

Preventing and eliminating violence against women

*An inventory of United Nations system activities
on violence against women*

Last updated: July 2007

Prepared by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, on the basis of inputs provided by United Nations entities, as part of the activities of the Task Force on violence against women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality.

The inventory is available electronically at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/index.htm>

Introduction

In December 2003, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare an in-depth study on all forms of violence against women, and to cooperate closely with all relevant United Nations bodies when preparing it (see General Assembly resolution A/RES/58/185). The in-depth study was issued in October 2006 (see A/61/122/Add.1 and Corr.1), and in December 2006, the General Assembly adopted a comprehensive resolution on “Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women” (A/RES/61/143).

Violence against women, as defined in the 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (A/RES/48/104, 20 December 1993), refers to ‘any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life’. Such violence persists worldwide, occurring in every region, country and culture and cuts across income, class, race and ethnicity. It impedes development and prevents women and girls from enjoying their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Violence against women has become an important focus of action at national, regional and international level. Significant work is being undertaken by the entities of the United Nations system in support of the efforts of Member States and other stakeholders to document violence against women and to develop responses to prevent violence from occurring, to prosecute and punish perpetrators and to provide remedies and relief to victims.

A number of conventions, policy instruments and resolutions guide the work of the United Nations system in eliminating violence against women, some of which are listed below:

- Ø The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination

Ø

Policy framework: under this heading, the inventory provides specific mandates – a resolution or decision, and/or policy statement(s) of an intergovernmental/governing body, or similar mandate that guides the work on violence against women of the respective entity, where these exist. General mandates on violence against women that guide the work of the entities of the United Nations system and which are listed above, are not repeated.

Area(s) of focus: under this heading, the inventory highlights the particular area(s) of focus of the entity concerned in regard to violence against women. This may cover particular forms of violence against women (for example domestic violence, or trafficking in women), or the particular contexts/situations where violence against women occurs (for example violence against women in humanitarian settings).

Main activities: under this heading, the inventory categorizes activities generally into four sub-headings: policy development; research; operational activities including capacity-building and training activities; and awareness-raising and advocacy. Entities' activities cannot always be separated strictly into these categories, and activities are frequently linked: for example, an entity will undertake research so as to enhance its policy and programme development; research may be undertaken in order to support operational activities and resource mobilization.

Future activities: under this heading, the inventory gives an indication of planned or anticipated activities in the years 2007 and 2008, in particular in follow-up to General Assembly resolution A/RES/61/143.

Bibliography: under this heading, the inventory lists major publications, including videos and films, on violence against women of the respective entity.

Address/Websites: under this heading, the inventory provides the entity's address, as well as a general website address, or links to the entity's specific, dedicated sites or pages on violence against women.

Note on terminology

This inventory covers work undertaken by the United Nations system on violence against women, whereby the term "violence against women" is understood to mean any act of gender-based violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately (see definitions contained in box 1 of the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women, A/61/122, and Corr.1). It does not address gender-baT9d vsur tr64 -Sb0.168 5 T from act of gender-ba sy".d activitiderth o.8(7.7(act of United)3.2

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1. Secretariat of the United Nations, funds and programmes

a. Department of Political Affairs (DPA)

Background

The mission of the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) is to provide advice and support on all political matters to the Secretary-General in the exercise of hi

b. Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)

Background

The mission of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) in the United Nations Secretariat is to plan, prepare, manage and direct United Nations peacekeeping operations so that they can effectively fulfil their mandates under the overall authority of the Security Council and General Assembly, and under the command vested in the Secretary-General.

Policy framework

of special units within police stations to deal with violence against women, provision of private spaces for women to report gender-based violence, and establishment of safe houses for women victims of violence. Drawing from the experience in Sierra Leone, family support units have been established in Liberia, and similar efforts are under way in Burundi. A pilot project is being finalized in Haiti to create private spaces in police stations for women.

Several missions have supported, or implemented training activities for mission personnel and other stakeholders on gender-based violence against women, as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste.

c. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Background

The mission of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partners

Address/Websites

OCHA

1 United Nations Plaza, 18th floor New York, NY 10017

<http://ochaonline.un.org/>

www.irinnews.org/

Inter Regional Information Network, provides news and analysis about sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia for the humanitarian community.

d. Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security, S/2005/636. 2005

Report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security, S/2004/814. 2004

Report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security, S/2002/1154. 2002

Women, Peace and Security. Study submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), United Nations, 2002.

Address/Websites

OSAGI

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

2 United Nations Plaza, 12th Floor,

New York, NY 10017

www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/

ii. Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)

stakeholders in efforts to eliminate violence against women. DAW also has a programme of support to countries emerging from conflict (Sierra Leone, Liberia, Haiti and Afghanistan) to enhance their capacity for implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Beijing Platform for Action. Violence against women is regularly addressed under the framework of this programme.

Awareness-raising and advocacy

DAW makes available information on violence against women through its website, especially in relation to the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of viol

Trafficking in women and girls. Report of the expert group meeting
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/trafficking2002/reports/Finalreport.PDF>.

Elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child. Report of the expert group meeting, http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/elim-disc-viol-girlchild/EGM%20Report_FINAL.pdf

Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century” (E/CN.6/2005/2). Report of the Secretary-General

Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women (A/62/201), Report of the Secretary-General

Violence against women migrant workers (A/60/137 and A/60/137/Corr.1), Report of the Secretary-General

Trafficking in women and girls (A/59/185), Report of the Secretary-General

Address/Websites

Division for the Advancement of Women
United Nations New York, NY, 10017
Email: daw@un.org

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/>
DAW’s homepage with access to all reports and publications

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/index.htm>
The site dedicated to the Secretary-General’s in-depth study on violence against women

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>

iii. United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD/DESA Statistics)

Background

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) has four main functions: 1) the collection, processing and dissemination of statistical information; 2) the standardization of statistical methods, classifications and definitions; 3) implementation of the technical cooperation programme; and 4) the coordination of international statistical programmes and activities.

Policy framework

The Beijing Platform for Action invited national, regional and international statistical services to develop improved data on the victims and perpetrators of all forms of violence against women (para. 206 (j)).

Area(s) of focus

UNSD contributes to strengthening the knowledge base on violence against women through statistical analysis

e. Department of Public Information (DPI)

Background

The mission of the Department of Public Information (DPI) is to help fulfil the substantive purposes of the United Nations by strategically communicating the Organization's activities and concerns to achieve the greatest public impact. To achieve this goal, DPI holds close consultations with some 50 United Nations

Future activities

Any statements by high-level officials relating to violence against women, or any press conference discussing violence against women, will be promoted by the various parts of DPI. The Strategic Communications Division will continue to promote efforts to stop violence against women, whether in relation to peacekeeping missions, sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, observances of International Women's Day, the anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), or the work of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

Bibliography

News and Media Division: UN Radio

The following radio stories on aspects of violence against women are available for downloading in MP3:

- 26 February 2007 - Gender equality must remain the mandate of the entire UN family: DSG
- 24 November 2006 - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women: UNIFEM Director Says There Is a Big Increase in Laws Against Domestic Violence
- 25 November 2005 - International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- 08 March 2007 - UNIFEM Links Development to Ending Violence against Women
- 10 October 2006 - Public Service Providers and Government Institutions Join Forces in Combating Violence Against Women
- 13 September 2006 - Preventing Sexual Violence Against Women
- 28 June 2006 - Violence Against Women, A Human Rights Issue
- 03 March 2006 - Sudanese Women on Violence against Women in Darfur
- 27 February 2006 - Top UN Agency Officials Urge End to Violence in DRC
- 28 October 2005 - Security Council Condemns Sexual Violence against Women
- 10 October 2006 - Congolese Armed Forces Remain Main Human Rights Violators in DRC: UN
- 24 November 2005 - WHO Report on Domestic Violence
- 15 May 2007 - Arbour Urges DRC Authorities to Fight Against Impunity
- 11 October 2006 - UN Report Shows Most Member States Without Laws to Protect Women from Violence.

