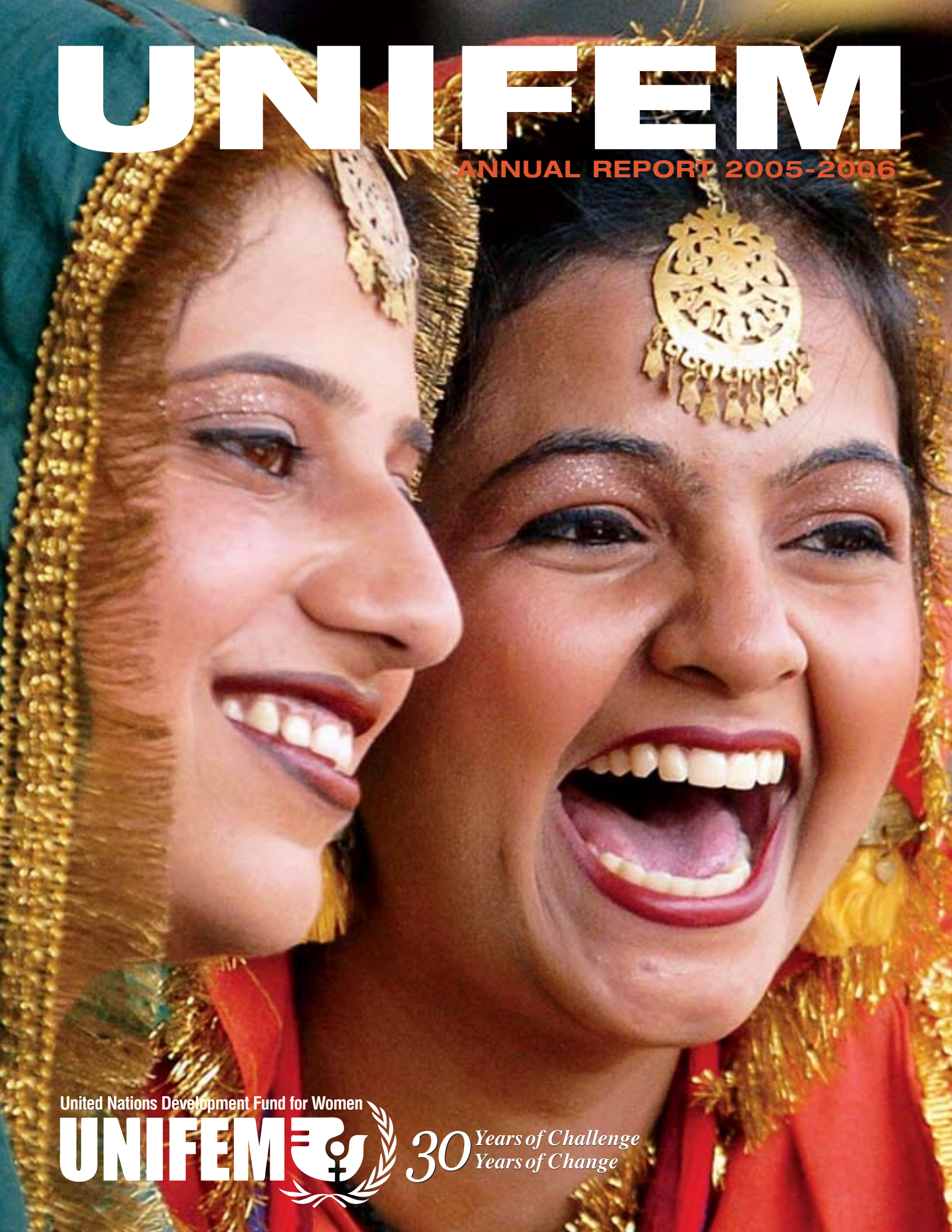


UNIFEM

ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006



United Nations Development Fund for Women



30 *Years of Challenge*
Years of Change

Mission & Mandate

UNIFEM is the women's fund at the United Nations. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programmes and strategies to foster women's empowerment and gender equality. Placing the advancement of women's human rights at the centre of all of its efforts, UNIFEM focuses its activities on four strategic areas:

- Reducing feminized poverty;
- Ending violence against women;
- Reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls;
- Achieving gender equality in democratic governance in times of peace as well as war.

UNIFEM was created by a UN General Assembly resolution in 1976, following a call from women's organizations attending the 1975 UN First World Conference on Women in Mexico City.

UNIFEM's mandate is to:

- Support innovative and experimental activities benefiting women in line with national and regional priorities;
- Serve as a catalyst, with the goal of ensuring the appropriate involvement of women in mainstream development activities, as often as possible at the pre-investment stage;
- Play an innovative and catalytic role in relation to the United Nations' overall system of development cooperation. (GA Resolution 39/125)

Learn more: www.unifem.org/about

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

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Early in its history, UNIFEM recognized the immense potential of women's non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as partners for development activities, a trend later picked up by larger development organizations such as the World Bank. Between 1979 and 1985, the percentage of UNIFEM NGO partners leaped from 6 per cent to 50 per cent. One early UNIFEM partner was the Green Belt Movement in Kenya, which requested support in 1981 for a reforestation and employment project. Thousands of women planted millions of trees, and the movement jump-started a global call for 'development by the people, rather than for the people'. A source of inspiration worldwide, founder Wangari Maathai won the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize.

Milestone

1

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

In 1980, UNIFEM established the UN's first community revolving loan fund in Swaziland. The project transformed UN development strategies by re-interpreting the traditional emphasis on experts, equipment and training. With renewable financial resources rather than handouts, women learned livelihood skills and borrowed money to create their own enterprises, often working in cooperatives. By 1984, the project's success, evidenced by high repayment rates and improved living standards, convinced financial institutions to get on board. While previously 96 per cent of women could not get bank credit, the Swaziland Development and Savings Bank now opened its doors wide to women's businesses, quadrupling available funds.

Milestone

2

Message

**From Kemal Dervis,
Administrator, UNDP**

A Time of Opportunity

This year, UNIFEM celebrates its 30th anniversary, which comes at a time of particular opportunity. At the World Summit in September 2005, world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), giving the development community a renewed mandate to effect change. We must seize this opportunity. The fight against poverty is at its core a mission of empowerment; it is very clear that without vigorous and sustained efforts toward gender equality, half of humanity is not fully participating in this process of empowerment.

In UNIFEM's publication *Progress of the World's Women 2005: Women, Work and Poverty*, we see just how daunting and persistent are the challenges of gender inequity. Women's participation in non-agricultural employment has grown, but at least 60 percent of women workers in developing countries are informally employed. Women also tend to be concentrated in more precarious types of informal work, where earnings are not only meagre but also highly unreliable, and often insufficient to lift families out of poverty. A greater focus on addressing women's informal employment is therefore an important step in reducing poverty and strengthening women's economic security.

This and other insights exemplify UNIFEM's knowledge and experience in putting gender equality and women's empowerment at the centre of efforts to build capacity and achieve the MDGs. UNIFEM has worked to make the most of private-sector and government interventions intended to boost the economic prospects of women around the world. For example, UNIFEM brought together a wide range of companies in the information-technology sector to provide the residents of villages in Jordan, and women in particular, with the skills



needed to gain a competitive edge in the job market. Elsewhere, migrant women workers have reaped benefits from UNIFEM's close collaboration with governments both in countries of origin and destination, which brought about legislation securing better protection for those workers. Success stories like these inspire us all.

Within the UN system, we have been able to count on UNIFEM to coordinate our gender efforts. UNIFEM is leading a new Task Team on Gender in the UN Development Group; as UNGDG Chair, I would like to express my deep appreciation for UNIFEM's work in this role, which helps all of us in the UN system scale up our activity and become more effective in addressing gender inequality. Most of all, however, I would like to add my voice to those congratulating UNIFEM for three decades of achievements as a tireless advocate for women worldwide.

Kemal Dervis

From Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director, UNIFEM

30 Years of Challenge-30 Years of Change

Thirty years ago, the women's movement embarked on a mission to create a women's fund in the United Nations that would dedicate itself to improving women's lives in the developing world. UNIFEM was born. And for three decades it has worked with a wide range of partners to advance women's human rights, to empower women in an unequal world, to help women access social and economic opportunities and to assist countries to achieve societies that are freer of violence, poverty and discrimination.

As Executive Director, I am proud of how UNIFEM has used the power of money, ideas and partnerships to cause change. I have witnessed how investing in women's leadership and participation has brought about economic and social transformation. Where discrimination once existed, today women's human rights are enshrined in constitutions and laws and women participate as political and economic decision-makers from village to parliament and ministerial levels.

It takes persistence to make change happen. As this report shows, UNIFEM's continuous work on key areas of concern and the strong and lasting partnerships formed early on were the basis for much of the successes we can celebrate today. Soon after it was established, for example, UNIFEM started to work extensively with women's organizations. One early partner was the Green Belt Movement whose founder, Wangari Maathai, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004. UNIFEM was also one of the first to insist that women in conflict zones have special needs that must be addressed. Today, we have Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security and are supporting women to actively participate in peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts and assisting them to make their voices heard in post-war elections. We also celebrate the first democratically elected female Head of State in Africa - Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, with whom we had the honour to work in the area of women, war and peace.

