions, especially related to security. In other instances, local leaders refuse to collaborate with women due to their cultural beliefs and custom.

- According to a CSO in **DRC**, *“Despite the awareness activities that were carried out, stereotypes about women continue to exclude women, and they do not feel concerned with issues of peace”*; moreover, traditional and religious leaders do not accept women in management positions.

- Respondents in **the Philippines** remarked that women are not fully accepted as decision-makers by male peace negotiators, particularly in local settings, such as the Kalinga indigenous justice system. Some ***men insist that religion prohibits women from participating***; some women also believe this and agree to participate or take on leadership roles only in contexts where men are not present.
- In **Iraq**, some clergy members' ***interpretation of the Quran contributes to weakening of women's position*** and reduced their participation in decision-making and the judiciary. In addition, another CSO in Iraq reported that *"Working with traditional tribal leaders didn't really make change, since the norms and attitudes were deeply rooted in their characters, and despite their participation there was little or no impact."*

When asked to recommend a strategy to address these challenges, a CSO in **South Sudan** stated, *"Some of the cultural practices that have so far contributed to the marginalization of women must be abolished, and religious views that violates women's rights must be reviewed and their practice justified."*

Cultural shifts are also required at the international level. According to a respondent based in the United States and working in Benghazi, Libya, the ***marginalization of civil society is also perpetuated by the international community***, which plans meetings and conferences without demanding CSOs' presence, and deals only with the male-dominated national government.

Even when women are admitted to the negotiating table or other decision-making forums, women are often given the role of observers, or fulfill administrative functions, rather than engage in strategic decision-making. This is also partly playing to cultural stereotypes that view women as unable to strategize and speak about security issues. Thus, the ***mere presence of women (for example, in response to a quota system) does not guarantee that women's voices are being heard***.

- In **Burundi**, women played only an observatory role in the Arusha peace negotiations between the government and the armed groups.
- In **Azerbaijan**, women make up a large proportion of the government's administration, but they are rarely given strategic roles.

Lack of resources, traditional roles and local customs often prevent women from obtaining an education, resulting in high illiteracy rates. This situation affects women's ability to participate in decision-making.

- A respondent in **Ghana** said that low levels of education among women makes it difficult for many to engage in the kind of critical thinking required for participation in decision-making.
- A respondent in the **DRC** noted that ***because of lack of funds, it couldn't reach and train female candidates, especially at the grassroots level***, as some areas were impossible to access without sufficient resources.

Furthermore, even women that are educated sometimes ***lack specific advocacy and negotiation skills*** to successfully lobby for their participation. Developing such skills can be a ***long, difficult task and is***

often undermined by insufficient funding, yet it is essential to increasing women's participation in decision-making.

9. Respondents recommend that different stakeholders institutionalize participation of CSOs and conflict-affected women in national and global decision-making processes, informing all policies on conflict prevention, resolution and post-conflict rebuilding.

When asked about how different stakeholders can coordinate with CSOs, many emphasized the need to fund and institutionalize regular and transparent consultations and information exchanges with CSOs in national and global peace and security matters.

- For example, a respondent in **the Philippines** recommended that its government establish more effective communications mechanisms to exchange information with women in areas affected by insurgents, given that CSOs lack the resources to produce such materials. In addition, the respondent recommended *“More provincial level meetings and consultations to broaden participation from local government and local women’s NGOs.”*
- A respondent in **Montenegro** recommended the government establish *“...a national commission for implementation of resolution 1325, which would involve representatives of CSOs that are recognized as relevant.”* Such a commission would conduct research on women's participation with support from national and international experts and CSOs and promote a feminist approach to security.
- A global **US-based** CSO further recommended that *“Member states and INGOs support and fund the attendance and meaningful participation of civil society organizations... [in] donor conferences to ensure a gender lens in the prioritization, coordination, development and implementation of policies and programs.”*

CSOs across regions emphasized the **need for a participatory bottom-up approach to complement and inform the traditional top-down approach** to agenda setting, allocation of resources for these settings, and mechanisms to monitor and evaluate progress made in the future.

A number of respondents stressed the importance of including local and indigenous women in the design, implementation and monitoring of WPS programming. As a CSO from **Guatemala** working with indigenous women noted, **indigenous women know their communities best, and can therefore come up with effective programming on WPS in their local communities.**

To international partners and donors, CSOs emphasized the need to encourage participation locally by rewarding projects that integrate participatory approaches. Effective efforts carried out by some respondents led them to recommend donors and civil society to collaborate to increase visibility around women's participation through documentation projects and media campaigns.

Various CSOs urged national governments to promote participation of women at all levels of decision-making by **changing discriminating laws, investing in girls' education and creating quota systems and other incentives for women's participation.** They also advised civil society in general to work with local communities to provide gender training, raise awareness on UNSCR 1325 and **engage traditional**

leaders in dialogue about women’s participation and to include men and men-led CSOs in advocacy and awareness-raising efforts.

To ensure greater accountability, respondents affirmed that peace processes would not be considered legitimate without the participation of a certain minimum number of women. According to a CSO in **Ghana**, *“This should be made a requirement for funding and other logistical support for all peace processes (including peacekeeping) in conflict and post conflict situations. (This will also mean ensuring that there are provisions for building the capacity of women where this may be lacking).”*

“Women’s participation in all peace negotiation processes must be obligatory.”

- CSO in **Finland**

To the UN, respondents advised that the UN ensure that UNSCR 1325 implementation goes beyond “adding women” to security institutions. As a CSO in **Israel** noted, *“Achieving participation and decision-making by ‘women’ is insufficient in the absence of a thorough gender analysis of the issues at hand.*

Conflict Prevention

10. Respondents expect a reprioritization of conflict prevention, moving beyond a narrow focus of preventing sexual and gender-based violence to utilizing UNSCR 1325 to address gender norms that drive conflict and insecurity.

“War should be avoided at all costs.”

- CSO in **South**

Approximately 18 percent of respondents described results related to conflict prevention in Table 4, acknowledging some gains UNSCR 1325 has made in this area, though largely normative ones. A global CSO based in the **UK**, for example, cited UNSCR 2122 as a significant result, *“because it sets out more explicitly than ever the need to challenge the deficit of women’s participation in conflict prevention AND the need to tackle root causes of conflict.”* Moreover, when later asked to identify barriers to their work, 14 percent affirmed that “current efforts are heavily focused on sexual violence prevention and not prevention of conflicts themselves.” Respondents also describe how their organizations have used UNSCR 1325 and its subsequent resolutions as tools to advocate for women’s participation in conflict prevention, which has resulted in some increased participation and recognition of women as active agents of conflict prevention. While these results are notable, open answers reveal a perception that conflict prevention has been a neglected facet of the women, peace and security agenda and one of the least effective areas of their work.

- A CSO in **Ireland** aptly explained: *“[UNSCR 1325] has raised awareness, though not among those who could/should be proactive in conflict prevention. Since 2000, the number of live conflicts has been on the increase, GBV remains an enormous challenge and women’s representation, while improved, has limited influence when participation is seen as very separate from being a decision-maker.”*

Though the "prevention" pillar has more recently been interpreted as referring only to the prevention of violence against women and girls, its original intention was not to

“It has been very hard to move the focus from prevention of VAW to prevention of conflicts. We were disappointed that the Australian NAP’s focus on prevention was really about prevention of VAW, not conflict.”

- CSO in the **Australia**

make war safe for women but to prevent violent conflict. In order to achieve the transformative potential of UNSCR 1325, respondents highlighted a need to reprioritize the conflict prevention elements of the agenda, instituting long-term integrated strategies that address the root causes of armed conflict rather than just the symptoms. This approach is emphasized in Table 7, indicating that 14 percent of all respondents believed that “current efforts heavily focused on sexual violence prevention and not prevention of conflict themselves,” thus negatively affecting the success of their work on WPS.

- A **Dutch** CSO working in **Asia** and the **MENA** region raised concerns about how the “*Emphasis of conflict resolution remains on militarism (drawing heavily on gender constructions) instead of investing in conflict prevention itself and nonviolent alternatives.*” Because of this emphasis, “1325 has not been able to get to the root of peace & security.”
- States a CSO in **Burundi** speaking from local experience, “*Public authorities act only after violence is committed instead of preventing it, awareness activities on prevention are viewed as against those in power because it is talking about the police and the public administration failures.*”

“Current duty bearers do not seem to appreciate that WPS is more than just changing the lives of women affected by armed conflict, but also a resolution meant to help improve the peace and security situation in various corners of the world affected by armed conflict with women as agency.”

CSO in the Philippines

As affirmed by many respondents, UNSCR 1325 is meant to be a peacebuilding movement; hence, it remains an important cornerstone that NAPs and peace negotiations incorporate nonviolent frameworks and focus on actively building peace as opposed to purely combating violence.

11. In describing areas of work that have been most effective in impacting the lives of women, many CSOs point to their work facilitating the contributions of women to conflict prevention.

Most gains described by respondents in open answer responses revealed that CSOs believed that increasing women’s participation in conflict prevention has a significant positive impact on the lives of women. Effective practices described by respondents include the following:

- A CSO in **Serbia** set up a training program for women in conflict prevention and peace building. As a result, “*participants became active peacebuilders in their communities. School teachers from ethnically mixed/divided communities, for example, became school mediators and agents of change.*”
- CSO in **Ghana** also trained women on their role in conflict prevention and management. “*We made a study [survey] on manufacturing, possession and circulation of homemade weapons in rural areas, which is the cause of armed violence in these areas. We are known as a model structure.*”
- According to a CSO in **Liberia**, “*As a result of the direct involvement of Liberian women in negotiations with political leaders during the 2011 elections, violence was controlled. The*

Liberian women have joined teams in neighboring countries on their elections monitoring team. Women along the border lines are also engaging in women peace and security activities.”

- A CSO in **Burundi** described an effective capacity building and citizen engagement initiative *“for woman leaders to be better involved in conflict prevention.”* The program established prevention and early alert tools and promoted a framework of dialogue between state and non-state actors regarding the priorities of women in relation to peace and security.

12. Respondents emphasized the need for long-term investments in conflict prevention, including women’s economic empowerment and education.

Various respondents urged national governments and foreign governments to *“increase support to women’s CSOs through more long-term funding as well as a shift towards greater focus on prevention and increasing women’s power,”* as one global CSO in **Sweden** noted. According to a CSO in **Ghana**, such long-term funding is needed *“because building trust and facilitating non-violence peaceful coexistence and reconciliation is time consuming and requires follow-ups.”*

In addition, CSOs advised national governments to address the root causes of conflicts and GBV, including poverty, unemployment, challenges to good governance and militarization of society. This involves investing in education, the protection of women’s land rights, the creation of jobs and social development as well as including women in decision-making on security issues. A global CSO based in the **UK** also called on international policymakers and donors to carry out work which challenges *“conceptions of masculinity and femininity that make violence permissible in conflict-affected societies.”*

“The ambitions of 1325 can only be achieved by addressing the root causes of discrimination and violence, not solely their symptoms, and that men must be engaged to reverse the attitudes that make violence permissible in societies.”

- Global CSO in the UK

Respondents frequently focused on women’s economic rights and education as critical long-term investments in conflict prevention:

- A CSO in **the Philippines** recognized the need to ensure that international policies and actions are more effective in helping women affected by conflict to fight for their land rights: *“Conflict in these areas are rooted in landlessness, slow implementation of social legislation on land rights, and, poor justice system.”* Moreover, *“The struggle for land rights is central to peace building and provides women-only spaces for discussion and planning.”*
- A CSO in **Uganda** tied the right to education and economic empowerment to the prevention of VAW, noting that drops in girls’ school attendance has perpetuated the vicious cycle of violence against women.
- States a CSO in **Nigeria** that has trained women to secure their livelihoods and create their own small businesses: *“Local women across Nigeria are strengthening [their] socioeconomic rights through enhanced livelihoods and strengthening [their] political rights through enhanced political participation. This investment in women’s human rights is also an investment in community resilience and conflict prevention.”*

Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Women in Conflict

13. Many respondents attribute UNSCR 1325 to increased motivation and activity among women to actively promote their rights for protection in conflict, as well as increased legal protections for various rights violations that impact women in conflict.

Nearly 26 percent of all respondents could identify protection and promotion of the rights of women in conflict as some of the most significant results of UNSCR 1325 since 2000 (see Table 4). Several CSOs noted an increase in women’s motivation to involve themselves in women’s rights work since 2000, particularly regarding their own organizations. Many CSOs reported that they have increased their focus on promotion and protection work, such as denouncing women’s rights violations or focusing on arms control to protect women and girls in armed conflict.

- Remarked one respondent working in local conflict areas of **India**: *“Women are more aggressively campaigning for protection of women’s rights in conflict zones globally.”* Echoing this view, another respondent working in local conflict areas of **Sudan** noted, *“More women are involved in direct protection with increasing focus on work at the local levels.”*

Some respondents also described increases in policies and mechanisms that allow women to seek legal protection for various neglected rights violations in all stages of conflict that impact women and girls.

- *“The resolution provides both protection and prevention before, during and after conflicts,”* affirmed a CSO in **Iraq**, *“and it is a guarantee which can strengthen protection for women and girls through national plans.”*
- According to a CSO in **Guatemala**, *“Resolution 1325 is an opportunity to raise the visibility of sexual violence in armed conflicts, a crime that has been silenced for too long. It has allowed us to know that there are international proposals and treaties that facilitate visibility of such crimes affecting women necessary to ensure non- recurrence in future generations.”*

14. Respondents across regions report increasing threats to the security of Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRD). Their protection and support is essential to realizing the promotion and protection of women’s rights in conflict.

As highlighted by the focus group discussion data, while protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls is an area that receives a good deal of funding from international donors, it often perceived within a limiting framework that does not include the protection (and empowerment) of human rights activists—many of whom, at the grassroots level, are community members themselves. As noted in Table 5, 21 percent of respondents identified security as a major barrier to their work.

“Without WHRD’s security, there can be no effective work on advocacy.”

- Global CSO

Many respondents describe the constant fear that women’s rights activists must encounter on a daily basis as targets by armed groups. Many respondents report that due to issues such as increased militarization (identified as a key challenge by 22 percent of respondents in Table 5); violent religious

extremism (later identified as a key emerging issues by 50 percent of respondents in Table 20); and rising nationalism and conservatism, the security risks for Women’s Human Rights Defenders (WHRD) are increasing around the world, while spaces for civil society is diminishing.

- A CSO in **Pakistan** reported that *“Increased militarization has increased insecurity for civil society, especially women. It has become difficult to gather women for training and other activities. In such situations we also see an increase in violence against women and girls.”*
- A CSO in **Libya** highlighted cases of kidnappings and assassinations of women’s rights activists in the country—dividing women’s rights activists into those with dual citizenship, who can flee Libya, and Libyan activists who must work undercover.
- A global CSO based in Switzerland provided an example: Hend Nafea, a women activist in **Egypt**, who *“like many others, has experienced military violence when she was beaten and tortured by military personnel. She was recently sentenced to life imprisonment in a widely criticized verdict.”*
- In addition, a CSO working in Choco, **Colombia**, noted that as the visibility of local women’s rights defenders increases, so do instances of death threats, rape, etc. Yet, *“There is no protection for these leaders from the state or community.”*

“We may think that women are emancipated, as the world sees a lot of women participating in the public forums, but the opposite is true. Many women are still suffering in the world today, and this is the fundamental reason why women activists are telling the world to do something to salvage the plight of so many innocent women.”

- CSO in **South Sudan**

In response to such grave risks, respondents provided various recommendations on how to increase the protection of WHRD:

- In **Egypt**, a CSO working throughout the **MENA** region said: *“There needs to be international pressure and support for women’s security and access to justice to protect women human rights defenders promoting gender equality and women’s equal role in peace and reconciliation.”*
- A CSO in **Guatemala** recommended that international actors *“Get engaged and support women’s organizations that are leading trials against sexual violence perpetrators.”*
- A CSO in **Egypt** and a CSO in **Australia**, working in the Asia Pacific region, urged member states and UN agencies to include human rights defender organizations and networks in all their planning and decision making meetings.
- A CSO in **Uganda** affirmed that *“International human rights agencies should advocate for nullification of laws that limit spaces for meetings to discuss issues affecting the common persons especially women and youth.”*
- A CSO in **South Sudan** recommended that *“The UN Security Council could include unarmed civilian protectors in mandates to work in areas of violent conflict to directly protect women,*

children and men. And the UN could establish a roster of trained unarmed civilian protectors who could be deployed quickly to areas of violent conflict.”

15. Despite an increase in activism for women’s rights, CSOs report great challenges in providing sufficient support to SGBV victims, particularly due to lack of funds, an unwillingness or inability of governments to tackle these issues, certain cultural norms and pervasive insecurity.

In terms of protection, a few respondents described work on prevention and protection of women from sexual and gender-based violence in conflict as most effective (only 4 percent, per Table 7). A national CSO **Palestine**, for example, described *“Protection from sexual abuse, building shelters, capacity building for services providers on protection mechanisms and procedures”* as one of their most effective areas of work. Others who reported success in this area often attributed their effective efforts to multi-stakeholder collaboration and integrative approaches to SGBV victim support.

- A CSO in **Uganda** recognized the contributions of various stakeholders, including: *“Local government allowing police to bring survivors at the shelter for protection and counseling; UN women giving financial support for repair of survivors of fistula cases; and network with others CSOs on GBV prevention awareness.”*
- A US-based organization recognized the governments of the **Netherlands** and the **United Kingdom** for their contributions to the promotion of women’s rights in conflicts, noting that they *“both adopted positions affirming that girls and women have the right to non-discriminatory medical care under international humanitarian law and incorporated this principle into their humanitarian aid policies on access to safe abortion services.”*
- A global CSO based in **Belgium** described an integrative and collaborative approach to protecting women against GBV that has worked for them worldwide. Tackling GBV in 61 countries in 2013, they integrated other programs areas such as health, education and economic development into some of their GBV work, in addition to affecting change at the personal level, by offering workshops for personal reflection on values, beliefs, and cultural expectations.

Yet in assessing their own work in open answer responses in prevention of SGBV and support for SGBV victims/survivors, most described this as their least-effective areas of work, despite that prevention and protection of women from SGBV in conflict was indicated by 23 percent of respondents as their top advocacy priority (see Table 26 in “CSO Respondent Demographics). In identifying their priorities regarding direct services, the greatest number of respondents (28 percent) indicated education on SGBV as their key priority, followed by counseling and psychosocial services (26 percent), social reintegration (16 percent) and legal representation (14 percent).

CSOs face many of the barriers outlined in Table 5 when attempting to support the rights of the most vulnerable women traumatized by conflict. In particular, many who indicated protection of women’s rights, prevention of SGBV or support for SGBV victims as their least-effective area of work listed lack of funds as the main hindrance.

- A respondent in **New Zealand** reported that the *sector of protection of women's rights is underfunded nationally*, which hinders work on providing support and safe houses for migrant and refugee women experiencing violence. Delays in intervention caused by lack of funds allow abuse and result in grave consequences, from psychological and physical harm to death.
- A respondent based in Nepal and working in **Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan** said they were able to provide only referral services to victims who needed counseling, since they did not have resources to provide the service themselves.
- *Respondents in Nigeria* and in **South Kivu, DRC** describe how lack of funds has led to an *over-reliance on volunteers in providing services to SGBV victims*, sometimes affecting the quality of services.

This last finding is interesting in that information from Focus Group Discussions revealed that promotion of rights of women and girls is an area that receives the most interest and funding from international donors, which might indicate that the funding is allocated and distributed ineffectively. This also may relate to FGD findings that to increase effectiveness, protection and promotion of women's rights should be perceived more broadly, beyond prevention of SGBV.

Furthermore, *lack of security is a major factor hindering protection of women and provision of services to SGBV victims*, who often do not talk about their experiences because of fear of their perpetrators, and organizations working to support them are sometimes unable to reach certain areas due to insecurity.

- In **Guatemala**, extreme violence hinders efforts to protect women and prevent SGBV.
- A respondent from **Nepal** observed that victims are sometimes afraid of reporting SGBV, as they fear retaliation from their perpetrators.
- In **Cameroon**, there is no access to some areas; an attack by Boko Haram, for example, interrupted efforts to provide support to Central African refugees in the Far North Region.

Lack of government commitment to the protection of women also hurts efforts to prevent SGBV and to support its victims. Moreover, *even when governments are willing to take charge of such measures, their lack of experience in the field and weak coordination limits their impact*.

- A respondent based in Burundi and working in post-conflict contexts in **Burundi, DRC** and **Rwanda** noted that public authorities act only after violence has taken place, rather than focusing on prevention. *Awareness-raising aimed at prevention of SGBV is viewed as anti-government*, since it points to the failures of police and public administration.
- A respondent in **Guatemala** noted that the *government's incompetence, ineffectiveness and corruption discouraged victims from reporting crimes*, since in the past response was slow and the crimes went unpunished.

Finally, cultural norms, traditions and perceptions also affect work on protection of women, particularly regarding awareness-raising on SGBV and social reintegration of SGBV victims.

- In **Guatemala**, machismo continues to "validate" sexual assault and creates a tendency to blame the victim.
- In **Burundi** in local communities with high levels of violence and insecurity, social reintegration of girls who have been raped is difficult, since their own families sometimes refuse to accept them if they are pregnant.

"Sexual offenders are free, the macho image continues 'validating' sexual assaults, blaming the survivors."

- CSO in **Guatemala**

- Reported a CSO in **Iraq**, clergymen in some cases have perpetuated a culture of gender-based violence: *"The response was that God created women to serve their husbands and children. For this reason it is difficult to cooperate with them to spread a culture of equality and non-discrimination and fight practices that represent violence against women, such as child marriage, marriage outside the courts, and beating wives as a means for discipline."*

16. To better protect and promote women's rights in conflicts, respondents recommend greater monitoring and accountability mechanisms; greater exchange of information between UN and CSO; and more funds to CSOs.

To ensure that laws that advance women's rights are implemented, a CSO in **Egypt** working throughout the **MENA** region affirmed the need for monitoring mechanisms as well as efforts to make changes within the culture and traditions.

A global **UK**-based CSO stressed the need for two-way sharing of information between the UN and CSOs on matters of protection against SGBV. They affirmed that *"The UN agencies assisting in protection activities are often considered black holes for information. This damages CSOs' abilities to make informed decisions and eventually often ends up with CSOs not sharing information with the UN. Both in the case of South Sudan and Afghanistan, it was therefore felt that a useful role for the UN could be to carry out mapping of organizations and activities related to WPS."*

Furthermore, a CSO in **DRC** stated that *"The UN should offer incentives to countries honoring their commitments to women's rights and sanctions to countries violating them."*

A global **Swiss** CSO, asserting that as a movement, we are *"far from upholding state obligations to respect, protect, and ensure women's equal human rights progressively and without retrogression, using maximum available resources."* Global investments in *"an economy of war rather than economy of peace and gender justice directly contributes to sexual and gender based violence. We need to put our money where our mouth is: finance women's human rights and gender justice to uphold women's human rights, create resilient societies and prevent conflict."*

17. CSOs affirm the importance of engaging men and boys as allies and change agents to shift attitudes and cultures in combatting violence against women.

CSOs are also addressing these challenges by engaging men in their communities in awareness raising about violence against women by recognizing the power of working with men of all backgrounds as allies and change agents. As noted in Table 34 in the CSO Respondent Demographics section, 70 percent of respondents are engaging male civil society leaders, 55 percent engage male politicians, 46 percent engage husbands and 43 percent engage male religious leaders.

- According to a CSO in **Burundi**: *“Men are the ones who violate the rights of women, so men should also know where women’s rights start/finish. This practice will help decrease gender-based violence.”*
- Similarly, a CSO in **Nigeria**, which works with men living with disability affirmed: *“We encourage males to be part of the programs for acceptance of all. The men can encourage or allow their wives or daughters to enjoy the processes.”*

Justice and Accountability for Grave Violations of Human Rights & Humanitarian Law against Women

18. The ability to hold governments and others accountable for grave human rights violations was viewed as a normative achievement of UNSCR 1325.

Ensuring that those responsible for grave violations of women’s rights during conflict are brought to justice and re-establishing the rule of law are critical to effective implementation of the WPS agenda. When considering the values of UNSCR 1325 as a whole, CSOs recognized the ability to hold governments and others accountable for grave human rights violations as an important achievement of the resolution.

- A respondent in **Germany** recognized UNSCR 1325’s achievement of *“making violence against women and all crimes transparent and maybe convincing [perpetrators] to never harm again.”*
- *“NAPs have allowed rule of law actors to press for or achieve greater accountability for perpetrators and justice for survivors by having a concrete framework to refer to during prosecutions,”* elaborated a respondent from a **UK**-based organization working in conflict areas.