UN News Centre

Examples of DPI's coverage of violence against women include:

- ☒ 24 November 2006 -- UN joins in 16-day campaign to fight violence against women
- ☒ 15 January 2007 -- Women and girls must be protected from violence, UN official tells rights committee
- ☒ 26 October 2006 -- Security Council highlights women's role in peace process, urges more involvement
- ☒ 8 March 2007 -- UN must take lead in eradicating violence against women, Ban Ki-moon says
- ☒ 7 March 2007 -- Security Council reaffirms key role of women in conflict prevention and resolution
- ☒ 5 March 2007 -- UN officials press for urgent action to end human trafficking, a 'modern-day slave trade'
- ☒ 24 February 2007 -- UN's all-female formed police unit can help maintain peaceful Liberia – envoy
- ☒ 16 February 2007 -- UN marks 10th anniversary of fund to end violence against women with call for action
- ☒ 18 October 2006 -- Sexual violence against women and children remains a major concern in Liberia:
- ☒ 15 September 2006 -- Spotighting 'cancer' of sexual abuse in DR Congo, UN aid chief calls for global pressure
- ☒ 10 October 2006 -- UN officials urge global backing for Annan's report on violence against women
- ☒ 9 October 2006 -- Annan calls for more political will to combat scourge of violence against women
- ☒ 7 September 2006 -- UN humanitarian chief promises justice for victims of sexual violence in DR Congo
- ☒ 5 May 2006 -- UN joins inquiry into reported sex abuse by African Union troops in Darfur
- ☒ 28 April 2006 -- UN Security Council strongly condemns violence against civilians in wartime
- ☒ 10 April 2006 -- Granted Seville culture award, Annan donates proceeds to project helping women (victims of violence in DRC)
- ☒ 17 March 2006 -- AIDS scourge in Africa shows urgent need for new women's agency: US envoy
- ☒ 6 February 2006 -- UNICEF hails progress toward ending female genital mutilation

Address/Websites

DPI creates pages for special events, such as the International Women's Day:

<http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2007>

<http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/violence>

f. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Background

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), guided by the mandate provided by General Assembly resolution 48/141, works to promote and protect the enjoyment and full realization, by all people, of all rights established in the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights instruments. It also undertakes, inter alia, to follow-up the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (1993), the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (2001) and the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document.

As reflected in OHCHR Strategic Management Plan for 2006-2007 and in her Plan of Action, the High Commissioner for Human Rights is committed to placing gender and women's rights at the core of the work of the Office as a whole. To this end, a Women's Human Rights and Gender Unit was established in 2006.

Policy framework

See main instruments listed above, as well as gender-related resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, Security Council and Human Rights Council, and relevant subsidiary bodies.

Area(s) of focus

The mission of OHCHR is to work for the protection and promotion of all human rights for all people; to help empower people to realize their rights; and to assist those responsible for upholding such rights in ensuring that they are implemented. In carrying out its mission with respect to violence against women, and within the overarching strategies to ensure country engagement, leadership, partnership, and support and strengthening of the Office and the human rights machinery, OHCHR is focusing on:

Gender sensitive administration of justice, through the provision of expert legal analysis of international (and, where appropriate, regional and national) jurisprudence with commentary, relating to the effective prosecution of gender-based violence as well as legal analysis of obligations in relation to social and economic rights and the impact of the enjoyment of such rights for women on access to justice for victims of sexual violence.

Piloting of integrated and thematic gender strategies for country engagement, including on violence against women.

Mainstreaming gender and women's human rights in OHCHR and with UN system partners.

Institutionally, OHCHR is committed to strengthening the United Nations human rights programme and to providing it with the highest quality support. OHCHR is committed to working closely with its United Nations partners to ensure that human rights form the bedrock of the work of the United Nations. OHCHR services the Human Rights Council and its special procedures, as well as human rights treaty bodies.

Main activities

Policy development

OHCHR commissions and conducts research and analysis on access to justice for victims of sexual violence, clarifies and draws attention to this issue, and develops materials to assist the development of policy and advocacy strategies. One of the mechanisms for so doing is through the development of legal analyses, guidelines and principles based on human rights, which address issues of critical importance for women. These will be developed in response to regional priorities but the aim is to ensure global resonance, with a focus on the current jurisprudence relating to the prosecution of rape, both under international humanitarian law and human rights law, and on the inter-linkages between access to justice and the protection of women's economic, social and cultural rights, with the aim to influence legal standard-setting and subsequently policy development. In addition OHCHR conducts research and analysis of all forms of violence against women and girls.

Operational activities

OHCHR has the responsibility to provide support and advice to country and thematic special rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council, including the Special Rapporteur on violence against women. In addition to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, over the past year the following special procedures have addressed issues related to violence against women in their reports, including from field missions, to human rights bodies:

The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons (trafficking for the purposes of forced labour, particularly in factories and domestic work; forced marriage; and/or for purposes of sexual exploitation including in conditions of slavery and debt bondage);

The Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child pornography and child prostitution (violence against girls pertaining to abduction and rape practices; sale of girls forced to marry; domestic labour or sexual exploitation of girls; and domestic violence);

The Special Rapporteur on the right to education focused his annual report of 2006 on the girl child's education (the socio-cultural context of gender discrimination under a patriarchal society, underpinning discriminatory behaviour, and domestic work by children as a major cause of exploitation and violence);

The Special Rapporteur on adequate housing has received an explicit mandate by the Commission on Human Rights to specifically study the issue of women, adequate housing and land. From 2002 to 2006 regional consultations were held with grass root women in Eastern Africa; Asia; Latin America and Caribbean; Central-Asia/Eastern Europe; and Euro-Mediterranean. Based on the regional consultations, the Special Rapporteur has regularly drawn the attention to linkages of lack of adequate housing with violence against women (domestic violence; impact on forced evictions accompanied by violence; and vulnerability of homeless women to violence);

The Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (so-called "honor killings"; executions of women accused of adultery; and allegations of a pattern of killings affecting women or femicidio);

The Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons (sexual and gender-based violence against internally displaced women and girl-children);

The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) consistently includes visits to detention centres for women, in the course of its country visits.

OHCHR field presences address violence against women at the national or regional levels, notably, through the provision of technical assistance in law reform, m,4005 Tcr.9(u5.5(y)-Dn.0008sR7-5.4(tCTT9 r)-5t wo)-8(mm)8.23 rmm

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/rapporteur/index.htm>
<http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/housing/index.htm>
<http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/housing/women.htm>
<http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/idp/index.htm>
<http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/detention/index.htm>
<http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/executions/index.htm>
<http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/minorities/expert/index.htm>

Address/Websites

OHCHR

g. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Background

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is mandated to assist Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism. In the Millennium Declaration, Member States resolved to intensify efforts to fight transnational crime in all its dimensions, to redouble efforts to implement the commitment to counter the world drug problem and to take concerted action against international terrorism.