Throughout its history, UNIFEM has responded to emerging challenges and embraced new opportunities to advance the women's agenda. We were an early voice in pointing out that the fight against HIV/AIDS can only be won when we also combat gender inequality - a point we have demonstrated by working closely with women and men in the so-called 'Gender Empowerment Zones' described in this report. UNIFEM also took advantage of gender-responsive budget analyses that emerged in the mid-1990s and look into how the allocation of public resources benefits



women and men to address inequalities. By now, we have supported the development of gender-responsive budgets in 30 countries, often resulting in a significant shift in public policies.

Although much has been achieved, much remains to be done. UNIFEM will continue working and meeting challenges, and being a powerhouse for women in the United Nations. We know about the power of partnerships and have remained open to forging new alliances for the benefit of women around the world. The private sector has been an important ally in recent years. In 2005, UNIFEM partnered with Calvert, the largest family of socially responsible mutual funds in the United States, to develop the Calvert Women's Principles, a comprehensive code of corporate conduct focusing on gender equality and women's empowerment. Last, but certainly not least, in early 2006 we welcomed actress Nicole Kidman into our midst as a UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador.

On our 30th anniversary, my wish is for a stronger UNIFEM that can reach more people with power to change the conditions under which women work and live, making the world a more just and equitable place.

Noeleen Heyzer

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

Enacting laws to protect women's rights must be tied to making sure that judicial systems uphold them. UNIFEM has pioneered strategies to ensure that comprehensive forms of gender justice take root, especially in the nascent legal systems of post-conflict countries. UNIFEM assistance helped women in Peru convince the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission to define rape as a weapon of war and to grant reparations to victims of sexual violence. Sierra Leone's Truth and Reconciliation Commission now includes witness protection and trauma counselling for women. UNIFEM is working with the country's Law Reform Commission on drafting new laws against gender-based violence.

Milestone

3

In 1991, at the start of a decade of devastating conflicts, UNIFEM was among the first international agencies to understand that 'gender-neutral' humanitarian assistance often means that women are short changed on resources and vulnerable to abuse. A project in Liberia became an early model for improving displaced women's food security, shelter and income generation. By 1994, UNIFEM had created the African Women in Crisis (AFWIC) programme to link responses to women's immediate humanitarian needs with the provision of skills and resources required once they return home. AFWIC has piloted strategies used across Africa, from legal reforms protecting women refugees to the paired provision of trauma counselling with job skills training.

Milestone

4



Mobilizing Women Voters in the Aftermath of War

On 8 November 2005, Liberian women flocked in large numbers to the polling stations to cast their vote in a presidential run-off election that saw Ellen Johnson Sirleaf emerge as the first democratically chosen female Head of State in Africa.

The large turnout of women could not be taken for granted - this became obvious not long after the registration process started in April 2005 and only

20 per cent of those signing up to vote were female. Gender advocates knew they had to reverse this. Led by the Ministry of Gender and Development, and supported by UNIFEM, they embarked on a major campaign to educate voters and ensure that women's voices would be at the heart of democratic decisions that would pave the way from Liberia's war-ravaged past to a peaceful future.

Mobilizing efforts went into full force. Women



ABOVE: Toward a democratic future: In Liberia, UNIFEM assisted a major voter education campaign.

went from door to door, telling their sisters and daughters, mothers and grandmothers to register to vote. When it turned out that many women working in local markets could not afford to lose a day's income to make the trip to registration centres, volunteers took over their market stalls for a day. Within four weeks, female voter registration peaked at 51 per cent.

In her inaugural speech, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf pledged to "empower Liberian women in all areas of national life". She did not wait to start on this ambitious agenda. Right after the inauguration, a



ABOVE: Women and girls from Darfur. UNIFEM supported the participation of gender experts in the peace talks on the region.

gathering of 200 women served to discuss immediate needs and priorities for future government action with the Minister for Gender and Development and UNIFEM's Executive Director.

In 2005, UNIFEM supported women's political participation in a number of other countries:

- Ahead of the Constitutional Referendum in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNIFEM, together with UNDP and the UN Mission in Congo (MONUC), worked to ensure women's participation through an extensive outreach campaign. More than 50 per cent of all voters were women. The country's new Constitution, which includes key gender equality principles, was adopted by a large majority.
- During the Peace Talks on Darfur, UNIFEM supported the participation of 20 women from Darfur to act as a Gender Expert Support Team and ensure that the negotiations on the peace accords included concrete commitments to women's rights. Together with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), UNIFEM also attached a gender expert to the African Union's Mediation Office to provide daily support to the negotiations, in particular to the 10 women delegates.

Learn more: www.unifem.org/worldwide/africa.php

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

High-stakes peace negotiations have traditionally been closed to women. UNIFEM has helped women convince the world that peace depends on their participation. In 2000, UNIFEM facilitated the participation of Burundian women in the Arusha peace talks - among the first negotiations to welcome women. Most of the women delegates' recommendations appeared in the final accords and later in the new Constitution of Burundi. That same year, UNIFEM was invited to act as a Technical Advisor to the President of the UN Security Council during the Council's first debate on women, peace and security. The result was the watershed Security Council Resolution 1325, which calls for bringing more women to peace tables and into all parts of peacekeeping and reconstruction.

Milestone

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

UNIFEM has sought innovative ways to help poorer women reap the benefits of globalization. In 1996, a pilot project in Burkina Faso connected small-scale women producers of shea butter, traditionally used in cosmetics and skin care, to flourishing international markets. The project introduced technology and collective production methods for more efficient processing and assisted with access to credit. Two central markets provided ready access to buyers, while regular information on the price, quality and supply requirements of the export market strengthened sales negotiations. Following a trade fair that drew international buyers, women producers signed a major contract with the French cosmetics company L'Occitane. Prices rose 50 per cent.

Milestone

6

Africa



Changing Roles - Combating HIV/AIDS

In Mutoko, Zimbabwe, women are no longer alone when it comes to caring for friends and family members with HIV/AIDS. Men in Mutoko have formed a group of volunteers to assist sick neighbours in need of support. They prepare food and fetch water, help with the daily hygiene and provide basic medical care. Or they just spend some time to listen and talk, offering comfort

through company. Men now also work alongside women in community gardens where they grow herbs for use in palliative care for people who are HIV-positive.

The change came about after Mutoko was designated a 'Gender Empowerment Zone' in an effort by UNIFEM to combat HIV/AIDS by focusing on equality between women and men. In training ses-



ABOVE: HIV/AIDS peer counsellors in Senegal during a training session. UNIFEM support to parliamentarians resulted in a draft law for the protection of people living with HIV/AIDS.

sions on gender and human rights, both men and women have come to understand how women's inequality makes them vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, and discussion groups on safe sex have served as an opportunity to talk openly about the use of condoms and about risky behaviour. Youth are included in the education programme, and there are now fewer teenage pregnancies.

Not only men have taken on new roles and attitudes. Women have started their own businesses,

selling sunflower oil, soap and clothes. Financial independence has given them new confidence - to negotiate safe sex, for example, or to take on leadership in their community. A woman now heads the Mutoko AIDS Action Committee, and others are in decision-making positions on the health, agriculture and education committees.

Most importantly, people have come to realize that everybody benefits. "You see, it's not only women who got empowered," says one man. "It is empowering us to be able to do something positive in our lives, like helping those who need our help."

UNIFEM worked throughout Africa and with a number of partners to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls:

- In Senegal, UNIFEM supported women parliamentarians to use the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as a framework for analysing existing laws and identifying practices that discriminate against HIV-positive women. As a result, a draft law for the protection of people living with HIV/AIDS has been tabled in Parliament.
- In Nigeria, UNIFEM was instrumental in ensuring that gender equality and human rights issues became an integral part of the National AIDS Framework. Through the Gender Technical Committee, a mechanism has been put in place to ensure the Framework's implementation.

Learn more: www.unifem.org/gender_issues/hiv_aids
www.genderandaids.org



ABOVE: A demonstrator in Zimbabwe, where UNIFEM's efforts to combat HIV/AIDS have focused on tackling inequality between women and men.

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

Raising the visibility of women's rights in regional institutions improves protection records regionally and nationally. UNIFEM has supported gender initiatives at the Southern African Development Community (SADC) since its inception. In 1997, SADC Heads of State signed the Declaration on Gender and Development, a mandate for adopting policies for women's advancement, and established the SADC Gender Unit. The SADC Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus, created in 2002, has partnered with UNIFEM on advocating for a 30 per cent quota for women in politics - today, eight out of 14 SADC members have a quota system. The African Union has also come on board. In 2003, it adopted a women's rights protocol and a 50 per cent quota for women as commissioners.

Milestone

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

Globally, UNIFEM has been at the vanguard of efforts to ensure that public policies reflect the realities of women's lives, including through the collection of accurate data. An early success story took place in India, where UNIFEM supported the process of the 1991 Census with gender-sensitive definitions of work, which resulted in a 2.6 per cent increase in the recording of the Female Workforce Participation Rate (FWPR). To engender the 2001 exercise more systematically, UNIFEM worked in partnership with the Government, NGOs and UN agencies. The FWPR increased by 3.4 percentage points - approximately 37 million women.

Milestone

8

Asia/Pacific



After the Tsunami: Rebuilding Societies

Ena and her family were among the lucky few who survived the tsunami, but their village in the particularly hard-hit Indonesian province of Aceh was largely destroyed. Left with nothing, Ena applied for a loan through the Matahari Foundation, a local organization supported by UNIFEM, and opened a kiosk. Her small business has been growing quickly and she is now able to make a living.