19. Respondents in every region report a generalized sense of impunity to sexual violence against women in conflict.

While respondents recognized increased international commitment to combating these crimes, as noted in Table 6, results related to justice and accountability were ranked fourth by respondents (13.92 percent), behind participation, promotion and protection and prevention. This reflects the limited success they have experienced in prosecuting crimes of gender violence at the domestic or international level. This is further demonstrated by the fact that 14 percent of respondents identified access to justice in response to violations of women’s rights as their least-effective area of work (Table 7).

“Access to justice in response to women’s human rights violations has been the least effective area to generate an impact. Almost 18 years seeking justice.”

- CSO in **Guatemala**

Relatedly, as outlined in Table 7, respondents identified their efforts to promote laws that advance gender equality and women’s rights as the most-effective stand-alone area of work (18 percent). Yet, as one CSO in **South Sudan** put it, these laws often do not translate into access to justice for women

who have experienced violations of their human rights. However, *“they do draw attention to the importance of gender equality and grant women the opportunity to have their voices heard.”*

The following are some systemic challenges respondents face in trying to secure women’s access to justice and to hold perpetrators accountable for their crimes. These challenges are compounded by a range of issues, including lack of sufficient funds, the normalization of violence, a culture of silence and a low level of engagement of policymakers. While the justice system is often stalled or inactive, one CSO in **Uganda** reported: *“Victims/survivors of conflict-related, sexual and gender-based crimes continue to face effects from their experiences. These include ongoing physical, psychological, economic and sociocultural.”*

- Despite women’s demands for full implementation of justice, a CSO in **Guatemala** reported that the **government has sought to exclude women, discriminate against them and re-victimize them**. They note, *“The government often does not trust women’s work (or their testimonies in the case of female victims).”*
- A respondent in **Nepal** noted how **restrictive or insensitive laws contribute to lack of justice for women**. In Nepal, the time limit for reporting rape is 35 days from the time of the crime; this contributes to the spread of impunity, particularly war-time rapes, which are often reported after a year or more.
- A respondent working in ethnic conflict areas in **Burma** provided an example of two Kachin women who had been raped and killed, yet the perpetrators were not found or brought to justice; the respondent noted that the **widespread, targeted nature of rapes often makes it difficult to determine the perpetrators**.
- A CSO in **Burundi** explained how **impunity is a self-perpetuating issue**: *“Impunity is no secret in Burundi. It is the result of corruption, the insensitivity of judicial bodies. Many victims do not dare complain for fear that after a few days, the perpetrators will come back into the community. When you consider the complaints filed in court, we find that many trials do not reach completion presumably because there is not enough evidence.”*
- A CSO in **Liberia** described its focus on sexual violence, saying that **“Sexual and gender-based violence, including rape, remains a threat to gender equality, women’s empowerment, peace and security in Liberia.”** The government has established prevention and response systems for rape and other GBV cases, and *“between January 2014 to November 2014, 560 cases of rape were reported by partners, including the police, health sector, the court, INGOS and NGOS and community members in the fifteen counties.”* Nonetheless, rape continues—most prevalently child rape—compounded by the fact that perpetrators are not penalized.

SGBV within security forces (such as military or police) is often the most difficult to prevent, remedy and punish:

- A global CSO from the UK working in **Colombia** noted that while there are some good policies and laws in the country, they have not been implemented, thus perpetuating **generalized impunity for human rights crimes** (currently, 98 percent of violence against women cases remain unresolved). *“The police are one of the main perpetrators of sexual violence against*

women in the conflict, especially in rural areas; meaning no case gets into the legal system unless the women go to an NGO for help, support and legal advice.”

- A respondent based in **the Philippines** noted that rural areas are usually militarized, which puts “women in vulnerable situations as the **soldiers prey on, court women and in not so few [cases] have committed abuses against them**”; such abuse, even if reported, usually goes unpunished and is resolved simply by reassigning the soldier to work in another area.

20. Respondents achieved more reporting and convictions as a result of capacity building among police, judges, lawyers and survivors, as well as from peer support groups.

While only 5 percent of respondents identified access to justice in response to violations of women’s rights as their most effective area of work, open answer responses provide a wealth of good practices to examine further (Table 7).

As stated previously, cultural norms, pervasive insecurity and limited awareness about women, peace and security issues often prevent women from reporting violations. In response to these challenges, various respondents affirmed that their work training survivors as well as judges and lawyers on UNSCR 1325 and laws on sexual violence has increased reporting of violent sexual crimes as well as convictions.

- As one CSO in **DRC** described it: *“Training on laws on sexual violence for judges and lawyers had a positive impact on the behavior of the authors and the processing of cases in court.”* As a result, *“Perpetrators of sexual violence were convicted and the population knows that sexual violence constitutes a crime under the law greatly helped strengthen their protection.”*
- Another CSO in **DRC** reported that training traditional leaders and police officers in remote areas on the laws has enabled them to properly document the facts.
- A local CSO in **South Sudan** said: *“After the UNSCR 1325 trainings [with girls in the community] ... they are also able to report to the CSOs and the police when their rights have been violated without any fear.”*

21. Respondents noted the need to strengthen the use of transitional justice mechanisms to pursue justice for victims of sexual violence.

A small number of respondents referenced transitional justice mechanisms as a tool to access justice, particularly reparations.

- A CSO in **Nepal** noted that *“Women activists and organizations are increasingly lobbying for women’s rights and transitional justice using UNSCR 1325 and 1820 NAP as a tool.”* As a result, *“675 social activists have helped to reduce VAW and SGBV.”*

- A CSO in **Yemen** reported that CSOs have formed partnerships with donors to implement projects related to transitional justice and related mechanisms. *“The organization was able to present a document on gender and transitional justice and its mechanisms, having developed one clause on women in security and peace.”*
- In the Balkans, according to a respondent in **Serbia**, point 11 of UNSCR 1325⁵ is not being implemented properly in the region. As a result, *“Laws treating SGBV committed in the conflict are subjective.”* That is, laws are more like *“political statements, rather than documents that guarantee justice, which has resulted in the imposition of limits to obtain reparations and financial compensation for victims of SGBV, putting percentage limitations as 50 to 70% bodily damage, etc.”*
- Finally, a CSO in **Indonesia** noted: *“There is inadequate knowledge on transitional justice that refers to state impunity, including implementing international mechanisms on security sector reform, inadequate handling of sexual violence.”*

Such input, while limited, suggests the need to examine further how CSOs can utilize transitional justice mechanisms to pursue justice for victims by revealing gendered patterns of abuse, enhancing access to justice and building momentum for reform.

22. Respondents have successfully used creative grassroots mechanisms to build empathy and trust among decision-makers and to remove hurdles for survivors to access justice.

Various CSOs have demonstrated the value of implementing collaborative grassroots and media strategies to engage men and women to challenge a culture of impunity, denounce human rights violations immediately and remove hurdles that prevent survivors of sexual violence in conflict from accessing justice.

- A CSO in **Pakistan** explained how it used grassroots mechanisms to help women access justice in a strong tribal, religious society, where *“Shame and honor are linked to women in the man-monopolized society.”* They wrote short plays on sensitive issues, such as domestic violence and honor killing, and used media to share the message with male decision-makers, including police, community elders and government officials. The messaging increased empathy with women, making it easier *“for women to approach men in their community [for] support”* and to actively address women’s issues and resolve conflict.
- In **South Sudan**, a CSO **used media attention to shine a spotlight on violence and legal advocacy**, which established the necessary solidarity and trust for *“victims and survivors to report the SGBV with aim to access to Justice and end impunity.”* These efforts were bolstered

⁵ Point 11 of UNSCR 1325 (2000) “Emphasizes the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes including those relating to sexual and other violence against women and girls, and in this regard stresses the need to exclude these crimes, where feasible from amnesty provision.”

by Security Council Resolution 2155 (2014), which *“stresses the urgent and crucial need to end impunity in South Sudan and to bring to justice perpetrators of such crimes.”*

- A CSO in **DRC** described its success winning national cases by *“holding mobile court hearings [which] helps bring justice closer to litigants.”* During 2014, such hearings, held by the Tribunal de Grande Instance (High Court of Justice), led to 30 convictions with sentences of imprisonment ranging from 2 years to 15 years. Three mobile court hearings conducted with the Military Court of Garrison also resulted in eight judgments.
- A CSO based in **Ghana** described how *“Activities under the Peace Huts in Liberia and Côte d’Ivoire have impacted the lives of women victims of SGBV.”* The peace hut has instilled a gender perspective in decision-making, ensuring that *“women’s voices are being heard at the community level as they actively sensitize the population.”* By constantly liaising with the justice and security systems, women have addressed women’s concerns. Rape cases have been addressed and confiscated lands were restored to rightful female owners; and women have increased their participation in local government structures.
- A CSO in **Iraq** also described success in institutionalizing legal and social support systems, *“opening four listening and psychological, social and legal support centers,”* which provided legal consultations and free judicial representation. As a result, *“Five hundred cases were heard in the courts and 4,000 men and women were made aware of the issues of violence against women, peacebuilding and security building, conflict resolution and economic empowerment and women’s rights, per Iraqi law and international conventions.”*

Time and again, though CSOs may use different cultural methodologies to provide support to survivors, findings indicate that technical, moral and collaborative support among survivors and other allies goes a long way to break down barriers to justice. As observed by one CSO in **Guatemala**, *“Because the search for justice and truth is a country process, for the union of women who have lived through the same humiliation in different places or territories, they see themselves represented in each other when justice processes are started.”*

23. CSOs, the UN and Member States must ensure that perpetrators of past and continuing human rights violations and violence against women are brought to justice and that access to justice, truth and recovery is assured.

When asked to recommend strategic actions to address barriers to justice and accountability respondents suggested the following:

- From a **UK**-based global CSO: Donors should *“increase longer term funding opportunities for change in implementation of rule of law through CSOs.”*
- From a CSO in **Serbia**: member states and UN agencies should *“support correct implementation of the UNSCR 1325 that offers justice and reconciliation not nationalistic bringing of laws that offer one sided nationalized justice to women.”*

- A respondent in **Guatemala** called on governments to strengthen judicial systems, train judges and prosecutors on international treaties and agreements and their implementation at national level.

Respondents also called on the UN to strengthen judicial institutions to end impunity for human rights violations and sexual and gender-based violence. A global CSO working in **Latin America, East Africa, the Philippines** and **Syria** affirmed that *“double-standards and impunity [...] cultivated via inaction within UN systems”* contributes to impunity for women’s rights violation in conflict, and stressed the need for *“policies, summits and promises [to] be translated into hard facts.”* This includes maintaining pressure on member states, holding them accountable and making them aware that it is their responsibility to comply with SC 1325.

Militarized Responses to Conflict: Peacekeeping and Security Forces

24. Respondents report some progress in mainstreaming gender issues within security sector institutions, as well as cases of improved communication between women and the security sector as a result of UNSCR 1325.

To assess the overall effectiveness of UNSCR 1325, as well as progress and challenges respondents have faced in the field, many cited positive results in translating UNSCR 1325 in the implementation of peacekeeping mandates, as well as in the security sector. The majority of such examples came from respondents in Africa.

- In addition some increases in women’s participation in peacekeeping missions worldwide, respondents in **DRC, Rwanda** and **Serbia** affirmed how UNSCR 1325 caused security sector institutions to prioritize gender mainstreaming in security policies, leading to anti-discriminatory mechanisms, the introduction of gender sensitive language and better understanding of links between gender and security in general.
- CSOs in **Burundi, Ghana** and **Uganda**, as a result of their advocacy and trainings on UNSCR 1325, reported greater dialogue and collaboration among CSOs, local women and the security sector, as well as the establishment of focal points in various security sector institutions. A CSO in **Uganda** affirmed that despite poor funding, their trainings to sensitize the security sector were always in high demand: *“Gender issues are seen as a joke in relation to the security sector, yet interestingly participants were always high-level security sector officials.”*
- A CSO in **Zimbabwe** affirmed that as a result of UNSCR 1325, *“The issues of SGBV against women has been highlighted to the extent that UN and other regional peacekeepers are now*

“UNSCR 1325 allowed more openness around the security sector. There is a gender desk at the Ministry of Defence and a gender strategy developed at the police level.”

- CSO in **Burundi**

clear that abusing women is a crime and the majority of peacekeeping missions are protecting women from violence. “

25. Respondents emphasize the need to commit to a more gendered concept of peace and security, shifting the emphasis from military security to human security.

Despite increased reports of increased gender sensitivity within the security sector, some respondents raised concerns about “securitization” of the 1325 agenda, reinforced by state WPS policies that focus on simply adding women to security forces.

“The implications ‘securitization’ of the 1325 agenda by some international actors such as NATO should be better understood and addressed.”

- **Belgium** CSO working throughout the EU

Findings from the Focus Group Discussions showed that militarized responses to conflict limit WPS implementation by negating the original conflict prevention approach of UNSCR 1325. Resulting increases in militarization (drawing heavily on gender constructions) contribute to the spread of SGBV, limit safe space for the civil society and perpetuate armed conflict.

- As noted by a CSO based in the **Netherlands** working in **Asia** and the **MENA** region, *“The elements of conflict prevention, nonviolence and demilitarization have been largely pushed to the margin of the WPS agenda over the years. WPS has become more about fitting women in current peace and security paradigms and systems than about redefining peace and security through a gender lens (just add women and stir approach).”* Yet, *“A holistic and transformative WPS approach requires addressing the human security issues that the majority of the population faces.”*
- A CSO in **Serbia** noted that the *“Serbian NAP was focused only on increasing the number of women in security institutions, thus promoting militarized state-centric concept of security instead of human security.”* To address this concern, the CSO ran a successful advocacy campaign in 2013 abolishing upper quotas for enrollment of women in police and military academies and helping to establish new gender equality mechanisms in the security sector.

Given this trend, many respondents stressed the need for the WPS agenda to ensure greater clarity on the definition of peace and security by explicitly shifting from a military state-centric approach to a holistic and transformative gender perspective of human security. This should be based on conflict prevention and human rights, emphasizing the protection of individuals. Moreover, as stated by a CSO in **Indonesia**, *“Addressing security sector reform beyond female representation on the military operations.”*

- A CSO in the **Philippines** affirmed the need to clarify the definition of peace and security in the WPS agenda and the goal of UNSCR 1325. *“Establish the clear links between arms proliferation and armed conflict. Strengthen focus on gender and disarmament work. If our goal is to have more peace in areas affected by armed conflict with women as agency, say so loud and clear. The ambiguities have made some women on the ground skeptical.”*

- Stated a **UK**-based CSO: *“Many governments have failed to use their stated commitment/s to 1325 to seriously reappraise approaches to peace and security issues and continue to use old patriarchal power driven paradigms of conflict analysis.”*

Above all, respondents emphasized that **peace cannot be achieved or sustained by military engagement only**. It requires political dialogue that includes all parties, particularly women’s groups.

- A respondent in **Syria** noted that while major countries continue to supply Islamic armed factions, *“no country supports civil activities or groups in Syria.”* War is perpetuated because *“dialogue is being conducted with militants only, despite the fact that they have an interest in continuing the war.”*

26. New approaches are needed to shift the dominant male culture within peacekeeping and security operations, and to better address the needs of women in conflict.

While respondents have reported some improvement due to their awareness raising campaigns and advocacy, findings indicate there is still far to go to fully operationalize the WPS agenda within peacekeeping and security operations. This includes addressing the male dominated military culture CSOs observe within peacekeeping operations.

- According to a CSO in **Ghana**, *“Even though Ghana has adopted UNSCR 1325 and even gone ahead to develop the NAP, internal peacekeeping operations continue to be male dominated and the specific issues of women are not taken into consideration in the deployment and operation of peacekeeping in Ghana. There are no official records of violence against women in conflict communities to warrant any actions to be taken against perpetrators.”*
- A respondent in **South Africa** had similar findings from conducting research on the challenges to gender integration in the military and peacekeeping: *“The military culture remains steeped in a warrior ethos, where femininity is seen to dilute operational effectiveness and where the peacekeeping context is hyper-masculine and seen to pose a gendered security threat to both men and women.”* To ensure women are able to effectively contribute, the respondent proposed a strategic shift *“from an emphasis purely on gender equality to valuing diversity.”*

Respondents also recommended various strategic actions for the UN to ensure accountability in the security sector regarding implementation of UNSCR 1325.

- A CSO in **Libya** urged the UN to *“Cooperate with CSOs to monitor all post- and pre-deployment training for police and troops in peacekeeping missions, and ensure that they incorporate UNSCR 1325, UNSCR 1820 and other international human rights instruments.”*
- Similarly, a CSO in **Pakistan** recommended that member states and the UN conduct assessments to consider the practical, long-term needs of women affected by conflict. To do so, *“Armed forces working in areas of internal strife should include female military personnel in their teams to talk to women.”*

- A global CSO based in **Ireland** affirmed the Security Council’s responsibility to address impunity among UN peacekeepers: *“Policies, summits and promises must be translated into hard facts. The behaviour and responsibilities of blue helmets are something the UN can control but is failing to do so. It is impossible to insist on policy change at government level while double-standards and impunity is evidently cultivated via inaction within UN systems.”*

Peacebuilding and Recovery

27. While results from post-conflict recovery since 2000 ranked low compared to other areas, various respondents still reported an increase in women’s engagement in post-conflict recovery, as well as a need for greater understanding of women’s contributions in this area.

Lowest on the discussion of results of UNSCR 1325 since 2000 was the issue of post-conflict recovery (9.60 percent, per Table 6). Few provided detailed feedback as to how or why they perceived so few gains made in this area. One revealing observation came from a **Pakistan**-based respondent, who stated the need for a *“little bit more clarity on the integration of a gender perspective in post-conflict recovery.”*

For those organizations working in post-conflict contexts, many still recognized that the post-conflict phase opened up beneficial opportunities for increased women’s engagement.

- According to a global UK-based CSO working in **South Sudan**, *“Female involvement in recovery and [disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration] (DDR) activities has sometimes been hugely empowering. Although women were marginalized during Sudanese civil conflicts, the recovery phase embraced their potential more and allowed higher levels of participation.”*
- Respondents in **India, Guatemala and Cameroon** specifically reported **an increase of women’s participation in post-conflict recovery interventions**. Such participation has helped ensure that post-conflict recovery programs better meet the needs of women on the ground. For example, according to a CSO in Cameroon, as a result of increased women’s participation in the development of economic rehabilitation programs after a conflict, *“We know that in post-conflict situations, employment is a key factor.”*

28. Respondents affirm that approaches to post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding must be holistic, including promotion of women’s economic rights. Yet, CSOs face challenges promoting such economic recovery, including limited funding, cultural norms as well as gaps between international policies and action and local realities.

Various CSOs affirmed how holistic approaches to women’s social and economic empowerment contribute to effective post-conflict recovery and prevention of future conflict and violence.

- As explained by global CSO based in **Austria**, *“using a holistic approach to women’s empowerment, including economic empowerment and psychosocial well-being promotion*

through solidarity groups, to enable participation in political space,” bolstered their efforts in post-conflict recovery.

Despite the importance of women’s economic development in conflict and post-conflict situations, when asked to describe an area of their work that has been least effective, several respondents identified economic development of women, pointing largely to lack of funds.

- A respondent in **Burundi**, for example, noted that economic development of women in conflict situations did not get much attention from donors.
- A respondent from **Indonesia** remarked that currently the livelihood programs have a short-lived effect and should be followed up with long-term interventions.

In addition, respondents reported that women’s traditional roles often limit women’s access to land, markets and other resources necessary to achieve economic independence and to sustain a livelihood.

- In **Zimbabwe**, for example, displaced farmer women are labeled prostitutes or accused of witchcraft by local populations, mostly because they are not originally from Zimbabwe.
- A CSO in the **Philippines** highlighted the specific challenges of indigenous women in obtaining land rights, noting, *“Indigenous women want to see their demand for ancestral domain and addressing violations against women as part of rights building in general rather than piecemeal responses.”*

Challenges in addressing women’s economic needs in conflict are also affected by gaps between international policies and action and local realities—a barrier identified by 29 percent of respondents previously in Table 5.

- A respondent from **the Philippines** observed that government projects aimed at working with women in conflict areas are ***not relevant to these women’s needs***, as their primary concern is gaining a source of income.
- A respondent organization working in **Southeast Asia** also remarked that ***international policies and actions are not relevant*** to the local communities, whose main focus is on land rights.

To address these challenges, a CSO in **Pakistan** recommended the following strategic actions:

“The Government and disaster response institutions should conduct comprehensive research to map availability of psychosocial services, economic and other needs of women and girls who are affected by conflict or disasters.” In addition, *“All personnel responding to conflict and disasters must be oriented to the special needs of women and other vulnerable groups and ensure their interventions respond to these.”*

A CSO in **Somalia** recommended that recovery efforts focus on youth, since they are the majority population in many post-conflict environments:

“Youth are the majority population in Somalia and should be given first priority for stabilization processes through development aid in conflict and post-conflict settings, [advocating] gender and equality for youth. Secondly, improve recovery and demobilization programs for Youth Organizations.”

- One respondent from an **Austria**-based CSO working in post-conflict affected communities around the globe, explained that *“Using a holistic approach to women's empowerment, including economic empowerment and psychosocial well-being promotion through solidarity groups, to enable participation in political spaces”* bolstered the organization's areas of work. A CSO in **India** working in **Kashmir** affirmed this view, noting that *“Trauma healing, counselling, relief, rehabilitation are some crucial steps for post conflict recovery of women.”*

29. Respondents affirm the need for UNSCR 1325 to become more integrated into the broader peacebuilding agenda.

While respondents attribute UNSCR 1325 to more international recognition of the role of women's participation in peace processes, several raised the importance of integrating the WPS into the broader peacebuilding agenda.

- According to a global CSO based in **Belgium**, *“The 1325 discourse has somewhat become a specialist area detached from the broader peacebuilding agenda. WPS is also considered off-putting by some peacebuilding organisations, who consider that there is a need to go back to basic concepts and language on gender and conflict/peace-making.”*
- Demonstrating this point, a CSO in **Georgia** noted, *“We have integrated WPS agenda into ongoing projects related to conflict transformation, dialogue process and peacebuilding. We have integrated gender approaches in all other projects related to community development, capacity building of CSOs, diversity management, etc.”*
- A CSO in the **Philippines**, working on UNSCR as its core work, has sought different spaces *“in which to infuse WPS and 1325. For example, there is the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro and now the draft Bangsamoro Basic Law in which principles on women's participation have been integrated.”*

Despite concerns that the WPS is an overly specialized agenda, respondents demonstrated that across the globe, women's groups are pushing and sometimes initiating the larger peacebuilding agenda within their countries, ensuring inclusivity as well as a gender perspective.

- For example, a CSO in **South Korea** explained how women's groups in South Korea and North Korea, motivated by UNSCR 1325, have been at the forefront of efforts toward peaceful reunification of Korea, as well as larger peacebuilding initiatives, including addressing the threat of military build-up in Northeast Asia. They have received support from international women's rights activists, most recently culminating in an International Women's Peace Walk across the demilitarized zone on May 24. They stated, *“South Korean women groups build mutual trust and understanding through exchange programs with the North Korean women's group as peacebuilding efforts.”*

- A global CSO based in the **UK** reported how a network of **Colombian** women played a critical role promoting peace across their society in parallel with the ongoing formal peace negotiations between the government and FARC taking place in Havana, Cuba. As a collective, Colombian women *“enhanced the legitimacy and inclusivity of the Havana peace negotiations by playing a bridging role between it and peacebuilding within Colombian society.”*
- A CSO in **Nigeria** described how since 2010 *“The Interfaith Forum of Muslim and Christian Women's Association has been able to provide a platform for Muslim and Christian Women in Kaduna state, Nigeria, to come together in one voice.”* Members undergo trainings on conflict resolution, conflict analysis, conflict transformation and conflict reconciliation and are leading efforts with youth, religious leaders and others to promote peaceful co-existence in the country.

Findings emphasize the need to further document such critical contributions by women to peacebuilding processes, and for all actors, including CSOs, to challenge perceptions that the WPS is a specialized agenda on the sidelines of a larger peacebuilding agenda rather than in the center.