Policy framework

See main instruments listed above. In addition, UNODC's policy framework for addressing violence against women is contained in the following six documents: (i) Economic and Social Council resolution "Violence against women in all its forms" (1993/26); (ii) General Assembly resolution "Crime prevention and criminal justice measures to eliminate violence against women" (52/86); (iii) Economic and Social Council resolution "The rule of law and development: strengthening the rule of law and the reform of criminal justice institutions, with emphasis on technical assistance, including in post-conflict reconstruction" (2004/25); (iv) "Custodian of the Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners", which has a gender dimension; (v) Economic and Social Council resolution "Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime" (2005/20), which is pertinent to girls; and (vi) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Area(s) of focus

UNODC works to address domestic violence and trafficking in human beings, as well as to develop policies in support of women victims of violence, and women in prisons. UNODC integrates gender dimensions and the question of violence against women into its efforts to build the capacity of criminal justice systems.

The Office supports policy development in the justice sector, including in relation to violence against women and girls. It supports and undertakes research related

UNODC's technical assistance projects at the national level have supported One-Stop Centres for victims of domestic violence, particularly for women and children, in South Africa. The Centres bring under one roof all government services (social development, justice, police, correctional services, education) and community-based organizations concerned with the issue of violence against women in a coordinated and mutually reinforcing manner. A sub-regional project on juvenile justice that covers Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt includes components that target girl victims of crime. National projects in Colombia, Brazil, Lebanon, Vietnam, Philippines, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Moldova, Albania, Benin, Togo, Nigeria and South Africa assist Member States in implementing the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, including training initiatives.

Awareness-raising and advocacy

The One-Stop Centres for victims of domestic also carry out outreach programmes and awareness-raising. Similarly, national projects contain elements of raising awareness and advocacy.

Future activities

UNODC's project on post-release opportunities for women and girl prisoners in Afghanistan is scheduled to begin in January 2006. UNODC intends to expand the anti-human trafficking efforts on a regional and national level, including the finalization of regional training materials.

Plans are under way to launch the following projects: a regional juvenile justice project for the Middle East and North Africa region focusing, inter alia, on the special needs of girls; a global project on the implementation of the guidelines on justice in matters involving child victims and witnesses of crime; the development of a handbook on good practices for women police stations; a guide to the standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners from a gender perspective; development of a project on women and prisons; and the expansion of One-Stop Centres to further locations in South Africa and to other southern African countries.

Address/Websites

UNODC

Vienna International Centre, PO Box 500,
A-1400 Vienna, Austria

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/index.html>.

h Regional Commissions

i. Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Background

As the regional arm of the United Nations in Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is mandated to support the economic and social development of its 53 Member States, foster regional integration, and promote international cooperation for Africa's development. The African Centre for Gender and Development, a Division of ECA, is mandated to orient the policies of the ECA into areas concerning gender equality and to advise the ECA on the implementation of appropriate strategies for the economic and social advancement of women in Africa.

Policy framework

See main instruments listed above. In addition, ECA's mandate and policy framework on violence against women derives from the Dakar Platform for Action (1994) and the outcome and way forward-document of the Seventh African Regional Conference on women (2004). Its policy framework is also rooted in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and its Additional Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa.

Area(s) of focus

ECA through the African Centre for Gender and Development undertakes policy development and research activities, as well as operational activities and awareness-raising activities in relation to violence against women.

Main activities

Policy development

ECA supports inter-governmental processes, including those that result in policy instruments for the advancement of women, and the elimination of violence against women. It supports the work of the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices on fight against traditional practices that are harmful to women and girls including genital mutilation.

Research

ECA supported 12 countries to undertake field studies using the African Gender and Development Index. The 12 pilot countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Egypt, Ghana, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda) have collected qualitative data on domestic violence, harmful practices, rape, sexual harassment and trafficking in women. They assessed the extent to which governments have ratified international conventions, met all reporting requirements, passed national laws, developed plans with specific targets, set institutional mechanisms, allocated sufficient financial and human resources, undertaken research, collaborated with civil society organizations, disseminated information and set monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for each type of violence against women. The project has been extended during 2007 to five countries, Cape Verde, Senegal, the Gambia, Namibia, and Botswana.

Awareness-raising and advocacy

To raise awareness on human rights issues and specifically on violence against women, ECA launched in April

ECA supports training workshops on women's human rights, in collaboration with partners from governments, United Nations entities and civil society. These events also include a focus, or segment on violence against women. Examples include a regional training workshop on women's human rights in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in 2003; and a national training workshop on gender mainstreaming in Uganda, in 2004.

ii. Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

iii. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Background

As the regional arm of the United Nations in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC/CEPAL) contributes to the economic and social development of Member States in the region, coordinating actions directed towards this end, and reinforcing economic relationships among the countries and with the other nations of the world. In the last decade, the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in its projects and programmes has increasingly become a clear part of its mandate.

Policy framework

See main instruments listed above. In addition, ECLAC's mandate and policy framework in the area of violence against women derive from the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean (1994), confirmed by the Lima Consensus, adopted by the Eighth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (2000), and the Mexico Consensus, adopted by the Ninth Regional Conference (2004).

Area(s) of focus

ECLAC addresses all forms and manifestations of violence against women. It undertakes research and policy development and the identification of good practice examples; it implements operational activities and

ECLAC is presently collaborating with the regional Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights to establish ways of linking follow-up of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará).

Awareness-raising and advocacy

ECLAC's awareness-raising activities aim to disseminate knowledge and information on the issue of violence against women, including through presentation of papers and provision of training as requested by Member States. ECLAC is now initiating contacts to coordinate a special interagency campaign to widely disseminate the Secretary General's in-depth study on violence against women and regional reports.

Future activities

ECLAC will process new statistical information to advance further in the production of indicators on gender-based violence.

ECLAC will, together with the regional inter-agency working group on violence against women, coordinate the implementation of an observatory on violence against women with financial support from UNFPA. The observatory will aim to give governments and civil society organizations in the region tools to end violence against women. The project involves proposals in the following fields: (i) implementation of international agreements on the issue; (ii) execution of policies, plans and programmes; (iii) promotion of legal and judicial reforms; (iv) establishment of alliances and collaboration networks; (v) production of statistics; and (vi) information dissemination.

In collaboration with ECA, ECE, ESCAP, ESCWA and DESA/DAW, ECLAC will coordinate the execution of the project "Enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women", submitted for funding through the United Nations Development Account in 2008-2009, and pending final approval by the General Assembly at its sixty-second session. The execution of the project in Latin America and the Caribbean includes, among other activities: (i) carrying out an electronic survey with all stakeholders and experts; (ii) holding an international expert meeting to assess existing knowledge, information and learning initiatives in selected countries of the five regional commissions; (iii) building and updating an interregional web portal; (iv) holding in each region seminars and workshops for users and producers of information; (v) developing a methodology to integrate best practices at operational level in the five regions; (vi) preparing regional and national publications; (vii) making a bilingual kit for collection and use of information on violence against women; and (viii) elaborating a

Women and Development Unit (2005), “Violence against women: a human rights and development issue” in: Machinea, J.L, Bárcena, A. and León, A. (eds.), *The Millennium Development Goals: a Latin American and Caribbean perspective*, Chap. IV “Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment”, Interagency report coordinated by ECLAC, Santiago, Chile (LC/G.2331), pp. 131-135.

ECLAC (2006), “Indicadores de género: Violencia contra la Mujer” en *Guía de asesoría técnica para la producción y el uso de indicadores de género*, Santiago de Chile. Produced with the financial support of UNFPA and technical collaboration of UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNICEF, OIT, UNESCO, OPS and FLACSO (LC/R.2136).

ECLAC (2007), *The right to live a life free of violence in Latin America and the Caribbean (¡¡¡Ni una más! El derecho a vivir una vida libre de violencia en América Latina y el Caribe)*, Interagency report coordinated by ECLAC, Santiago, Chile (forthcoming).