Rebuilding women's livelihoods has been a key

concern since the tsunami hit. Loans to small enterprises, along with skills and business training, have helped to lay the foundation for a new future. In Indonesia, Somalia and Sri Lanka, hundreds of women living in shelters have been able to count on UNIFEM's support and start business activities that provide an income. Since many women lost their husbands and became heads of households, UNIFEM also conducted joint workshops with Sharia court judges to create awareness on the



LEFT: Living in a camp in Aceh after the tsunami. UNIFEM has assisted women to rebuild their livelihoods and to participate in the reconstruction of the affected areas.

inheritance and banking rights of women and children.

UNIFEM has also worked to ensure that women's perspectives are taken into account in the longer term rebuilding of tsunami-affected areas. In Aceh, where reconstruction efforts have coincided with an agreement between the Government and the Free Aceh Movement to develop a new Law on the Governing of Aceh, the consequences are particularly far-reaching.

At a meeting that brought together 400 Acehnese women, the women expressed the need for more opportunities to interact with local and national authorities and participate in decision-making. To respond to this need, Women's Mobile Discussions were held to ensure that women's voices would be heard at the policy level. As a result of these and other consultations, the draft Law on the Governing of Aceh contains a clause on gender equality and a 30 per cent quota for women in all political parties. Further provisions spell out equal employment opportunities for women as well as their right to independently conduct entrepreneurial activities.

- In 2005, UNIFEM worked in a number of countries to incorporate women's rights into key legislation. Through its programme on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in South-East Asia, the Convention's principles were mainstreamed into the Gender Equality Bill in Viet Nam. Under the same programme, UNIFEM provided recommendations for legislative reform to protect women working in the Philippines, and supported research in Cambodia to inform the National Plan of Action on Violence against Women.

Learn more: www.unifem.org/campaigns/tsunami
www.unifem-eseasia.org/projects/Cedaw

LEFT: Women in Viet Nam, where UNIFEM supported the development of a Gender Equality Bill.



LEFT PHOTO BY JOSH ESTEY-UNICEF. RIGHT PHOTO BY LES STONE-SYGMA/CORBIS

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

In Cambodia, UNIFEM initiated one of the first post-conflict election projects to help women stake a claim in new political processes. Before the 1993 election, a Women's Summit trained women on political advocacy and presented political parties with recommendations to achieve women's equality. Participants soon created some of Cambodia's first women's organizations, while the election resulted in a woman being appointed as the Vice-Minister of Justice. Women's activism shaped the new Constitution, which calls for abolishing all forms of discrimination against women and guarantees women's rights on issues from maternity leave to equal pay. By 2002, a UNIFEM-sponsored voter education campaign contributed to the successful election of nearly 1,000 women into office.

Milestone

9

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

Even as HIV/AIDS exacts a heavy toll from women, public health messages often do not target or reach them. UNIFEM has found innovative ways to make information more available. A partnership with Indian Railways, the world's third largest employer, has produced a massive campaign for railway employees. It uses the Railways' extensive infrastructure of schools, hospitals, training institutes and women's associations - ready-made channels for outreach. Trained peer counsellors now circulate within railway communities with gender-sensitive messages on prevention, care and treatment. Anti-retroviral drugs are provided for free, a telephone helpline answers questions, and a revolving fund offers loans to women affected by HIV/AIDS.

Milestone

10

Asia/Pacific



Protecting the Rights of Migrant Women Workers

We commit to support all efforts against illegal recruitment, human trafficking, or any policy that will violate the human rights of migrant workers, in particular women migrant workers." When recruitment agencies for migrant workers from nine countries in Asia and the Arab States came together in Bangkok at the invitation of UNIFEM, they were determined to take action against unethical operators in their midst. Financial exploitation and

deliberate misinformation of migrant women workers through illegal recruiters lead not only to economic ruin but also to the physical and sexual abuse of countless women who leave their countries in search of a better future abroad.

In the Covenant of Ethical Conduct and Good Practices, adopted in Bangkok, the recruitment agencies agreed on far-reaching business standards geared towards protecting women migrant workers. They committed themselves to informa-



ABOVE: Domestic workers from the Philippines protest against wage cuts in Hong Kong. UNIFEM works in countries of origin and destination to increase protection for women who work abroad.

tion campaigns for migrant workers and employers, to social security and insurance programmes that benefit migrant workers and to the establishment of resource and welfare centres in labour-receiving countries.

Country-specific measures are to complement the regional agreement: In Indonesia, recruitment agencies will create a blacklist of employers known to violate women's rights; in the Philippines, partnerships with law enforcement agencies are to be strengthened to prevent human trafficking; and in Nepal, a combined



ABOVE: A migrant woman in Thailand, where a conference for overseas recruitment agencies resulted in the adoption of ethical business standards.

skills training and loan programme will be set up together with the Government and private sector.

In 2005, UNIFEM's work to increase protection for women migrant workers was targeted at different levels. In Indonesia, where political structures have been largely decentralized, UNIFEM supported the drafting of a local law in the province of Blitar that addresses the dangerous or humiliating situations that can potentially occur at every stage of the migration cycle. The law, which was developed in collaboration with migrant women workers, emphasizes the need for accurate information for women considering work abroad and also spells out requirements such as the presence of a female doctor to conduct pre-departure check-ups.

UNIFEM also partnered with community-based organizations in six Indonesian districts. Through the collaboration, village information centres and skills training programmes are being established, and people intending to seek overseas employment will be able to tap into a database on recruitment agencies to make sure they are in good hands.

Learn more: <http://unifem-eseasia.org/projects/migrant>

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

Since 2002, UNIFEM's responses to Afghanistan's fast-changing circumstances have been instrumental in helping Afghan women grasp opportunities amid the radical changes reshaping their lives. Legal advice, training and support to advocacy were critical for women delegates to the Loya Jirga, which enshrined women's equality in the new Constitution. UNIFEM support to the Ministry of Women's Affairs has led to the development of a National Action Plan on Women. Assistance to the permanent justice institutions is helping to reflect women's perspective in legal reform processes. A national database, set up with UNIFEM support, tracks violence against women in Afghanistan.

Milestone

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

Globally and nationally, UNIFEM has spearheaded efforts to increase women's political participation, a fundamental prerequisite for gender equality and genuine democracy. In Morocco, UNIFEM assistance played a role in successful advocacy for the first political quota in the Arab world. The number of women parliamentarians soared from two to 35 in the 2002 elections. Training programmes for aspiring women politicians helped double the number of women candidates in five Pacific countries. Sustained UNIFEM support in Burundi helped women assume 30 per cent of decision-making positions in the legislature, while several years of training and advocacy helped Rwanda top the world in its percentage of women parliamentarians: 49 per cent in the lower house.

Milestone

12

Arab State



Budgeting for Gender Equality

In Morocco, every second woman does not know how to read or write. In rural areas illiteracy is yet more widespread, affecting three out of four women. The low status of women, combined with poverty, long distances to school and the lack of facilities, prevents girls living in the countryside from receiving even a basic education. To reverse this trend, the Ministry of Education has allocated additional funding to expand the school feeding programmes that have been proven to benefit girls in particular, extend medical services within schools, distribute books and other school mate-

rials, and provide transport for students who live in remote areas.

These measures are spelled out in the gender budget statement, the first in the history of Morocco. Presented as an annex to the national budget for 2006, the statement outlines how the allocation of public resources will address gender equality priorities. It is a result of the close collaboration between UNIFEM and the Ministry of Finance and Privatization that aims at incorporating a gender perspective into the country's ongoing budget reform process.

The new focus on gender concerns is not lim-



ABOVE: Women farmers in Morocco. The country's first gender budget statement has led to an increase in resources for producer cooperatives and women's access to micro-credit.

ited to education. To reduce maternal and child mortality, the Ministry of Health continues to increase spending on family planning and maternal health clinics. It has also committed to improving the quality and outreach of obstetric as well as neonatal medical care. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development identifies the establishment of producer cooperatives, vocational training and women's increased access to micro-credit as priorities in the gender budget statement.

National commitments are complemented at the local level, where UNIFEM has supported addi-

tional gender budget initiatives. In Essaouira, for example, a Women's and Children's Commission now works to sensitize elected officials on women's needs. As one of the first results of the Commission's work, a centre for women victims of violence was established.

- To ensure that national laws and policies reflect women's concerns, UNIFEM also supported the establishment of the Arab Women Parliamentary Network in 2005. Founded as a result of a UNIFEM symposium, the network provides women legislators in the region with an opportunity to seek advice and share experiences on how to overcome the hurdles they face - both in their function as female members of parliament and in trying to support legislation that addresses women's needs.

Learn more: www.unifem.org/gender_issues/women_poverty_economics/gender_budgets.php
www.gender-budgets.org



ABOVE: A parliamentarian in Iraq. UNIFEM helped establish the Arab Women Parliamentary Network. Members share experiences and provide advice to each other.

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*Years of Challenge
Years of Change*

Gender budgets analyse how women and men fare differently under revenues and expenditures in order to redress inequities. Since 1998, UNIFEM has supported the use of this ground-breaking method in 30 countries. Municipalities in Ecuador have used gender budgets to channel more resources into programmes to curb domestic violence. Kenya has eased tax policies to aid women's access to essential commodities. Mexico earmarked 0.85 per cent of the total national budget in 2003 for programmes to promote gender equality, while ministries in India have started in 2005 to provide detailed specifications on allocations benefiting women.

Milestone

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

UNIFEM pioneered some of the earliest demonstrations of how women's progress benefits families and societies. In 1979, the fund backed the first community development programme for rural women in Oman. It integrated income generation, health and literacy. Hundreds of women learned to profit from traditional skills such as sewing and embroidery, and an emphasis on such culturally acceptable activities gave women an entry point to assume new roles as wage earners and community leaders. The project eventually reached 135 villages and 54 settlements, upping family incomes by 15 per cent. By 1994, the Government had created a national community development programme covering half the country.