Funding and Funding Mechanisms

Introduction

Funding is an essential component enabling Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to work well. When considering the impact of UNSCR 1325 on their work, several respondents, including those based in **Austria, Palestine** and **Sweden**, noted that UNSCR has opened up increased funding opportunities for CSOs to implement aspects of the WPS agenda. One global CSO in **Sweden**, working on women’s rights and peace for the past 100 years, noted that funding opportunities as a result of UNSCR 1325, *“Sometimes made it easier for us to put pressure on our government in this area.”*

Yet, as described in Table 7, 41 percent of respondents identified a lack of resources as a key constraint for effective implementation of UNSCR 1325 and sister resolutions (versus 22 percent attributing adequate funding as a factor to their success, noted in Table 6).

As CSO respondents will attest, funding for CSOs, especially for Women, Peace and Security (WPS), has been sporadic and insufficient. Affirmed a CSO in **Ghana**, *“There is general inadequate funding in the area of WPS. This makes work in this area difficult.”*

Though repeatedly underscored in UNSG annual reports⁶ on WPS and a Cordaid-GNWP Financing report⁷ as critical

“Greater awareness has led to increased funding opportunities to implement programs that promote the above goals. However, the amount . . . that actually trickles down to impacting women's lives at the community level, and to enable their participation, is only a drop in the bucket.”

- Global CSO in **Austria**

⁶ Recommendation on Prevention “To develop dedicated funding mechanisms to enhance the organizational capacity of women’s civil society organizations in conflict-affected areas, including existing mechanisms such as the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Action Plans” United Nations Security Council Report of the Secretary General on Women and Children in Conflict, Serial no: S/2013/525

⁷ Cordaid: Financing UNSCR 1325: Feb, 13, 2015 <https://www.cordaid.org/en/publications/financing-unscr-1325/>.

to the effective implementation of UNSCR 1325 (and supporting WPS resolutions), sustainable funding remains an intractable obstacle, particularly in conflict-affected contexts. The OECD has written a comprehensive paper on aid in support of gender equality in fragile contexts⁸. According to the report, less than 6 percent of funding is earmarked for gender issues. Less than 2 percent of funding goes towards women, peace and security. There is a need for monitoring and planning in budget processes. CSOs, as recipients of various funding mechanisms on the ground, are key resources to understanding and identifying more useful funding mechanisms to support their work on women, peace and security.

The CSO Survey seeks to identify the obstacles and good practices that CSOs have experienced and observed in funding implementation of the WPS agenda, and how they recommend funding mechanisms can be improved.

Based on this guiding research question, we asked the asked CSO respondents to share:

- *Their sources of financial support for women, peace & security*
- *Area/s of work on women and peace and security that receive the most funding*
- *Greatest challenges and/or concerns in raising funds for women, peace and security activities*
- *Recommendations to donors to address these challenges*

Key Findings

Following are key survey findings and recommendations on funding and funding mechanisms based on answers to multiple-choice and open-ended questions. These findings indicate major trends in funding for WPS and provide insight into funding mechanisms and their relative efficacy.

It is relevant to note that overall, survey respondents are primarily small organizations with up to 15 staff members (68 percent). Thirty-one percent have an annual budget of no more than \$250,000 (see table 37 in "CSO Respondent Demographics" section). However, most of the organizations work at **grassroots level and have contributed significantly to promoting and implementing the WPS agenda**. Moreover, as noted in the demographics section of this report, **62 percent of the survey respondents use 50 percent or more of the funds in their annual budget for activities on women, peace and security**.

Sources of Financial Support











1. Top donors across all CSOs are International NGOs, followed by UN women and other UN entities; however, results differ across geographic regions.










When asked to specify types of donors, respondents as a whole indicated that among foreign national countries, European nations, the US and Canada are at the forefront of giving aid. This is especially true for aid to African, Middle Eastern and South Asian countries. **EU, UN Women and foreign national**

⁸ Financing UN Security Council Resolution 1325: Aid in support of gender equality and women's rights in fragile contexts. March 2015. OECD DAC network on gender equality.

governments were mentioned repeatedly by many CSOs as major donors to the WPS agenda, showing that they fund a wide range of geographically and culturally diverse CSOs working on WPS agenda

Table 8: Top Sources of Financial Support to CSOs for WPS.

8.c: The financial support your organization receives for women, peace & security comes from: (Please select all that apply)				Q49. If you have selected more than one, what is your biggest source of funding?	
Q47. Financial support received?		Did not answer	Yes	Count	Top Donor
(a)	International NGOs	119	54% 	55	17% 
(b)	UN Agencies/Departments (e.g. UN Women, UNDPKO, etc.)	159	34% 	30	9% 
(c)	Foreign national governments	165	32% 	36	11% 
(d)	Local fundraising among individual donors	164	31% 	34	11% 
(d)	Local fundraising among individual donors	164	31% 	34	11% 

(e)	Other intl. organizations (e.g. World Bank, OECD, EU, etc.)	176	28% 	24	8% 
(f)	Private/family/personal foundations	220	24% 	16	5% 
(g)	Your national government/national ministries	189	18% 	26	8% 
(h)	The private sector (e.g. companies, etc.)	186	9% 	2	1% 
(i)	Other civil society organizations	N/A	N/A	8	3% 

Note: Statistics are based on the percentage out of a total of 317 respondents. Please bear in mind that between 119 and 220 respondents did not answer yes or no for portions of Q47, as noted above, for more accurate evaluation of results. Eighty-six respondents did not answer Q49 as a whole. Given that Q49 does not offer a yes or no answer, no answer is more easily interpreted as a no; therefore, only the count (number of affirmative answers out of 317) is provided above as additional reference.

2. Private-sector funding is both an untapped resource and a source of concern, related to the privatization of peace and security.

Table 8 indicates that 9 percent of respondents reported receiving funds from the private sector, and only 1 percent identified the private sector as a top donor. On the one hand, the private sector can be regarded as an untapped source of funding for WPS work—a strategy several CSOs recognized as a potentially helpful, though unexplored funding source. CSOs in **Yemen** and **Zimbabwe**, for example, reported successful efforts to secure greater and more continuous funding by partnering with the private sector. On the other hand, **various CSOs have expressed caution about a bigger role for the private sector contributing to the privatization of peace and security, including within the UN.**

“The private sector has been instrumental in resource mobilization in a number of projects.”

- CSO in Zimbabwe

A CSO in **Germany** expressed concern about working with any companies that may contribute to the arms industry. According to a Global CSO based in the **Netherlands**, *“Increased involvement of the private sector in WPS risks the shift of a human rights approach in WPS to a more instrumentalist approach.”* Given this caution as well as the opportunities available, additional research could be useful to gauge the efficacy and utility of private companies in financing WPS initiatives.

3. CSOs use membership fees and product sales as alternative sources of funding.

In terms of local fundraising by individuals, CSOs use different funding mechanisms. These include membership fees (Burundi, DRC and Rwanda), sale of products (Uganda), fundraising through diaspora in the US as well as online donations (Somalia). These methods can present an alternative revenue source to funding by governments, and/or UN agencies and national and international NGOs.

Sources of Financial Support by Region

4. The majority of CSOs in Europe/North America receive significant funds from their national governments, in contrast to other regions.

As shown in Table 9 below, data results vary when analyzed geographically, especially regarding support from national governments. When asked if respondents received support from their national governments or ministries, respondents from different regions answered yes or no. As indicated in Table 8, **41 percent of respondents in Europe and North America identified local governments and ministries as major sources of funding on WPS, with 27 percent indicating that the national government was their top donor. In all other regions, international NGOs are the highest source of funding; Europe/North America is the exception, with most funding coming from their national governments.**

By contrast, **18 percent in the Middle East, 11 percent in Africa and 12 percent in Asia reported receiving funds from their national governments.** Only one respondent answered this question in Latin America, indicating that they did not receive national government funds. Across these regions, Africa had the highest percentage of respondents who said the national government was their top donor (4 percent), versus 3 percent in Asia. National government was not a top donor for any respondent in the Middle East.

Table 9: Top Sources of Financial Support to CSOs for WPS by Region

8.c: The financial support your organization receives for women, peace & security comes from: (Please select all that apply)					Q49. If you have selected more than one, what is your biggest source of funding?						
		Africa		Asia		Europe/US/Canada		Latin America		Middle East	
Q47. Financial support received?		Yes	Top Donor	Yes	Top Donor	Yes	Top Donor	Yes	Top Donor	Yes	Top Donor
(a)	International NGOs	70%	21%	53%	22%	19%	4%	71%	29%	65%	15%
(b)	UN Agencies/ Departments	39%	13%	35%	10%	23%	6%	29%	0%	32%	1%
(c)	Foreign national governments	29%	7%	36%	3%	31%	13%	29%	21%	32%	1%
(d)	Local fundraising among individual donors	31%	14%	26%	8%	36%	9%	14%	0%	35%	12%
(e)	Other intl. organizations	23%	6%	38%	9%	21%	0%	14%	0%	38%	29%
(f)	Private/family/personal foundations	25%	8%	12%	1%	34%	3%	1%	0%	26%	1%
(g)	Your natl. government/ natl. ministries	11%	4%	12%	3%	41%	27%	0%	0%	18%	0%
(h)	The private sector	11%	0%	1%	0%	10%	0%	7%	1%	1%	0%
(i)	Other CSOs	NA	2%	NA	3%	NA	0%	NA	14%	NA	1%
	# respondents per region	122		77		70		14		34	

Note: Statistics are based on the percentage of total respondents per regional data set, bearing in mind that not all respondents answered portions of each question. The number of responses per region is provided as additional reference.

Results may reflect how governments in rich, stable countries are better able to finance the WPS agenda compared with more volatile and weak governments. These results could also be due to a reluctance of governments to recognize conflict in their respective countries, or simply because of a lack of funding. However, more data will be required to draw substantive conclusions on these dynamics. Yet, absent strong governmental support, CSOs rely on foreign aid.

Funding by Area of Work





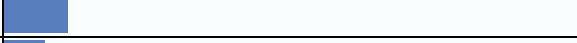


4. On a global scale, CSOs receive the most funding for advocacy within WPS work, followed by technical capacity building. Core funding and institutional capacity building consistently receive the least support.

For areas of work within WPS, the most funded is “Advocacy” at 57 percent on a global and regional scale (as indicated in Tables 10 and 11). This category is followed by technical capacity building at 43 percent.

Core funding and institutional capacity building is funded considerably less at only 11 percent. **By core funding, we refer to financial support that covers basic “core” organizational and administrative costs of an organization, including salaries of full-time staff, facilities, equipment, communications and the direct expenses of daily work.**⁹ Institutional capacity building includes training and investments in the core competencies of the organization. Both types of funding are necessary for the success of a CSO. CSOs cannot operate without logistical resource and personnel. Human capital along with funds for administration costs form the basis of an organization's long-term sustainability.

Seven percent of respondents specified other areas where funding was targeted; these include education, women’s empowerment, training and monitoring.

Table 10: Areas of Work That Receive the Most Funding

Q50. 8.d. What particular area/s of your work on women and peace and security receive the most funding?			
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents
Advocacy	182	57%	
Technical Capacity Building	135	43%	
Direct services	65	21%	
Research and monitoring	63	20%	
Core-funding/Institutional capacity building	35	11%	
Other - please specify:	21	7%	
Total Responses	523		

Multiple answers per participant are possible, thus the total percentage may exceed 100 percent. No answer: 22 respondents (7 per cent).

5. Funding priorities vary significantly across regions. Respondents in Europe/North America receive the most core funding. Respondents in Asia receive the most funding for advocacy and research and monitoring, while those in the Middle East receive the most for technical capacity building and direct services.

Core funding is the least-funded area across all regions, except for Europe/North America. As noted in Table 11 below, Asia reported receiving the least amount of core funding (4 percent), though it received funding for advocacy more than any other region.

Q50. 8.d. What particular area/s of your work on women and peace and security receive the most funding?					
Percentage of total respondents					
Responses	Africa	Asia	Latin America	Middle East	Europe/ North America

⁹ https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/images/2/21/TF1_-_Core_funding_-_revisited_2.pdf

Table 11: Regional Breakdown of Funding by Area of Work

Advocacy	63%	66%	60%	53%	40%
Technical Capacity Building	57%	42%	36%	47%	16%
Direct services	21%	21%	21%	26%	16%
Research and monitoring	14%	29%	21%	15%	21%
Core-funding/Institutional capacity building	10%	4%	7%	15%	20%
# respondents per region	122	177	14	34	70

Meanwhile, respondents in Europe/North America

Statistics are based on the percentage of total respondents per regional data set, bearing in mind that not all respondents answered. Multiple answers per participant are possible, thus the total percentage may exceed 100 percent. Top percentage per area of work by region is highlighted in yellow; lowest percentage per area of work by region is highlighted in orange.

received the most core funding (20 percent), yet the least funding for advocacy, capacity building and direct services, presumably given the reduced need for such support in more developed countries, working primarily abroad or perhaps donor prioritization in developing conflict-affected countries. Nonetheless, as stated by a CSO in the **UK**, there is still a need to fund advocacy in high-income countries (HICs) to monitor their commitments.

The majority of respondents in Asia said that Advocacy was most funded (66 per cent), followed by respondents in Africa region (63 per cent). Interestingly, both these regions, receive least funding percentage for core funding/institutional capacity building.

Africa receives the least funding for research and monitoring (14 percent), though it most often reported funding for capacity building (57 percent). Meanwhile, the Middle East scored similarly on research and monitoring (15 percent), with the highest percentage among regions for direct services (26 percent).

CSO Challenges and Proposed Solutions Raising Funds

6. Lack of long-term institutional and programmatic funding prevents CSOs from planning ahead, despite the fact that their work requires lengthy processes.

Lack of long-term institutional and programmatic funding was a major issue for most respondents (47 percent). With funds available only on an annual basis, many CSOs state it is difficult to plan ahead (**Indonesia, Pakistan, Eastern DRC**), let alone implement and monitor long-term impact. These challenges are further examined by focus group discussions around the world—many who noted how uncoordinated and erratic funding and shifting donor interests make long-term projects impossible.

- As described by a CSO in **Norway**: *“Donors are obsessed with quick results. But our experience is that CSOs working in conflict settings will have to be supported both institutionally and long-term in order to create results/changes.”*

Given this challenge, **respondents recommended that funding, especially project-based, be tailored to long-term objectives**, such as changing mind-sets toward gender, conflict and peace. Grant periods should be made for a minimum of three years. **This shift should**

“Member States must pledge to provide multi-year, large scale financial support for WPS including through existing funds and civil society organizations at national, provincial and local levels.”

- Global CSO based in the **US**

include the establishment of an easily accessible fund specifically for the long-term implementation of NAPs.

7. Most CSOs do not think that funding is not adequate to meet the diverse needs of the women, peace and security agenda.






Forty-five percent of respondents think that funding for women’s peace work is inadequate. CSO respondents, as well as participants throughout the focus group, expressed a consistent appeal for re-evaluation of funding for WPS-related work.

- According to a CSO in **Burundi**, WPS is underfunded because available funds do not adequately finance the wide range of demands within the agenda, such as psychological, medical, legal and judicial needs. Moreover, in most instances donors limit the scope of funding and the CSOs are left with no choice but to fend for themselves.
- Given the lack of stable and available funding, some CSOs report that they rely on more temporary sources, such as social media sites (**Palestine**).

To address these challenges, participants of **the focus group discussion in the Netherlands recommended that an exclusive global funding mechanism should be created** that includes civil society (particularly women’s rights groups), the UN, government, donors and potentially the private sector in decision-making.

Recently, there has been dialogue on the creation of a specific financial instrument for funding WPS. One such option under consideration is the **Global Acceleration Instrument (GAI)**. GAI is a special funding measure that brings together technical aspects of funding the implementation of UNSCR 1325 under one-umbrella mechanism, providing an alternative source to low funding for WPS agenda. The value added of GAI is its comprehensive approach and joint commitment as well as accountability by all stakeholders that include government, civil society, human rights organizations and partners with UN entities. Critically, the GAI will expand upon the typical governance arrangements of traditional multi-donor trust funds to directly include civil society (and particularly women’s rights groups), the UN, government, donors and potentially the private sector in decision-making.

Table 12: Greatest Challenges Raising Funds

Q51. 9.a. Based on your knowledge or direct experience, what are your greatest challenges and/or concerns in raising funds for WPS activities? (Please select at most three options)			
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents
Lack of long-term institutional and programmatic funding	150	47%	
Insufficient funding available for women’s peace work	144	45%	
Lack of funding for core costs not tied to a project	87	27%	
Disconnect between donor priorities and the funding needs of civil society organizations	85	27%	
Competition for funds with other national or international actors	74	23%	

Lack of information about available funding sources	63	20%	
Limited institutional capacities	57	18%	
Application procedures too cumbersome	49	15%	
Funding is not tailored to the fast changing reality of working in crisis settings	38	12%	
Language barriers to applying to international donors	17	5%	
Other(s) - please specify:	12	4%	
Total Responses	792		
Multiple answers per participant are possible, thus the total percentage may exceed 100 percent. No response: 16 respondents (5 per cent).			

8. Lack of core funding prevents many CSOs from hiring the permanent staff they need.

In response to the fact that only 11 percent of respondents receive core funding/institutional capacity building, as noted in Table 11, results shown in Table 12 indicate that **lack of core funding is one of the biggest challenges in raising funds for WPS related work**, where 10 percent of respondents reported receiving core funding. This can be problematic for CSOs who do not have a steady stream of funding to pay administrative costs and are often understaffed. They may have to rely either on volunteers or in some instances delay programs and projects since many CSOs cannot sustain daily operations.

Similarly in cases where organizations are tied to certain foreign funding entities, they are not eligible for alternative sources of funding if the primary source of funds decides not to pay for administrative costs.

- One CSO in **DRC** expressed frustration over insufficient funding as follows: *“Many CSOs do not have the financial means to pay for a permanent staff and their headquarters. Those who do volunteerism leave once they find a paid job. Managers make financial sacrifices to support the organization.”*
- CSOs that work at the grassroots level in **Serbia** expressed similar concerns, stating, *“We have small annual budget and most of the actions and our work on WPS is voluntary. We need core support also, and that is the situation with many women organizations in Serbia. Funding in most cases is for limited time, 6 months or year, so can’t plan actions on long-term basis.”*

“Since we have a very small budget, the fundraiser’s salary is only 5 hours a week, which does not allow extensive fundraising efforts, so it’s a vicious circle.”
- CSO in Israel

“CSOs need to empower themselves to better serve the communities. We must pay rent, transportation, information technology and the salaries of staff if we want to have impact.”
- CSO in DRC

Respondents recommended that donors make available flexible core/programmatic funding for WPS work, including funds for full-time staff. It is essential that CSOs have a steady stream of funding for their core operations, such as administrative costs, staff salaries and other logistical needs. Funding for core operations should be consistent and long-term in order to ensure smooth execution of the

organization's goals. This could be done through strengthening donor coordination (such as through a consortium) to allow the funders to jointly provide long-term and core-programmatic funding.

As mentioned earlier, some CSOs raise funds through membership fees or product sales. These and other mechanisms can be effective in sustaining day-to-day operations of CSOs. **Donors can also assist CSOs in creating income-generating activities to empower women and subsequently communities.**

9. Respondents are affected by funding mechanisms that are skewed toward international organizations rather than local and national CSOs working on the ground.

Twenty-three percent of respondents noted the challenge of competing for funds with other national or international actors. UN agencies and other donors tend to allocate more funds to international organizations, while **local and national CSOs** are given less, despite that these CSOs are more aware of the areas where intervention is needed (**DRC, North and South Kivu**). Similarly, participants within the focus group discussion in Serbia expressed concern that funds are more often given to think tanks and large organizations rather than grassroots groups.

Respondents recommended making sure that small grants should be set aside for grassroots organizations, particularly indigenous groups (**Rwanda**). In order to ensure a diverse cross-section of women's organizations apply for funding, a **Dutch** CSO working in **Asia** and the **MENA** region recommended donors *"Take into account the characteristics of women's organizations (looking at annual budget, human resources capacity) when setting up funding programs and criteria. This will help "make sure a diversified WPS field exists (all regions, all sizes, activist/mainstream, expertise, local, national and international level)."*

"We hope that the 15-year review does not end up mobilizing resources for the 'system' (e.g., the UN, the World Bank, etc.) and -- once again -- leave those on the ground who have the potential to build sustainable peace with few resources. Setting up a robust, well-resourced and responsive fund for WPS (while minimizing bureaucratic requirements) would be great."

- Global CSO based in the US

10. Many CSOs report difficulty identifying and approaching prospective donors to support their work due to lack of information.

The situation is further exacerbated by lack of information about prospective funding opportunities, as identified by 20 percent of respondents. In some instances, CSOs have difficulty identifying and approaching prospective donors for their work (**Burundi, DRC, Uganda**).

"We do not have partners who can provide information on various funding."

- CSO in DRC

A respondent working in **South Africa** complained about lack of information on donor funding stated: *"Working in relative isolation in South Africa as the only sociologist focused on gender integration, my biggest challenge is to know how to access donor funding. When one is alerted to possible funding*

opportunities, this is often at very short notice and the bureaucratic procedures are long and cumbersome.”

Respondents recommended the creation of a mechanism to help ensure that CSOs have access to clear, timely information about various funding opportunities. In particular, a respondent in **Uganda** recommended mapping organizations working on women peace initiatives and putting them on a mailing list announcing grant notifications. In addition, a CSO in **DRC** recommended organizing information and discussion meetings between donors and CSOs.

11. Respondents observe a disconnect between donor agendas and the changing reality of working in crisis settings.

Twenty-seven percent of respondents expressed concern about a disconnect between donor priorities and the funding needs of civil society organizations. Similarly, 12 percent of CSOs noted that they faced challenges with funding tailored to the fast-changing reality of working in crisis settings.

Such results coincide with earlier results in Table 7, where 29 percent of respondents called attention to “gaps between international policies and action and local level realities are not being addressed” as a major obstacle to implementation. Such similar results highlight how funding and funding mechanisms are closely tied to ensuring that implementation of UNSCR 1325 meets local realities.

“Donors must understand the immediate needs of the CSOs and the victims and tailor their priorities to cater to these situations.”

- CSO in **South Sudan**

- As described by a CSO in **Burundi**, such lack of coherence between donor agenda and work of CSOs on ground can lead to misplaced priorities. For example, a CSO in the **Philippines** noted a prioritization of training and education programs for women in conflict-affected areas, while primary concerns of women in these areas were around safety for their family and looking for a sustainable alternative livelihood.
- Similarly, a **Belgium** CSO working throughout the EU observed that when the agenda is imposed by donors or other external actors, *“It can have very damaging effects for women in conflict-settings and backlash, as we have seen in Afghanistan and other conflict-ridden countries.”*
- Focus group discussion participants in **Nepal** highlighted how donors are often late in identifying new or existing challenges related to work on the ground.

“There is a need for donors' willingness to invest in new and groundbreaking approaches that are looking into transforming our peace and security paradigm altogether, requiring a long-term commitment from all involved.”

- **Dutch** CSO working in **Asia** and **MENA** Region

It is important that the donor agenda be aligned with on-the-ground realities, rewarding innovation that addressing systematic women’s inclusion from the ground-up. This can be done through taking into account the limitations of a particular country, such as its socio-economic, cultural, geographic, political and religious complexities. Respondents therefore recommended that **donors build relationships and collaborate with grassroots organizations in order to ensure that calls for proposals address the basic needs**

and realities of women. There is a need for regular communication and coordination between CSOs working on the ground and donors who support them, such as monthly calls and regular on-site visits.

- A CSO in **Burundi** suggested creating a discussion framework with CSOs to identify their problems; involving CSOs in planning the allocation of funds; or establishing focal points in communities on women-related issues.
- A CSO in **Pakistan** stated that *“International NGOs should introduce a provision for need-based funding rather than providing funding to further their own agendas.”*
- In addition, a CSO working through the **EU** affirmed that project funding should be better informed by a comprehensive conflict and gender analysis.

12. Limited project-based funds for CSOs perpetuate competition between CSOs rather than foster collaboration to maximize impact.

While Table 7 shows that only 9 percent of respondents said that “competition for visibility and resources among organizations working on WPS” was a major factor hindering the success of their work, in qualitative answers throughout the survey, respondents from every region raised the issue of competition as a persistent barrier affecting their work.

“Competition over limited funding between national and local CSOs prevent or complicate successful collaboration in WPS programming.

- US – based global CSO

Participants in **Guatemala** for example remarked that the project-based model of international financial support fuels competition between organizations, which often leaves community and indigenous groups at a disadvantage. International NGOs, UN and governments should therefore disseminate funding opportunities at the same time for all CSOs and treat them equally in being considered for funds. While evaluating CSOs, donors should look at parameters such as skills of the CSOs, their knowledge about a certain issue and their relevant experience.