ECLAC (2007), “Gender based violence and women’s autonomy”, in Women and Development Unit (eds.), *Promote gender equality and empower women*, Interagency report coordinated by ECLAC, Santiago, Chile (forthcoming).

Database

ECLAC’s website provides access to non-comparable surveys on violence against women carried out in the region between 1990 and 2001 (Bolivia 1997/98; Chile 1993, 1996, 1997, 2001; Colombia 1995; Costa Rica 1994; Guatemala 1990; Haiti 1996; Mexico 1996, 1997, 1999; Nicaragua 1996, 1997, 1998; Paraguay 1995/96; Peru 1997, 2000; Uruguay 1997) (at: <http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/proyectos/perfiles/beijing/BEIJING24.HTM>). More recently it has also been able to provide a smaller set of comparable information for a wide array of indicators that have been processed from the Demographic Health Surveys of Bolivia 2003; Colombia 2000 and 2005; Dominican Republic 2002; Haiti 2000 (2004/2005 will be posted soon) and Peru 2004 (at: http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/proyectos/perfiles/comparados/comp_violencia.htm).

Address/Websites

ECLAC

Av. Dag Hammarskjöld-31.513V.00-7.3(77 Vitacura).

forms of harmful traditional and cultural practices of violence against women and girls in the Asian and Pacific region.

Operational activities

ESCAP undertakes capacity-building activities for more effective programme planning by governments and civil society organizations for achieving gender equality and health promotion, including addressing HIV/AIDS issues, human trafficking, and combating commercial sexual exploitation of children in Asia and the Pacific. It promotes strengthening of women's national machineries at the governmental level and serves as a facilitator in building linkages among government, civil society and development partners. ESCAP also undertakes training activities, such as the sub-regional training workshop on elimination of violence against women in partnership with men, New Delhi (2003).

Awareness-raising and advocacy

ESCAP disseminates information about prevention of violence against women and trafficking, and encourages stakeholder participation in such efforts. It organizes panel discussions, film festivals and screenings to increase awareness among different stakeholders. For example, ESCAP has facilitated the production and screening of a short film on five young men speaking about violence against women and gender equality, called Young Men Speak Out, available in VCD format.

At the third session of UNESCAP's Committee on Emerging Social Issues, 12 to 14 December 2006, the Executive Secretary emphasized the importance of advancing gender equality and women's economic empowerment and called attention to the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women. Copies of the study were circulated to all Member States and Observers. The Committee considered the document entitled "Emerging issues and challenges related to gender and development" (E/ESCAP/CESI (3)/3) which covered the key findings of and recommendations of the Secretary-General's study.

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2007, the United Nations system celebrated with a panel presentation and discussion, exhibition, and film screening on the global theme of 'Ending impunity for violence against women'. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP and Executive Director of UNAIDS called for universal respect for women's human rights and an end to all forms of violence against women and impunity. Copies of the Secretary-General's study were widely distributed.

Future activities

As recommended by the expert group meeting of April 2007, ESCAP will undertake regional studies to further document the unknown forms of harmful traditional practices of violence against women and girls in the Asian and Pacific region in the near future. The first sub-regional study will focus on the East Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific regions and the second sub-regional study will focus on the South Asia region.

In July 2007, ESCAP plans to hold an expert group meeting with the participation of law-makers and national machineries for the advancement of women from the region. The meeting entitled "CEDAW for National Machineries and Senior Law-making Officials on How to Effectively Integrate and Implement the CEDAW at the National Level to Promote the Human Rights of Women" will include discussions related to the review of laws and procedures and the enactment of new laws for the protection of women against violence, especially domestic violence in the formal and informal legal systems.

ESCAP will also work on developing an electronic mechanism to link the knowledge base of the Gender and Development Section with the national machineries for the advancement of women in order to communicate and disseminate research findings and successful strategies and good practices in addressing violence against

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Discussion paper on *Trafficking and the Human Rights of Women: Using the CEDAW Convention and Committed to Strengthen National and International Responses to Trafficking in Women and Girls*, 2005, available at <http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Issues/Trafficking/Discussion%20Paper-EGM2005.pdf>

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Combating Human Trafficking in Asia: A Resource Guide to International and Regional Legal Instruments, Political Commitments and Recommended Practices, 2003, available at <http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Publication/Trafficking-File1.pdf> , <http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Publication/Trafficking-File2.pdf>

Discussion Paper on *Elimination of Violence against Women in Partnership with Men*, 2003, available at <http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Publication/DiscussionPapers/15/series15-main-text.pdf>

Discussion Paper on *Women and Violence, Human Rights and Armed Conflict*, 2000, available at <http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Publication/DiscussionPapers/07/series7.pdf>

Discussion Paper on *Violence against women in South Asia - Subregional overview, Violence against women in Bangladesh*, 1999, available at <http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Publication/DiscussionPapers/03/series3.pdf>

Report of the Regional Conference on *Trafficking in Women*, 3-4 November 1998

Address/Websites

ESCAP

Gender and Development Section, Emerging Social Issues Division,
United Nations Building, 6th Floor, Rajadmnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand

www.unescap.org

<http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Issues/Violence/index.asp>

<http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Issues/Trafficking/index.asp>

<http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Issues/Humansecurity/index.asp>

<http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Issues/CSEC/index.asp>

<http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Issues/Humanrights/index.asp>

v. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Background

As the regional arm of the United Nations in Western Asia, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) promotes the economic and social development of its Member States through regional and sub-regional cooperation and integration. ESCWA has a general mandate to carry out regional reviews of progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of international conferences and summits. The ESCWA Centre for Women was established in 2003 to improve the status of women by empowering them economically, socially and politically. The Centre also services the Committee on Women, an inter-governmental body.

Policy framework

See main instruments listed above.

Area(s) of focus

ESCWA addresses issues related to violence against women at the regional level within the overall context of economic and social development, and their close links to peace and security. It aims to enhance inter-agency coordination and collaboration among United Nations entities working on women's issues, including on violence against women, in the Western Asia/Arab region.

Main activities

Policy development

ESCWA supports the work of intergovernmental bodies, including the Arab Regional Conference Ten Years after Beijing: A Call for Peace in Beirut (2004), which resulted in the five-year work programme that includes women's rights and violence against women among its five priority areas. In 2004, ESCWA conducted the Arab regional ten-year review and appraisal of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, which included attention to violence against women.

Research

ESCWA contributes to the Secretary-General's reports on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women. To that end, ESCWA analyses the close links between increased poverty and social burdens and increased domestic violence against women.

Awareness-raising and advocacy

ESCWA undertakes awareness-raising efforts through meetings, regional conferences and seminars. The ESCWA Centre for Women devoted the March 2007 issue of its newsletter to the subject of violence against women in the ESCWA region; the newsletter was distributed on International Women's Day 2007 as part of the global effort to call attention to this important issue.

Future activities

ESCWA will focus on the persistent and emerging types of violence against women arising from political instability. It intends to publish the "Follow-up to the ten-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women."

Under overall coordination of ECLAC, and in collaboration with DAW and other regional commissions, ESCWA will embark on a project to enhance capacities to eradicate violence against women. Submitted for funding through the Development Account and pending approval by the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, the project aims to improve policy makers' skills to identify and manage violence against women. ESCWA will be responsible for establishing a knowledge community, implementing information

systems and developing good practices in five ESCWA region countries, as well as providing training to stakeholders in these countries.