Milestone

14

Arab State



Working and Learning with Information Technology

When school is out in the Jordanian villages of Lib and Mleih, students feel little inclined to go home these days. Instead, they are gathering in the Computer Clubhouse or the Robotics Lab to playfully use information technology (IT) for their own engineering and design projects and put into practice what they have learned in class.

The extracurricular education programme is

part of a range of new activities in Lib and Mleih. Both communities are labs of sorts themselves since they have been designated 'e-villages' through a joint initiative of the Government of Jordan and UNIFEM that is supported by a number of private sector partners. The aim is to improve the quality of life for the 10,000 residents through modern information and communication technology. Training and hands-on application are



LEFT: Hands-on schooling: In the Jordanian villages of Lib and Mleih, girls use the robotics lab to put into practice what they have learned in class.

geared towards providing villagers, and women in particular, with a competitive edge for their economic activities and with new means for cultural expression.

This is a learning experience that taps the creative energy of children and adults alike: In the newly established film club, girls and boys are busy producing videos that will be screened during an international film contest. And at the first community radio station in the Arab region, another broadcast is getting ready to go on the air.

Not everything that's innovative in Lib and Mleih is also new: At the mosaic workshop, jobs are created by combining ancient craft with modern technology. Here, women learn not only how to produce colourful traditional tiles but also how to use the Internet to market their products. Women also benefit from the e-villages' IT Academy, where they receive training and can obtain certifications that improve their access to the labour market. The trainers are as enthusiastic as their students: "Training women of my village and giving them the opportunity to gain skills that can help them find better jobs is the best reward for me," says Mai Al Shora, who heads the IT Academy.

- UNIFEM support also enabled women in the West Bank to increase their qualifications. At the UNIFEM women's centres in Talfet and Allar,

women who dropped out of school years ago can attend classes preparing them for the tawjihi. Students must take this comprehensive exam at the end of their senior high school year to obtain a general diploma that enables them to proceed to university.

Learn more: <http://unifem.org/jo>
www.unifem.org/worldwide/arab_states.php

LEFT: At two UNIFEM women's centres in the West Bank, women can prepare for a comprehensive exam that enables them to proceed to university.



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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

UNIFEM turns to the milestone commitments of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as a powerful advocacy tool. In 1999, at a time when only a handful of Arab States had signed the Convention, the fund convened one of the first public discussions on CEDAW and Islamic Sharia. A network of CEDAW experts from six Arab States was formed and national initiatives began. After Syria ratified CEDAW in 2003, UNIFEM partnered with the Syrian Women's Union to work on national applications of the Convention with ministry officials.

Milestone

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

Women's rights groups from around the world, led by the US-based Center for Women's Global Leadership, engaged in concerted lobbying during the international political negotiations leading up to the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights. UNIFEM became the primary UN champion of these efforts. The results dramatically changed the international consensus on human rights. Governments for the first time recognized that women's rights are human rights, on a par with more traditional rights defined by international law. The conference also marked the first international acknowledgment of violence against women as an abuse of women's human rights.

Milestone

16

Europe &



Demystifying the European Union

Countries in Central and Eastern Europe have embarked on social and economic reforms to meet the requirements for entry into the European Union (EU), including the adoption of laws and policies that ensure equality between women and men. Women's groups welcome the accession process as an opportunity not only for greater stability and

prosperity but also for advancing the gender equality agenda. At the same time, the structures, policies and funding mechanisms of the EU remain a mystery to most.

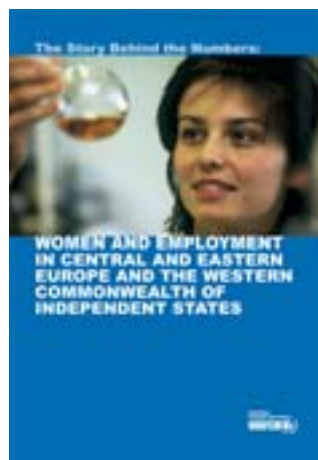
UNIFEM is helping to bridge this disconnect. Against the background of upcoming changes in EU financial instruments for the years 2007-2013 that will guide aid to countries striving for acces-



the European Commission and parliamentarians provided an opportunity to initiate contacts and build confidence in advocating at the EU level.

"It was an eye-opening experience to realize the possibilities for us as gender equality advocates and to influence such a process," said Malgorzata Tarasiewicz, Director of the Network of East-West Women - Polska. Putting the newly acquired insight immediately into practice, she developed an EU Gender Watch project that has been awarded a grant from the EU Presidency Fund. The project will support monitoring and lobbying to ensure that gender equality commitments are reflected in EU assistance to countries of the region.

- In its publication *The Story Behind the Numbers: Women and Employment in Central and Eastern Europe and the Western Commonwealth of Independent States*, UNIFEM analyses trends in women's and men's labour force participation during the transition to a market-oriented economy in 18 countries in Eastern Europe. The publication illustrates the various ways in which women's



economic security has declined and points to the data needed to fully measure the changing labour market position of women and men. Three policy measures are recommended: increasing women's

access to decent paid work; allowing women and men to better balance work and family life through the use of various tax-benefit schemes; and adopting transparent job evaluation and wage setting mechanisms.

Learn more: www.unifem.sk/index.cfm
www.unifem.org/worldwide/europe_cis.php

As poverty rose in post-transition CIS states, UNIFEM crafted some of the earliest programmes to reach women. Among the most vulnerable to economic decline are rural women without land. In Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, UNIFEM has initiated strategies guaranteeing that land reforms protect women's rights and that women know their entitlements. Legal clinics in Kyrgyzstan have briefed local authorities, provided advice to thousands of people and fed information into proposed amendments of the Land Code, including protection of women's rights during divorce. Recent changes to Tajikistan's Land Code require listing all family members on land use certificates. The number of farms headed by women reached 14 per cent by 2005.

Milestone

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ABOVE Making the European Union accessible for women: UNIFEM helped shed light on the EU's structures, policies and funding mechanisms.

sion and to developing countries, UNIFEM invited women's rights advocates to Brussels to engage in a process of reviewing these new financial mechanisms and to ensure explicit reference to gender equality. The women studied the draft documents and formulated comments that were incorporated into the parliamentary reports recommending changes. Meetings with officials of

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

As the lead UN agency on women's rights, UNIFEM can create high-profile partnerships and draw worldwide attention. In 1999, a global video conference, held as part of the 'A World Free of Violence against Women Campaign', linked the UN General Assembly, the European Parliament and sites in New Delhi, Mexico City and Nairobi, as well as observers in countries from Fiji to Turkey. Under the eye of the international media, personal testimonials provided a dramatic backdrop for the sharing of strategies to stop violence. In parallel, a series of regional campaigns led to an outpouring of public debate.

Europe &



Partnering with the Media to Spread a Message of Peace

In the Southern Caucasus, UNIFEM supports women to build peace from the ground up - and went on the air. Nowadays, when it's time for Crossroads, a popular TV show produced by the non-governmental Internews Network, it's also time to learn about women leaders working for conflict

prevention and reconciliation in a region that is neither at war nor at peace. Once a month, the programme features women like Manana Mebuke, a founding member and key representative of the UNIFEM-supported Union of Women for Peace in the Office of the State Minister of Georgia on

Milestone

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ABOVE: Manana Mebuke (first from left) is a peace activist and founding member of the UNIFEM-supported Union of Women for Peace in Georgia. To inform a wide audience about women's efforts working for reconciliation in the Southern Caucasus, UNIFEM partnered with a popular TV show.

Conflict Resolution. Manana knows about the high toll that war exacts: She lost her husband as a result of the conflict over Abkhazia. Her loss turned her into a tireless advocate for peace and the inclusion of women's voices in the resolution of conflicts.

In Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, UNIFEM has for years rendered assistance to women's

peace efforts. Groups advocating for an end to conflict have been established in all three countries and come together as the regional coalition Women for Peace. Women from all sides of the conflicts have worked across ethnic and national boundaries on gender equality and human rights issues that affect all of them, thereby fostering trust and understanding. Schools and universities have included courses on peacebuilding in their curricula. And women journalists are providing information about gender equality, women's leadership, peacebuilding and conflict prevention in a regional journal, Women's Appeal for Peace.

The collaboration on Crossroads is yet another successful partnership forged with the media - the show is one of the few region-wide programmes and reaches a potential audience of 12 million. Besides the monthly feature on peacebuilding, Crossroads now also includes a weekly segment on gender issues ranging from legislation on gender equality and domestic violence to reproductive health and education for young women. Through the partnership, UNIFEM is also reaching out to the next generation: The weekly Crossroads Kids, produced by aspiring journalists aged 14-17, is to devote four shows in 2006 to topics related to gender and conflict resolution - from the young people's perspective.

- In 2005, UNIFEM also commissioned well-known photographers from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to document the lives of women in



all three countries. The images illustrate the common hopes and challenges of women in the Southern Caucasus and will be shown in exhibitions throughout the region to foster greater understanding.