Moreover, a **Dutch** CSO working in **Asia** and the **MENA** region urged donors to be more sensitive to local context and power relations between CSOs when cooperating with them. *“Grassroots organizations and women’s peace and rights organizations, usually being smaller to midsize organizations, increasingly face difficulties in gaining access to funding. They face competition from big CSOs that are increasingly dominating the WPS agenda and thereby access to WPS funding. [As a result,] 1325 does not reach the people it was made for.”*

Similarly, a CSO from Northern **Uganda** remarked, *“A discussion needs to happen among foreign governments and INGOs on harmonizing what to fund to minimize competition and duplication but also strengthen accountability.”*

Above all, collaboration and coordination between CSOs of all sizes should be supported and encouraged, to ensure coherence between different activities and programs and avoid repetition or collision of efforts.

13. Cumbersome application procedures and grant reporting requirements adversely monopolize the staff time of CSOs.

Fifteen percent of respondents indicated the challenge of complying with cumbersome application procedures. Open answers elaborate on these concerns regarding donor compliance throughout the entire life-cycle of a funded project, including reporting requirements.

This problem is rooted in complicated and individualized requirements for each donor, requiring CSOs to divide their limited staff between programmatic work and unnecessarily laborious administrative work. Some donors, including UN Women, follow a more bureaucratic process for dispensing funds. The process causes a delay in access to resources and sometimes excludes relatively small CSOs from being considered for funds. UN Women and other donors should consider simplifying funding procedures. For example, practice of “calls/requests for proposals places a limitation on the acquisition of urgently needed funds” (**Uganda, Eastern Africa and Horn of Africa**).

“Increased reporting requirements demanding measurable results skew the CSO’s activity towards paperwork and administration, draining time and energy from the actual work.”

- CSO working in Israel and Palestine

Moreover, with the increased demand to quantify impact, respondents are challenged by complicated donor requirements to measure progress to justify their funds and prove results. Given that women, peace and security work is transformative and requires a long-term influence on cultural beliefs, practices and systems, measuring short-term impact quantitatively is not always possible, particularly within the short grant periods many donors offer.

Respondents urged that some requirements that donors place on CSOs regarding their eligibility for certain funds should be revised, and support should be offered to help organizations with limited capabilities to navigate the application and reporting processes.

Furthermore, donors should consider technical capabilities of a CSO when making certain logistical demands. Community-based CSOs cannot in many instances meet those requirements (**Uganda**). A more simplified criteria for funding can enable a holistic WPS field with participants from different regions, of different sizes, having varied expertise and diverse activism portfolios.

Collaboration and Coordination

Introduction

Civil society organizations' critical work on WPS issues does not happen without some overlap or involvement of their national government or international actors.

Respondents testified to the value of collaboration in Table 6, attributing such relationships as a key factor to CSOs' success; yet, as highlighted in Table 7, after lack of resources and lack of trust, coordination by government and civil society was identified as the greatest barrier to effective implementation. Such lack of coordination translates into gaps between policy and funding the reality

of needs of women’s groups on the ground. When funding mechanisms do not encourage and support collaboration between CSOs, this also results in harmful competition between CSOs (as noted by 9 percent of CSOs in Table 7), hampering their ability to leverage what has consistently been identified as their greatest resource—other CSOs.

The issues of collaboration and coordination therefore deserve more detailed analysis as a cross-cutting issue affecting our understanding of UNSCR 1325 implementation over the last 15 years, and our outlook for success in the future.

To answer the guiding research question, *“How would CSOs like to see collaboration and coordination among different actors improved to better support implementation of the WPS agenda?”*, this section looks at how civil society organizations interact with one another, national governments, the UN and its agencies, international NGOs and foreign governments and donors.

Respondents were asked 8 quantitative and 10 qualitative (open answer) questions in order to understand how they conduct their work in conjunction with others. The questions included:

- *What concrete models of collaboration were most and least successful in your work and why?*
- *Why do you think the model(s) was (were) successful or not successful?*
- *With which actors has your organization been involved, and how effective was each collaboration?*
- *What are ways for your government, for foreign governments and for international NGOs to improve coordination with CSOs?*
- *How often have you directly interacted with United Nations agencies and actors in your work? (i.e., direct meetings, outreach, meeting invitations from the UN, etc.)*
- *Which UN agencies have been most supportive of your work?*
- *What are the biggest challenges CSOs face in engaging UN agencies?*
- *What is the most effective role for the UN in supporting CSOs?*

The following describes respondents’ answers to these questions and focuses on the points for improvement suggested by CSOs. A key theme shared by respondents is that when government, international agencies and civil society work together and all elements are accessible to one another and properly funded, the survey found that the most successful and impactful projects will happen and the WPS agenda will be best served. More important, when these questions were looked at from either a regional or conflict (stable or current/post conflict) perspective, the **results showed very consistent answers, demonstrating civil society systematically experiences similar needs regardless of their geographic location and the context within which they operate.**

Actors and Civil Society’s Relation to Each

1. Respondents identify coordination and planning with civil society as the concrete model of collaboration that is most successful for their work.

Sixty-three percent of respondents identified the model of collaboration with other CSOs as the most successful (See Table 13 below). **Many attribute CSO collaboration to their ability to better understand realities on the ground, to leverage each other’s resources and expertise, apply pressure**



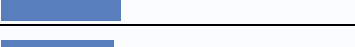
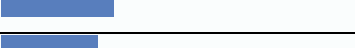
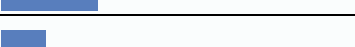
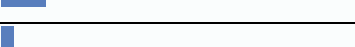


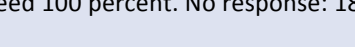
to the international community, hold their government accountable and legitimize the mission of their organization.

The survey showed a heavy emphasis on creating and maintaining strong networks among CSOs. Similarly, 38 percent of respondents said that the second-most effective model of collaboration was networking and advocacy for national and global policy for WPS.

“Collaboration with other CSOs enables consistent action and provides information about women’s situations in conflict zones.

- CSO in Colombia

Table 13: Most Successful Models of Collaboration





Q31. 5.a. Please select which concrete models of collaboration have been the most successful in your work.			
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents
Coordination and planning with civil society at the national and local level	199	63%	
Networking and advocacy for national and global policy for WPS	120	38%	
Donor engagement, including institutional capacity building	68	21%	
Joint program implementation and design with government institutions	62	20%	
Joint program implementation and design with international actors	53	17%	
Donor/grantee relationship with no involvement of the donor beyond financial support	25	8%	
Pooled funding	7	2%	
Other(s) - please specify	5	2%	
Total Responses	557		

Multiple answers per participant are possible, thus the total percentage may exceed 100 percent. No response: 18 respondents (6 per cent)

2. Civil society is its own strongest collaborator in women, peace and security.

Globally, 90 percent of CSOs are involved with other CSOs, making this sector its own strongest collaborator, as noted in Table 14 below. Additionally, 74 percent of respondents have some involvement with international NGOs, making them the second-most common collaborator for CSOs. CSOs reported that on a whole, working with other CSOs yields moderate to very effective outcomes.

Table 14: Involvement With and Effectiveness of Other Actors

5.c. In your experience, has your organization had involvement with any of the following actors? If yes, please rate the effectiveness of this collaboration from a scale of 1 (not effective) to 6 (very effective).			
Actor	%	Q35. Involved?	Q.36 Average
Other civil society organizations	90%		5.9
International NGOs	74%		4.4
Your national government/national ministries	69%		3.3
UN Agencies	65%		3.8

Other international organization (e.g., World Bank, OECD, EU, etc.)	35%		3.7
Foreign national governments	37%		3.7
The private sector	23%		3.2

Many respondents praised their fellow CSOs and the networks they collectively created as being instrumental to advancing the WPS agenda.

- A respondent based in **Spain** who does work in **Latin America** and across the **EU** succinctly said, *“The creation of social networks has given greater visibility to the international women’s movement, and in this way has been able to influence on a greater degree the decisions that are adopted on the national level.”*
- Similarly, a respondent working in the **DRC** said that *“Networking and advocacy help join various skills,”* and another respondent from the **DRC** wrote, *“Advocating with several networks for the implementation of international instruments greatly helped restore peace, because there is strength in numbers.”*
- Respondents working in **Yemen, Uganda, Northern Ireland, Rwanda, Nigeria, Serbia and Cameroon**, among others places, specifically highlighted successful collaborations with other CSOs as key to their organization’s work. A respondent working in the **MENA** region noted that CSO networks *“will be more accountable [to] the community needs.”*

“CSOs working on these issues should form coalitions based on their competitive advantages to avoid competition.”

- CSO in **Uganda**

Despite such success stories, respondents acknowledge that rivalries do exist between some groups. It is therefore imperative that CSOs can continue to foster positive relationships and partnerships among organizations. One way of doing this is by **removing as much competition as possible**, especially regarding funding, which respondents have repeatedly highlighted as a divisive factor.

Additionally, **better communication between organizations** and **greater access to information** will prevent duplication or repetition of work or specific projects.

Finally, respondents’ answers demonstrated the collective power and strength created by networks and coalitions to institutionalize women’s participation, including pressuring governments as a larger collective. This is particularly true in the Middle East—the region with the largest percentage of respondents identifying technical capacity building for WPS coalition building as a priority.

- An **Egyptian** CSO described various success stories of CSO coalitions throughout the **MENA** region: *“Partners in Libya established shared priorities and lobbied for a quota for women’s political participation. The coalition still was able to successfully win nearly 17% of seats in the 2012 election for women. Partners in Syria successfully issued a Charter for Peace*

“[We have] focused on building and strengthening networking and coalition relations with other civil society organizations due to our consciousness of joint responsibility for issues the organization works on and toward society.”

- CSO in **Yemen**

and brought international attention to the issue of women's exclusion at the Geneva II Peace talks. In Yemen, a coalition of women's rights leaders and activists gained traction in the National Dialogue Conference to adopt women's political participation quota of 30%, among other key recommendations.”

- A CSO in **Palestine** shared how its coalition held several local, Arab regional and international conferences to establish strategic plans to implement Resolution 1325. *“In the West Bank and Gaza, these conferences had an impact on raising public awareness and building partnerships as well as developing the direction of the plan.”*

Knowing that CSOs strongly rely on one another is important moving forward and will help inform other actors to make policies and decisions with this key idea in mind.

National Government

3. While most CSOs interact with the government, they identify this interaction as one of their least effective forms of collaboration.

As noted in Table 4, 20 percent had identified national government support as a key factor to their most effective work. CSOs are fully aware of the need to engage with their governments, as demonstrated by the fact that 69 percent reported working with national government in some way (Table 14). However, respondents on average rated such collaboration as moderately effective (average 3.3 on a scale of 1 to 6) (Table 14). As aptly described by a **UK**-based global CSO, *“While in some contexts, joint program implementation was successful, in others it was not. There is still lack of trust between the government and civil society as well as lack of political will by the Government.”*

Respondents were asked to describe why they felt certain models of collaboration were ineffective. The majority targeted interactions with national governments, and included the following as barriers to successful working relationships with government:

- **Distrust and exclusion** of CSOs by government (including respondents based in **Spain** working in **Colombia, Guatemala, EU, Burundi, Uganda**, and an international agency based in the **UK**) (also identified as a top constraint by 27 percent of all respondents in Table 7).
- **Lack of political will** and national government’s lack of desire to help promote the WPS agenda (mentioned by respondents from **Latin America, DRC, Yemen, Libya, South Korea, Canada, Macedonia** and an international CSO based in the **UK**).
- **Funding and financial issues**, including CSOs' loss of independence when funding comes from government (mentioned by a respondent working in Afghanistan, Pakistan and India).
- **Lack of government funds**, including where government has *“no financial means to implement programs adopted by mutual agreement,”* as stated by a CSO in **DRC**. (Note that in Table 9, 38 percent of respondents in Africa reported receiving funds from their national governments).

- **Shrinking democratic spaces and increasing government repression** (as expressed by CSOs in **Afghanistan, Libya, the Netherlands**-working in Asia and MENA region, and FGD participants)
- In **Syria**, respondents described the government **actively preventing CSOs from operating**, including by refusing to license CSOs, a process that grants them legal status, and an issue further described in the Emerging Issues Section.

Based on the qualitative data collected, respondents provided suggestions to governments that would allow them and CSOs to better collaborate, including:

- **Increase collaboration with and involvement of CSOs**, including participation in policy and decision-making bodies, including 1325 Steering Committees (South Korea, Rwanda and Great Lakes region, Philippines, Asia Pacific region).
- **Create a space for dialogue and debate**, possibly through consultations (Guatemala, Africa, DRC, Burundi, Iraq, Yemen, UK, Norway, Spain, Pakistan, Canada, Afghanistan, USA working in Burma and Iraq, USA working globally).
- **Create a “unified official information system in coordination with women’s organizations”** so actors can know what WPS work is occurring (as suggested by a respondent from Colombia, reiterated by respondents from Burundi, Nepal, Asia Pacific and South Asia).
- **Respect and value the work done by CSOs** (Guatemala).
- **Ensure funding for WPS programs**, including for work on UNSCR 1325 (mentioned by respondents working in the Great Lakes Region, DRC/South Kivu, Uganda, MENA region, Albania).
- **Ensure personnel involved with WPS agenda are well trained and educated on the issues** (Respondents from Sweden operating in MENA and the Caucasus region, Libya).
- **Commit to developing a NAP** (Lebanon, Syria, South Korea, Azerbaijan).

Moreover, the onus was also placed on the UN and the Security Council to play an active role in building a positive relationship with governments and evaluating and following up on the obligations of member states to comply with agreements and resolutions. As a CSO in **Yemen** states, *“This process should avoid supporting political interests and relations between governments, which weaken their basic roles of supporting the people and maintaining safety from all threats.”*

Under ideal circumstances, the relationship between civil society and government is one of cooperation and partnership, but also one of checks and balances. **Civil society often is in the best position to connect and share local issues with national leaders, bringing the grassroots attention to the national level.** CSOs view government as the makers of law, with CSOs providing input and information to inform policies and also to lobby for better policies that have a strong impact on the WPS agenda. Several respondents also wrote that **the role of civil society is one of watchdog or independent monitor.**

Challenges in attitudes and treatment as well as lack of political will make CSOs' ability to collaborate with government challenging. **National governments should be encouraged to hold regular consultations with civil society organizations in which they are provided safe spaces to provide frank assessments and recommendations** that are considered and acted upon or at responded to. By increasing communication and the exchange of information between CSOs and national governments, the hope is to engender greater dialogue on the WPS agenda. Additionally, as highlighted in the FDG sessions, national governments have an important role as key actors in implementing WPS agenda due to, among other things, their role in adopting and implementing National Action Plans. They should ensure good coordination of WPS efforts and work closely with the civil society to successfully create and implement NAPs.

As astutely put by a respondent working across **East Africa**, *“The governments are responsible for upholding peace while CSOs only contribute. Partnership between the two allows each to do its part. CSOs bring in that analytical element missing in government approaches.”* CSOs are eager to independently and strongly advocate for their agendas while collaborating with governments to ensure their work on WPS continues to succeed.

United Nations and Its Agencies







4. Most CSOs interact with the UN; however, respondents tend to rate this collaboration moderately effective.

Globally, 65 percent of respondents indicated that their organization has had some interaction with the United Nations and its specialized agencies. Moreover, as previously noted in Table 6, 20 percent of respondents attributed support from UN agencies as crucial to their most effective work. Yet, when asked to rank how effective UN involvement has been, respondents' generally showed low to moderate levels of effectiveness (Table 14).

The frequency of contact differed slightly, with no clear pattern based on regional or conflict cross-sections of the data. Twenty-five percent of respondents said they had directly interacted with UN agencies once or twice in the past two years (Table 16). Twenty-two percent said they had more than 10 interactions with the UN in that same time period; an additional 19 percent of respondents had either three to five or five to 10 direct interactions with the UN and its agencies in the past two years.

Table 16: Frequency of UN Interaction

Q40. 7.a. In the last two years how often have you directly interacted with United Nations agencies and actors in your work? (i.e., direct meetings, outreach, meeting invitations from the UN, etc.)			
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents
Not at all	32	10%	

One to two times	78	25%	
Three to five times	60	19%	
Five to ten times	60	19%	
More than 10 times	69	22%	
(Did not answer)	18	6%	
Total Responses	317		

5. *Respondents identified various positive examples of collaboration with UN Women, particularly among respondents in Africa.*

Based on these interactions, respondents named the agencies that they interacted with that they felt were most supportive of their work on WPS initiatives (multiple answers available). The overwhelming leader was UN Women (63 percent). While respondents in Azerbaijan and Israel reported the need for increased presence and engagement with UN Women in their countries, respondents (particularly in Africa) identified some positive engagements with UN Women, including:

“The support UN agencies, including the Gender Section of MONUSCO, UN WOMEN and UNDP, has greatly contributed to the adoption of the National Action Plan on resolution 1325 and also in building a common vision on the work to be undertaken in the field of resolution 1325.”

- CSO in DRC

- National workshops, coordination and/or funding for NAP development (Cameroon, DRC, Nigeria, Rwanda)
- High-level regional workshop on UNSCR 1325 (in Dakar, Senegal)
- Counseling/psychosocial assistance to refugee women with support from UN Women (Cameroon)
- Civil society advisory group to UN Women to establish peace mediators and observers (Burundi)
- Monthly civil society and government meetings with UN Women to discuss each other’s activities (Burundi)
- Financial support from UN Women to repair survivors of fistula cases (Uganda)
- Regular announcements to civil society by UN Women on funding opportunities (DRC)
- Financial support from UN Women for meetings (Afghanistan)

2. *CSOs urge the UN to grant UN Women greater resources and power, particularly in South Asia.*

“In the South Asian sub-region, UN Women has least importance, operates like NGOs collecting funds for themselves, makes promises but is not able to get funds.”

- CSO in Afghanistan

Various CSO respondents, in their open answers, recognized the important role of UN Women, while observing UN Women’s own struggles to raise funds to effectively operate. The need to allocate more money and autonomy to UN Women was especially raised by CSOs in South Asia. As noted by a CSO in Afghanistan, “UN Women in Afghanistan does not have enough capacity and experienced staff to support Afghan Foreign

Ministry in NAP finalization.” This CSO also raised concerns that UN Women’s effectiveness in Afghanistan is compromised because they “do not deviate their stance from the governments.” This has resulted in lack of trust and support from the people’s movement.

6. Respondents also expressed concern that political and financial support for the women, peace and security agenda is too centralized within UN Women.











After UN Women, about one-quarter of respondents indicated that the UN Development Programme and/or UN country teams supported their work (26 percent), followed by 18 percent who reported support from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Table 17 below).




Only 9 percent of respondents identified the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) as very supportive of their work, raising concerns about DPKO’s ability to effectively promote women’s equal, full participation as active agents in peacekeeping without supporting the complementary work being done by civil society.

Respondents expressed concern that WPS issues are sidelined by other UN agencies, relegating it as an issue only for UN Women. As one CSO in Guatemala put it, “Political and financial support is centralized in UN Women, because one of this agency priorities is peace, security and political participation,” despite the relatively few resources it receives. With enough resources, a CSO in Afghanistan suggested that UN women should take the “lead in integrating a gender perspective into all UN agencies.”

Respondents expressed different views on how institutional restructuring within the UN system can better support the WPS agenda. A CSO in Norway, for example, expressed the view that in addition to increasing representation of women in all its institutions, especially leadership positions, “The UN should appoint a special representative of the whole Women, Peace and Security agenda (not only SRSG on sexual violence).” Another CSO based in the US emphasized the need to invest more on the ground, noting, “We understand there’s a proposal to appoint another SRSG. This just perpetuates bureaucratic logjams.”

Table 17: Supportiveness of UN Agencies

Q41. 7.b. Which of the UN agencies has been most supportive of your work on WPS initiatives? (Please select all that apply)			
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents
UN Women	199	63%	
UN Development Programme / UN Country Teams	81	26%	
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	57	18%	
United Nations Population Fund	52	16%	
UNICEF	51	16%	
None	32	10%	
UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations	27	9%	
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees	25	8%	
UN Department of Political Affairs	16	5%	
UN Office for Disarmament Affairs	14	4%	

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	14	4%	
World Food Programme	10	3%	
Total Responses	643		
Multiple answers per participant are possible, thus the total percentage may exceed 100 percent. No response: 22 respondents (7 percent)			





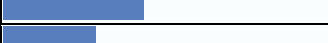

7. CSOs are challenged by the UN's focus on elite organizations rather than on grassroots organizations as well as its slow, bureaucratic processes.

The UN and its agencies are essential actors for civil society. However, CSOs report several key challenges in engaging with the UN System. Globally and regionally, the results were nearly identical, with the top three challenges being that **(1) The UN works too much with elite organizations and not enough with grassroots organizations; (2) UN processes are too slow and bureaucratic; and (3) there is a lack of coordination between UN agencies and donors at the country level** (Table 18). Similarly, in the Focus Group Discussions, participants felt that some UN offices demonstrated lack of cultural sensitivity and are inaccessible to grassroots women's organizations. Additionally, the UN also runs its own projects, duplicating civil society efforts and sometimes competing with CSOs for funding.

"It is important for UN women to work with women's organizations at the country level, which we do not see happen; it is only the elite organizations that they prefer to work."

- CSO in Sri Lanka

Table 18: Biggest Challenges CSOs Face in Engaging UN Agencies

Q42. 7.c. In your organization's view, what are the biggest challenges CSOs face in engaging UN agencies? (Select all that apply)			
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents
The UN works too much with elite organizations and not enough with grassroots organizations	175	55%	
UN processes are too slow and bureaucratic	163	51%	
Lack of coordination between UN agencies and donors at the country level	100	32%	
UN financial requirements are unrealistic	78	25%	
Other(s) - please specify:	52	16%	
Total Responses	599		
Multiple answers per participant are possible, thus the total percentage may exceed 100 percent. No response: 31 respondents (10 percent)			

In the narrative answer section, besides concerns about elitism and bureaucracy, several other common criticisms emerged:

- **Lack of ability to access agencies and personnel** (Austrian CSO working in conflict-affected areas globally, Afghanistan-Asia)
- **High staff turnover – hard to have continuity with contacts** (Global CSO working in globally in conflict-affected areas)

- **Disconnect between UN home or headquarter offices and field offices** (Respondent working in Asia-MENA)
- **Perceived corruption and distrust** (by CSOs of the UN and vice-versa), which creates a lack of partnership and true collaboration (DRC, South Pacific region, Yemen)
- **Emphasis on short-term emergency recovery** (Uganda)
- **Proposal process “almost impossible”** (Kenya)
- **Takes over rather than enables/facilitates CSO project** (Swedish CSO working in the MENA and Caucasus regions)
- **Competition with UN for major funding**, such as international organizations and governments (Armenia, South Sudan, Zimbabwe)
- **Feeling that UN does not have strong understanding of situation on the ground** (Nepal)

To address concerns about elitism, CSOs in every region recommended that the UN engage with and invest more in CSOs working at the grassroots.

- This could be done through **regular consultations with CSOs**, including indigenous organizations, as well as all other relevant stakeholders in meetings, as recommended by respondents in Burundi, Guatemala, the Netherlands, Sierra Leone and the US.
- CSOs in South Africa and the US suggested the **creation of an open-door policy**, making the UN more accessible by providing actual contact personnel and information.
- CSOs in every region recommended that UN should **become more involved in mobilizing financial support to CSOs**, particularly to back their involvement in NAP implementation.

To resolve challenges of slow, bureaucratic systems, many CSOs stressed the need to **streamline and simplify access to information, services and personnel**.

- In particular, a CSO in **Guatemala** suggested **having a central system or database** (open resource) that allows organizations to see what work is being carried out in their region, which could help avoid duplication of projects.

Respondents also suggested a variety of ways that the UN could more effectively and democratically engage CSOs, including:

- **“Adapt services that empower refugees – women and girls – to self-sufficiency, not services that support[s] their dependency on UN.”** (US-based CSO working in refugee camps in Chad and Darfur)
- **Create more forms of local participation from childhood on**, such as *“nominating and engaging more civil society persons (50:50 men and women) as peace, human rights and UN ambassadors (not only prominent rich persons). Hold decentralized citizens’ conventions. [Establish] a UN TV channel and UN radio for dissemination of knowledge.”* (Germany)

“The UN can take the lead in lobbying the government to implement UNSCR 1325 by working [with] NGOs at the national level and with relevant local organizations.”

- CSO in Burma





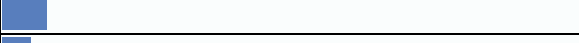



8. CSOs have divided perceptions on the appropriate role of the UN – primarily as dialogue and collaboration facilitators, advocates at the UN, advisors to CSOs and government and policy analyzers/impact evaluators.

Globally, respondents are divided over the most effective role for the UN to support CSOs’ WPS work. The most common answers were **(1) Dialogue and Collaboration facilitator; (2) Advisor to CSOs and Government; (2 tied) Advocacy at the UN level; and (3) Policy analysis and impact assessment** (See Table 19 below).

The narrative answers included additional suggestions on what the UN’s role should be, which included: **funding** (by respondents from the UK, Canada, an organization that works globally in conflict affected regions, Palestine/Israel); **greater cooperation** with WPS organizations (respondent from Yemen); **advise** national government on the implementation of 1325 and its sister resolutions (respondent from Germany); and **support** the “needs of partner institutions through participatory method[s]” (respondent from the Asia-Pacific region).

Regardless of how CSOs define the best “role” for the UN, across the board they strongly hope that the UN supports their WPS initiatives by helping them advocate for their programs and priorities on national and international levels. CSOs want the UN to work with a wider variety of partners, including organizations that have not yet engaged with the UN, and to ensure that those agencies at the grassroots level are included.

Table 19: CSOs Perspectives on the Role of the UN

Q43. 7.d. From the perspective of your organization and the work it does, what is the most effective role for UN entities to take to support your WPS work and the WPS work globally? (Please select one)			
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents
Dialogue and Collaboration Facilitator	73	23%	
Advocacy at the UN	64	20%	
Advisor to CSOs and Governments	63	20%	
Policy Analysis and Impact Assessments	58	18%	
Program Implementer	24	8%	
Other - please specify:	17	5%	
(Did not answer)	18	6%	
Total Responses	317		

International NGOs and Foreign Governments

9. Respondents rely heavily on international NGOs for funding, advocacy support and mentorship.

Seventy-four percent of respondents said that they have had some involvement with international NGOs, making it the second-most common relationship for a CSO, after involvement with other CSOs (Table 14). Moreover, previously in Table 6, 41

“[INGOs] supported our priorities through advocacy at different levels-- financially as well as connecting us with the international community to raise our concerns and, in turn, international pressure.”

- CSO in South Sudan

percent of respondents attributed “support from international NGOs” as a key factor in the success of their work. As further elaborated in this section, a large portion of this contact comes through the donor-recipient relationship, discussed below.

Respondents’ involvement with foreign national governments was less, with 37 percent answering that they have had some involvement with governments. Yet respondents found working with international NGOs to be moderately to highly successful. There was very little effectiveness in working with foreign governments.

Respondents were asked to provide key recommendations for working with international NGOs and foreign governments to understanding how to better improve these relationships. Similar to feedback with other actors, CSOs consistently requested (i) improved transparent communication and coordination; (ii) provision of long-term financial support to implement UNSCR 1325, without pushing an agenda; and provisions of more technical support and capacity building.

Many respondents emphasized the value of international NGOs to pressure national governments to further the WPS agenda, which is best done through strong coordination and advocacy strategies. International CSOs can also help other CSOs advocate for their needs globally by enabling representatives to participate in international meetings and conferences (Libya, US-based global CSO). Most important, CSOs want to feel that they are being treated with respect and trust in their ability to get the job done. CSOs need to have equal participation and function independently to continue promoting the WPS agenda. Additionally, CSOs want to be recognized for their ability to address needs at the most local and grassroots levels and want to avoid having externally located actors overlook such demographics and organizations. International NGOs and foreign governments must include CSOs to avoid a top-down or externally imposed model of work. The importance of this need for inclusivity was articulated by many respondents and was featured in many of the narrative answers.

Funders/Donors

As discussed in the previous section, funding is essential to the success of any CSO. This section focuses on funders’ interactions with CSOs. Twenty-two percent of respondents found donor engagement, including institutional capacity building, the third-most effective model of collaboration (Table 13). This coincides with other relevant findings throughout the survey, including that 26 percent of respondents are hindered by lack of institutional capacities (Table 7), and feedback from respondents urge greater consultation and collaboration between CSOs and all relevant parties, including donors.

10. Respondents encourage constructive donor engagement, while allowing CSOs the autonomy to set the agenda according to changing needs on the ground.

Of the 15 narrative answers to the question on least-effective models of cooperation, the most-frequent answer related to funding, with heavy emphasis on the role and influence of a donor on projects.

Donor-driven projects are a significant issue for many respondents. CSOs emphasize the need for donors to be involved in a constructive way. CSOs want their donors to extend support beyond actually giving money, including advice, guidance and technical assistance. Moreover, their tangible support offers credibility to their work.

Respondents affirm that such collaborative support helps contribute to the success and longevity of their work on WPS issues; however, respondents are very careful to not allow their donors to set a project’s or organization’s agenda. CSOs need to define and pursue projects that are important to their mission and the people they serve.

11. Pooled funding is largely seen as an ineffective model of collaboration, as it is challenging to coordinate such an arrangement and it creates competition between CSOs.

In Table 13, only 2 percent of respondents identified pooled funding as a successful model of collaboration. In open answer responses, only two respondents indicated that pooled funding is a great idea or a powerful method in engendering flexibility (Germany, Philippines). Several other respondents observed that pooled funding is challenging and ineffective:

- A CSO in **Uganda** noted that pooled funding is a challenge, given that CSOs have trouble mobilizing resources and contributing to a joint fund.
- In **South Sudan**, a CSO remarked that it is *“Too challenging because of different procedures.”* Moreover, as a collaboration model, *“pooled funding has hardly been accessible for civil society.”*
- A CSO in **Palestine** noted, *“Pooled funding ends up going to the largest of organizations, limiting opportunities for smaller women-focused CBOs.”* Similarly, a **Dutch** CSO working in **the MENA region** and **Asia** observed that pooled funding *“often neglects the power dynamics within the civil society field, creating more competition and tension within civil society.”*

Above all, while CSOs affirm the importance of building and fostering networks and collaboration among themselves, they are cautious about implementing strategies that would create additional competition, particularly among CSOs of different sizes and influence.

Effective National and Local Action Plans Through Collaborative Processes

12. Respondents describe collaborative processes with all stakeholders, particularly CSOs, as critical to successful NAP development and implementation as well as Local Action Plans.

When all actors work together, they produce the most long-lasting work. As emphasized in Focus Group Discussions, there is a *“multiplicity of actors involved in the realization of the WPS agenda,”* and FGD participants *“stressed the importance of effective communication, cooperation, and coordination”* among all actors (FGD Report, page 20). There is a **critical symbiosis and unique relationship** among civil society, national government, international organizations and donors.

The creation of a National Action Plan is the ideal place to focus on full collaboration and coordination among all actors. As noted in the FGD report, whether a national government is committed to UNSCR 1325 and worked on a NAP has

“It is thanks to a joint implementation program by government institutions, CSOs, other stakeholders and UN agencies that the DRC has adopted a National Action Plan.”
- CSO in DRC

tremendous impact on the successful implementation of the WPS agenda (FGD report page 22). A CSO in **Serbia**, for example, described how NAP implementation in the country, led by the Ministry of Defense, has not been effective because it did not involve all stakeholders, particularly CSOs working on peacebuilding and women's rights issues, in an open or transparent manner: *"As such, it has failed to recognize adequately challenges and problems of post conflict context and as a result its implementation, especially on local level."*

As affirmed by survey respondents, the successful creation of a NAP requires a significant amount of collaboration from all of the actors discussed in this section. CSOs tended to identify national governments as the primary responsible actors; however, the supportive role of the UN (in monitoring and providing sanctions), international partners (in providing support and monitoring) and civil society (in advocacy and monitoring) was also emphasized.

- A respondent from **Nepal** wrote that the NAP worked mostly because CSOs, INGOs/UN agencies and other multinational and bilateral development partners were all consulted during the formulation process. The government also was proactive in mobilizing all relevant ministries and security agencies to mainstream UNSCR 1325 and 1820 in their regular course of action.
- A **Dutch** CSO working throughout EU highlighted the **Irish** case as good practice in Europe for the inclusive development and monitoring of NAPs, describing how the government *"set up a consultative group composed of civil society, academics and government representatives."* They appointed an internationally renowned human rights activist as an independent chair, and held consultations with CSOs, including women affected by conflict.
- A **Dutch** organization identified the Dutch NAP as a good model as a result of strong and autonomous CSO participation in its development/design, implementation and monitoring. Moreover, the government allocated two million euros for Dutch CSOs to implement the NAP together with local NGOs in six focus countries. *"Though working collaboratively with the government, Dutch CSOs maintained their independence to perform the watchdog role."*

In each case, CSOs confirmed that the inclusion of the different stakeholders, paired with sufficient funds and political will, enabled more effective NAP development and implementation, where coordination has not been sufficiently effective, CSOs recommended the following strategic actions:

- A respondent in **DRC** called for *reconfiguration of national and provincial steering committees on Resolution 1325* and to *update the NAP*.
- A respondent in **Burundi** called for *mapping stakeholders and providing funding for better coordination of NAP implementation*.
- A respondent in **New Zealand** called for *development and publication of a timeline for completion of New Zealand NAP* and for *consultation with civil society*.

CSOs affirmed that in all NAP processes, the voices and needs of the people must be heard. **To do so, CSOs must be involved in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of a NAP—a**

strategy that respondents in **DRC, Guinea, Nepal, and the Netherlands** each described as integral to the success of the NAP in their respective countries. Moreover, the UN should provide monitoring to ensure civil society is included in the process, and that the final product contains concrete, actionable provisions, as well as accountability mechanisms, including reporting under CEDAW General Recommendation 30.

Moreover, respondents point to the localization program as a key strategy to effectively engage all actors, particularly in building collaboration between CSOs and local leaders to incorporate UNCR 1325 into local action plans. This assessment is further validated by earlier findings in Table 7, indicating that 21 percent of all respondents identified local government support as a contributing factor to their success. Rates by region were highest in Asia (23 percent) and Africa (30 percent), where a significant number of respondents reported effective activities working with local officials to localization UNSCR 1325.

Emerging Trends and Issues, Post-2015

Introduction

To promote the WPS agenda in the post-2015 period, it is critical that we shed light on both emerging and re-emerging trends and systemic issues that are increasingly hindering the work of women's organizations and activists worldwide. As women's groups are continuously adapting their work according to what is happening on the ground, so must the international community learn from these emerging issues and adapt their strategies to better support the transformative work of civil society

Addressing the guiding research questions: *"What emerging trends have CSOs experienced and how do they affect their work on women, peace and security? What has happened since 2000 in the world that has had an impact on women, peace and security?"* the analysis below looks at respondents' answers to the following question from the CSO survey:

- What emerging global issues have affected your work on women and peace and security the most?

Asked to select all issues that applied, respondents and focus group discussion participants drew attention to a variety of emerging issues that affect the smooth running of CSOs' work and that make women more vulnerable, including the rise of violent extremism, the impact of terrorism and counter-terrorism measures on women and the use of new technologies of war. Following are notable key themes we identified from this survey data.

"The subject of WPS has brought light to all areas of women's needs in the world. Also, unfortunately the world has become a much more insecure place than in 2000. There have got to be reviews constantly on WPS in the world."

- Dutch CSO working in Afghanistan and Burundi

1. *On a global scale, violent extremism is a significant emerging global issue affecting WPS work, often described in tandem with issues of terrorism and counterterrorism.*

Half of all CSOs indicated that violent extremism is a major emerging global issue affecting their work (multiple answers available). Approximately one in three CSOs identified terrorism and counterterrorism (34 percent); however, *answers reveal that violent extremism and terrorism are frequently viewed as interchangeable issues* by respondents. Similarly, new technologies of war and their impact on women were identified as a key issue by about one in three respondents (33 percent). The emerging global issue selected the least (though still significant) was transnational organized crime (20 percent).

“Violent terrorism, war and climate change have interrupted the work of our organization on behalf of women. Very often, our donors have stopped funding because of crisis.”

- CSO in **Rwanda**

Respondents observed that violent extremism, tied with terrorism, is on the rise globally, threatening all women. Many affirmed that violent extremism, regardless of its form, has posed great obstacles in moving the WPS agenda forward. They report that it has **closed spaces for CSOs** and others to work effectively on WPS issues, **amplified the overarching vulnerability of women** and claimed the attention of policy makers and donors, thus **redirecting funding away from WPS**

work. Given that extremism, particularly religious extremism, frequently targets the free expression and mobility of women, such concerns correlate to the fact that 29 percent of respondents felt that “the misinterpretation of culture and religion related to women’s dignity” was a primary factor hindering their work (see Table 7).

- Observed a global CSO based in **Belgium**: *“Violent extremism and terrorism and counter terrorism has claimed the attention of donors and most of the funding is now going towards fighting these threats and forsaking women peace and security.”*

For international NGOs working in regions affected by violent extremism, they also reported instances where they have been **forced to pull out of the country during outbreaks** of such violence, as noted by a CSO in **Sweden** working in the **MENA** region. As described by a global CSO from the **Netherlands**, these conditions have forced CSOs, both international and local, **to increase safety measures** by being more careful in selecting locations and how they communicate their activities.

“The safety of our partners comes first, but with heightened security threats, it has led to adjustments of our programs.”

- CSO in the

For many, challenges brought on by an increase in violent extremism motivates women’s human rights defenders further. A CSO respondent in South Africa said: *“Violence disempowers women, undermines gender equality, and destroys the livelihoods of women and of future generations of boys and girls. **We have to invest in women to stop this violence perpetuated by men in every way we possibly can.**”*

Examples of violent extremism faced by respondents included:

- Increased rape, kidnapping of girls and women and use of young women to accomplish heinous attacks (DRC)

- Decreased roles of women in civil matters, imposition of the veil system, honor killings, domestic violence, access to justice, lack of women participation in women’s issues and early marriages (Pakistan and Afghanistan)
- Suicide attacks, target killings and abductions for ransom by extremists (Pakistan)
- Rape and sexual mutilations of children (DRC, Uganda)
- Young children indoctrinated as suicide bombers (Nigeria)

Similarly, concerns about terrorism, which were often identified in tandem with violent extremism, included increased in the number of military interventions, and increased focus on female combatants. (Norway)

According to a CSO in **Syria**, to combat terrorism effectively, international NGOs and foreign governments should “set out a global plan to combat terrorism and armament” with local level participation, “increasing coordination in the field of decision-making, viewing local communities as a partner with rights and duties, which must be supported in order to realize this.”

“All the above affect the peace of a woman and thereby affect her capacity to engage and be engaged on WPS. It is complex but they are all contained in the cycle of the Pandora box of issues that inhibits women from attaining their full potential in life including WPS issues.”

- CSO in **Nigeria**

In addition, a peacebuilding network based in **Belgium** affirmed that “with the emergence of violent extremism, there is need to develop specific indicators for monitoring and countering violent extremist activities.”

2. Issues of increased militarization and privatization of natural resource administration are considered critical emerging issues by many CSOs

Other emerging issues identified around the world beyond those outlined in this question included:

- **Increased militarization, reducing women’s mobility and security** and increased military spending over the pursuit of nonviolent solutions and armed conflict, reflecting the economic interests of continued violent conflict. This is a prevalent issue raised in every region, validated further in Table 7, where 22 percent of respondents indicated that “increased militarization and diminishing space for civil society” was a key barrier limiting the effectiveness of their work on WPS.
- **Lack of security and increased violence against women with continued impunity.** These are prevalent issues raised by CSOs in every region. Moreover, in Table 6, 21 percent of respondents indicated that security was an issue negatively impacting their work.
- Narrowed focus on the victimization of women within the WPS agenda, prioritizing the issues of protection of women over their participation (viewing women as only victims). This was raised specifically by respondents in the **USA, Spain, UK and Belgium.**

“Recurring cycles of violence prevent women CSOs from carrying out their activities locally and have also delayed programming on UNSCR 1325 and 1820.”



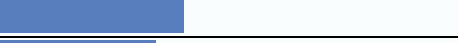
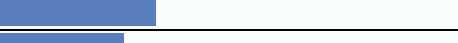
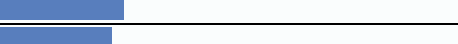
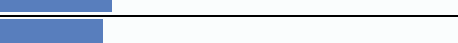
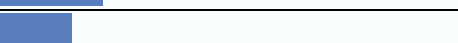

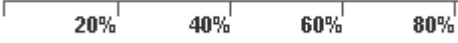
- **US Global CSO**

- **Privatized administration of natural resources and growth of multinational extractive industries** into impoverished communities, tied to issues of land grabbing, displacement of rural communities, militarization and armed conflict (Guatemala, Fiji, Indonesia, the Philippines)
 - **Cybercrimes targeting women**, including electronic surveillance (Afghanistan, Cameroon, DRC, India, Netherlands, Pakistan)
 - **Increased incidents of human trafficking** (the Philippines, Nepal, Rwanda, Solomon Islands)
 - **Rising nationalism** and/or conservatism (Burundi, Israel, Serbia)
 - Reduced funding due to the **global financial crisis** (Burundi, via CSO and focus group discussion; Serbia; Ghana and Nepal, via focus group discussions)
 - **Massive work-migration of women** (Georgia, Nepal)
 - **Political instability**, including frequent political changes and tensions and violence surrounding elections (Yemen; Burundi and Ghana via focus group discussions)
 - **Increased humanitarian disasters** related to war (Finland, the Netherlands)
 - **Rising poverty and income inequality**, limiting capabilities in a society to address challenges of UNSCR 1325 (Germany, Serbia)
3. *Emerging issues for many CSO are really a re-emergence of long-term entrenched issues.*

Many CSOs contend that **“emerging” issues for many women’s groups are really a re-emergence in new forms of long-term entrenched issues** -- war, violence, discrimination, etc. -- which require new strategies for protection and prevention, as well as continued funding.

- As poignantly stated by a CSO in **Guatemala**: *“The ongoing dispute over our bodies is as old as patriarchy is and it is refreshed to maintain domination and subordination over us. This readjustment of terror over our lives is buried within new war technologies and the recurrent strong sexist component in the military.”*
- A CSO in working in **Israel/Palestine** reflected a similar sentiment, noting: *“Women's peace and security in Israel/Palestine is affected most not by new, emerging global issues but by long-term, persistent and deeply entrenched militarization and colonization, causing repeated eruptions of heightened militarized violence. This is and has been the main challenge and the main issues confronting feminist work on women's peace and security for the entire period since UNSCR 1325 and since long before it was taken.”*
- An **Irish** CSO urged consideration of the overarching concern of impunity when examining these issues, declaring, *“It’s not the type of threat that is the main problem but the increasing ‘acceptability’ or ‘inevitability’ of violence against women in all its forms.”*

Table 20: Emerging Global Issues Affecting CSO Work on WPS

Q54. 11. What emerging global issues have affected your work on women and peace and security the most?(Please select all that apply)			
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents
Violent extremism	157	50%	
Terrorism and counterterrorism	107	34%	
New technologies of war and their impact on women	105	33%	
Climate change	89	28%	
Pandemic health crises	70	22%	
Transnational organized crime	62	20%	
Other(s) - please specify:	58	18%	
(Did not answer)	40	13%	
Total Responses	688		

Multiple answers per participant possible. Percentages added may exceed 100 since a participant may select more than one answer for this question.

Results by Region

The following data presents a close look at responses by region (Asia, Europe/USA/Canada, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa). Such an analysis based on aggregated regional data helps to correct for the fact that on a global scale, results from the CSO survey are significantly weighted toward Africa. Over one-third of all responses originated there (122 responses out of 317 total). It also provides a window into different key challenges faced by women’s groups in different parts of the world.

Table 21: Emerging Global Issues Affecting CSO Work on WPS by Region

Q54. 11. What emerging global issues have affected your work on women and peace and security the most?(Please select all that apply)					
Responses	Africa	Asia	Europe/N America	Latin America	Middle East
Violent extremism	45%	47%	52%	29%	74%
Terrorism and counterterrorism	29%	39%	30%	21%	50%
New technologies of war and their impact on women	48%	26%	17%	36%	26%
Climate change	43%	27%	14%	21%	9%
Pandemic health crises	38%	16%	7%	7%	15%
Transnational organized crime	19%	21%	16%	50%	15%
# Respondents per Region	122	77	70	14	34

Statistics are based on the percentage of total respondents per regional data set, bearing in mind that not all respondents answered. Multiple answers per participant are possible, thus the total percentage may exceed 100 percent. Top percentage per by region is highlighted in yellow; lowest percentage by region is highlighted in orange.

Africa

1. *African CSOs report being affected by new technologies of war, climate change and pandemic health crises at higher rates than any other region, with new technologies of war rated most consistently as their top emerging issue.*

“The more we progress in the implementation process, the more new challenges arise: terrorism, Boko Haram targeting several countries, Ebola epidemic in Guinea leading to more than 1,900 dead, more orphans left in the care of needy families.”

- CSO in **Guinea**

In Africa, the top percentages of respondents across all regions indicated that they were affected by new technologies of war, climate change and pandemic health crises—demonstrating that CSOs are confronting a higher number of emerging issues at higher rates than any other region.

Just under half of respondents’ identified **new technologies of war and their impact on women** as an important emerging issue (48 percent)—a rate at least 12 percent higher than any other region.

- CSOs in **DRC, Nigeria, Rwanda** and **Uganda** noted the increasingly sophisticated weapons of war that combatants are using, including hazardous chemicals, and the impact these weapons have on women’s moral, physical and economic stability.

Forty-five percent of respondents identified **violent extremism** as an emerging issue affecting their work.

- According to a respondent in **DRC**, *“Violent extremism is illustrated by increased rape, kidnapping of girls and women, use of young women to accomplish heinous attacks.”*
- CSOs in **Nigeria** report both violent extremism and terrorism in the form of frequent bomb blasts, youth recruitment and threats from the Boko Haram insurgency resulting in growing communities of IDPs, primarily composed of women and children. A CSO in **Cameroon** also noted how Boko Haram in Nigeria posed a threat to it and neighboring countries.

About one-third of respondents in Africa (29 percent) identified **terrorism and counterterrorism** as obstacles to their work, declaring the need for new strategies to strengthen and protect women, conveying similar concerns as those reported on violent extremism.

- A CSO in **Guinea**, noting underlying factors behind terrorism, such as the influence of drugs, affirmed the need to use UNSCR 1325 as a tool to find nonviolent solutions: *“It is necessary to stop and think and ask if the peaceful weapons we have available, like resolution 1325, can fight against terrorism, Boko Haram, etc.”*

“Currently, terrorism exploits and victimizes women. We need to find strategies to strengthen the protection and safety of women.”

- CSO in **DRC**

Violent extremism was slightly trailed by **climate change** (43 percent).

- CSOs in **DRC, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Uganda** and **Zimbabwe** described issues of drought and flooding as a result of climate change, disrupting the farming season

“The worst has been climate change, which promotes food insecurity and affects the women most.”

- CSO in **Cameroon**

and destroying the economic bases of rural women, thus increasing women's poverty and, in turn, incidents of domestic violence and conflict over environmental resources.

- To address these challenges, a CSO in **Northern Uganda** remarked: *"There is a need to integrate climate change so that the women affected by conflict have stronger adaptive capacity to secure their livelihoods and with the increasing climate variability. Otherwise, their effort gained is lost with increased crop failure and recurrent flood and drought conditions, which tend to increase domestic violence at household level."*

"The Ebola virus hindered awareness activities and the implementation of UNSCR resolutions."

- CSO in **DRC**

This is followed by **pandemic health crises** (38 percent) — identified only in Africa as one of the top four issues, addressing the high death tolls, impact on women and the focus and funding of their work as a result of HIV/AIDs and Ebola.

- Respondents in **DRC** and **Burundi** in particular noted how pandemic health crisis are a cross-cutting theme across their programs, as women tend to be more vulnerable to these diseases, diverting attention and funding.
- A CSO in **Somalia** correlated high rates of GBV, "which disrupt social networks and lead to negative coping mechanisms, and the ongoing humanitarian crisis," noting how emergencies interfere with an individual's ability to access HIV treatment."
- Another CSO in **DRC**, which has begun to track the government's promises on health care in terms of budgeting, affirmed the connection between health and WPS issues: *"For many, at first, this work has no connection with WPS, but since the management of the main national wealth—oil—led to war in the country, we believe that advocating to ensure that the resources benefit citizens—mainly women—is a way to prevent conflict and therefore meets certain recommendations of resolution 1325."*

Transnational organized crime selected the least (19 percent).

- Two respondents in **DRC** attributed *organized crime around the exploitation of natural resources*, funded by multinationals, as *a source of armed conflict* in their country.

"Multinational organized crime affects our work on the ground because the impact is negative, women are the most affected."

- CSO in **Ghana**

Asia

2. *Violent extremism* is a major emerging issue that affects WPS work in Asia, followed by *terrorism and counterterrorism*

In Asia, **violent extremism** was clearly identified the most as significant emerging issue (47 percent), followed by **terrorism and counterterrorism** (39 percent).

“The people of Pakistan live under constant fear of extremist threats and are affected physically, socially, economically, and psychologically by this conflict.”

- CSO in **Pakistan**

for women’s activism, as women are afraid to leave home. Similarly, a respondent in **Indonesia** noted that security is a major factor for those promoting the rights of religious minorities in particular, *“because the majority tends to believe that dominant interpretation of religion cannot be challenged. No institution can guarantee our lives when we intensively approach to minority side.”*

- In contrast, a CSO operating in **Philippines** pointed out that the impact of violent extremism is indirect, yet it underlines an overarching issue of vulnerability of women.

In contrast, about one-third of all respondents based in Asia selected **climate change** (27 percent), and/or **new technologies of war and their impact on women** (26 percent). About one in five respondents selected **transnational organized crime** as an emerging issue affecting their work (21 percent), followed by **pandemic health crises** (16 percent).

“Due to climate change, women will be affected since most women in our province are agricultural workers.”

- CSO in the **Philippines**

Europe and North America

3. Similarly to Asia, CSOs based in Europe and North America also identify violent extremism as a significant emerging issue influencing their work, followed by terrorism and counterterrorism.

Greater variance in answers exists among CSOs based in Europe, USA or Canada, who work in a wide range of regions and contexts around the world. **Violent extremism** was identified significantly more than other issues as an emerging issue affecting their work (56 percent). Nearly half as many respondents from these areas selected **terrorism and counterterrorism** (30 percent).

CSOs in these countries primarily focused on how both violent extremism, terrorism and counterterrorism restricted spaces to work due to safety concerns for both staff and local partners. They also examined how counterterrorism efforts adversely affected the ability of CSOs to secure and transfer funds because of tighter banking regulations by donors, banks and governments.

- According to a CSO in the **UK**: *“Violent extremism and other forms of insecurity make it difficult to move the WPS agenda forward. Space is closing for CSOs and others to effectively and openly work on those issues.”*
- A global CSO in the **Netherlands** reporting on bureaucratic funding restrictions and also observed ways that governments took advantage of counterterrorism measures to restrict CSO activity: *“Partner organizations experience difficulties to carry out their work, as governments use the counter-terrorism laws to crack down on unwanted civil society. “*

Transnational organized crime (16 percent) and **climate change** (14 percent) were selected at similar levels.

Seventeen percent of respondents identified **new technologies of war and their impact on women**.

- Reflects a CSO from **Serbia**, *“Unfortunately, we have now new technologies of war (drones, uranium bombs, etc.), which affect women.”*

Pandemic health crises have affected CSOs based in Europe/North America the least, at 7 percent.

Middle East

4. *Violent extremism was selected by the highest percentage of respondents within the Middle East.*

Results for the top four issues selected among CSOs based in the Middle East followed a similar pattern as in Europe, USA or Canada, though at higher percentage rates. **Violent extremism** was identified as a top emerging issue in the region (74 percent)—more so than in any other region.

- According to a CSO in **Egypt** working throughout the **MENA** region, *“Ongoing conflict WHRDs are being targeted by extremists. Threats and attacks have thwarted their efforts, and the risk of women’s participation is growing.”*

More than half of all respondents in the Middle East also selected **terrorism and counterterrorism** (50 percent).

- A CSO in **Libya** observed the effect of these issues on women’s groups in general: *“Women’s groups are trapped between terrorism and countering terrorism; on one hand they are working in very dangerous contexts, where terrorists exist; and on the other hand their chances to deliver their voice to the international community is shrinking with the name of countering terrorism, such as difficulties in getting visas, money transfer etc.”*

To a lesser degree, **new technologies of war and their impact on women** were also identified (26 percent). The same percentage of respondents selected **transnational organized crime** and/or **pandemic health crises** (15 percent). Only 9 percent of respondents in this region identified **climate change** as an emerging issue affecting their work, the least among all regions.

Latin America

5. *Transnational organized crime was selected the most as an emerging global issue affecting CSOs in Latin America.*

Among the 14 CSOs that participated in the CSO survey based in Latin America (representing 10 CSOs in Guatemala, three in Colombia and one in Argentina), **transnational organized crime** was the top emerging issue identified by half of respondents (50 percent).

- According to a CSO working with indigenous women in **Guatemala**, increased incidents of transnational organized crime affected both women’s mobilization and their psychology.

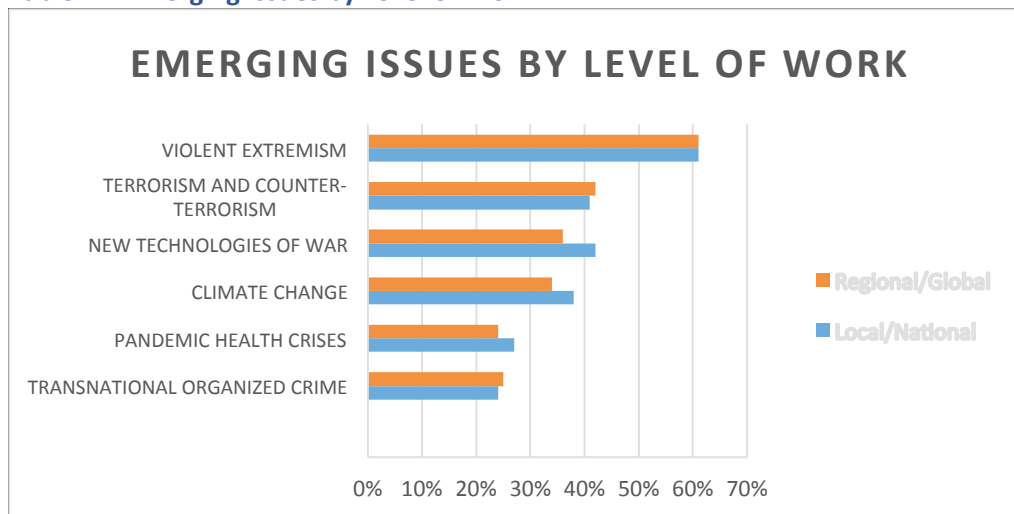
This is followed by new technologies of war and their impact on women (36 percent) and violent extremism (29 percent). Twenty-one percent of respondents from this region selected **terrorism and counterterrorism** and/or **climate change**. **Pandemic health crises** were identified the least by CSOs in Latin America, (7 percent), same as with those in Europe/North America.

Results by Level of Work

6. Results run mostly parallel when comparing across CSOs working only locally and/or nationally, versus CSOs working globally and/or regionally.

When comparing results by aggregating data according to the level/s at which each respondent works, as displayed in Table 22 below, we find little difference across data sets. One respondent from **Uganda**, working locally in post-conflict communities, put such consistent results in context with the statement, “As long as these issues affect global initiatives, they equally translate to national, regional and local levels.” Moreover, another CSO in **Sri Lanka**, explaining her answers, reflected how CSOs working on women, peace and security are affected by what is happening to their counterparts around the world, noting, “Though we in Sri Lanka do not directly experience this at the level some of our sisters experience we do face these challenges.”

Table 22: Emerging Issues by Level of Work



Action Priorities for Moving Forward, Post-2015

Introduction

Although most survey questions sought to assess previous and ongoing WPS initiatives and priorities, they were meant to **improve implementation of the WPS agenda going forward**.











To better understand what would be respondents' top priorities beyond 2015, we asked, "If Women, Peace and Security was in the headlines of BBC, Al Jazeera and your national news in 2025, what would you want the headline accomplishment/s to read?"

The respondents ranked their top three choices from the list of headlines listed in Table 23 below.

1. *Women's full and equal participation in all conflict-prevention, peacebuilding, and post-conflict reconstruction processes is a top CSO priority for post-2015 across all regions.*

Bearing in mind that respondents had the option to present three results, the table below represents the percentage of respondents that gave a ranking of 1 to 3 to each proposed headline.

Table 23: Priorities for Action

Q56. 12. If Women, Peace and Security was in the headlines of BBC, Al Jazeera and your national news in 2025, what would you want the headline accomplishment/s to read? (Please rank top three choices from 1 – 3 according to priority - top priority being 1)			
Responses	Count Rank 1	%	Percentage of Respondents
Women's full and equal participation in all conflict-prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction processes	133	42%	
Victims of sexual violence in conflict received reparation and perpetrators are penalized	41	13%	
(Did not answer)	29	9%	
Women's economic empowerment and political participation in post-conflict settings	27	9%	
At least 50% of UN Member States have National Action Plans that are being implemented effectively	24	8%	
Women's full and equal participation in post-conflict decision-making processes and bodies	20	6%	
At least 50% of development aid in conflict and post-conflict settings is allocated to projects having gender equality as the principal objective	18	6%	
Improved awareness of the importance of equal participation of women in conflict prevention, protection during conflict, conflict resolution and conflict recovery	13	4%	
Women receive full and equal access to design and implementation of programming related to WPS	12	4%	
Total Responses	317		

Over a third of CSOs (42 percent) identified **women's full and equal participation in all conflict-prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction processes as the top priority** (out of three) as the headline accomplishment they would like to see in international news in 2025. This headline was not only the highest-ranking overall across countries; it also ranked highest in all region-specific statistics.

A possible explanation for this ranking is that **CSOs perceive women’s participation—particularly, participation in conflict-prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction processes—as the key to lasting peace, sustainable development and the prevention of violence against women.** The focus on conflict prevention in the respondents’ recommendations also supports this hypothesis (see Recommendation 3 in the "Recommendations for Action" section).

It is also important to note that when provided information on their advocacy work under another survey question (Table 23), a similar percentage of CSOs (38 percent) reported that women’s full and equal participation is one of their top advocacy priorities. It is only to be expected that **CSOs’ wished to see their current advocacy priorities and top accomplishment aligned in 2025.** For more on the respondents’ current advocacy priorities, refer to questions under the “CSO Respondent Demographics” section.

2. A distant second priority for CSOs is for survivors of sexual violence in conflict to receive reparations and perpetrators to be brought to justice (13 percent).

This finding once more highlighted the importance of **ending impunity for human rights violations targeted at women—and, in this case, of holding perpetrators of SGBV accountable.** The headline “*Victims of sexual violence in conflict received reparation and perpetrators are penalized*” received the second-top ranking overall. However, when looking at the region-specific statistics, this headline comes in second everywhere except the MENA region. **MENA region data reveals that the adoption and implementation of NAPs and women’s full and equal participation in post-conflict decision-making processes and bodies are higher priorities.**

As mentioned above, these statistics should be considered in context with top advocacy priorities identified by CSOs in Table 26 of the CSO Demographics section. Nearly one quarter of CSOs identified promoting laws that advance gender equality and women’s rights as a top advocacy goal (27 percent) and the prevention and protection of women from sexual and gender-based violence in conflict as a top advocacy priority (23 percent).

Moreover, while respondents obliged in ranking priorities within the WPS agenda, it is important to note that such an exercise is not to denote more importance of one component of work over another. As one respondent in **Israel** noted, ranking priorities “*is to compare apples with pears,*” reminding us of the importance of viewing all components of the WPS agenda in a holistic and interconnected manner.

CSO Respondent Demographics

Introduction

Based on the Guiding Questions: “*Who are the CSOs working on WPS issues? What are they doing?*,” the analysis below looks at respondents’ answers to demographic questions describing the geographic focus, scope and priorities of their work on women, peace and security around the world.

Responses by Country

In total, 317 respondents from 71 countries submitted completed surveys. Over 40 percent of the respondents are situated in Africa and 30 percent are in Asia. The distribution of countries was skewed: 9 countries (or 15 percent) contributed almost half of all responses (see Appendix).










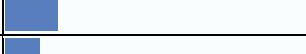


Region	Sub-region	Number of countries	Percent
Africa	<i>Regional Sub-total</i>	131	41%
	Eastern Africa	50	16%
	Middle Africa	42	13%
	Northern Africa	14	4%
	Southern Africa	1	0%
	Western Africa	24	8%
Asia	<i>Regional Sub-total</i>	102	32%
	Eastern Asia	2	1%
	Southern Asia	49	16%
	Southeastern Asia	18	6%
	Western Asia	33	10%
Europe	<i>Regional Sub-total</i>	49	16%
	Eastern Europe	0	0%
	Northern Europe	18	6%
	Southern Europe	14	4%
	Western Europe	17	5%
Americas	<i>Regional Sub-total</i>	29	9%
	Caribbean	0	0%
	Central America	10	3%
	South America	4	1%
	North America	15	5%
Oceania	<i>Regional Sub-total</i>	6	2%
	Australia and New Zealand	5	2%
	Melanesia	1	0%
	Micronesia	0	0%
	Polynesia	0	0%
	Total:	317	100%

Global advocacy priorities among CSO respondents

1. *Women's participation in peace processes is a top advocacy priority globally among respondents.*

Ensuring women's participation in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, peace negotiations and conflict recovery was identified as the top advocacy priority among respondents (38 percent). This is followed by the promotion of laws that advance gender equality and women's rights (28 percent), and women's participation in local/community decision-making (25 percent). The fewest percentage of respondents (6 percent) identified promotion of women's economic development in conflict situations as a top advocacy priority, though it should be noted that advocacy in this area tends to be led by CSOs that identify themselves more as working in sustainable development rather than WPS.

Table 24: Global CSO Top Advocacy Priorities

Q5. Advocacy 1.a. What are your organization's top advocacy priorities?			
Responses	Count	%	% of total respondents
Women's participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, peace negotiations and conflict recovery	119	38%	
Promoting laws that advance gender equality and women's rights	87	28%	
Women's participation in local/community decision-making	78	25%	
The prevention and protection of women from sexual and gender-based violence in conflict	73	23%	
The promotion of a gender perspective across all sectors (security, policy, etc.)	56	18%	
Women's participation in national decision-making	42	13%	
Civil society input /participation in National Action Plan (NAP) development processes	37	12%	
Research, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of WPS resolutions and NAPS (If your country has a NAP)	29	9%	
Access to justice in response to violations of women's rights in conflict	28	9%	
Other(s) - please specify:	28	9%	
Women's economic development in conflict situations	19	6%	
Total Responses from all 317 Surveys	604		

Multiple answers per participant are possible, thus the total percentage may exceed 100 per cent. No response: 8 respondents.

CSOs identified additional areas of work in “Other(s)” category as advocacy priorities, which reflect more specific advocacy areas within the WPS agenda:

- **Education** on political rights of women and youth (Burundi)
- **Historical memory from women's perspective** (Guatemala)
- **Funding the implementation** of UNSCR 1325 (DRC, Burundi, South Sudan, Colombia, MENA, India, Afghanistan)
- **Promoting sexual and gender diversity** (Palestinians in Israel and West Bank)
- **Domestic gun violence prevention**, gender mainstreaming and gun control laws (Israel/Palestine)
- **Analyzing the impact of war** on women and the civil society (Norway)
- Prevention of **child, early and forced marriage** (Canada to benefit Saharan Africa)
- Implementation and **enforcement of domestic, international humanitarian law** and Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court (Philippines)

It is significant to note that only 12 percent of respondents indicated civil society input in NAP processes as an advocacy priority, followed by only 9 percent who indicated they are active in monitoring implementation of NAPs. Findings regarding the success of localization initiatives suggested that supporting CSOs to work on **localization could enable more CSOs to prioritize involvement in NAP and LAP processes, thereby increasing overall effectiveness in their implementation.**

Regional Advocacy Priorities among CSO Respondents

2. CSOs prioritize areas of advocacy slightly differently across regions.

While advocacy priorities varied across regions, of the 10 areas listed, the top two selected by each region were concentrated in four key areas: (i) *women’s participation in peace processes*, (ii) *promoting laws that advance gender equality and women’s rights*, (iii) *women’s participation in local/community decision making*; and (iv) *prevention and protection of women from SBGV in conflict*.

The highest percentages of respondents in **Europe/North America** (including Australia and New Zealand) (46 percent), **Asia** (39 percent) and **Africa** (37 percent) indicated **“women’s participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, peace negotiations and conflict recovery”** as their top advocacy priority.

The highest percentage of respondents in **Latin America** (50 percent) and **Middle East** (44 percent), identified **“promoting laws that advance gender equality and women’s rights”** as their top advocacy priorities.

“Women’s participation in local/community decision-making” was the second-most popular advocacy area among respondents in **Asia** (31 percent), as well as in **Europe/North America** (22 percent).

The second-most popular advocacy priority in **Latin America** (29 percent), the **Middle East** (44 percent) and **Africa** (28 percent) was **“the prevention and protection of women from sexual and gender-based violence in conflict.”**

Table 25: Global CSO Top Advocacy Priorities by Region

Q5. Advocacy 1.a. What are your organization’s top advocacy priorities?					
Responses	Africa	Asia	Europe/N America	Latin America	Middle East
Women’s participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, peace negotiations and conflict recovery	37%	39%	46%	21%	26%
Promoting laws that advance gender equality and women’s rights	27%	27%	16%	50%	44%
Women’s participation in local/community decision-making	27%	31%	22%	14%	15%
Prevention and protection of women from sexual and gender-based violence in conflict	28%	14%	19%	29%	32%
Promotion of a gender perspective across all sectors (security, policy, etc.)	15%	17%	19%	21%	26%
Women’s participation in national decision-making	16%	16%	6%	21%	15%
Civil society input to/participation in National Action Plan (NAP) development processes	11%	9%	14%	21%	12%
Research, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of WPS resolutions and NAPS (If your country has a NAP)	10%	5%	20%	0%	0%
Access to justice in response to violations of women’s rights in conflict	8%	17%	3%	7%	6%
Women’s economic development in conflict situations	7%	6%	4%	0%	6%
Total Respondents per Region	122	77	70	14	35

Statistics are based on the percentage of total respondents per regional data set, bearing in mind that not all respondents answered. Multiple answers per participant are possible, thus the total percentage may exceed 100 percent. Top percentage per by region is highlighted in yellow; lowest percentage by region is highlighted in orange.

Global Technical Capacity Building Priorities among CSO Respondents













3. Technical capacity building on UNSCR 1325, supporting resolutions and NAPS (where they exist) is a top priority among CSOs globally.




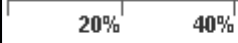
Over a third of respondent CSOs (34 percent) indicated **“technical capacity building on UNSCR 1325,”** other supporting resolutions and NAPS as the highest priority followed by **“advocacy skills for women, peace and security”** (26 percent). Providing literacy training for women and girls affected by conflict was among the least-cited capacity building activities undertaken by the respondents (7 percent).

There appears to be a disconnect between capacity building efforts on UNSCR 1325 and efforts to give input to National Action Plan Processes (per Table 4). This may suggest that though many CSOs offer training on UNSCR 1325, they haven’t been able to influence formal implementation processes at the same rate.

Speaking to this issue, CSOs in **Norway**, the **United States** and **Rwanda** cautioned that technical capacity building does not necessarily lead to direct beneficial impact on the ground, particularly if it is not coupled with effective implementation. **According** to the CSO in **Rwanda**, *“Technical capacity building somehow has least impact, people keep requesting for more trainings, and trainings anyway should be more about national provisions for 1325.”* Moreover, states a global CSO in the **US**, *“Technical Capacity Building on UNSCR 1325/NAP doesn't quickly have a direct beneficial impact. . . . It takes a LOT of capacity building and advocacy to feel the impact on the ground.”*

Table 26: Global CSO Top Technical Capacity Building Priorities

Q6. Technical Capacity Building 1.b. What technical capacity building activities does your organization provide, with particular attention to supporting the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the supporting resolutions?			
Responses	Count	%	% of total respondents
UNSCR 1325, supporting resolutions on WPS and NAPS, where they exist	106	34%	
Advocacy skills for women, peace and security	83	26%	
Gender concepts/terminology in relation to peace and security	56	18%	
Data collection and research on women, peace and security	54	17%	
Women’s economic empowerment in the context of conflict	38	12%	
Trauma healing and other responses to GBV/SGBV	36	11%	
Policy development on women, peace and security	33	10%	
Reporting and access to justice for victims of sexual and GBV	32	10%	
Negotiation skills in conflict settings	24	8%	
Dialogue skills in conflict settings	24	8%	
Communications/media to raise awareness of WPS and its activities	23	7%	
WPS Coalition building	22	7%	

Literacy training for women and girls affected by conflict	21	7%	
Other(s) - please specify	20	6%	
Not applicable	6	2%	
Total Responses	598		
Multiple answers per participant are possible, thus the total percentage may exceed 100 percent. No answer: 8 respondents.			

Six percent of respondents identified other activities they provided in supporting the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Examples include:

- **Social and political empowerment** (Guatemala)
- **Rehabilitation of girls** affected by armed conflict (Burundi)
- **Direct, practical advice and technical support to mediators** and peace process actors, including women, and introduction of gender perspective into peace processes (South Sudan, Yemen, Burma, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines)
- Encourage **debate on militarism and violence** (Zimbabwe)
- Build the capacity of women to **contribute effectively to language and provisions of peace agreements** (Zimbabwe)
- **Restorative justice and alternative dispute resolutions** (Pakistan, parts of Afghanistan)

Technical Capacity Building Focuses by Region

4. Technical capacity building on UNSCR 1325, supporting resolutions and NAPS (where they exist) is a top priority across regions (except for Latin America, where gender concepts/terminology in relation to peace and security was most popular).

Of the 15 technical capacity building areas provided as options, the one focused on “**UNSCR 1325, the supporting resolutions on WPS and National Action Plans (NAPs, where they exist)**” was selected by the highest percentage of respondents in **Africa** (39 percent), **Asia** (32 percent), **Europe/North America** (30 percent) and the **Middle East** (29 percent). *The exception is Latin America, where only 14 percent of respondents identified this as a priority.* A contributing factor to this response may be that the majority of participants from Latin America in Colombia and Guatemala are indigenous groups working locally.

The top technical capacity building area identified by respondents in **Latin America** was by far “**gender concepts/terminology in relation to peace and security**” (43 percent). *A low number of respondents chose this as a top focus in other regions.*

5. Respondents in Asia and Africa Prioritize Advocacy Skills on WPS More Than Other Regions.

The second-most popular areas of technical capacity building varied more across regions, though further research is required to sufficiently explain these differences. “**Advocacy skills for women,**

peace and security” was the second-most popular selection among respondents in **Asia** (31 percent) and **Africa** (29 percent).

6. Respondents in Latin America prioritize reporting and access for victims of SGBV significantly more than any other region.

“Reporting and access to justice for victims of sexual and gender-based violence” was the second-most popular focus among respondents in **Latin America**: (29 percent), correlating with the fact that CSOs in Latin America had also chosen “the prevention and protection of women from sexual and gender-based violence in conflict” as a top advocacy area (29 percent) (see Table 26). *Far fewer selected this focus in other regions.*

7. Respondents in the Middle East prioritize WPS coalition building significantly more than other regions.

The second-most popular area of technical capacity building among respondents in the **Middle East** was “**WPS Coalition building**” (24 percent), perhaps correlating with the fact that the Arab Regional Network on Women, Peace and Security was just launched in spring 2014. *Interestingly, among all other regions, only 5 to 7 percent of respondents identified WPS coalition building as a focus area.*

8. Respondents in Europe/North America prioritize policy development on WPS significantly more than other regions.

The second-most popular technical capacity building focus among respondents in **Europe/North America** was “**policy development on women, peace and security** (29 percent)—far more than in any other region. If respondents focused more on global policy development, it’s possible that differences by level of work may have affected these results, given that 55 percent of respondents in Europe/USA/Canada work globally, whereas only 14 percent of respondents in Africa work globally, and no respondents in Asia, Middle East or Latin America indicated that they work at that level.

Table 27: CSO Top Technical Capacity Building Priorities by Region

Q6. Technical Capacity Building 1.b. What technical capacity building activities does your organization provide, with particular attention to supporting the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the supporting resolutions?					
Responses	Africa	Asia	Europe/N America	Latin America	Middle East
UNSCR 1325, supporting resolutions and NAPS, where they exist	39%	32%	30%	14%	29%
Advocacy skills for women, peace and security	29%	31%	24%	21%	15%
Gender concepts/terminology in relation to peace and security	15%	17%	17%	43%	21%
Data collection and research on women, peace and security	16%	21%	16%	7%	21%
Women’s economic empowerment in the context of conflict	16%	12%	4%	14%	12%
Trauma healing and other responses to GBV/SGBV	6%	13%	3%	7%	15%
Policy development on women, peace and security	3%	10%	29%	7%	3%
Reporting and access to justice for victims of sexual and GBV	7%	10%	7%	29%	18%
Negotiation skills in conflict settings	7%	12%	7%	0%	6%
Dialogue skills in conflict settings	7%	12%	6%	7%	3%

Communications/media to raise awareness of WPS and its activities	6%	8%	7%	0%	15%
WPS coalition building	5%	5%	6%	7%	24%
Literacy training for women and girls affected by conflict	7%	7%	6%	0%	0%
Not applicable	6%	1%	4%	7%	3%
Total Respondents per Region	122	77	70	14	35
<i>Statistics based on % of total respondents per region, bearing in mind that not all respondents answered. Multiple answers per participant possible, thus the total percentage may exceed 10%. Top percentage per is highlighted in yellow; lowest in orange.</i>					







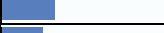



Direct Services for Survivors of SGBV Globally and Regionally

9. Education related to SGBV is by far top areas of direct service to victims in Africa.

Among all CSO respondents, 28 percent provided educational programming on issues related to SGBV as part of direct services to survivors of SGBV (see Table 28 above). However, as noted in Table 29 below, this is a top area only in Africa—showing that results are skewed, given the higher number of respondents in this region. Education services may include:

- Training women to participate in decision-making and peacebuilding to prevent SGBV (Burundi)
- Programs on sexual and reproductive health and the fight against SGBV (Burundi)
- Training course on sexual exploitation and abuse in conflict-affected areas (Ghana)

Table 28: Global Priorities on Direct Services to Survivors among CSO Respondents

Q7. Services 1.c. If your organization provides direct services to victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in conflict situations, please select the main services you provide.			
Responses	Count	%	% of total respondents
Education related to SGBV	90	28%	
Not applicable	88	28%	
Counseling/psychosocial services ¹⁰	81	26%	
Social reintegration	50	16%	
Legal representation	45	14%	
Assistance with livelihoods	42	13%	
Other(s) - please specify	28	9%	
Medical services	22	7%	
Shelter	15	5%	
Total Responses	485		
Multiple answers per participant possible, thus total percentage may exceed 100%. No answer: 24 respondents (8 per cent).			

Nine percent of CSOs indicated other services to SGBV survivors under the “Other” category, including:

- **Coordination between men and women at grassroots level** (Pakistan)
- **Give grants** to conflict-affected women (Nepal)
- Supply **relief materials to Internally Displaced Persons** (IDPs) in camps (Nigeria)

Table 29: Global Priorities on Direct Services to Survivors by Region

Q7. Services 1.c. If your organization provides direct services to victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in conflict situations, please select the main services you provide.					
Responses	Africa	Asia	Europe/N America	Latin America	Middle East
Education related to SGBV	42%	27%	13%	14%	21%
Not applicable	12%	27%	59%	50%	26%
Counseling/psychosocial services	28%	29%	4%	29%	53%
Social reintegration	16%	17%	9%	29%	21%
Legal representation	13%	25%	3%	7%	24%
Assistance with livelihoods	25%	14%	2%	0%	0%
Medical services	11%	9%	3%	0%	0%
Shelter	4%	8%	2%	0%	9%
Total Respondents per Region	122	77	70	14	35

Statistics based on % of total respondents per region, bearing in mind that not all respondents answered. Multiple answers per participant possible, thus the total percentage may exceed 10%. Top percentage per is highlighted in yellow; lowest in orange.

10. Counseling and psychosocial services are top areas of direct services in the Middle East, and to a lesser extent, in Asia.

Table 28 shows that globally among all respondents, 26 percent of CSOs prioritize counseling and psychosocial services to victims of SGBV. When broken down regionally in Table 29, counseling and psychosocial services are the top priority for respondents in the Middle East (53 percent), and in Asia (29 percent), and the second-top priority in Africa (28 percent).

11. Among all regions, respondents in Latin America focus the most on social reintegration.

While all regions have respondents working on social reintegration, identified as a priority by 16 percent of all respondents, by region Latin America prioritizes this direct service the most, chosen by 29 percent of respondents. Description of social reintegration services included:

- Promotion of spaces that provide integrated services, including health promotion and psychosocial support, education support for families (Rwanda)
- Protection for battered women and their children, increasing their positive participation in their societies and providing them with a secure, peaceful and decent life (Jordan)
- Offer of referral services for social reintegration (due to lack of funds) (Nepal)

¹⁰ Social reintegration: activities to assist survivors’ reintegration into society, i.e., ensuring non-recurrence of sexual violence, providing ongoing psychosocial care.

12. Respondents in Africa are the main CSOs focusing on assistance with livelihoods to survivors.

Similar to statistics on technical capacity building and advocacy for women’s economic empowerment in the context of conflict (Table 27), Table 28 shows that 13 percent of respondents globally provide livelihoods assistance to survivors—a form of technical capacity building in many cases. According to the regional breakdown in Table 29, the majority of respondents prioritizing livelihoods are based in Africa (25 percent of respondents in Africa), followed by 13 percent of respondents in Asia.

- Assisting with livelihoods for displaced former farm workers (Zimbabwe)
- Providing skills and capacity for women to create their own small businesses that support themselves and their families (Swiss global CSO)

13. Very few respondents in any region focus on providing shelter or medical services.

Across all regions, only 5 percent provide shelter for the survivors, including:

- Transition and long-term shelters for protection and prevention of GBV, including SGBV, in response to the Syrian crisis, and cash assistance for rent (CSO working in **Lebanon and Syria**)
- Shelters for vulnerable women facing gender and sexual violence, who are usually denounced by the paternal side of their families when they face domestic violence (**Afghanistan**).

These limited direct services could be due to a range of institutional and organizational barriers, such as funding and operating environment. According to one CSO operating in Eastern Uganda, many survivors’ shelters do not receive direct funding, as they cannot compete with international NGOs, stating, *“Some donors also do not want to fund Women Shelters, yet these Shelters are doing a good work in the protection of survivors of SGBV and to see to that justice is done to survivors.”*

Only 7 percent of all respondents provided direct medical services, with the highest percentages in the Middle East (9 percent) and in Asia (8 percent). Some provided referrals for medical services. Moreover, some have described using advocacy to increase services available. For example, *women in Libya have mobilized on social media to force the government to find a solution to the medical shortage at the Benghazi Medical Center.*






Results indicated that CSOs working on WPS issues prioritize advocacy and technical capacity building over direct services. Across all respondents, 28 percent do not offer any direct services on a global scale among respondents.

Geographic Scope of Work

Most responding organizations are working on more than one geographic level. The vast majority are working on subnational local levels and/or on national levels (70 percent each), 41 percent work on the regional level and 26 percent globally. When asked on which level they were most active, almost half answered “subnational local levels” (47 percent).

Most respondents in Africa work locally (75 percent). The majority of CSOs in Asia and in Latin work locally and nationally, while most respondents in the Middle East work nationally (85 percent). Respondents in Europe/North Africa (including New Zealand and Australia) work the most at global and regional levels, though the highest number work nationally.

Table 30: Level of CSO Work

Q60. 15.a. Please describe level/s at which your organization works.(Please select all that apply)			
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents
At subnational local levels (in rural areas, in specific provinces)	215	70%	
At national levels (in the capital and big urban centers throughout the whole country)	214	70%	
At regional levels (in your country and neighboring countries)	126	41%	
At global levels (worldwide, in global policy spaces)	79	26%	
Total Responses	634		

Multiple answers per participant are possible, thus the total percentage may exceed 100 per cent. No response: 8 respondents.

Table 31: Level of CSO Work by Region

Q60. 15.a. Please describe level/s at which your organization works.(Please select all that apply)					
Responses	Africa	Asia	Europe/N America	Latin America	Middle East
At subnational local levels (in rural areas, in specific provinces)	75%	78%	50%	86%	47%
At national levels (in the capital and big urban centers throughout the whole country)	59%	70%	70%	71%	85%
At regional levels (in your country and neighboring countries)	37%	35%	50%	50%	35%
At global levels (worldwide, in global policy spaces)	14%	22%	51%	29%	15%
<i>Number of Respondents per Region</i>	<i>122</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>35</i>
Total Responses					

Statistics based on % of total respondents per region, bearing in mind that not all respondents answered. Multiple answers per participant possible, thus the total percentage may exceed 10%. Top percentage per is highlighted in yellow; lowest in orange.

Context(s) in Which CSOs Work

The majority of respondents (54 percent) described working in fragile areas/communities (multiple answers possible). A quarter reported working in non-conflict areas, while 38 percent reported working in communities with ongoing conflict. Many selected more than one conflict status to describe the context of the communities in which they work.

Table 32: Context(s) of CSOs Work









Q63. 15.b. Please describe the context(s) and/or communities where your organization works (as opposed to where your organization is based). (Please select all that apply)			
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents
It is a fragile area/community (i.e., facing severe development challenges such as weak institutional capacity, poor governance, political instability, ongoing violence or the legacy effects of past severe conflict)	170	54%	
It is a post-conflict area/community	143	45%	
There is ongoing conflict	122	38%	
There are ongoing peace negotiations	99	31%	
It is not a conflict/post-conflict area/community; however, there are high levels of violence/insecurity	80	25%	
It is in a post-agreement recovery phase	74	23%	
It is a stable area/community (i.e., there is no religious or ethnic wars, regional separatist conflicts, military coups, revolutions or any form of violent conflict)	41	13%	
(Did not answer)	18	6%	
Total Responses	747		

Multiple answers per participant possible. Percentages added may exceed 100 since a participant may select more than one answer for this question.

Target Populations and Beneficiaries

CSOs/peace activists/human rights defenders are the target population for 75 percent of the responding CSOs for activities related to WPS. Many CSOs are also targeting members of the local (59 percent) and national governments (49 percent) as well as members of the security sector (44 percent) and traditional leaders and religious leaders (41 percent and 40 percent, respectively).

Table 33: CSO Target Population

Q66. 17.a. Who is your organization's target population for WPS related activities? (Please select all that apply)			
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents
CSOs/peace activists/human rights defenders	229	75%	
Members of the local government	180	59%	
Members of the national government	150	49%	
Members of the security sector (police, army)	135	44%	
Traditional leaders	126	41%	
Religious leaders	121	40%	
Members of the judiciary	88	29%	
Health care providers	69	23%	

Other(s) - please specify:	67	22%	
Businesswomen and businessmen (private sector)	62	20%	
Non-state armed groups	40	13%	
No special occupational groups are targeted	39	13%	
Total Responses	1306		
Multiple answers per participant are possible, thus the total percentage may exceed 100 per cent. No response: 8 respondents.			

“Other” target populations identified by respondents included:

- General public (Burundi, Canada, Israel, Nepal, Yemen)
- Genocide survivors (Guatemala, US)
- Girls affiliated with political parties (Burundi)
- Grassroots women (Bahrain, Burundi, Indonesia, Lebanon, Syria)
- Immigrant women (Finland)
- Internally displaced people (Burundi, Georgia)
- International mediators (Belgium)
- Legal groups (Burma)
- Media/Journalists (Azerbaijan, Ghana, Macedonia, Nigeria, Yemen)
- Nuns (Fiji)
- UN officials (Netherlands)
- Women in low-income households and the informal sector (Burundi)
- Women survivors of sexual violence (Burundi, Guatemala, South Sudan)
- Women victims of internal armed conflict (Guatemala)
- Young girls and boys (Armenia/Azerbaijan, Burundi, DRC)







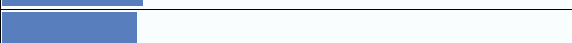
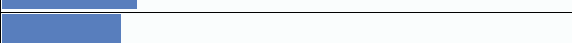
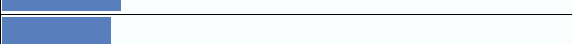

Almost all responding CSOs are addressing both women and men in their work on WPS (only 8 percent address exclusively women), though the majority is addressing more women than men (71 percent).

Table 34: CSO Engagement with Men and Women

Q67. 17.b. Is the work of your organization on women, peace and security addressing more women or more men?			
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents
More women than men	187	62%	
Both women and men in similar numbers	81	27%	
Only women	23	8%	
More men than women	10	3%	
Only men	0	0%	
Total Responses	301		

If men were targeted in the activities of the CSOs, they were mostly targeted as leaders, whether as civil society leaders (70 percent), politicians (55 percent) or religious leaders (43 percent) but less often as vulnerable or as victims.

Table 35: CSO Target Male Populations


Q68. 17.c. If you target men in your activities, in what capacity are men engaged?(Please select all that apply)			
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents
Male civil society leaders	188	70%	
Male politicians	147	55%	
Husbands	122	46%	
Male religious leaders	115	43%	
Sons	90	34%	
Vulnerable boys	66	25%	
Male victims of gender based violence	65	24%	
Ex-combatants	57	21%	
Other(s) - please specify:	50	19%	
Total Responses	900		

Multiple answers per participant are possible, thus the total percentage may exceed 100 per cent. No response: 8 respondents.

“Other” capacities identified by respondents in which men were engaged included:

- “Men in general,” as both potential victims and perpetrators (Belgium)
- Civilian men (Israel, Montenegro, Nepal, Syria)
- Extremist boys (Pakistan)
- Former child soldiers (Burundi)
- Male judges (Guatemala, Nepal)
- Male police, military officers or security guards (Guatemala, Nepal, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Swedish CSO in MENA Region, Uganda)
- Male private-arms owners (Israel/Palestine)
- Male public employees (health, security, justice) (Guatemala)
- Male school officials and teachers (Burundi, Philippines, Serbia)
- Male students (Guatemala, Philippines, Serbia, Swedish CSO in MENA Region, Yemen)
- Men as allies and “change agents” (Burma, Uganda, UK)
- Men with disabilities (Nigeria)
- Perpetrators and their families and victims' families (Fiji)
- Survivors of land mines (Switzerland)
- Young men in political parties (Burundi)

Table 36: CSO Beneficiaries

Q59. 14.b. On average, how many beneficiaries does your organization serve annually?			
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents
1 - 50	20	7%	

51-100	26	9%	
101-200	27	9%	
201-500	28	9%	
500+	136	46%	
My organization does not offer direct services to beneficiaries	59	20%	
Total Responses	296		

Size of Organizations and Budget

One-third of the responding CSOs are rather small, having only up to 5 full time (or paid) staff members; another third is medium size, with 6 to 15 full time employees (34 percent each). The last third has 16 or more full time staff.

Table 37: CSO Staff Size

Q58. 14.a. Please indicate the number of paid and/or full time employees/staff at your organization.			
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents
0 - 5	104	34%	
6 - 15	105	34%	
16 - 50	62	20%	
51 - 100	11	4%	
101 and above	24	8%	
Total Responses	306		

Around half of the responding CSOs served 500 or more beneficiaries per year (46 percent). Twenty percent do not offer direct services to beneficiaries at all.

Table 38: CSO Annual Budget

Q45. 8.a. What is your organization's approximate annual budget?			
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents
USD 0 - 50,000	89	28%	
USD 50,001 - 250,000	97	31%	
USD 250,001 - 1,000,000	60	19%	
USD 1,000,001 - 5,000,000	18	6%	
USD 5,000,001 and above	18	6%	
(Did not answer)	35	11%	
Total Responses	317		

Thirty-one percent have a budget of no more than \$250,000. Twelve percent of respondents reported an annual budget of more than \$1 million.

Table 39: Annual Budget Allocated to WPS

Q46. 8.b. Out of your organization’s annual budget, what percentage of funds do you allocate to activities on women, peace and security specifically?			
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents
Less than 10 %	53	17%	
25 %	61	19%	
50 %	52	16%	
75 %	65	21%	
More than 90 %	56	18%	
(Did not answer)	30	9%	
Total Responses	317		

Thirty-nine percent of respondents reported allocating more than half of their annual budget specifically to WPS activities. More than half of all respondents (52 percent) allocated half or less of their budget.

Expertise on WPS Issues

Three-quarters of all respondents reported that their organization is either very familiar or expert on the women, peace and security area. Nineteen percent reported being somewhat familiar, while only 1 percent said they were not familiar.

Table 40: Overall Expertise on the WPS Area

Q64. 16.a. What is your organization’s overall expertise on the women, peace and security area, especially UNSCR 1325? (Note: Expertise means you have been working on UNSCR 1325 implementation for a number of years, your knowledge of the resolution is above average and you can serve as a resource person or trainer in a training on UNSCR 1325.)			
Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents
Not familiar	4	1%	
Somewhat familiar	59	19%	
Very familiar	130	41%	
We are experts	108	34%	
(Did not answer)	16	5%	
Total Responses	317		

Methodology

Survey Preparation

From August to November 2014, GNWP, the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), Cordaid and the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security (NGOWG) jointly drafted the CSO survey,

with inputs from UN Women and other members of the UN Inter-agency Standing Committee on Women, Peace and Security. Comments from DPKO and OHCHR were also integrated into the draft. The survey aims to solicit the views, concerns and recommendations of CSOs from around the world to be incorporated in the Global Study on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325.

Field-Testing the Survey Questionnaire

The draft questionnaire was distributed within the networks of GNWP, ICAN, NGOWG and Cordaid in order to allow CSO representatives and gender and data analysis experts to pre-test the survey and provide feedback on its structure, content and wording. GNWP prepared facilitator guidelines and presentation materials for field-testing sessions.

Cordaid facilitated a field-test session after the closing of the international conference on “Women’s Political Participation and their Role in the Prevention of Electoral Violence in Africa” (December 10-12, 2014), organized by Cordaid’s Women’s Leadership for Peace and Security (WLPS). Participating organizations included: AFRABU (Burundi), BLTP (Burundi), Observatoire de la Parité (DRC), CAFOB (Burundi), Marche Mondiale (Ivory Coast Chapter), Fontaine Isoko (Burundi), Isis WICCE (Uganda).

GNWP also held a field-test session in Jakarta, Indonesia, as a side event after a regional training on the use of CEDAW General Recommendation 30 on Women in Conflict Prevention, Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations, organized with the Asia-Pacific Women’s Alliance on Peace and Security (APWAPS) and the Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN)-Indonesia (Dec. 14, 2015). GNWP convened approximately 25 women’s groups and other CSOs from throughout Asia at the training, and invited them all to participate in the field-test session.

As a result of the field-testing, GNWP received extensive feedback from CSO partners, particularly in Africa and Asia, and from gender and data analysis experts within our networks, information that was incorporated into further revisions of the survey questionnaire and dissemination plan.

Launching of Survey

The survey was conducted primarily using an online version (SoGoSurvey). In the case of limited Internet, power outages or other challenges using a digital platform, participants filled out the survey in Word format, with the responses later manually uploaded onto SoGoSurvey on behalf of the respondent.

In the case of indigenous women in Choco, Colombia, given that many came from a more oral tradition and were not familiar with computers, GNWP member Coalición 1325 consolidated the women’s input from a focus group discussion into one collective on-survey submission reflecting their collective views.

Invitations to complete the survey were emailed out between February and April, through international network organizations with the request to forward the invitation to network members. The invitation contained a public URL that gave access to the questionnaire.

The sample selection is not representative but rather self-selected. The goal was to reach as many Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as possible. The target group constitutes the full range of formal and

informal organizations that are nongovernmental actors. This includes social movements, volunteer organizations, indigenous peoples' organizations, mass-based membership organizations or networks and community-based organizations, as well as communities and citizens acting individually and collectively. They can work at the local, national, regional or global levels.

The survey instructions required that one person per organization answer the questions. Respondents were asked to keep in mind that they were answering on behalf of their organization and not as an individual. Given that the survey covers a range of topics related to an organization's work, it was suggested that they seek input from their colleagues.

Survey Completion

Between February 13, 2015 and May 1, 2015, a total of 317 completed surveys were received. "Completed" means that the participants progressed through the entire questionnaire and submitted the survey by clicking the submit button on the last page. No question was mandatory, so participants could chose not to answer specific questions and instead skip to the next one.

Forty-five percent of respondents completed the survey over multiple sessions. According to direct feedback from respondents (SoGoSurvey only tracks the time of single sessions), some CSOs spent several hours answering all questions over many days. Of the 173 respondents who completed the survey in a single session, 77 percent completed it within an hour or less. It took 16 percent of these respondents over two hours to complete, and a few respondents over five hours to complete.

Confidentiality

The information CSOs provided will be kept anonymous and be used only for purposes of aggregation for analysis. The survey requested organizations to voluntarily share their contact information, though it was not a requisite for participating in the survey. The organization could choose to not provide contact information and remain anonymous (identifying only the country where it is based).

Language

In addition to English, the survey was translated into Spanish, French and Arabic and made available in all four languages on SoGoSurvey.com. All invitation materials were also available in these four languages. Participants thus had a choice to respond to the survey in any of these languages, which were later translated back into English for analysis. Seventy-one percent of the participants completed the questionnaire in English, 20 percent in French, 5 percent in Arabic and 4 percent in Spanish.

Responses	Count	%
English	225	71%
French	62	20%
Arabic	16	5%
Spanish	13	4%
Total Responses	316	

Conclusion

The complex challenges and opportunities of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, as described from the perspective of CSOs working in communities around the world, lend themselves to both a “cup half full” and a “cup half empty” interpretation. UNSCR 1325 itself is a sign of progress among CSOs working on WPS around the world, as it is increasingly accepted as an important mandate across a wide variety of public and private institutions. Despite all obstacles, civil society organizations have utilized UNSCR 1325 and supporting resolutions as tools to work together to increase women’s participation; promote conflict prevention and peace processes; protect women from gender-based violence in conflict; engage men in shifting gender norms; and ensure justice and accountability for survivors of human rights abuses.

“The glass is both half full AND half empty. [UNSCR 1325] IS on the agenda (more and more), but there has been no structural implementation yet.”

- Global CSO based in the Netherlands

Nonetheless, respondents consistently couple progress made in policy and grassroots activities with the many barriers they face in ensuring that implementation of the WPS agenda has significant impact on the ground. One of the greatest barriers remains the lack of effective implementation by state actors.

“A lot still needs to be done. 15 years is just the start of the work. We have set a good ground for more changes.”

- CSO in Uganda

While CSOs described innumerable challenges in implementing components of the WPS agenda from every corner of the world, they also reveal the use of effective strategies to find lasting solutions to the challenges that plague us. Rather than be discouraged, the many change agents who participated in this survey affirm their fervent motivation and commitment to continue their struggle in securing a more peaceful, secure world that promotes gender equality and

enables women to make unique contributions in every aspect of decision-making. What the change agents need is appropriate support and recognition to realize this mission fully, as well as commitment from member states and the United Nations to shift stances from policy to concrete actions at all levels—global, regional, national and local.

As one respondent that is a global advocacy organization, wrote, *“Effective advocacy at the international level requires building on grassroots experiences and effective local and national advocacy benefits from leveraging international tools. This is why [we] find it effective to link local to global advocacy to strengthen both directions.”* This idea, seen throughout this survey and reiterated and reinforced in the FDG sessions, affirms that there is a multiplicity of actors involved in the realization of the WPS agenda and effective cooperation and communication among them. **In particular, local CSOs working on WPS issues—identified as the greatest resource by respondents—must be viewed as equal partners and be provided additional opportunities to share information about the specific WPS situation and needs in their respective countries.**

“Women are a resource to all peace building and peace sustaining societies, and no conflict can be successfully and creatively resolved without full participation of women.”

- Global CSO based in Sweden

Responses highlight CSOs' needs to be respected and deferred to as well as their continuous desire to grow and learn from each other and other actors. Respondents show that while they are experts on the subject or on the demographic their organizations serve they want to learn more about effective advocacy and capacity building, among other tools, from their donors and international partners. The CSOs that responded to the survey want to be included in a wide range of activities, to receive more training and technical assistance, to be funded in ways that allow for lasting impact and change and most important, to be one of several elements in a well-developed system that always puts the needs of people first. In addition to the localization of global policies on WPS, it is crucial to ensure that local women's voices and perspectives are heard in global advocacy forums.

"It must be emphasized that women's rights and equality between the sexes is not an issue of speeches and slogans. Instead, the importance of this issue lies in the serious presenting and addressing women's rights as a public concern."

- CSO in Yemen

UNSCR 1325 at its core is a transformative and groundbreaking resolution. Regardless of the scope or region where CSOs work, respondents consistently emphasized the need to redirect the focus of the WPS agenda from militarized responses and conflicts to conflict prevention and from military security to human security. Evidence-based research continues to affirm that inclusion of women in all areas of decision-making is not only a human rights issue, but also critical to sustainable peace and democracy and development. Moreover, it is increasingly clear that the Women, Peace and Security agenda is an essential component of the greater

peacebuilding and development agenda. Civil society organizations—engaging men and women on the ground to effect transformative change—are critical partners and the primary sources of innovation and impact in building a world without war and that is safe for all future generations. The time for action is now.

"Women are the world's 'fuel' — we must abandon this expression because women are the water of the world and the secret of life. I hope that UN members realize that we women are not only outside the meeting hall, and I hope they don't think we don't know anything about them—we are all one, but with different ideas and languages. They must realize that we are women and we did not judge the world or start a war—we were used as fuel for these wars and we have paid the price in all cases."

- CSO in Syria

YOUR VOICE COUNTS!
Civil Society Organization (CSO) Survey
Global Study on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325

Background

Nearly 15 years ago, the groundbreaking UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, the first Women, Peace and Security (WPS) resolution, called on all member states and the United Nations (UN) system to ensure women's full participation in all conflict prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction processes and to protect the rights of women amid armed conflict. UNSCR 1325 was the direct result of a strategic global advocacy campaign involving women peacebuilders in conflict zones worldwide.

Since UNSCR 1325 was adopted, there have been remarkable achievements; however, there remains a big deficit in implementation at the national and local levels, particularly in communities directly affected by violent conflicts. The UN Security Council has stressed that women's perspectives will continue to be underrepresented in conflict prevention, resolution, protection and peacebuilding without a significant shift in how the resolution is implemented.

In preparation for the 15th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, in 2015, the UN Security Council will convene a **High-Level Review** to evaluate progress at the global, regional and national levels in implementing UNSCR 1325. For this review, the UN Secretary General (SG) is commissioning a **Global Study** that will highlight "good practice examples, gaps and challenges, as well as emerging trends and priorities for action on [UNSCR 1325](#) implementation." Results from the study will be included in the SG's annual report to the Security Council on Women and Peace and Security in 2015.

The promise of UNSCR 1325 cannot be realized without the full participation of civil society activists. In the post-2015 period, it is essential that the UN system (all relevant agencies), bilateral donors and governments recognize the expertise and commitment that CSOs bring to this agenda and engage them as equal partners.

In this light, the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), in partnership with the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security (NGO WG on WPS) and Cordaid, is conducting this survey among CSOs worldwide to solicit their views on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 so far and to solicit recommendations for the future.

Instructions

The purpose of this survey is to collect your views, concerns, and recommendations as civil society organizations (CSOs) **to feed into the Global Study**. The survey is an integral part of the Global Study process. Your responses will be collected and analyzed in order to inform the global study, provide good practice examples, highlight gaps in political will and implementation, and shape concrete recommendations.

The information your organization will provide will be kept anonymous and will only be used for purposes of aggregation for analysis. The survey requests your organization voluntarily share its contact information, but please note this is not a requisite for participating in the survey. Your organization may

choose to **not** provide contact information and remain **fully anonymous** (identifying only the country where it is based).

This survey should be filled by one person per organization. As you answer the questions, please keep in mind that you are answering on behalf of your organization and not as an individual. Given that the survey covers a range of topics related to your organization's work, it may be helpful to seek input from your colleagues.

The survey consists of six brief sections:

- Section 1: Best Practices, Challenges, and Impact
- Section 2: Collaboration and Coordination
- Section 3: Funding and Funding Mechanisms
- Section 4: Emerging Trends and Changes, Post-2015
- Section 5: Priorities for Action Moving Forward, Post-2015
- Section 6: Background Information on your CSO

It should take a minimum of 45 minutes to fully complete the survey. Please designate sufficient time, as your work cannot be saved and must be fully completed in one sitting.

Please complete the survey no later than **April 15, 2015**.

For any questions on the survey, please contact Danielle Goldberg, Program Officer, The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) at CSOSurvey.gnwp@gmail.com.

Thank you for your contribution and time for this important project. Your voice, perspective, and experience are valuable to this process.

Contact Information

Before we begin, please share your contact information to enable us to keep in touch with you, expanding our global network. Note: The name of your organization and your contact information will remain confidential. However, the country where you are based will be revealed for analysis and reporting.

Q1. A.1 Country where you are based:
Q1(a). A.1 Country where you are based:: Country
Q2. A.2. Do you wish to remain anonymous?
Q3. A.3. Contact Information for the Organization (optional):
Q3(a). A.3. Name of organization
Q3(b). A.3. Website
Q3(c). A.3. Headquarter Address
Q3(d). A.3. City/Town
Q3(e). A.3. Zip/Postal Code
Q3(f). A.3. Country
Q3(g). A.3. Email Address
Q3(h). A.3. Telephone (numbers only)
Q4. A.4. Contact Information for the Person Completing the Survey (optional):
Q4(a). A.4. First Name
Q4(b). A.4. Last Name
Q4(c). A.4. Telephone (numbers only)

Q4(d). A.4. Email Address

SECTION 1: Best Practices, Challenges, and Impact

Purpose of Section 1: To begin, we'd like to invite you to share with us your greatest achievements working on women, peace and security, as well as your challenges working in the field. It's also important for us to hear your views on the work of other actors in implementing UNSCR 1325 in your area.

1. What are your organization's current priority areas of work related to women, peace and security?

Q5. Advocacy 1.a. What are your organization's top advocacy priorities?

Women's participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, peace negotiations and conflict recovery

Women's participation in local/community decision making

Women's participation in national decision making

Promoting laws that advance gender equality and women's rights

The prevention and protection of women from sexual and gender-based violence in conflict

Access to justice in response to violations of women's rights in conflict

The promotion of a gender perspective across all sectors (security, policy, etc.)

Civil society input to/participation in National Action Plan (NAP) development processes

Research, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of WPS resolutions and NAPS (If your country has a NAP)

Women's economic development in conflict situations

Other(s) (*Please specify*):

Not applicable

Women's participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, peace negotiations and conflict recovery

Q6. Technical Capacity Building 1.b. What technical capacity building activities does your organization provide, with particular attention to supporting the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the supporting resolutions?

UNSCR 1325, the supporting resolutions on WPS, and National Action Plans (NAPs, where they exist)

Gender concepts/terminology in relation to peace and security

Women's economic empowerment in the context of conflict

Negotiation skills in conflict settings

Dialogue skills in conflict settings

Literacy training for women and girls affected by conflict

Data collection and research on women, peace and security

Advocacy skills for women, peace and security

Information and communication technology skills for women, peace and security

Reporting and access to justice for victims of sexual and gender-based violence

WPS Media skills

WPS Coalition building

Policy development on women, peace and security

Communications/media to raise awareness of WPS and its activities

Trauma healing and other responses to GBV/SGBV

Not applicable

Other(s) <i>(Please specify)</i>
Q7. Services 1.c. If your organization provides direct services to victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in conflict situations, please select the main services you provide.
Shelter
Legal representation
Medical services
Counseling/psychosocial services
Assistance with livelihoods
Social reintegration <i>(Activities to assist victims/survivors' reintegration into society, such as ensuring non-recurrence of sexual violence, and providing ongoing psycho-social care)</i>
Education related to SGBV
Other(s) <i>(Please specify):</i>
Not applicable
2. Now, please tell us about the impact of your civil society organization's work on women, peace and security.
Q8. 2.a. Of the priority areas of work you just identified: Which do you think has been the most effective in providing a direct beneficial impact on the lives of women and girls in the communities where you work? (By impact, we mean increasing women's participation in decision-making and peacebuilding; preventing SGBV/providing service to victims; promoting a gender perspective, etc.).
Q9. 2.b. What were specific beneficial outcomes of this effective area of work?
Q10. 2.c. What factors contributed to the success of these effective areas of work?
National government support
Local government support
Support from UN agencies
Support from international NGOs
Collaboration with other CSOs
Support/pressure from the international community
Media coverage
Policy reforms
Adequate funding
Sufficient political will
Other(s) <i>(Please specify):</i>
Q11. Please explain your answer to question 2.c. briefly (optional):
Q12. 2.d. Of the priority areas of work you just identified: Which do you think has been the least effective in providing a direct beneficial impact on the lives of women and girls in the communities where you work? (By impact, we mean increasing women's participation in decision-making and peacebuilding; preventing SGBV/providing service to victims; promoting a gender perspective, etc.).
Q13. 2.e. What barriers/problems affected this least effective area of work? (Please select at most 3 options)
Increased militarization and diminishing space for civil society
Security
Current efforts are heavily focused on sexual violence prevention and not prevention of conflicts themselves

Lack of trust and cooperation between government and civil society
The misinterpretation of culture and/or religion related to women's dignity
Gaps between international policies and action and local level realities are not being addressed
Lack of resources for this specific work
Limited institutional capacities, including lack of expertise on WPS issues
Tension between networks and organizations involved in women, peace, and security issues
Competition for visibility and resources among organizations working on WPS
Other(s) <i>(Please specify)</i>
Q14. 2.f.If possible, give us a specific example of how you experienced these barriers:
Q15. 3.a. Based on your knowledge or direct experience, what WPS initiative led by other actors do you believe has been most effective in providing a direct beneficial impact on the lives of women and girls in the communities where you work? (Please select one)
Q16. 3.b. What activities did this initiative involve? Please list up to three direct beneficial outcomes.
3.c. These efforts were led by or involved which actors? (Please select all that apply)
Q17. Actors involved? (yes/no)
Q17(a). Other civil society organizations
Q17(b). Your national government/national ministries
Q17(c). UN Agencies
Q17(d). Other international organization (e.g., World Bank, OECD, EU, etc.),
Q17(e). Foreign national governments
Q17(f). The private sector
Q17(g). International NGOs
Q18. Please specify which ones, where possible:
Q19. 3.d. What factors contributed to the success of this effective area of work?
Q20. Please explain your answer to question 3.d. briefly (optional):
3. Now that we asked about the impact of your organization, we'd like to hear your views on the impact of other actors on issues of women, peace and security. <i>(By other actors, we mean governments, others CSOs, UN agencies and external actors).</i>
Q21. 3.e. Now, in contrast, what WPS initiative —if any—led by other actors do you believe has been least effective in providing a direct beneficial impact on the lives of women and girls in the communities where you work? (Please select one)
Women's participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, peace negotiations and conflict recovery
Women's participation in local/community decision making
Women's participation in national decision making
Promoting laws that advance gender equality and women's rights
The prevention and protection of women from sexual and gender-based violence in conflict
Access to justice in response to violations of women's rights in conflict
The promotion of a gender perspective across all sectors (security, policy, etc.)
Civil society input to/participation in National Action Plan (NAP) development processes
Research, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of WPS resolutions and NAPS (If your country has a NAP)
Women's economic development in conflict situations

Other(s) <i>(Please specify)</i> :
None
I don't know
3.f. These efforts were led by or involved which actors? <i>(Please select all that apply)</i>
Q22. Actors involved?
Q22(a). Other civil society organizations
Q22(b). Your national government/national ministries
Q22(c). UN Agencies
Q22(d). Other international organization (e.g., World Bank, OECD, EU, etc.)
Q22(e). Foreign national governments
Q22(f). The private sector
Q22(g). International NGOs
Q23. Please specify which ones, where possible:
Q24. 3.g. Considering the initiative described above and others, what are the top key constraints for effective implementation of UNSCR 1325 and sister resolutions in your country?
Increased militarization and diminishing space for civil society
Security
Current efforts are heavily focused on sexual violence prevention and not the prevention of conflicts themselves
Lack of trust and cooperation between governments and civil society
The misinterpretation of culture and/or religion related to women's dignity
Gaps between international policies and action and local level realities are not being addressed
<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of resources for this specific work
Limited institutional capacities including lack of expertise on WPS issues
Tension between networks and organizations involved in women, peace, and security issues
Competition for visibility and resources among organizations working on WPS
Other(s) <i>(Please specify)</i> :
Q25. Please explain briefly your answer to question 3.g. about the key constraints: (Optional)
Q26. 3.h. What are the two strategic actions that other actors could do to help address these problems, and which actors would be responsible? Please elaborate and be specific:
4. Please share your perceptions of the overall impact of UNSCR 1325 and sister resolutions in making a difference in the lives of women in conflict-affected communities.
Q27. 4.a. On a scale of 1 (least effective) to 6 (most effective), how effective do you think UNSCR 1325 and sister resolutions have been in making a difference to the situation of women in conflict-affected communities?
Q28. Please explain your answer briefly (optional):
4.b. In your view, what are the three most important results that have taken place <i>globally</i> since 2000? Please also select to which area of work each result relates.
Q29. Please specify:
Q30. Select area of work:
Section 2: Collaboration and Coordination
Purpose of Section 2: This section aims to assess experiences and share recommendations from civil society to the UN donors, and national governments on how they can better partner with CSOs to lead a coherent and coordinated approach to implementing UNSCR 1325 and sister resolutions on WPS in the next decade

5. What are your views on models of collaboration between civil society, government and UN Agencies towards effective implementation of UNSCR 1325? What has worked, and what hasn't worked?
Q31. 5.a. Please select which concrete models of collaboration has been the most successful in your work.
<input type="checkbox"/> Coordination and planning with civil society at the national and local level
Networking and advocacy for national and global policy for WPS
Joint program implementation and design with government institutions
Joint program implementation and design with international actors
Donor/grantee relationship with no involvement of the donor beyond financial support
Donor engagement, including institutional capacity building
Pooled funding
Other(s) <i>(Please specify)</i>
Q32. Why do you think the model(s) was (were) successful?
Q33. 5.b. In contrast, please select which concrete models of collaboration has been the least successful in your work.
Coordination and planning with civil society at the national and local level
Networking and advocacy for national and global policy for WPS
Joint program implementation and design with government institutions
Joint program implementation and design with international actors
Donor/grantee relationship with no involvement of the donor beyond financial support
Donor engagement, including institutional capacity building
Pooled funding
Other(s) <i>(Please specify):</i>
Q34. Why do you think the model(s) was (were) not successful?
5.c. In your experience, has your organization had involvement with any of the following actors? If yes, please rate the effectiveness of this collaboration from a scale of 1 (not effective) to 6 (very effective).
Q35. Involved? (yes/no)
Q35(a). Other civil society organizations
Q35(b). Your national government/national ministries
Q35(c). UN Agencies
Q35(d). Other international organization (e.g., World Bank, OECD, EU, etc.)
Q35(e). Foreign national governments
Q35(f). The private sector
Q35(g). International NGOs
Q36. Level of effectiveness:
Q37. If you wish, please explain any of your answers above.
6. We also are interested in your recommendations to other actors to improve coordination on WPS work in the areas where you work.
Q38. 6.a. From your experience, what are ways for your government to improve coordination with CSOs?
Q39. 6.b. What key recommendations do you have for foreign governments and international NGOs to improve coordination with CSOs?

Q40. 7.a. In the last two years how often have you directly interacted with United Nations agencies and actors in your work? (i.e. direct meetings, outreach, meeting invitations from the UN, etc.)
Not at all
One to two times
Three to five times
Five to ten times
More than ten times
Q41. 7.b. Which of the UN agencies have been most supportive of your work on WPS initiatives?(Please select all that apply)
UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations
UN Development Programme / UN Country Teams
UN Women
UN Department of Political Affairs
UNICEF
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UN Office for Disarmament Affairs
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
United Nations Population Fund
World Food Programme
Other/s <i>(Please specify)</i>
None
Q42. 7.c. In your organization's view, what are the biggest challenges CSOs face in engaging UN agencies? (Select all that apply)
UN processes are too slow and bureaucratic
UN financial requirements are unrealistic
The UN works too much with elite organizations and not enough with grassroots organizations
Lack of coordination between UN agencies and donors at the country level
Other/s <i>(Please specify)</i> :
None
Q43. 7.d. From the perspective of your organization and the work it does, what is the most effective role for UN entities to take to support your WPS work and the WPS work globally? (Please select one)
Dialogue and Collaboration Facilitator
Program Implementor
Advisor to CSOs and Governments
Advocacy at the UN
<input type="checkbox"/> Policy Analysis and Impact Assessments
Other <i>(Please specify)</i>
Q44. 7.e. Finally, please share any recommendations on how the United Nations can more effectively engage with CSOS in the area/s where you work.
Section 3: Funding and Funding Mechanisms

Purpose of Section 3: The purpose of this section is to collect your experiences and views on mobilizing and securing financial support for work related to WPS over the past 15 years.
8. Please share what kind of financial resources your civil society organization has for women, peace and security.
0 - \$50,000
\$50,001 - \$250,000
\$250,001 - \$1,000,000
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
\$5,000,001 and above
Q46. 8.b. Out of your organization's annual budget, what percentage of funds do you allocate to activities on women, peace and security specifically?
Less than 10 %
25 %
50 %
75 %
More than 90 %
8.c. The financial support your organization receives for women, peace & security comes from: (Please select all that apply).
Q47. Financial support received? (yes/no)
Q47(a). Local fundraising among individual donors
Q47(b). Other civil society organizations
Q47(c). Your national government/national ministries
Q47(d). UN Agencies/Departments (e.g. UN Women, UNDPKO, etc.)
Q47(e). Other international organizations (e.g. World Bank, OECD, EU, etc.)
Q47(f). Foreign national governments
Q47(g). The private sector (e.g. companies, etc.)
Q47(h). International NGOs
Q47(i). Private/family/personal foundations
Q48. Please specify which ones, where possible:
Q49. If you have selected more than one, what are your top three biggest sources of funding? Please rank in order with the first being the largest:
Q50. 8.d. What particular area/s of your work on women and peace and security receive the most funding?
Advocacy
Technical capacity building
Direct services
Research and monitoring
Core-funding/Institutional capacity building
9. Please share your perceptions on the effectiveness of funding mechanisms to finance the implementation of UNSCR 1325.
Q51. 9.a. Based on your knowledge or direct experience, what are your greatest challenges and/or concerns in raising funds for WPS activities?(Please select at most three options)
Limited institutional capacities
Insufficient funding available for women's peace work

Lack of funding for core costs not tied to a project
Lack of long term institutional and programmatic funding
Application procedures are too cumbersome
Language barriers to applying to international donors
Lack of information about available funding sources
Funding is not tailored to the fast changing reality of working in crisis settings
Disconnect between donor priorities and the funding needs of civil society organizations
Competition for funds with other national or international actors
Other(s) <i>(Please specify)</i> :
Q52. Please elaborate and provide any recommendations to donors to address these challenges (optional):
SECTION 4: Emerging Trends and Changes, Post-2015
Purpose of Section 4: The purpose of this section is to collect information on how the context of peace and security has changed in the 15 years since 1325 was adopted, and therefore what new issues need to be taken into consideration to ensure the effectiveness of 1325/WPS agenda in the post-2015 period.
Q53. 10. Referring to your organization’s priority areas of work on women, peace and security you have identified in question 1: How has UNSCR 1325 transformed these areas since 2000?
Q54. 11. What emerging global issues have affected your work on women and peace and security the most?(Please select all that apply)
Violent extremism
Terrorism and counter-terrorism
New technologies of war and their impact on women
Transnational organized crime
Climate change
Pandemic health crises
Other(s) <i>(Please specify)</i>
Q55. Please explain your previous answer briefly (optional):
SECTION 5: Priorities for Action Moving Forward, Post-2015
Q56. 12. If Women, Peace and Security was in the headlines of BBC, Al Jazeera and your national news in 2025, what would you want the headline accomplishment/s to read? (Please rank top three choices from 1 – 3 according to priority - top priority being 1)
Purpose of Section 5: In this section, we wish to collect your views on what kind of major changes you would like to see done by your government, the UN and other actors on women, peace and security moving forward.
Women's full and equal participation in all conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and post-conflict reconstruction processes
At least 50% of UN Member States have National Action Plans that are being implemented effectively
Victims of sexual violence in conflict received reparation and perpetrators are penalized
Women’s full and equal participation in post-conflict decision-making processes and bodies
Women’s economic empowerment and political participation in post conflict settings
Improved awareness of the importance of equal participation of women in conflict prevention, protection during conflict, conflict resolution, and conflict recovery

Women receive full and equal access to design and implementation of programming related to WPS
At least 50% of development aid in conflict and post-conflict settings is allocated to projects having gender equality as the principal objective
Other(s) <i>(Please specify)</i> :
Q57. 13. What message, if any, do you want to send to the United Nations, the Security Council, and other policy makers about women, peace and security/1325 implementation in the post 2015 period?
SECTION 6: Background Information on your CSO
Purpose of Section 6: Now that you've taken the time to share your views and experiences working on women, peace and security, we highly encourage you to provide us with background information on your CSO. This information is essential for effective data analysis, enabling us to determine trends according to the scope and context in which each CSO works.
Q58. 14.a. Please indicate the number of paid and/or full time employees/staff at your organization.
0 - 5
6 - 15
16 - 50
51 - 100
101 and above
Q59. 14.b. On average, how many beneficiaries does your organization serve annually?
1- 50
<input type="checkbox"/> 51-100
101-200
201-500
500+
My organization does not offer direct services to beneficiaries.
15. Please share information about the context in which your organization works.
Q60. 15.a. Please describe level/s at which your organization works.(Please select all that apply)
At sub-national local levels (in rural areas, in specific provinces)
At national levels (in the capital and big urban centers throughout the whole country)
At regional levels (in your country and neighboring countries)
At global levels (world-wide, in global policy spaces)
Q61. If you have selected more than one, please indicate the level where you are most active:
Q62. Please elaborate, if possible, what country/countries or region/ regions you primarily focus on:
Q63. 15.b.Please describe the context(s) and/or communities where your organization works (as opposed to where your organization is based).(Please select all that apply)
<input type="checkbox"/> There is ongoing conflict
<input type="checkbox"/> There are ongoing peace negotiations
<input type="checkbox"/> It is in a post-agreement recovery phase

<input type="checkbox"/> It is a post-conflict area/community
<input type="checkbox"/> It is a fragile area/community (i.e., facing severe development challenges such as weak institutional capacity, poor governance, political instability, on-going violence or the legacy effects of past severe conflict)
<input type="checkbox"/> It is not a conflict/post-conflict area/community; however, there are high levels of violence/insecurity
<input type="checkbox"/> It is a stable area/community (i.e., There is no religious and ethnic wars, regional separatist conflicts, military coups, revolutions or any form of violent conflict.)
16. Please let us know about your organization's expertise and work on women, peace and security, UNSCR 1325 and the supporting resolutions.
Q64. 16.a. What is your organization's overall expertise on the women, peace and security area, especially UNSCR 1325? (For more information on Women, peace and security as well as on UNSCR 1820 and other sexual violence in conflict resolutions, please see go to http://peacewomen.org/pages/about-1325). (Note: Experts mean you have been working on UNSCR 1325 implementation for a number of years, your knowledge of the resolution is above average and you can serve as a resource person or trainer in a training on UNSCR 1325.)
Not familiar at all
Somewhat familiar
Very familiar
We're experts
Q65. 16.b. What is your expertise on other international, regional and national policies related to women, peace and security, such as CEDAW, African Union Protocol on Women's Human Rights, and national gender policies?
Not familiar at all
Somewhat familiar
Very familiar
We're experts
17. Finally, what is the population your organization primarily targets in its activities related to women, peace and security?
Q66. 17.a. Who is your organization's target population for WPS related activities?(Please select all that apply)
Members of the security sector (police, army)
Members of the judiciary
Members of the local government
Members of the national government
Health care providers
Non-state armed groups
Traditional leaders
Religious leaders
Business women and men (private sector)
CSOs/peace activists/human rights defenders
Other(s) (please specify):
No special occupational groups are targeted
Q67. 17.b. Is the work of your organization on women, peace and security addressing more women or more men?

Only women
More women than men
Both women and men in the same numbers
More men than women
Only men
Q68. 17.c. If you target men in your activities, in what capacity are men engaged?(Please select all that apply)
Male civil society leaders
Male religious leaders
Male politicians
Husbands
Sons
Ex-combatants
Vulnerable boys
Male victims of gender based violence
Other(s) <i>(Please specify):</i>
Q69. 17.d. What is the average age range of the primary populations (both men and/or women) who directly participate in or receive services from your organization's activities related to women, peace and security? (Select all that apply):(Please select all that apply)
Age 15 – and below
Age 16 – 24
Age 25 – 59
Age 60 and above
Q70. 17.e. To what socio-demographic groups do people belong who directly participate in or receive WPS related services from your organization?(Please select all that apply)
Ethnic
Tribal
Religious
Indigenous
Low income
Displaced women
Women with disabilities
Survivors of gender-based violence
Other vulnerable groups <i>(please specify):</i>
No special socio-demographic groups are targeted
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!
The promise of UNSCR 1325 cannot be realized without the full participation of civil society activists. Thank you for making your voice count!