Further to that and during its twenty-fourth inter-ministerial session held in Beirut 8-11 May 2006, ESCWA adopted resolution 278 (XXIV) on “increasing the role of women in decision making with respect to conflict prevention and peace building”. Operative paragraph 1 of the ESCWA resolution “affirmed the need, for member countries and the secretariat, to accord special attention to the needs of women living in unstable conditions the requisite importance in their plans and programmes”. Based on that resolution, ESCWA convened an expert group meeting in Abu Dhabi on 13 March 2007 to address the issue of advancement of women -- economically, socially, psychologically and physically -- under conflict situations and to recommend measures to address and reduce all forms of violence against women during conflict. The recommendations of the expert group meeting were presented to the Third Committee on Women for adoption by the Arab member states at the meeting in Abu Dhabi on 14-15 March 2007.

Bibliography

Arab regional ten-year review and appraisal of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, E/ESCWA/WOM/2004/IG.1/3 dated 1 July 2004

Address/Websites

ESCWA

P.O. Box 11-8575, Riad El-Solh 1107 2812, Beirut, Lebanon

www.escwa.org.lb

<http://www.escwa.org.lb/ecw/index.asp>

2. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Background

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP works with countries to build their own solutions to global and national development challenges and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. UNDP helps developing countries attract and use aid effectively and encourages the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women in all its activities.

Policy framework

See main instruments listed above.

Area(s) of focus

UNDP focuses on all types of violence against women, including vulnerabilities arising out of trafficking in women and children, HIV/AIDS, disaster, conflict and post-conflict situations.

Main activities

Operational activities

UNDP supports the development of national strategies on protection for victims of domestic violence, and the development of legislation addressing domestic violence. UNDP's 2006-2007 Plan of action for mainstreaming gender perspectives in crisis prevention and recovery addresses violence against women in the context of conflict and post-conflict situations.

UNDP supports and undertakes the development of training modules for policy makers, law enforcement agencies and communities aimed at addressing violence against women, and contributes to capacity development at national and local levels. UNDP supports the provision of free legal service, counselling, mediation and rehabilitation, as well as micro-enterprise activities.

UNDP has developed gender equality and crisis prevention and recovery training materials for technical staff of its Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery. UNDP has trained 13 UNDP offices in conflict and post-conflict situations on gender mainstreaming for country programming.

UNDP supports research for policy development, the collection of data disaggregated by sex and the development of databases on gender issues.

Awareness-raising and advocacy

UNDP advocates for the elimination of violence against women and raises awareness by promoting national and local campaigns, including the "16 days of activism against gender violence" and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. At country level, UNDP supports radio and TV shows that address violence against women, as well as production of posters and other public announcements.

The GenderNet forum on UNDP's website helps to disseminate, develop and manage knowledge on elimination of violence against women. Topics discussed on GenderNet include: comparative experiences in the development of a national strategy for the protection of victims of domestic violence (10 November 2004), and comparative experiences on violence against women (20 April 2004).

Address/Websites

UNDP

One United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017

<http://www.undp.org/women/>

<http://www.undp.org/rblac/gender/>

society, governmental and United Nations partners at the national, regional and global levels. Since the Trust Fund began operation in 1997, it has awarded US\$13 million in grants to 226 initiatives in 109 countries. In 2005, UNIFEM also launched a regional replication of the Trust Fund in the Arab region for a period of three years. A revised Trust Fund strategy for the period 2005–2008 was approved in 2004 to improve its impact, involvement, knowledge, efficiency and resources. Grant making now focuses on securing and supporting implementation of existing laws and policies in all regions to address the multiple forms of violence against women. The Trust Fund also, through a special window, supports interventions that address the intersection of violence against women and HIV/AIDS, with a view to reduce (1) violence against women as an effective HIV/AIDS preventive measure, and (2) violence against women as a function of

which will also support expansion of the evidence base, as well as feed into advocacy efforts of the Global Coalition.

Under the revised Trust Fund Strategy, UNIFEM and the World Bank developed an evaluation methodology and guide to measure the impact of initiatives to address violence against women. Currently, a monitoring and evaluation strategy is being rolled out and built into a number of Trust Fund projects, with the aim to strengthen the Trust Fund's overall approach to evaluation and to build grantees' capacity in evaluation in support of a better evidence-base on effective responses to the multiple manifestations of violence against women and to enhance the sustainability of institutions and interventions to end such violence.

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Let's End Violence Against Women (Public Service Announcement) 2007, Leo Burnett and United Nations Development Fund for Women, http://www.unifem.org/resources/item_detail.php?ProductID=87

Creating Economic Opportunities for Women in Albania:

3. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Background

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

Policy framework

See main instruments above.

Area(s) of focus

UNEP undertakes awareness-raising among staff members on the Secretary-General's Bulletins. It has circulated and encouraged discussions on these policies

Future activities

UNEP plans to hold yearly briefings on the Secretary-General's bulletins.

Address/websites

UNEP

United Nations Avenue, Gigiri, P.O. Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya

www.unep.org

4. United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Background

The Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is mandated to provide international protection to refugees and to promote durable solutions for them. UNHCR also works in partnership with other agencies to help internally displaced persons, stateless persons and others who are in a refugee-like situation as well as returnees. UNHCR defines protection as “all actions aimed at ensuring the equal access to and enjoyment of the rights of women, men, girls and boys of concern to

Prevention and Response, which was an update of its existing 1995 guidelines. The guidelines have been published in the six United Nations languages and in 13 other languages, and have been distributed to persons of concern, government counterparts, and implementing and operational partners. In addition, a Handbook on

continued concern that women and girls are frequently exposed to sexual violence when collecting firewood. In coordination with NGO partners, UNHCR will soon launch a safe school initiative that seeks to ensure that SGBV in schools is prevented and addressed. For the year 2007, in addition to the existing annual budget which already includes activities to address SGBV, the High Commissioner has made available an additional USD 3.8 million to increase field activities to combat SGBV. The organization is conducting a global independent evaluation of its prevention and response activities on SGBV in the second half of 2007, to be completed in 2008. UNHCR has initiated a “Women Leading for Livelihoods” project to support the economic empowerment of displaced women and girls to reduce their exposure to survival sex and to meet their basic needs.

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Guidelines on International Protection: Gender-Related Persecution within the content of Article 1 A(2) of the 1951 Convention and /or its 1967 Protocol relating to the status of Refugees, UNHCR, 2002.

Introductory Training Manual: Building a Common Conceptual Understanding among Humanitarian and Development Workers on Gender, Women’s Rights and Gender Based Violence (including Sexual Abuse and Exploitation), UNHCR, 2003.

Gender Training Kit on Refugee Protection and Resource Handbook, UNHCR 2003

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against Refugees, Returnees and Internally Disp

5. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

Background

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was founded in the aftermath of the Arab-Israeli conflict of 1948 to support the needs of Palestine refugees. Today, it provides education, primary health, relief, social and microfinance services to a population of 4.3 million registered Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Agency also delivers emergency assistance at times of conflict, including the occupied Palestinian territory since 2000, and Lebanon during the conflict of summer, 2006.

Policy framework

See main instruments listed above.

Area(s) of focus

UNRWA's services in education, health and social services provide women and girls the basic elements for sound human development and social safety. UNRWA is also working on developing a gender mainstreaming strategy to ensure that all programme activity undertaken is done incorporating fully the objective of gender equality, including combating gender-based violence.

Main activities

Operational activities

UNRWA supports women's programme centres in all refugee communities. These centres provide awareness-raising and support sessions for women on gender-based violence. Some centres also provide legal advice. Women's programme centres have kindergartens where staff can detect possible situations involving abuse of children and women in the home. Counselling and advice are provided if abuse is suspected. Violence against women and children is also addressed more indirectly through theatre and role playing.