Learn more: www.unifemcis.org
www.unifem.org/worldwide/europe_cis.php

Transition has brought many changes to the CIS countries, but domestic violence is still frequently ignored by public opinion and overlooked by the law. UNIFEM has drawn on its global experiences to support landmark legislation and advocacy in the region. In 2001, UNIFEM backed an NGO initiative in Ukraine that successfully lobbied for the CIS' first law against domestic violence. In 2002, a UNIFEM study on nine CIS countries provided the region's first comparative data on the phenomenon, and an advocacy campaign reached millions of people. In Kyrgyzstan, NGOs and the National Commission on Women's Affairs collected 34,000 signatures requesting a new law, passed by Parliament in 2003.

Milestone

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

In unleashing women's dynamism, UNIFEM's targeted interventions have catalysed far-reaching change. In the early 1980s, the fund provided seed grants to Flora Tristan, a women's centre in Peru. One project helped map problems faced by women in industrial jobs. A second initiative trained women for union leadership, and several women quickly emerged as powerful national voices. They lobbied Congress to pass laws protecting women's occupational health and making employers liable for sexual harassment. Flora Tristan later formed a national network of 80 NGOs working with rural women. Current programmes include supporting women of three indigenous groups in the Amazonian region to address gender-based violence through both their traditional judicial system and state legislation.

Milestone

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Latin America



Offering Help to Survivors of Rape

Gen Espwa, there is hope, says the sign on the front door of the Komisyon Fanm Viktim pou Viktim (Commission of Women Victims for Victims) in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince. Hope is indeed what many women regain when they enter the modest office. It is here that they receive counselling and treatment when they are in desperate need of help after having been raped.

The Commission was founded in 2005 by Eramithe Delva and Malya Villard, who were themselves victims of brutal sexual assaults. The decision to set up the organization was

motivated not only by their own experience but also by the alarming increase in rape that has come along with the current political instability in the country.

Besides the services offered in the capital, the Commission also works with community workers who reach out to women in remote areas and encourage them to seek medical care and psychological assistance to overcome their trauma. In the first year of the organization's existence, more than 350 women have received treatment. A grant through the UNIFEM-managed Trust Fund to End Violence

& Caribbean

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change



LEFT: No more violence: Political instability in Haiti has led to an alarming increase in rape.

UNIFEM worked on a number of initiatives to combat the related pandemics of violence and HIV/AIDS:

- During the 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women, UNIFEM spearheaded coordination among UN partners, such as PAHO, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, and women's rights groups to develop a resource kit that points out the links between women's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and violence against women. The kit was widely disseminated to inform the activities of groups commemorating the 16 Days campaign.
- In the Caribbean, UNIFEM took the lead in establishing the Regional Coalition on Women and AIDS, an advocacy group focusing on the prevention of HIV/AIDS among women and girls. In the age group 15-24, women in the region are up to six times more likely to contract HIV than men - often as a result of sexual violence.

Learn more: www.unifemcar.org
www.unifem.org/gender_issues/violence_against_women



ABOVE: Women in Costa Rica protest against domestic violence. UNIFEM was a key player during the 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women in the region.

Against Women enables the staff to include education on HIV/AIDS and its link to violence when working with support groups and in communities.

A gathering of women leaders from all over the country, organized by UNIFEM, made it possible for the Commission's two founders to expand their network. The conference provided an important opportunity for dialogue in Haiti, where political divisions have often prevented women's organizations from working together on issues of common concern. Violence against women was pointed to by all participants as the biggest problem facing their communities, and partnerships were deepened.

Early UNIFEM support laid the foundations for institutions that galvanized women's movements. During the 1980s, the Women and Development Unit (WAND) of the University of the West Indies in Barbados used UNIFEM assistance for a unique partnership between academics, NGOs and international donors. WAND linked women across the Caribbean to organize communities, provide training and conduct ground-breaking research - including some of the first studies tracking the impact of global economic patterns on women. In the 1990s, the Unit housed the secretariat of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN). Today, DAWN connects women from across the global South around analysis and activism that shapes international debates on development.

Milestone

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

Latin America

Across Latin America, UNIFEM has rallied support to stop the pervasive problem of domestic violence. Early actions broke taboos that had shrouded the issue in silence and became examples picked up by anti-violence campaigns worldwide. In 1994, UNIFEM helped conduct the first regional meeting of high-level police officials on domestic violence; several countries subsequently passed their first laws against domestic violence. UNIFEM assistance in Brazil during the mid-1990s produced the first research on how police stations deal with violence against women and supplied training for police staff in special women's police stations. By 2000, Mexico was developing statistical systems to capture the impact of violence - and to shape policies to respond.

Milestone

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& Caribbean

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change



LEFT: A mother and her child at a health clinic in Ecuador, where UNIFEM provides training on issues related to health, violence and HIV/AIDS for indigenous women.

slaves living in remote parts of the country. Quilombolas have preserved their own culture, but isolation has come at a price. Most of them lack birth certificates and identity cards, which are necessary for

them to be recognized as citizens, and accessing government services has been difficult.

Since little was known about the situation of quilombola women, UNIFEM supported the Ministry of Agriculture to engage with women in 21 villages to determine their priority needs. As a result, the women can now receive civil documents at no cost, which enables them in turn to have access to credit and to step up production of their handicrafts and agricultural products. At two national fairs, quilombola women had the opportunity to exhibit their products and exchange experiences on how to successfully market them. Efforts are now under way to establish producers' networks to increase commercial distribution.

In 2005, UNIFEM also continued its work in support of indigenous women in Latin America:

- Since policies need to be informed by data, a working group on gender statistics for the indigenous population was established at the 6th Annual Meeting on Gender Statistics in Mexico. Representatives of 14 countries attended the conference, which was co-organized by UNIFEM.
- In Ecuador, UNIFEM has been assisting indigenous women to address issues of sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS at the community level through a series of trainings.

Learn more: www.unifem.org/worldwide/americas_caribbean.php

Supporting Ethnic Minorities

Brazil's hierarchy of income is clearly cast in black and white: Afro-Brazilians earn less than their white compatriots, and Afro-Brazilian women face double discrimination for both their race and gender - receiving, on average, only 30 per cent of what white men get paid. These facts were presented in the study *Portrait of Inequality*, which UNIFEM released as part of its efforts to assist Brazil's public sector in integrating a focus on gender and race into policies and programmes.

The survey further revealed that significant inequalities based on race and gender exist in the areas of education and health care. Putting the findings into practice, UNIFEM supported the establishment of a Health Care Committee for the Black Population in the Ministry of Health. Increasing access of black Brazilians to medical services is a goal that is now spelled out in the national health-care plan.

Particularly affected by race and gender bias are Brazil's quilombola women, members of tightly knit communities of former runaway

LEFT: A market vendor in Brazil. Afro-Brazilian women face double discrimination for both their race and gender.

UNIFEM's commitment to women's human rights includes ensuring that attention goes first to the most marginalized groups - such as indigenous communities. In 1997 in Ecuador, UNIFEM helped establish the Leadership School for Indigenous Women. Initially it held courses for small groups of women on gender equality and human rights, but women soon began replicating the workshops in their communities. One woman became the first indigenous woman on her city council. Since then, the school has become part of an inter-provincial federation for indigenous people. The Government, listening to a growing chorus of indigenous voices, has set up a special national council for indigenous people. All programmes include a gender perspective.

Milestone

23

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

In 1996, the General Assembly tapped UNIFEM's growing expertise on stopping violence against women by requesting it to manage the newly created Trust Fund in Support of Actions to End Violence Against Women. The Trust Fund offers grants to innovative projects, to date disbursing more than \$10 million to 199 initiatives in 83 countries. In India, a training for judges introduced them to survivors and presented research on low conviction rates. In Kenya, the Trust Fund helped create new rites of passage as an alternative to female genital mutilation. Grantees in the occupied Palestinian Territories have worked to prevent so-called honour killings.

Milestone

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UN Reform



Reducing Poverty with a Women's Perspective

The life of internally displaced women (IDPs) in Azerbaijan is governed by unyielding gender roles that cause problems and even risks. The heavy work burden at home, coupled with a sense of powerlessness and vulnerability, was one issue frequently raised during interviews for a UNIFEM rapid assessment on the situation of IDP women. The findings indicate that, while they may face the same challenges as locals, the situation of IDP women is exacerbated

by displacement. Entrenched gender roles may, for example, have an impact on women receiving medical care, the cost of which is difficult to bear for many displaced families. As one woman noted, "... relatives are not pleased when a pregnant woman often visits doctors."

The findings of this first rapid assessment on IDP women in Azerbaijan were fed into the country's poverty reduction strategy (PRS). It was part of UNIFEM's efforts to advance gender

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

UNIFEM is actively engaged in advocacy to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment are at the centre of all efforts to achieve the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In 2004, the fund embarked on a five-country pilot project - in Cambodia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco and Peru - to spotlight successful MDG strategies. UNIFEM has worked with local and national officials and women's groups on creating MDG action plans, reflecting gender in costing priorities and developing data to monitor women's progress. In Morocco, the Government has begun linking MDG costing with its existing gender budget initiative. Research in Cambodia on trade reform produced indicators on women's employment slated for inclusion in the national development plan.

Milestone

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ABOVE: Young women in Burundi in front of a UN flag. UNIFEM has stepped up its engagement with coordination mechanisms developed in the context of UN reform.

equality by making the voices of women heard in this central planning process, which is to guide government action for the next decade. Through the extensive women's network established over the past years, UNIFEM, in partnership with the Ministry of Economic Development and the State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Issues, also brought women representatives to town hall meetings across the country to determine key areas of intervention for the PRS and consulted extensively with women in rural areas.

Overall, UNIFEM supported the formulation of 18 poverty reduction strategies in 2005 and stepped up its engagement with other coordination mechanisms developed in the context of UN reform:

- In Uganda, the inclusion of specific gender-related outcomes and outputs in the Common Country Assessment and UN Development Assistance Framework (CCA/UNDAF) led to the provision of additional resources to address sexual and gender-based violence. UNIFEM participated in the development of 37 CCA/UNDAFs in 2005, compared to 14 in the previous year.
- As the Chair of a new Task Team on Gender Equality in the UN Development Group, UNIFEM guided the review of CCA/UNDAFs from a gender perspective to identify shortcomings and develop training materials to address these. The Task Team also conducted an accountability study on gender equality in policy frameworks of a number of UN agencies as the basis for a tracking mechanism that will be used throughout the UN system. A review of the Annual Reports of UN Resident Coordinators over the next years will complement the Task Team's work to ensure a greater focus on gender concerns.



ABOVE: A UNIFEM-conducted rapid assessment on displaced women in Azerbaijan fed into the country's poverty reduction strategy.

From home-based to migrant workers, UNIFEM has pushed forward the protection of women's employment rights by linking women to each other so they can bargain for a better deal overall. In southern Africa, women play significant but overlooked roles in the mining sector. Some crush stones in roadside cottage industries; others work deep in the mines. In 1993, UNIFEM carried out a study defining the full scope of their participation, then helped women in five countries form national associations for collective bargaining. The Women in Mining Trust, a regional lobbying force, emerged and in 1999 convinced the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Ministers of Mining Committee to make gender part of all regional policies.

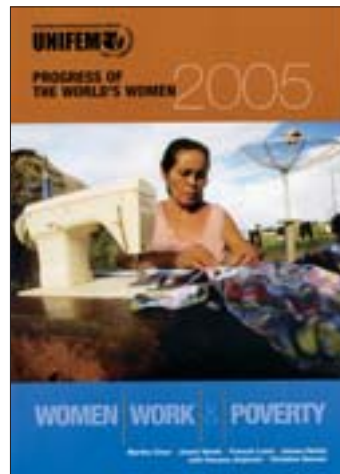
Milestone

Key Knowledge

UNIFEM PUBLICATIONS

In 2005/2006, UNIFEM developed a series of publications aimed at enhancing the understanding of women and gender issues on a global scale. In addition to those listed below, a range of publications with a focus on women was produced by UNIFEM's regional programmes in their respective geographic regions.

Learn more: www.unifem.org/resources



Progress of the World's Women 2005: Women, Work and Poverty

Progress of the World's Women 2005: Women, Work and Poverty is the third publication of a biennial series to track and measure the world's path toward gender equality. Taking its cue from the Millennium Declaration, which notes the centrality of gender equality to efforts to combat poverty and hunger and to stimulate sustainable development, *Progress 2005* makes the case for an increased focus on women's informal employment as a key pathway to reducing poverty and strengthening women's economic security.

The publication shows that in developing countries, 60 per cent or more of women workers are in informal non-agricultural employment, a figure that would be significantly higher if agriculture were included. In developed countries, part-time or

temporary wage employment and own account self-employment are a more important source of income for women than for men. Women also tend to be concentrated in the more precarious types of informal employment, where earnings are not only meagre but highly unreliable and too low to raise households out of poverty.

Progress 2005 provides the latest available data on the size and composition of the informal economy, looks at the costs as well as the benefits of informal work and the consequences for women's economic security, and proposes a strategic framework - including good practice examples - for how to promote decent work for women informal workers.



Budgeting for Women's Rights: Monitoring Government Budgets for Compliance with CEDAW

People's access to services and resources is determined by government budget policies. Gender budget initiatives around the world have attempted to systematically examine how government budgets address discrimination with regard to women's access to housing, employment, health, education and other services.

Often these exercises have been eye-openers: A budget analysis of domestic violence policies and laws in seven countries in Latin America, for example, revealed that

appropriations for domestic violence programmes and interventions were non-existent. Similar evidence of gender discrimination is found when examining taxation policies.

Budgeting for Women's Rights, Monitoring Government Budgets for Compliance with CEDAW adds a landmark to the discourse on the link between human rights standards and government budgets. It elaborates on how budgets and budget policy-making processes can be monitored for compliance with human rights standards, in particular with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).



Promoting Gender Equality in New Aid Modalities and Partnerships

Promoting Gender Equality in New Aid Modalities and Partnerships is an outcome of the conference *Owning Development: Promoting Gender Equality in New Aid Modalities and Partnerships*, organized by UNIFEM in collaboration with the European Commission in November 2005.

The discussion paper provides a gender analysis of the new aid agenda as outlined in the Paris Declaration. Highlighting key opportunities and concerns related to the achievement of gender equality that are presented by the new aid context, the publication also out-

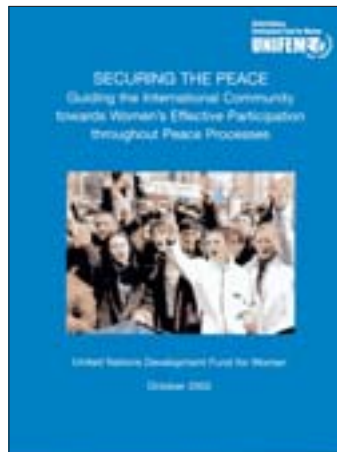
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lines the usefulness of some key tools such as gender budget analyses as well as gender statistics and indicators that can be used to address the gaps that currently exist in the monitoring frameworks of the new aid agenda.



Building Partnerships for Promoting Gender Justice in Post-Conflict Societies

Building and strengthening the rule of law is of fundamental importance for the future development of peace and stability in a post-conflict society. Gender justice, being part of the rule of law, must be mainstreamed into all aspects of the judicial system, conflict prevention and resolution and the overall peacebuilding process. This report on the 2005 High-Level Meeting on Gender Justice in Stockholm, organized by the Swedish Government, the International Legal Assistance Consortium and UNIFEM, includes discussions and recommendations on what the UN system, member states, regional organizations and civil society can do to ensure that a gender perspective is included in the rule of law and peacebuilding.



Securing the Peace Guiding the International Community towards Women's Effective Participation throughout Peace Processes

The transition from war to peace opens a unique window of opportunity to address the root causes of conflict and transform institutions, structures and relationships within society. It is essential to ensure the active involvement of women and the articulation of gender equality from the earliest stages of peace talks through to implementation and monitoring of agreements. *Securing the Peace* provides concrete recommendations to support women's active participation at all stages of the peace process, promote gender-sensitive peace negotiations and agreements, and encourage the mainstreaming of a gender perspective throughout the implementation of peace accords.

UNIFEM WEB PORTALS

UNIFEM has developed a number of web portals, often in collaboration with its partners, that provide a resource base on areas of priority concern for women.

Gender and AIDS Web Portal

www.genderandaids.org

Developed in 2003 in collaboration with UNAIDS, the Gender and AIDS web portal is a comprehensive and

up-to-date resource on gender and HIV/AIDS. It is aimed at promoting understanding, knowledge sharing and action on HIV/AIDS as a gender and human rights issue.

Women, War & Peace Web Portal

www.womenwarpeace.org

The Women, War & Peace web portal provides extensive information on women's protection in armed conflict and their centrality to conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. It offers country profiles, issue briefs, relevant UN documents, advocacy tools, discussion boards and links to other networks and organizations.

Gender-Responsive Budget Initiatives Portal

www.gender-budgets.org

Created jointly by UNIFEM, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the portal is aimed at supporting governments and civil society in analysing national and local budgets from a gender perspective and applying this analysis to the formulation of gender-responsive budgets.

MDGenderNet

www.MDGender.net

This web portal on gender equality and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) provides access to resources and tools to promote a better understanding of how to address gender equality in all of the MDGs. It includes literature on gender equality as it relates to each goal as well as tools for advocacy and action. Facilitated by UNIFEM, the portal is a joint initiative by the UN-Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank.

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

A digital divide threatens women's potential benefits from information technology, in particular in Africa, a region with only a fraction of the world's Internet users. Taking advantage of its unique position to draw together global partners around women's issues, UNIFEM launched the Digital Diaspora Initiative in 2003. The initiative links African high-tech entrepreneurs living in the diaspora, women's NGOs, governments and other UN agencies in order to harness technical know-how and business expertise. In Rwanda, diaspora experts have provided courses on web design, e-commerce and database management to women's NGOs, and an international mentorship committee offers advice to fledgling women's businesses.

Milestone

27

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

A 1990 UNIFEM project convinced the World Bank to grant its first-ever loan specifically targeting women. In the Gambia, UNIFEM set up millet mills in 15 villages to ease women's labour, reducing a four-hour task to five minutes. With the saved time, women planted additional crops for cash and food. Another result was soon apparent: Less backbreaking work meant fewer complications affected women giving birth. After people in 50 other villages took notice and purchased their own milling equipment, the Government opted to expand the project. UNIFEM assisted the Gambian Women's Bureau in developing a loan proposal, and soon substantial Bank funding was on the way.