In the context of armed conflict and the ongoing crisis in the occupied Palestinian territory, UNRWA supports women with the provision of temporary employment, with psycho-social support to family members, provision of shelter and emergency food and cash support. This emergency support is critical considering the drastic economic and social decline being experienced by Palestinians in the occupied territory, and that has been a major contributing factor to increased levels of social violence, including gender-based violence.

Future activities

UNRWA-supported women's programme centres regularly assess the needs of the community and adapt activities. As abuse and violence is a growing phenomenon that is also increasingly more easily discussed and addressed, the centres may prioritize more time and resources to helping victims of violence.

UNRWA is currently undertaking a concentrated pilot effort to reduce the incidence of violence in its schools in Gaza. This is a growing problem as both political and social violence are on the rise.

Addresses/Websites

UNRWA HQ Gaza

c/o P.O. Box 140157, Amman 11814, Jordan

www.un.org/unrwa/

6. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Background

The United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) is mandated to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. UNICEF is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and strives to establish children's rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behaviour towards children.

Policy framework

See main instruments listed above. UNICEF is also guided by the Mid-Term Strategic Plan 2005-2010, which prioritizes promotion of gender equality and programming to protect children from violence.

Area(s) of focus

UNICEF works on different manifestations of gender-based violence, depending on the particular country or context. These include: female genital mutilation/cutting, early marriage, trafficking, sexual exploitation, sexual violence, domestic violence, and violence in schools. UNICEF has been particularly focused on violence against women and girls in armed conflict.

Main activities

Policy development

In October 2006, together with OHCHR and WHO, UNICEF launched the UN Secretary-General's study on violence against children. The study examined violence against children in a range of settings including: home and family, schools, workplace, institutions, and in the community. The study identifies violence against girls as a priority issue and acknowledges that girls face greater risks of neglect and sexual violence than boys.

states develop and implement systematic national data collection and research, calling for the disaggregating of data by sex and emphasising this as a factor in strengthening child protection.

UNICEF, together with the Body Shop published a report “Behind Closed Doors”, on the impact of domestic violence on children.

Operational activities

Much of UNICEF’s work on gender-based violence focuses on capacity-building, with all regions increasingly prioritizing this aspect, as well as the development of a protective environment. Emphasis is placed on training those who can address violence against girls and women, such as the police, the judiciary, and teachers. For example, both the West and Central Africa region and the East and Southern Africa region have developed

7. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Background

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is mandated to promote the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA extends assistance to countries at their request to ensure that reproductive health needs are met; population issues are addressed; and awareness of these issues is enhanced in all countries.

Policy framework

See main instruments listed above. In addition, UNFPA is guided by and promotes the principles of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (1994), which also calls for the elimination of violence against women as cornerstones for population and development policies.

Area(s) of focus

UNFPA focuses on the following forms of violence against women throughout different life cycle phases:

1. Prenatal: Prenatal sex selection, battering during pregnancy, coerced pregnancy (rape during war)
2. Infancy: Female infanticide, emotional and physical abuse, differential access to food and medical care
3. Childhood: Genital cutting/mutilation, incest and sexual abuse, differential access to food, medical care, and education, child prostitution
4. Adolescence: Dating and courtship violence, early marriage, economically coerced sex, sexual abuse in the workplace, rape, sexual harassment, forced prostitution
5. Reproductive: Abuse of women by intimate partners, marital rape, dowry abuse and murders, partner homicide, psychological abuse, sexual abuse in the workplace, sexual harassment, rape, abuse of women with disabilities
6. Old age: Abuse of widows, elder abuse (which affects mostly women).

Main activities

Policy development/research

UNFPA undertakes research and studies, for example on the socio-cultural context of violence against women, on masculinity, fatherhood, men as offenders and as protectors including religious leaders and military

home without risking their health and well-being. UNFPA is working jointly with UNICEF on the prevention and treatment of sexual and gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

UNFPA promotes availability of services to victims of violence, including counselling for affected groups such as young people, pregnant women, the displaced and refugees. This entails strengthening referral networks, infrastructure and local capacity, including shelters, safe houses and legal and psychological services.

Awareness-raising and advocacy

UNFPA advocates for keeping gender-based violence in the spotlight at the global level as a major health and human rights concern. It supports and advocates for (i) the implementation of international agreements and conventions and of laws and policies related to gender-based violence as well as government accountability; (ii) the integration of action to address gender-based violence into policy frameworks; (iii) attention to the macro-economic impact of gender-based violence and the costs of interventions to prevent it; (iv) the inclusion of the costs of gender-based violence in gender equality and health accounts and the provision of more resources for such efforts; (v) public education campaigns; (vi) the mapping of existing programmes and projects and the sharing of good practices to address violence against women across regions; and (vii) the integration of training on gender-based violence into the curricula of schoolteachers, healthcare providers, the police, the judiciary, planners and statisticians. UNFPA advocates for the elimination of violence against women with parliamentarians and women's national networks. UNFPA supports the Global Call to Action to End Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict, to improve effectiveness and accountability in this area.

Future activities

UNFPA and WHO are preparing to host a technical meeting on indicators and measures on sexual violence and exploitation in conflict situations aimed at designing a programme of routine surveillance, assessment, monitoring and reporting. In collaboration with UNIFEM, UNFPA will support comprehensive programmes on violence against women in several countries, including review of legislation, advocacy activities and capacity-building of police and judiciary.

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Beijing at Ten: UNFPA's Commitment to the Platform of Action, UNFPA, 2005

Training Workshop on Leadership, Media & Conflict Management for Women in Afghanistan, UNFPA, 2004

Addressing Violence against Women: Piloting and Programming, UNFPA/AIDOS, 2003

The Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Girls, UNFPA, 2002

Workshop on Leadership, Media & Conflict Management for Women in Afghanistan, UNFPA, 2002

Activities on prevention and response to violence against women vary from country to country. Examples of WFP's country-level efforts include the following:

In collaboration with Relief International, WFP implemented a food-supported training programme on fuel-efficient stove-making that aimed at tackling sexual and gender-based violence in North Darfur by reducing the need for, and the time women spend outside camps collecting firewood.

The issue of violence against women was thoroughly investigated during the last Food Security and Nutrition assessment in Darfur, Sudan, and a specifi

10. United Nations University (UNU)

Background

United Nations University's (UNU) mission is to contribute, through research and capacity building, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems that are the concern of the United Nations, its peoples and Member States. The UNU acts as an international community of scholars; a bridge between the United Nations and the international academic community; a think-tank for the United Nations system; and a builder of capacities, particularly in developing countries

Policy framework

See main instruments above.

Areas of focus

Violence against women has been addressed in projects under UNU's Peace and Governance Programme, including studies on women and children in post-conflict peace-building and on trafficking.

Address/Websites

UNU

5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8925

www.unu.edu

12. United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW)

Background

The United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW) carries out and promotes research and training programmes to contribute to the empowerment of women and the achievement of gender equality worldwide. By stimulating and assisting the efforts of inter-governmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations, UN-INSTRAW plays a critical role in advancing the global agenda of gender equality, development and peace.

Policy framework

See main instruments listed above.