Milestone

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Financial Statements

UNIFEM Statement of Income and Expenditure

For the year ended 31 December
All figures included in this report are expressed in thousands of US dollars

| | 2005 | 2004 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| INCOME | | |
| Voluntary contributions | 22,004 | 23,237 |
| Cost-sharing & joint programming contributions | 27,657 | 20,005 |
| Sub-trust fund contributions | 3,952 | 5,913 |
| Sub-total | 53,613 | 49,155 |
| Interest income | 1,103 | 371 |
| Income from reimbursable services | 2,958 | 1,376 |
| Donations and other income | 139 | 248 |
| Sub-total | 4,200 | 1,995 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 57,813 | 51,150 |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Project Costs: | | |
| Regular resources | 17,175 | 11,687 |
| Cost sharing | 23,119 | 8,836 |
| Sub-trust funds | 7,042 | 5,056 |
| Joint programming | 113 | |
| Sub-total | 47,449 | 25,579 |
| Biennial Support Budget | | |
| Management and administrative | 3,293 | 2,361 |
| Technical support | 3,847 | 3,563 |
| Reimbursable support services | 1,170 | 928 |
| Sub-total | 8,310 | 6,852 |
| Other expenditure | - | - |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 55,759 | 32,431 |
| Excess of income over expenditure | 2,054* | 18,719 |

*The amount of \$2,054 thousands is already allocated to multiyear funded projects with durations which last through 2007.



Contributions from Governments and Other Donors in 2005

(All figures expressed in thousands of US dollars)

| GOVERNMENTS | Core | Cost-Sharing | Sub-Trust funds | Total 2005 | Total 2004 |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| United Kingdom | 5,541 | 3,932 | | 9,473 | 6,981 |
| Sweden | 2,911 | 5,281 | | 8,192 | 6,239 |
| Norway | 2,857 | 2,762 | 498 | 6,117 | 3,404 |
| USA | 1,985 | 1,380 | 992 | 4,357 | 1,735 |
| Japan/UN Human Security | 797 | 2,500 | | 3,297 | 3,413 |
| Canada** | 940 | 2,313 | | 3,253 | 3,467 |
| Italy | 1,446 | 1,669 | | 3,115 | 2,451 |
| Germany | 1,028 | 678 | | 1,706 | 1,019 |
| Denmark | 809 | 429 | | 1,238 | 1,574 |
| Finland | 697 | | 400 | 1,097 | 1,840 |
| Luxembourg | 1,035 | | | 1,035 | 854 |
| New Zealand | 285 | 714 | | 999 | 267 |
| Ireland | 831 | | | 831 | 836 |
| Switzerland | 781 | 45 | | 826 | 770 |
| European Economic Commission | | | 816 | 816 | 116 |
| Spain | 74 | 647 | | 721 | 70 |
| Australia | 426 | 194 | | 620 | 447 |
| Belgium | | | 605 | 605 | 1,485 |
| Iceland | | 356 | 92 | 448 | 156 |
| Brazil | | 368 | | 368 | 139 |
| Jordan | | 282 | | 282 | 283 |
| Austria | 106 | 142 | | 248 | 211 |
| Ecuador | | 155 | | 155 | 231 |
| Mexico | 60 | | | 60 | 10 |
| Singapore | 50 | | | 50 | 40 |
| Czech Republic | 43 | | | 43 | 39 |
| China | 30 | | | 30 | 31 |
| Andorra | 26 | | | 26 | 19 |
| Turkey | 25 | | | 25 | 8 |
| Cambodia | | 23 | | 23 | 73 |
| India | 22 | | | 22 | 49 |
| Pakistan | 21 | | | 21 | |
| South Africa | 16 | | | 16 | 15 |
| Republic of Korea | 15 | | | 15 | 31 |
| Greece | 15 | | | 15 | 15 |
| Thailand | 10 | | | 10 | 10 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 10 | | | 10 | |
| Israel | 10 | | | 10 | 10 |
| Liechtenstein | 9 | | | 9 | 9 |
| Cyprus | 6 | | | 6 | 6 |
| Philippines | 5 | | | 5 | 11 |
| Malaysia | 5 | | | 5 | 5 |
| Morocco | 4 | | | 4 | 6 |
| Guyana | 3 | | | 3 | 1 |
| Azerbaijan | 3 | | | 3 | |
| Namibia | 2 | | | 2 | |
| Bangladesh | 2 | | | 2 | 2 |
| Samoa | 1 | | | 1 | |
| Marshal Islands | 1 | | | 1 | |
| Barbados | 1 | | | 1 | 1 |
| Other Governments | | | | | 3,397 |
| Total from Governments | 22,944 | 23,870 | 3,403 | 50,217 | 41,776 |
| **Less amounts paid in 2006-Canada | 940 | | | 940 | |
| Net contributions received | 22,004 | 23,870 | 3,403 | 49,277 | 41,776 |
| OTHER DONORS | | | | | |
| UN agencies*** | | 2,730*** | | 2,730 | 2,386 |
| Johnson & Johnson Family & Co | | | 250 | 250 | |
| UNIFEM National Committees | | 149 | 89 | 238 | |
| UNFIP | | 60 | 129 | 189 | 247 |
| Ford Foundation | | 165 | | 165 | |
| AGFUND | | 145 | | 145 | 515 |
| International Dev. Research | | 101 | | 101 | 85 |
| Oxfam | | 82 | | 82 | |
| Zonta International | | | 75 | 75 | |
| Cisco Systems International BV | | 71 | | 71 | |
| Open Society Institute | | 66 | | 66 | |
| Commonwealth Secretariat | | 55 | | 55 | |
| FNV | | 54 | | 54 | |
| Sisters of Mercy | | 50 | | 50 | 342 |
| Microsoft | | 40 | | 40 | |
| Other NGOs | | 19 | 6 | 25 | 216 |
| Others | | | | | 3,588 |
| Total from other donors | | 3,787 | 549 | 4,336 | 7,379 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 22,004 | 27,657 | 3,952 | 53,613 | 49,155 |

***Includes contributions amounting to \$365 thousands for joint programming

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

Recognizing poor women's minimal credit resources, UNIFEM became one of the first international organizations to help scale up the flourishing micro-credit systems created by national NGOs. By the early 1990s, UNIFEM began connecting these groups with donors and private companies to assist thousands of women in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In Bolivia and Colombia, for example, 30,000 loans totalling \$16 million had been granted by 1995. UNIFEM also supported the formation of the International Coalition on Women and Credit, a critical advocate behind the Beijing Platform for Action's call to increase women's access to credit.

Milestone

29

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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

As global trade began to boom, UNIFEM urged attention to its diverse impacts on women. After convening a meeting of government officials, women's activists and trade union officials from the Southern Common Market (Mercosur) countries in 1998, a high-level group on gender equality formed under the Mercosur trade agreement. Issues on the agenda now include women's labour patterns and migration. In 1995, UNIFEM held the first regional meeting in South Asia linking gender, trade and poverty. An enthusiastic public response convinced the UN Development Programme (UNDP) to create the Trade - Related Entrepreneurship Development Programme for Women. It has assisted at least 45,000 women by linking them to marketing associations and to information about domestic and foreign markets

Milestone

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New Initiatives

AFRICA

Programme for the Great Lakes Region of Africa

\$ 654,664

The programme seeks to contribute to the realization of women's political empowerment, human rights and security in the Great Lakes Region. Its immediate objectives are: (i) to strengthen women's capacities for policy dialogue, coalition building, peace negotiations, leadership and resource mobilization; and (ii) to advocate for a normative framework that commits governments to eliminating gender inequality.

Promoting Women's Human Rights and Enhancing Gender Equality in Democratic Governance in Kenya

\$ 3,896,435

The initiative seeks to increase options, capacities and resources for women with the aim of reducing feminized poverty and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS as well as violence against women. It also promotes women's leadership in governance as well as peace and security processes.

Promoting Women's Participation and Gender Equality in Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Peacebuilding in Sudan

\$ 1,786,000

The project aims at ensuring that women's concerns are fully taken into account in the reconstruction efforts in Sudan. To that end, it seeks to strengthen partnerships for the protection and promotion of women's rights and build the capacity of women's organizations.

ASIA/PACIFIC & ARAB STATES

Women's Leadership and Livelihoods in Relief and Reconstruction in Tsunami-affected Communities

\$ 803,341

The initiative seeks to ensure that the relief and reconstruction efforts in Indonesia, Somalia and Sri Lanka fully take into account women's human rights and emphasize protection, women's leadership and the strengthening of women's organizations as well as the need for the rebuilding of livelihoods.

Social Communication, Political Participation and Democratic Governance for Women's Empowerment in Morocco

\$ 694,006

The initiative aims to empower women in Morocco within the family and the political sphere. The project involves conducting awareness campaigns on the new family law and promoting greater representation of women in parliament through sensitization seminars for legislative authorities and support for advocacy by NGOs. Activities also include capacity building of NGOs.

Functional Literacy and Women's Empowerment in Morocco

\$ 243,659

The project supports the implementation of the national strategy for the eradication of illiteracy. It seeks to mainstream gender into the official literacy documents and to improve women's knowledge of legal issues, especially of the family law. To that end, the project involves preparing an annotated study of existing sensitization materials on women's rights. UNIFEM also participates in the development of training materials for adult literacy trainers and in training of facilitators in short-term adult literacy.

EUROPE & CIS

Advancing Women's Rights for Democratic Governance and Peace in Southeast Europe

\$ 400,000

The goal of the programme is to promote the implementation of National Action Plans and legislation on gender equality. It seeks to lend support to key government institutions with a view to strengthening their accountability to advancing women's rights; and capacity building of NGOs is geared towards monitoring of and advocating for implementation of gender equality laws and policies.

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

Safe Cities

\$ 647,058

The project addresses violence against women in cities, specifically in Rosario, Argentina, Bogota, Colombia and throughout Chile. It aims to produce information on urban violence against women, conduct awareness campaigns, develop proposals to make cities safer and strengthen municipal institutions dealing with gender issues.

Incorporating Gender, Racial and Ethnic Equality Dimensions into Poverty Eradication Programmes

\$ 835,475

The project aims to promote the incorporation of gender as well as racial and ethnic equality into governmental and non-governmental programmes to reduce poverty and social inequalities in Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala and Paraguay. To that end, the project involves documenting concepts and lessons learned; strengthening the capacity of government and non-governmental organizations, and supporting coordination



among government organizations working for black and indigenous women's rights and those focused on statistics and planning.

Women, Peace and Security in Latin America

\$ 514,138

The project aims at supporting sustainable peace and democratic governance in Colombia and Guatemala by integrating a gender perspective into conflict prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict processes. It seeks to strengthen democratic institutions and protection mechanisms and to support the participation of women in conflict resolution through assistance and training.

Capacity Building for Mainstreaming Gender Analysis in HIV/AIDS Programming in the Caribbean

\$ 280,233

With this inter-agency project UNIFEM supports the development and implementation of training in gender analysis and HIV/AIDS for policy makers and programmers in the Caribbean. The project's capacity building approaches are informed by operational research and best practices and demonstrate that gender equality and women's empowerment are fundamental to preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS and reducing its social and economic impact on communities.

*This information provides details on new UNIFEM initiatives approved in 2005/2006 and does not represent the entire portfolio of ongoing programmes. The amounts quoted may represent multi-year pledges.

Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women -2005 Grantees*

AFRICA

Democratic Republic of Congo - Mouvement pour la Jeunesse Congolaise HIV

\$70,000

The project aims to address violence against women and girls and its link to HIV/AIDS by providing medical, psychological, social and legal assistance in Southern Kivu, located in the eastern part of the DRC.

Mali - Centre DJOLIBA du Mali

\$60,000

To abolish the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM), the Centre DJOLIBA works with government ministries, civil society and traditional and religious leaders in order to foster dialogue that can lead to changes in practices and attitudes.

Nigeria - Women Aid Collective

\$100,000

In three states of Nigeria, the Women Aid Collective trains community-based organizations, health workers and the police to increase awareness on relevant laws and enable effective response mechanisms to cases of gender-based violence.

South Africa -

The Mother tongue Project

\$25,000

Using theatre workshops and performances, Mother tongue provides women and girls with an opportunity to articulate their fears, concerns and needs and at the same time inform the wider community about the interrelation between violence against women and HIV/AIDS.

Swaziland - Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse

\$75,000

The Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse advocates for and raises awareness about the draft Bill on Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence to support its adoption through Parliament.

Tanzania - Kivulin and IOFA Prevention of Adolescent Trafficking

\$100,000

The initiative aims to prevent trafficking of adolescents by informing them about their rights and teaching them how to evaluate alleged job recruitment through educational materials and the involvement of community leaders and parents.

Uganda - Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention

\$65,000

The initiative involves conducting public awareness activities around the linkages between gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS, training police officers to effectively implement new violence against women policies, and conducting seminars with local councils and community leaders.

ASIA/PACIFIC

Bhutan - National Commission for Women and Children

\$75,000

The initiative seeks to make the judicial system more transparent and accessible to women and change the way the police and judiciary respond to cases of violence. Awareness-raising activities include training and the filming of court procedures.

Cambodia - Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre

\$100,000

To support the effective implementation of the recently passed Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence, the Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre conducts public awareness campaigns and trains volunteers to provide counselling and legal aid.

India - Positive Women Network

\$25,000

The project addresses the rights of women living with HIV/AIDS to access health, medical and legal services and to own property, aiming particularly at reducing discrimination and violence within the families of women living with the disease.

Nepal - Semanata Institute for Gender and Equality

\$50,000

The project intends to raise awareness about violence against women and HIV/AIDS among both migrant women workers and displaced women and girls who are at risk in their workplace.

Pakistan - War Against Rape (WAR)

\$25,000

War Against Rape (WAR) aims to set up a comprehensive database on the response of the medical and legal system to sexual violence cases. To that end, the project is reviewing complaint and treatment records in five major cities.

Papua New Guinea - International Women's Development Agency, Kup Women for Peace, Meri Kirap Sapotim

\$100,000

The project seeks to strengthen justice for women through supporting responsive and gender-sensitive policies and practices within the PNG police force.

Samoa - Samoa Aids Foundation

\$73,000

Using theatre as a means of communication and targeting schools and universities, the Samoa Aids Foundation raises awareness on sexual violence and HIV/AIDS among young people.

Viet Nam - Handicraft Research and Promotion Centre

\$70,000

Using the infrastructure of handicraft villages as an entry point, the initiative aims to strengthen the capacity of clinics to provide voluntary testing and counselling and of women's and youth unions to address the link between domestic violence and HIV/AIDS.

EUROPE & CIS

FYR Macedonia - Association of Citizens Akcija Zdruzenska

\$100,000

The project supports the implementation of new provisions on domestic violence in the Criminal and Family Code by forging partnerships with key government agencies and networks of service providers and by reaching out to the public.

*Since its inception in 1996, the Trust Fund has awarded more than \$10 million in grants to 199 initiatives in 83 countries.

Tajikistan - Association of NGOs on Gender Issues and Prevention of Violence Against Women

\$100,000

The NGO consortium's focus in this project is on implementing the country's law on ending violence against women by working together with representatives from government, law enforcement, civil society and crisis centres as well as health and social services.

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

Regional - Fundación Justicia y Género

\$100,000

Fundación Justicia y Género is undertaking an analysis of laws on domestic violence in Central America and the Dominican Republic, monitoring their application and gathering data to provide an evidence-based assessment of the performance of the judiciary.

Brazil - CRIOLA

\$100,000

CRIOLA, which works to combat racism and violence against women, is co-organizing the Black Women's Network against Violence to advocate for women's rights and studying the impact of violence against black women.

Colombia - Colectivo Mujeres al Derecho, ADEICON and TEKNOS

\$100,000

To prevent violence against women and encourage victims to report crimes, the organizations seek to build public awareness through a media campaign and provide training to create a network of counsellors for the prevention of violence.

Dominica - Women's Bureau and National Council of Women

\$100,000

The organizations aim to bring together partners from government, the police, men's and legal aid organizations to raise public awareness on violence against women and improve services.

Haiti - Komisyon Fanm Victim Pou Viktim

\$75,000

Through the Trust Fund grant, the Commission of Women Victims for Victims, a support centre for survivors of rape, provides education on HIV/AIDS and its link to violence.

Mexico - Centro de Investigación en Salud de Comitán

\$75,000

Based on an assessment of perceptions on gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS among young, rural, indigenous women in the state of Chiapas, the initiative seeks to design culturally appropriate intervention strategies.

Peru - Asociación Minga Peru

\$75,000

The project aims to reduce violence and HIV/AIDS in the Loreto region in Peru through the development of radio programmes that will be transmitted in the region's communities.

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NON-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH UNIFEM

AARP
All-India Women's Conference
Altrusa International
Anglican Consultative Council
Armenian Assembly of America
Armenian International Women's Association
Associated Country Women of the World
Baha'i International Community
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
International Alliance of Women (IAW)
International Association of Women in Radio and Television
International Council of Women
International Federation for Home Economics
International Federation of Business and Professional Women
International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres (IFS)
International Federation of University Women
International Federation of Women Lawyers
International Federation of Women in Legal Careers
International Federation on Aging
International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women Clubs, Inc.
Pan-Pacific S. E. Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA)
Rotary International
Soroptimist International
Trickle Up Program, Inc.
U.S. Committee for UNIFEM
United Nations Association of the United States of America
Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
World Union for Progressive Judaism
World Young Women's Christian Association
Zonta International

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In the course of three decades, UNIFEM's efforts in more than 100 countries, from Liberia to Afghanistan, have touched the lives of countless women. UNIFEM has helped raise awareness of gender-based violence, and helped women speak up against it. It has promoted women's political participation, and worked for their economic empowerment. It played a key role in the passage of Security Council resolution 1325, which placed firmly on the agenda the needs of women in societies in armed conflict, while creating a political framework for women's role in peacebuilding. We join women around the world in offering thanks and best wishes to UNIFEM on its 30th anniversary.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan & Mrs Nane Annan

UNIFEM is a long-standing and trusted friend. The organization stood with Liberia's women in the lead-up to the election, supporting, contributing, encouraging. The help it gave to Liberia testifies to the importance of a strong women's fund at the United Nations. Women, my strong constituency, tell me that they want the same chances that men have. They want to be literate. They want their work recognized. They want protection against rape. They want clean water that won't sicken and kill their children. I pray this can happen. The women of Liberia and the women of Africa from all walks of life share their trust and confidence in our ability to succeed. I know that UNIFEM will be there for the long journey.

H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President, Republic of Liberia

The transformation that has taken place in the lives of Afghan women over the past four years is owed to the resilience and determination of Afghan women and men, and to the valuable support they have received from the international community. I thank UNIFEM and all other international organizations without whose help this global effort to empower the Afghan women would not have succeeded.

H.E. Hamid Karzai, President, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Humanity will never truly advance unless it ceases treating women, as well as the challenges they face, casually - often catering to them and their needs only for the sake of political expediency (when requiring the women's vote at election time, for example) and not because it understands that women have rights and aspirations equal to those of men. If only we can realize that simple point, and react to it accordingly, it would stand as the first notable, great achievement of the twenty-first century. To support UNIFEM is tantamount to moving humanity decisively in that direction.

**H.R.H. Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein,
Ambassador, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan,
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30 *Years of Challenge*
Years of Change