Area(s) of focus

INSTRAW's Gender, Peace and Security Programme promotes gender equality and women's full and equal participation in the realms of peacekeeping, peace processes, post-conflict reconstruction and the reform of security institutions. INSTRAW's research and capacity-building initiatives focus specifically on security sector reform, violence against women and the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

Main activities

Working with other UN bodies, international and regional organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia and the media, INSTRAW prioritizes initiatives that ensure the right to peace and security for women, men, girls and boys in three main areas:

Promoting gendered security sector reform – INSTRAW has developed a conceptual framework and concrete tools on gender and security sector reform (SSR) that aim to guide an analysis of security institutions, policies and processes (including the military, the police, border guards, private security firms, civil society and other actors), facilitate effective mainstreaming of women's issues, and ensure an effective and appropriate response to gendered insecurities, including violence against women. In 2006, INSTRAW, in collaboration with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), established the Gender and Security Sector Reform Working Group, which brings together key groups and individuals working on gender and reform of security institutions, and serves as an initiator, resource and facilitator for efforts to mainstream gender issues into SSR initiatives, policies and tools.

Contributing to the eradication of violence against women - In 2001, INSTRAW commissioned 6 working papers on ending men's violence against women, which explore different partnerships for ending violence against women, and men's roles and responsibilities within these partnerships. In 2003, the Institute launched a collaborative research programme and online seminar/discussion to encourage a more holistic and collective response to violence against women by focusing on masculinities and male roles. In collaboration with UNDP's Sub-Regional Resource Facility for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC-SURF), INSTRAW developed a manual and training tool for improving the response to violence against women provided by public security institutions, including government, the police, the judiciary and other relevant actors. The tool aims to help users assess the existing response to violence against women, and design, implement and monitor more effective and appropriate policies and programmes. The tool also generated a training module that has been implemented with security-sector actors in El Salvador and the Dominican Republic.

Supporting the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) – INSTRAW has produced *Securing equality, engendering peace: A guide to policy and planning on women, peace and security (SCR1325)*. This guide concentrates on the creation of action plans on women, peace and security in order to ensure the full, effective and sustainable implementation of Security Council resolution 1325. The purpose of this guide is to help facilitate the development of realistic action plans on women, peace and security through the provision of good practices, specific recommendations and a

six-step model process. The guide is designed as a resource for governments, United Nations and regional organizations as well as non-governmental organizations. Based on a review of existing action plans in countries such as Canada, Norway, and the United Kingdom, among others, the manual provides concrete guidelines and processes for reaching agreement at the national and institutional levels.

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Grieg, Alan. *Political Connections: Men, Gender and Violence*: INSTRAW Working Paper Series on Men's Roles and Responsibilities in Ending Gender Based Violence (no.1), 2001.

Rashid, Maria.

13. United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)

Background

UNRISD engages in multidisciplinary research on the social dimensions of contemporary problems affecting development. UNRISD stimulates dialogue and contributes to policy debates on key issues of social development within and outside the United Nations system.

Policy framework

See main instruments above.

Area(s) of focus

14. United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

Background

The mandate of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) is to contribute, through research, training, field activities and the collection, exchange and dissemination of information, to the formulation and implementation of improved policies in the field of crime prevention and control, due regard being paid to the integration of such policies within the broader policies for socio-economic change and development, and the protection of human rights.

Policy framework

See main instruments above.

Area(s) of focus

UNICRI's activities are developed in accordance with the priorities indicated by the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Recently, UNICRI has devoted specific attention to the issue of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, for the purpose of sexual exploitation. In the past, UNICRI has also carried out activities in the field of domestic violence prevention and control.

Main activities

Research

UNICRI's anti-trafficking projects include a specific assessment component aimed at the collection and analysis of information and data on trafficking patterns and modalities, routes and flows and existing counter-trafficking measures.)0272003u UNICRI carried out research in Italy and Nigeria on the trafficking of Nigerian

Germany, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands and United Kingdom).

UNICRI developed a database in Costa Rica, in 2005-06, that collected and analyzed judicial cases of trafficked minors for use by the 8 Offices of the Specialised Prosecutors on Sexual Crimes and Domestic Violence in charge of cases of trafficking in human beings. UNICRI also developed training courses for immigration and border police to strengthen the capacity of immigration personnel and border police in Costa Rica to address cases of trafficking in children for sexual exploitation. In addition, it produced a website on trafficking in minors and commercial sexual exploitation of children, with a special focus on sex tourism and code of conduct for tourism operators.

In 2005-06 UNICRI developed a template database collecting and analyzing judicial cases of trafficked minors in Thailand that became part of a broader trafficking database developed at the national level. Furthermore, UNICRI developed a multi-disciplinary training manual for all the stakeholders involved in preventing and tackling trafficking in minors in Thailand. Three major training courses took place in provinces (Ayutthaya, Chiang Mai and Song Khla) particularly exposed to the phenomenon of trafficking.

In Ukraine, in 2005-06, UNICRI focused especially on training and prevention/awareness-raising activities. In particular, UNICRI developed training courses for specialists working for the national hotline on trafficking dealing with children.

As a follow-up to the programme of action against trafficking in minors for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation, UNICRI is currently carrying out in Costa Rica specialized training for judges and prosecutors on techniques for conducting interviews and assessing testimony of child victims and witnesses. Within the same context and in collaboration with Fundaciòn Paniamor, UNICRI is also currently providing training for hotline operators on the specific issues of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Furthermore, as follow-up of the activities carried out in

Future activities

UNICRI will implement another programme to address the trafficking of women and adolescents from Nigeria to Italy (duration of the programme: 24 months).

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UNICRI, *Trafficking in women: The Czech Republic perspective*. ICSP Publications, 2004

Address/Websites

UNICRI

Viale Maestri del Lavoro, 10, 10127 Turin, Italy

www.unicri.it

Information on counter-trafficking activities

Databases

International Legal Repository

http://www.unicri.it/wwd/trafficking/legal_framework/index.php

International Repository of Institutions against Sexual Exploitation of Minors

<http://www.unicri.it/wwd/trafficking/irisem/index.php>

Bibliography on Trafficking in Human Beings

<http://www.unicri.it/wwd/trafficking/bibliography/index.php>

15. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Background

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) is the main

Recent fundraising efforts by UNAIDS and the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS helped establish a window in the United Nations Trust Fund to End Viol

16. International Labour Organization (ILO)

Background

The International Labour Organization (ILO) formulates and monitors implementation of international labour standards in the form of policies, conventions and recommendations, and provides technical assistance.

Policy framework

See main instruments above. In a

gender-sensitive and regulated migration policies as a key preventive strategy, while also strengthening migration and employment management capacity aimed at reducing trafficking in women. The project is also providing social, economic and psychological support to victims of trafficking.

ILO's approach to violence against migrant women is based on a strategy of preventing exploitation and abuse through promoting gender-sensitive regulated and managed migration policies, bi-lateral and multilateral agreements and promotion of labour standards for migrant workers within a Decent Work framework. Important standards to specifically promote the protection and welfare of migrant workers, including women, are the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised) 1949 (No.97), Migrant Workers Supplementary Provisions Convention 1975, (NO.143) and the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (NO.181). In 2005, a tripartite Meeting of Experts formally adopted a key framework document for promoting a rights-based strategy for migration policy, ie the non-binding Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration. This document provides guidance to constituents on strengthening migration policies within a normative framework, while also giving examples of good practices from around the world, including a number that address the vulnerability of migrant women workers.

The ILO has developed tools specifically dealing with the protection and the promotion of the rights of migrant women. The ILO Guide on Preventing Discrimination, Exploitation and Abuse of Migrant Women Workers covers the full migration cycle from pre-departure to reintegration in the country of origin, including a specific module on trafficking. The Guide has been used extensively to build the capacity of ILO constituents in protecting migrant women workers and preventing abusive situations. It is currently available in 10 languages. ILO through its International Migration Branch has specific technical cooperation activities on trafficking.

ILO's SafeWork programme addresses the issue of sexual harassment and other violence at work by means of an interactive programme known as SOLVE, which is designed to assist in the development of policy and action to address psychosocial issues at the workplace.

Future activities

ILO will continue working with governments and social partners to improve laws and strengthen approaches to dealing with violence at work including sexual harassment. ILO plans to continue research on other forms of violence at work including mobbing and bullying; strengthen data gathering on workplace violence and harassment in developing countries; and work to ensure that all aspects of violence against women are addressed at the country level through Decent Work Country Programmes.

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Address/Websites

ILO

4 Route des Morillons, CH-1211 Geneva 22 Switzerland

www.ilo.org

17. Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Background

The mandate of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is to raise levels of

18. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Background

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) functions as a laboratory of ideas and a standard-setter to forge universal agreements on emerging ethical issues. The Organization also serves as a clearinghouse – for the dissemination and sharing of information and knowledge – while helping Member States to build their human and institutional capacities in diverse fields. UNESCO is working to create the conditions for genuine dialogue based upon respect for shared values and the dignity of each civilization and culture.

Policy framework

See main instruments above.

Area(s) of focus

UNESCO primarily addresses the following types of violence against women: inter-personal violence in and out of schools; trafficking in women; women in conflict and post-conflict situations (including the use of rape as a weapon of war). Activities cover various fields of education; the natural sciences; the social and human sciences; culture; and communications and information.

UNESCO has a two-pronged approach to violence against women:

A behavioural approach. Through education and with the help of ICTs, UNESCO seeks to build commitment to peace and non-violence in the minds of men and women. This includes the promotion of gender-sensitive human rights education and non-violent conflict resolution approaches. UNESCO's Human Rights Education programme seeks to bring about a profound reform of education in order to transform attitudes and behaviours that condone violence. It touches upon curriculum development, in-service and pre-service training, textbooks, methodology, classroom management, and the organization of the education system at all levels.

A structural approach. Notably through its Social and Human Sciences and Culture Sector programmes, UNESCO looks at the structural causes of violence against women and seeks to encourage holistic and culturally appropriate policy responses towards their elimination.

Main activities

Policy development/research

UNESCO (Social and Human Science Section) undertakes research on the causes and social structures that foster violence against women. As part of its research activities for the ten-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, UNESCO produced a conceptual framework for qualitative and quantitative information on women's empowerment. One of the 7 sets of indicators pertains to women's bodily integrity and health, including data on the prevalence of female genital mutilation; sexual abuse of women; and physical abuse against women by an intimate partner.

In implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325, UNESCO, in collaboration with partners from the University of Hull (UK) and the Center for Human Rights, University of Pretoria (South Africa), launched a research programme on women's rights for peace and security in post conflict democracies in Africa. The aim of this program is to develop policy recommendations that address obstacles, such,y

Operational activities

In the area of education, UNESCO has produced peace education kits and training in non-violent conflict resolution, which also aim to reduce violence against women (e.g: Education for a Culture of Peace in a Gender Perspective (training manual) in English (2001) and French (2003)).

UNESCO seeks to promote gender equality in primary and secondary education through curriculum reform. The main focus of this work is on identifying gender biases and stereotypes in curricula and textbooks and developing strategies to address them. These efforts address hidden/structural forms and causes of violence against women. In this context and on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, UNESCO organized an International Round Table “School related gender-based violence (SRGBV): role and responsibility of stakeholders” (Nov 2006), with the presence of Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, independent expert for the Secretary-General’s study on violence against children. The conclusions of the roundtable were widely disseminated, particularly within the African region. As a follow up to the conference, SRGBV is being integrated in the work currently undertaken in Western and Central Africa in the context of

19. World Health Organization (WHO)

Background

WHO has carried out a multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women, aimed at

guidelines for medico-legal care for victims of sexual violence have been pilot-tested in Jordan, Nicaragua and the Philippines.

Follow-up activities to the *WHO World report on violence and health, 2002*, include launches in over 50 countries, national reports on violence and health, and the appointment of focal points on violence in ministries of health in almost 100 countries. The Pan-American Health Organization has developed a model of laws and policies on domestic violence against women that has been validated by four countries in the region and will be

Krug EG et al., eds. *World report on violence and health*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2002. (In particular see: Heise L and Garcia-Moreno C, Violence by intimate partners (chapter 4) and Jewkes R, Sen P and Garcia-Moreno C, Sexual violence (chapter 6)).
http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/en/index.html

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impact of their efforts and improve the evidence base

22. Inter-agency mechanisms

a. Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE)

Background

The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) brings together the gender equality specialists of all United Nations offices, funds and programmes, and specialized agencies. The Network

b. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)

Background

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) is a unique inter-agency forum for coordination, policy development and decision-making involving the key United Nations and non-United Nations humanitarian partners. Together with the Executive Committee for Humanitarian Affairs, the IASC forms the key strategic coordination mechanism among major humanitarian actors.

According to General Assembly resolution 46/182, the IASC is intended to be composed of all operational organizations and with a standing invitation to the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the International Organization for Migration. Relevant non-governmental organizations can be invited to participate on an ad hoc basis.

Policy framework

See main instruments above. The IASC was established in response to United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/182 on the strengthening of humanitarian assistance. General Assembly resolution 48/57 affirmed its role as the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance.

Area(s) of focus

The IASC Task Force on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance addresses gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, and in humanitarian settings. It is co-chaired by OCHA and WHO.

Main activities

Policy development

The IASC Task Force on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance issued a statement of commitment on actions to address gender-based violence, re-emphasizing members' individual and collective responsibility to undertake concerted action aimed at preventing gender-based violence, ensuring appropriate care and follow-up for

23. International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Background

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. While not part of the United Nations system, IOM maintains close working relations with United Nations bodies and operational agencies, as well as with a wide range of international and non-governmental organizations. In addition, IOM is the designated cluster leader for camp management in humanitarian settings for natural disasters. Through its gender mainstreaming policy adopted in 1995, IOM is committed to ensuring that the particular needs of all migrant women are identified, taken into consideration and addressed by IOM projects and services.

Policy framework

See main instruments above.

Area(s) of focus

IOM's main focus, with respect to violence against women, is on counter-trafficking, violence against women migrants, including women migrant workers and reduction of HIV vulnerabilities. It also addresses traditional practices such as female genital mutilation. The Organization is particularly attentive to violence against women in the context of complex emergencies and natural disasters, where women and children are disproportionately targets of abuse.

In this regard, it undertakes prevention activities; provides assistance to those affected by violence and/or trafficking; and provides assistance to trafficked victims for their voluntary return to countries of origin and their reintegration. IOM also facilitates access to voluntary counselling and testing of HIV and referral for treatment where needed for rape victims and for migrants to ensure universal access to HIV prevention, AIDS treatment, care and support.

Main activities

Research

IOM also implements a cross border project at Beitbridge, Zimbabwe and for internally displaced persons in Colombia to assist returnees and facilitate protection of these people, particularly women by building capacities of local entities and liaising with existing health facilities to ensure access to needed health services.

Awareness-raising and advocacy

Revisiting the Human Trafficking Paradigm: The Bangladesh Experience (Part I: Trafficking of Adults). IOM, 2004

Changing Patterns and Trends of Trafficking in Persons in the Balkan Region – Assessment. IOM, July 2004

Is Trafficking in Human Beings Demand Driven? A Multi-Country Pilot Study. IOM, 2003

Counter-trafficking in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. IOM, 2003

First Annual Report on Victims of Trafficking in South Eastern Europe Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe