
Global Women's Forum for Peace & Humanitarian Action: Women Peacebuilders & First Responders Defining Key Priorities in 2020 and Beyond

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University of Vienna in Vienna, Austria



Background

As the world prepares to mark the 20th anniversary of the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2000) and the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), 2020 is undeniably a landmark year for the international community to build momentum, drive innovation and advocate for accelerated support for the empowerment of women and girls everywhere, particularly grassroots women peacebuilders and first responders working in contexts of conflict and humanitarian crises.

Two decades after the Security Council first observed how a lack of gender equality adversely affects the maintenance of international peace and security, an unquestionable evidence base has emerged demonstrating that women’s participation in all levels of decision-making in conflict resolution and peace processes expands the reach and impact of humanitarian aid, accelerates economic recovery, advances gender equality and strengthens inclusive peacebuilding efforts, prevents radicalization and counters the spread of violent extremism. In fact, the Global Study on the implementation of Resolution 1325 noted that <<conflict-affected communities that experienced the most rapid economic recovery and poverty reduction are those that had more women reporting higher levels of empowerment.>> .¹



¹ Preventing conflict, transforming justice, securing peace: A Global Study on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325, 2015. Facts and figures available here : <https://wps.unwomen.org/resources/fact-sheets/Fact-Sheet-and-Key-messages-Global-Study-EN.pdf>

Despite this, women in conflict-affected and post-conflict contexts, including refugee and internally displaced peoples' camps, continue to lack economic opportunities necessary for survival, remain confronted by daily violence within the household and their communities, struggle to cope with heavy burdens of care and dependency, and continue to endure the emotional and physical scars of conflict, without support or recognition. In the aftermath of conflict, violence against women often increases, underlining the importance of rebuilding rule of law institutions. While in the past years increased attention has been paid to violence against women and girls, particularly sexual violence in conflict, resulting in greater visibility and technical tools, too little funding is allocated to programming and services for survivors.²

Women continue to be largely excluded from peace negotiations. In UN-supported and tracked peace processes, women's participation in negotiating delegations has not improved in recent years. In 2018, out of six active UN-led or co-led processes, women were included in 14 out of 19 delegations.³ Between 1992 and 2018, women continued 13 per cent of negotiators, 3 per cent of mediators and only 4 per cent of signatories in major peace processes.⁴

Still today, evidence and recommendations don't translate enough into action. Financial resources fall short of political commitments and funds often fail to reach the most vulnerable—including women's organizations working to prevent violent conflict and build sustainable peace. In 2014, only 1% of the projects in OCHA's Financial Tracking System that applied the IASC Gender Marker had the explicit goal of closing gender gaps by taking targeted action for women and girls. Of the total bilateral aid targeting fragile countries from 2016–2017, only

² Preventing conflict, transforming justice, securing peace: A Global Study on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325, 2015. Facts and figures available here : <https://wps.unwomen.org/resources/fact-sheets/Fact-Sheet-and-Key-messages-Global-Study-EN.pdf>

³ UN Security Council (2019). Report of the Secretary-General on women peace and security (S/2019/800), para. 14.

⁴ Council on Foreign Relations (accessed on 23 October 2019). [Women's Participation in Peace Processes](#).

USD 82 million was channeled directly to local women’s organizations—accounting for a meager 0.2 per cent of total bilateral aid.⁵

Yet, studies prove that women’s civil-society groups play critical roles in peace processes. Particularly, strong linkages and collaboration between diverse women’s groups are crucial for the inclusion of provisions that address social inequalities, especially gender inequality.⁶ Women’s organizations on the frontlines, deliver services and advocate for rights which ultimately benefit the whole community. Their work and skills must be elevated to ensure women and girls are engaged in decision-making in all matters that impact them, their families and communities.

In this context, it is important to recognize that the work of women activists and civil society groups cuts across mandates and silos. Women are often the first responders to humanitarian crises in their communities; most effective peacebuilders; human rights defenders; and advocates for sustainable developments. Moreover, there is ample evidence that sustainable peace requires a multi-sectoral approach, as recognized by the Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace resolutions (UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2282 and General Assembly Resolution 70/262). Women peacebuilders have been pioneers in bridging the gaps between peacebuilding, humanitarian action, human rights and development. Therefore, their perspectives on the interlinkages between these sectors are critical in developing effective implementation strategies.⁷

⁵ UN Security Council (2019). *Report of the Secretary-General on women peace and security (S/2019/800)*, para. 100. Data come from OECD.stat. Aid projects targeting gender equality and women’s empowerment (CRS) (<https://stats.oecd.org>).

⁶ Krause, J. Krause, W & Bränfors, P. (2018). Women’s Participation in Peace Negotiations and the Durability of Peace, *International Interactions*, 44:6, 1006, DOI: 10.1080/03050629.2018.1492386. https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/facts-and-figures#_Notes

⁷ Agnieszka Fal-Dutra Santos et al., “Building and Sustaining Peace from the Ground Up: A Global Study of Civil Society and Local Women’s Perception of Sustaining Peace”, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, 2019. Available at: <https://gnwp.org/publications/sustaining-peace-report-en/>

The Global Women’s Forum for Peace & Humanitarian Action: Women Peacebuilders & First Responders Define Key Priorities in 2020 and Beyond

The Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)—together with the Austrian Development Cooperation and the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP)—on 19-20 February 2020 hosted the Global Women’s Forum for Peace & Humanitarian Action: Women Peacebuilders & First Responders Defining Key Priorities in 2020 and Beyond at the University of Vienna in Vienna, Austria.

The forum convened 70 women-led and women’s rights civil society representatives from 17 countries to join government donors, policy experts, thought leaders, private sector actors and UN agencies for a 2-day conference of interactive sessions, breakout groups, and panel discussions. The forum concluded with the adoption of a Forum Outcome Declaration.

This forum served as a platform for discussions and recommendations from grassroots women, government and UN representatives, academics/experts and private sector partners, which will feed into strategies aiming to fulfill commitments under the Women Peace and Security agenda as well as the Generation Equality Forum⁸ ahead of Beijing +25. The forum convened representatives from grassroots women’s organizations—in particular WPHF and



GNWP partners—working to build peace in conflict zones and respond to humanitarian emergencies from across the globe to voice their perspectives, reflect on impact, exchange lessons learned, discuss challenges and identify key priorities in order to re-energize, build momentum and chart their global movement’s way forward.

⁸ See more information on the Generation Equality forum here: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/7/announcer-generation-equality-forum>

Objectives

The Global Women's Forum for Peace and Humanitarian Action (GWF 2020) aims to:

- (i)** Collectively examine the progress and challenges in implementation of WPS and other related agendas, and share experiences, lessons learned and concrete examples of how the implementation can be strengthened;
- (ii)** Provide space for grassroots women peacebuilders and humanitarian responders to build solidarity, cross-learning and collaboration for the achievement of women's rights, gender equality and an inclusive and sustainable peace;
- (iii)** Identify key priorities and recommendations summarized in a Forum Outcome Declaration (FOD) drafted and adopted by grassroots women's organizations, which will feed into international policy and action ahead of UNSCR1325 +20 and Beijing +25, to strengthen implementation of WPS and humanitarian response, improve resilience and reduce vulnerability to conflict;
- (iv)** Mobilize greater recognition, support and funding from the donor and international community, for grassroots women's organizations working to build peace and respond to humanitarian crises.

Throughout GWF 2020, civil society partners identified key challenges and priorities in implementing the WPS agenda and gender-sensitive humanitarian response. These were captured and reflected in the drafting and adoption of a Forum Outcome Declaration (FOD) with detailed recommendations targeting the international community as well other relevant stakeholders around the world. The FOD will be used to mainstreaming grassroots women's voices into strategies aiming to fulfill commitments under UNSCR1325 and subsequent WPS resolutions to help build momentum, drive innovation and advocate for accelerated action for grassroots women peacebuilders and first responders looking ahead to UNSCR 1325+20 and beyond. The FOD will feed into Generation Equality process and consultations.

WPHF together with Dell technologies also launched the new Women for Peace and Humanitarian Action Community of Practice and Knowledge Management Platform (WPHF

CoP / KM) to build and strengthen community among WPHF peacebuilders and first responders across country contexts and empower these grassroots actors with a new and revolutionary digital space to carry forward the important dialogues and knowledge sharing products and practices introduced at the forum.

About the Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)

WPHF is a first-of-its-kind global partnership of the United Nations, governments and civil society organizations, working to empower women around the world to be a force for lasting peace. The only global financing mechanism dedicated exclusively to supporting women's participation in peacebuilding and humanitarian action, WPHF is a flexible and rapid financing tool supporting grassroots women-led and women's rights civil society organizations to enhance the capacity of local women to prevent conflict, respond to crises and emergencies, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities. Since 2016, WPHF has mobilized over \$33 Million USD and is actively operating in 12 of 24 eligible countries (or group of countries) facing conflict and crises. Within its three years of operations, WPHF has supported over 121 women's civil-society organizations, impacting the lives of over 76,000 women and girls directly and over 3 million individuals in total.

About the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP)

GNWP is a coalition of women's groups and other civil society organizations from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, Eastern and Western Europe and the Middle East and Arab World, and a recognized international civil society leader that not only influences global policies on WPS and related frameworks, but also ensures their effective implementation on the ground. This can be attributed to its worldwide membership, its unique local-global/global-local strategy, and its participatory & inclusive approaches in bringing local voices to official policy spaces. GNWP's Localization of UNSCR 1325 & Young Women for Peace and Leadership programs received global recognition, including being cited by UN Secretary-General in his reports on WPS seven years in a row, as well as by the authors of the Global Study on 1325 as a key strategy for effective WPS implementation. GNWP's research and advocacy on financing of the implementation of the WPS resolutions and humanitarian action contributed to the establishment of WPHF, of which it was a Founding Board Member until 2018.

Session Breakout Groups

Breakout groups were instituted at the *Global Women's Forum for Peace and Humanitarian Action* after key plenary discussions in order to enhance conversations on key priorities and strategies for implementation of more sustainable response to conflict and agenda setting for the future of the women, peace and security and humanitarian sector. Five groups were developed, organized by theme, with approximately twenty participants in each group. Each small group discussion took place in a separate room available solely for that group. Groups were comprised of INGOs, civil society representatives, UN Women staff, and government representatives. Each group had one to two facilitators who managed the time of the session, called on speakers, and appointed a note taker to present key priorities identified in the session at the plenary meeting. Key priorities identified were then instituted in the Outcome Declaration of the forum. These groups permitted in-depth conversation on the designated topics and payed particular attention to the examples shared by civil society representatives from the field.

Themes of Groups

1. Localization
2. Protection
3. Conflict Prevention and Mediation
4. Economic Empowerment and Recovery
5. Humanitarian Response

Structure

- ❖ Small group discussions
- ❖ Approximately 20 participants in each group, comprised of civil society, INGOs, government representatives
- ❖ Moderated by one to two civil society representatives
- ❖ Identify key priorities and goals to contribute to the Outcome Declaration

Strategies and Impact of Local Women's Organizations



Strategies and Impact of Local Women’s Organizations

The goal of this session is to identify the strategies women’s rights organizations have adopted to meet their target goals and agendas. This includes assessing and evaluating impact of their respective organizations. This session was aimed at identifying the strategies of local women’s organizations and the means by which women engage in initiatives for peace and humanitarian response. This directive prompted best practices and further analysis into women’s rights and peace and security and humanitarian response agendas. This panel included civil society representatives as speakers, such as **Marie Goretti Ndacayisaba** of the organization Dushirehamwe in Burundi, **Ana Cristina Pino Cabrera** of Corporación Centro de Apoyo Popular (CENTRAP) from Colombia, and **Julia Kharashvili** from IDP Women’s Association “Consent” of Georgia. After the panel followed breakout group sessions discussing key recommendations for strategies and impact.



The strategies for best practices were outlined in peace and security and humanitarian response as being those of coordination, collaborating with international non-governmental organizations, national actors and regional affiliates. Only when this is done can peace and long-term solutions be sustained and agreed upon. Additionally, committees that surround women’s engagement proved to be effective in deterring support and ally-ship for lasting impact at all levels. National Action Plans are imperative to advocating for the inclusion of all people in these tasks, in addition to ensuring the most vulnerable in the community have meaningful participation in the decisions that affect their lives.

This session was vital to determining how support and strategies for inclusive, gender-responsive initiatives for peace and humanitarian action can and should be envisioned in future work. This session also demonstrated how the work of civil society organizations can be better supported by donors and other actors to realize these actionable goals to gender equality.



Breakout Groups: Strategies and Impact

Group 1: Localization

*Co-Facilitators: Seline Korir, Rural Women's Peace Link, Kenya and
Ella Lamakh, Democracy Development Center, Ukraine*

The women leaders and first responders of the Forum also noted that the localization agenda has the capacity to improve best practice and bridge gaps from implementation to practice. Participants stated that those most marginalized in their societies, such as individuals with disabilities, HIV/AIDS, young women, and more, are often left out of agendas on WPS and humanitarian relief. Participants called for a structure that addresses these gaps to ensure that those most vulnerable are protected and cared for through a localized approach to gender and development, and are not left out of responses in care.



At the forefront of best strategies in localization includes donor support to combat pre-conceived notions that women, peace and security is solely a “women’s issue” for which investment is not amplified or realized. The discussion also focused on the importance of People’s

Actions Plans when states have not yet adopted the National Action Plan. Civil society amplified the reality that people have power to realize the goals of join action and acting on what is known to be best practices in the community, such as critical engagement at the juncture of local, regional, national, and civil actors in coordination efforts.

Breakout Groups: Strategies and Impact

Group 2: Protection

Facilitator: Margaret Taylor, Women Empowerment Network (WEN), Liberia

Key Recommendations

- ❖ Enhanced monitoring, including daily / weekly monitoring in local operations for civil society organizations
- ❖ Establish code of conduct in every community and organization to give guideline of how to carry out practices
- ❖ Ensure safe spaces for women
- ❖ Institute “monitoring safe box”

Participants spoke about the importance of monitoring to enhance protection measures for women and girls. Monitoring, they said, is especially important in local organizations and it is imperative to ensure mechanisms of monitoring and evaluation in daily operations. There needs to be in-depth monitoring of operations support as this is where protection measures are founded and instituted. If there are flaws in daily operations of the organization, women’s security will be deeply affected as these organizations are often the only places where women feel comfortable to report and convene on the challenges facing their advocacy and safety. There also must be an establishment of resealable Code of Conduct in every community.

Safe spaces for women and girls are also a critical means of protection. Women noted that when women and girls are facing abuse in their communities, safe spaces allow them to

receive protection and be provided with security. These safe spaces also include critical resources and tools to enhance livelihood and wellbeing, including access to lawyers, and necessary entry points to demand dignity. Women also mentioned a ‘secret app’ which was established to provide information on available lawyers that are willing and able to serve women in communities facing violence. This is instituted in small communities where victims may be afraid to speak up and can most easily access a means of justice.



Breakout Groups: Strategies and Impact

Group 3: Conflict Prevention and Mediation

Facilitator: Gulnara Shaninian, Democracy Today, Armenia

On the discussion of trainings, peacebuilders and first responders at the conference emphasized the importance of long-term retention of individuals who have been trained and equipped with gender-sensitive analysis. Therefore, organizations should not ‘train and release’ but instead follow-up with those who have been trained and ensure their retention as local experts who understand the context of the given situation. In this, needs will be best met when immediate response is needed that is context-specific.

This session also called for a further enforced policy of data protection in order to ensure women’s security when involved in peace processes. Without data protection, women human rights defenders remain vulnerable to those who are critical of their work and are at risk of being targeted through violence such as torture, sexual violence, and murder. Best practices for mediation, then, assume dynamics of gender-responsive training, data protection, and increased mobilization of resources to secure resources necessary for effective implementation measures. Additionally, cooperation between and among women mediators is vital to enhancing solidarity and best practices.

Key Recommendations

- ❖ Women need to be supported by lawyers in rural areas
- ❖ Women’s associations of military organizations should cooperate with other organizations within the country and support associations funded for military workers
- ❖ Elderly and youth must be supported, and cooperation between them is necessary
- ❖ Create and implement instruments that facilitate social dialogue

Breakout Groups: Strategies and Impact

Group 4: Economic Empowerment and Recovery

Co-Facilitators: Sidibé Moussokoro Coulibaly, Réseau des Femmes Opératrices Economique (RFPOE) of Ségou, Mali and Amal Rantisi, YWCA, Palestine



Economic empowerment is a vital means by which gender equality can be achieved. Providing women with economic opportunities is key to enabling them to contribute to peace and security efforts and decision making. Through this group session, sessions from the field were discussed in details to address how economic empowerment has been promoted through best practices and agenda setting. This session focused on best practices and examples in local contexts to forward strategies for inclusive response.

In **Burundi**, women supported economically were able to contribute to local level committees such as committee on water, or health to include women's perspectives in decision-making at the local level. This enables to reach impact for more women than those involved in the project. Also addressed through this breakout session was the importance of involving all members of the community in promoting women's economic empowerment and recovery post-conflict.

Engaging all sectors of society is imperative to ensuring women have lasting impact in peace and security and humanitarian response efforts. Specifically, the breakout session addressed the importance of engaging men in economic recovery activities for women. In **Jordan**, mentalities prevent women's engagement in the workforce – project found them jobs but were not able to take them because of husbands non willingness - so the project had to engage men and boys and work on mentalities to overcome barriers to economic empowerment of women. Without efforts to engage men, the root causes of inequality would reinforce the lack of involvement of women in economic recovery initiatives, leaving them ill-prepared to have meaningful participation in the outcomes that affect their lives. Similarly, in **Liberia**, a project provided loans to women to start their businesses, which empowered women and created conflicts in the family. They had to engage men and husbands in the program to be able to achieve results.

Participants also stressed the importance of providing psycho-social support to women in the aftermath of a conflict to help them contribute to the economy. In the **DRC** for example, it was mentioned that psycho-social support was instrumental to engage women in economic activities (in particular agricultural activities). Building trust when women fear that their agricultural production might be taken away by armed groups is crucial. In this, there is also a need to seize the opportunities of post-conflict settings to promote more gender responsive macro-economic public policies and reconstruction initiatives. In **Burundi**, women's rights organizations are influencing national policies on financing inclusion and micro-financing to better support women. Similarly in **Mali**, civil society has been advocating

for reduced interest rate for women micro credit in order to make access to gender equality and economic recovery a reality.

Key Recommendations

- ❖ Use technology to address security issues and threats to in-person interventions and address barriers to women's economic recovery related to conflict (as it hinders women's mobility and access to opportunities)
- ❖ Have men participate in awareness campaigns
- ❖ Support cooperatives which might help women to have additional income
- ❖ Create and foster networks of support for women in economic recovery
- ❖ Implement campaigns to raise awareness and coordinate with private sector to participate in projects that finance women



Breakout Groups: Strategies and Impact

Group 5: Humanitarian Response

Co-Facilitators: Jude Khalaf, Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD), Jordan, and Susan Naisara Grey, FemLINKpacific, Pacific Islands

The breakout session declared that humanitarian response must be intersectional and must address the multiplicity of concerns affecting women, girls and other vulnerable populations in conflict. Discussions on examples of good practices and effective strategies in women, peace and security implementation situated examples from the field in particular contexts.

In **Palestine** women face a number of barriers to participation and access to resources. Women's meaningful response to humanitarian aid and peace program is imperative to lasting and sustained progress. This is why committees for women's participation are necessary. Committees allow women to convene with one another to form solidarity, allyship, and discuss lessons learned. Each committee supports between 100-200 other girls and women. These committees go to decision makers and present their concerns that must be redressed and acted on. A particular success story includes one of the committees going to the ministry of education to discuss the lack of transportation and access to schools. The committees acted as a means by which women could discuss how to move forward with a problem identified in the community and develop a plan to call for a solution. Because of their presentation, there are not "caravan" schools, where 100 girls now have access to school.

In **Congo, Equator province - Bikoro territory** the inclusion of women and girls in WPSHA sectors enforced adequate humanitarian support. Epidemy Ebola 2018 war was an epicentral and essential problem, and many people died due to famine and suffering. Local women allowed the community to participate in their agricultural activities. Many villages

were affected by the famine and spread of disease, and before receiving help communities affected knew they had to coordinate with political authorities, women’s associations, and civil society in order to find a solution and adapt to a changing environment. Because women understand their communities and the necessity of livelihoods, alongside collaboration with government and other associations, the coordination was successful. Within three months an agriculture of corn and sweet potatoes was available, changing the way in which the affected community was able to live.

Due to aid restriction and lack of access to resources in **West Africa** it is necessary as a best practice to partner with international non-governmental organizations, national organizations, and local governing bodies to ensure access to basic services for the given population is realized.



Mavic Cabrera-Balleza of **GNWP** stressed the importance of National Action Plans to be intersectional, presenting the case of Rohingya refugee response in Myanmar. She noted that response must be intersectional, especially as there are other issues that are present among refugees, such as literacy, access to resources and sanitation, all of which impact health, quality of life, and ability to live with dignity. Cabrera-Balleza notes that for this

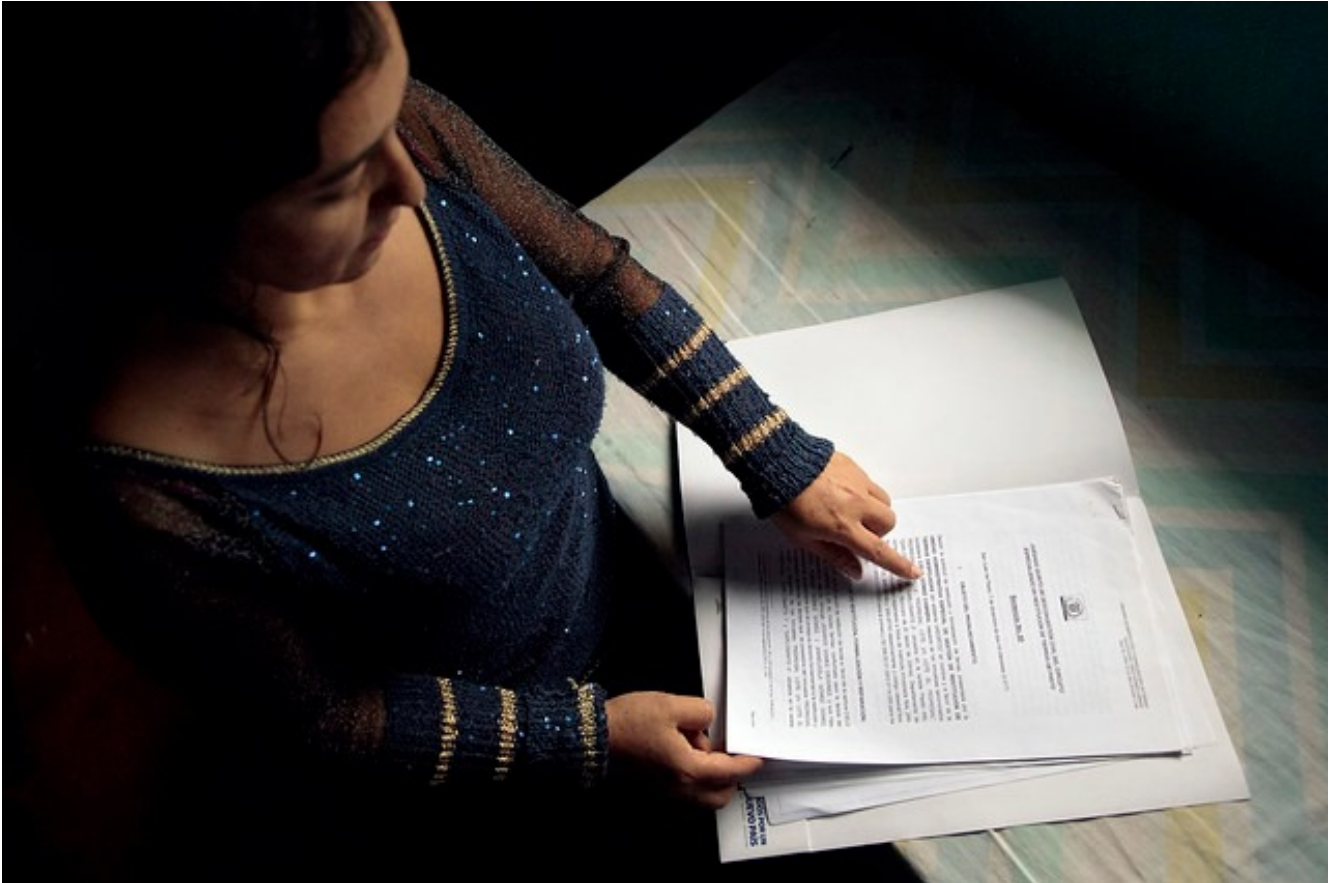
reason, literacy is integrated into their work. The women that have been trained are continuing to work in refugee camps, and it is important to maintain relationships with the local communities and refugees, as it reduces tensions between them. For example, refugees are visited by doctors every week, but the local community doesn't have the access to health. They only see these issues and want them to leave. Humanitarian assistance due to conflict needs to be differentiated from Epidemics (Ebola, etc.); the assistance needs to include women, so they can really bring the need and the issues at the table; women need to be part of the assistance, and also have meaningful participation in the negotiations. She argues that the two issues tend to be treated the same, but it needs to be differentiated; the needs have to be addressed differently and adequately.

Asha Hans from **Women Enabled International** identified that in cases where there are no National Action Plans, local action plans have worked. Civil society has joined together to form people's action plans. She further stated that when the government has not allowed a plan or agenda presented by groups advocating for equality and humanitarian assistance, it is the women who move forward. Hans presents an example in India, where there has been tremendous work of women concerning advocating for Sri Lankan refugees and movements where mothers who have founded movements concerning their children that have been disappeared. Hans says: "there is a resilience; whatever the cause might be, we will move forward and do whatever we can."

Key Recommendations

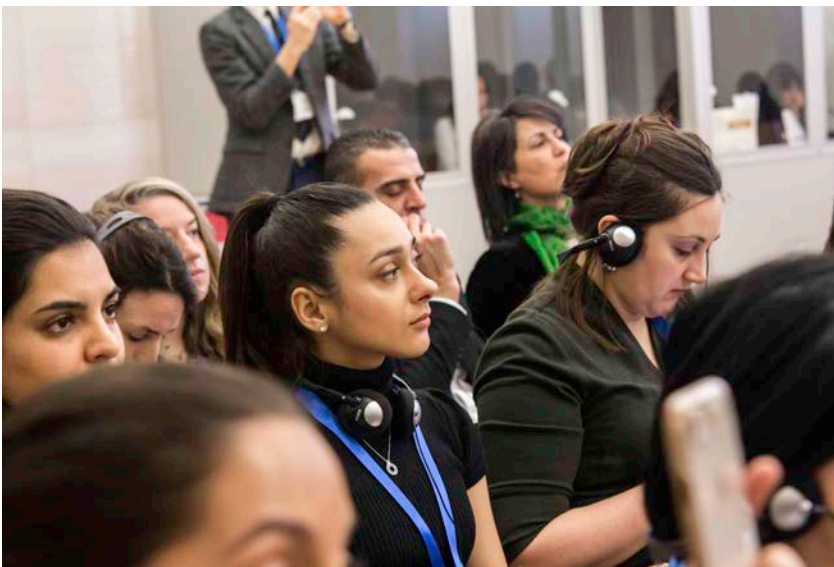
- ❖ Empower women civil society organizations and train them on how to utilize the 1325 agenda. This will be more sustainable for the community and help to build coalitions on WPS agendas
- ❖ Collaborate with regional, national, and international non-governmental organizations to build strong partnerships to have access to basic services realized
- ❖ Support women's organizations financially in order to support women humanitarians
- ❖ Recognize the importance of People's Action Plans, where National Action Plans have not been established

Challenges and Risks to Women's Organizations' Work in Crisis Contexts



Challenges and Risks to Women's Organizations' Work in Crisis Contexts

This session addresses the risks and challenges associated with civil society organizations' participation in women, peace and security and humanitarian initiatives. Participants gathered in round-table discussions to identify best practices and key recommendations to overcome challenges facing their organizations, including identifying goals to be implemented moving forward. Conversations were held in the same thematic groupings as described above. After the breakout sessions, participants met collectively in the plenary room to share their topics of conversation, success stories, and more, to be consolidated in the Vienna Outcome Declaration.



Key challenges identified were increased violence against minority and vulnerable populations, conflicts in the region which impede access to life-saving resources and halted done and civil society coordination. All of these key challenges interact with one another to determine the

necessity of recovery outcome sand addressing root causes of violence. Ultimately, participants argued that without addressing root causes of violence and stability in governmental procedures, women's rights and the rights of vulnerable populations will not be actualized. Specific recommendations and best practices from the field were presented in breakout groups and discussed in depth to best understand a path forward and ways in which challenges have been overcome.

Breakout Groups: Challenges and Risks

Group 1: Localization

*Co-Facilitators: Seline Korir, Rural Women's Peace Link, Kenya and
Ella Lamakh, Democracy Development Center, Ukraine*

There are a number of challenges facing women in peace and security and humanitarian sectors. These breakout groups discussed the strategies grassroots civil society organizations adopt and how their impact is measured. In addition, these sessions asked what the main risks and challenges women face and how their work to localize WPS and address humanitarian crises mitigates these challenges.

The breakout group for localization determined that there is a lack of consistent, sustainable funding and distribution of funds in all localities, and threat of security when involved in these initiatives. Additionally, a key challenge includes ignoring women's diverse experiences, resulting in a lack of political support from the government for and to traditional leaders (religious leaders, indigenous leaders, etc.). In this vain, women peace and security continues to be understood solely as a "women's issue" and often through the lens of violence against women rather than a holistic/transformational approach. With this approach, traditional approaches to these sectors don't undertake a local gender sensitive and conflict-sensitive analysis. This leads to donors also being held to be accountable for rivalries between women's organizations because of their funding strategies.

Also in regard to localization and donor supply, peacebuilders and first responders of the Global Women's Forum noted that donors often do not have an understanding of the context at hand (e.g. Ukraine: donors come with ideas what the situation is like, they don't consult local experts). Participants stressed the importance of engaging local experts in gender and data analysis to effectively implement measures for durable solutions in the

sector of women, peace and security and humanitarian response. In addition, participants noted that not enough financing focuses on prevention – many funds go to crisis-management, even though the focus on prevention would be not as expensive as crisis management. As the appropriate resources are not allocated to crisis management, many donors ignore the risk of emotional and psychological trauma of women in and after conflict. There must be strategies to effectively identify the risks facing women in crisis, and how to best respond to allocate the appropriate resources at the donor level, by also including local

Key Challenges	Key Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Lack of consistent and sustainable funding, especially to rural areas, which poses a risk of not being able to engage in the work ❖ Local experts are unheard and experts sent are perceptive only to their recommendations ❖ Physical dangers to women peacebuilders coming from alternate groups, such as damaging property, murder and torture ❖ Both national and local authorities have limited knowledge of gender, peace and security and is perceived as a topic of liminal importance in the larger context ❖ Women grassroots organizers are not taken seriously and their lived experiences are not acknowledged ❖ PTSD and burnout are not adequately resourced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Donors must be focused on coordination of NGOs, not just women’s NGOs and promote recommendations on UNSCR1325 ❖ Trainings must be held at all levels, not only for grassroots organizers. Women must be present at all levels of decision making ❖ Engage men as allies and partners in women, peace and security through workshops to break down stereotypes ❖ Build trust between local institutions and civil society organizations to enhance partnerships and collaboration ❖ Government should ensure gender sensitivity in mainstreaming ❖ Private sector and international organizations should ensure data and documentation of implementation processes

experts in the analysis of gender-responsive data and best practices.

When addressing how to mitigate challenges, participants said that donors must focus on all contribution, alliances and supporting existing structures that enhance women, peace and security and humanitarian sectors. Fiscal, administrative and political decentralization

efforts should involve women to ensure a localization framework that appropriately addresses the needs and concerns of women and girls in crisis and post-conflict settings. This programming should also include men as allies and partners. Participants stressed that inclusion not only looks like including men and boys in women, peace and security programming, but ensuring that they are a part of the dialogue around changing the structures at the root causes of inequality. Often this includes their incorporation in training and workshops to enhance awareness of the importance of women’s participation in all aspects of both public and private life. Ultimately, a focus on local actors and the importance of understanding context is at the core of the localization response.



Breakout Groups: Challenges and Risks

Group 2: Protection

Facilitator: Margaret Taylor, Women Empowerment Network (WEN), Liberia

The lack of monitoring measures poses a significant risk to the protection of vulnerable populations and the sustainability of the organization. For this reason, participants cited monitoring mechanisms for daily operations as one of the most important aspects of creating a safe environment for those affected by violent conflict. Additionally, like other groups, coordination with local, regional, national and international organizations to increase protection measures and implement National Action Plans is at the core of protection agendas. A key challenge is the differing needs and goals of various groups, which hinders proper coordination and successful implementation of campaigns that promote the rights of those most vulnerable. Organizations must work in tandem to provide the most sustainable care to those they are trying to reach.



Breakout Groups: Challenges and Risks

Group 3: Conflict Prevention and Mediation

Facilitator: Gulnara Shaninian, Democracy Today, Armenia

Conflict prevention and mediation often stems from issues of governance, transitions of power and subsequent political instability. Participants of the *Global Women's Forum* discussed how best to foster financing of women's organizations and involving the media in change making. Mobilizing resources for conflict prevention and mediation is at the core of women's rights and civil society organizations' ability to access the resources necessary to engage in the work they need to do to make access to justice a reality for the most vulnerable. With additional resource allocation, the ability to hold training sessions for members of the community on violence prevention and sustaining peace becomes possible.

Participants in this group cited that many who work for civil society organizations are trained as mediators by UN Women are not trained on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 itself, and therefore even if their given outcome as mediators is valid, it lacks the credibility from the resolution because it does not utilize the reasons from the resolution. Participants drew particular attention to the need for mediators to understand the reasons for which UNSCR1325 and Beijing+25 exist, and the necessity to localize these foundations of gender equality into country contexts. Without the proper training, these resolutions will remain under-utilized and ineffective. This breakout group found that change begins with grassroots work, and therefore it remains more meaningful to ensure that individuals are properly equipped with training and mobilization resources to best build the capacities of the community to address root causes of inequality and advocate for gender equality.

Additionally, those who have been trained in conflict prevention and mediation have soon after been released from duty and their active involvement in the programming for which they were trained remains unsustainable. Participants called for those who have been trained to be deployed in a ladder system that allows other members of leadership and future affiliates to receive training in order to ensure lessons learned from the programming are carried through time and improved upon. If not done so, these trainings and lack of support to train additional staff, leave the program under-supported and ultimately under-staffed. With the retainment of trained staff, many problems associated with best practices, sustained programs, efficiency in daily operations, would all be improved.



Breakout Groups: Challenges and Risks

Group 4: Economic Empowerment and Recovery

Co-Facilitators: Sidibé Moussokoro Coulibaly, Réseau des Femmes Opératrices Economique (RFPOE) of Ségou, Mali and Amal Rantisi, YWCA, Palestine

This breakout group identified key risks and challenges that halt ability to realize actionable measures to implement priority concerns and initiatives for economic empowerment and recovery. Key challenges to economic empowerment and recovery include the ongoing economic violence women and minority communities face in their respective regions, leading to lack of access to resources and assets, stemming from intergenerational access to rights through inheritance law. Participants noted that to actively change the situation and to achieve lasting peace, root causes of inequality such as discriminatory laws and patriarchal legislation must be changed. Creative ways of tackling these issues is also necessary to realize these agendas. Additional challenges of access such as access to services, fair wages, markets, investments and funding all contribute to the inequality in attainment of economic empowerment and recovery for women and girls and other vulnerable populations.

Additional challenges identified were the lack of coordination efforts among local organizations and donors. A key challenge for coordination is conflict itself, and lack of access to resources that would enable better communication for organization representatives to communicate one another and share best practices. With conflict, it is harder to move across territories to reach other organizations, and therefore what is being done cannot be shared with other groups due to lack of resources. Donor coordination also intensifies these challenges because money is often channeled to one specific area, often to the detriment of other regions. With this lack of coordination, the work of civil society is not fully supported or maximized, because without donor resources, groups cannot fully engage in their work.

Challenges

- ❖ **Economic violence** - Access to economic resources and assets with particular emphasis on the right to land and inheritance law
- ❖ Necessity of finding **creative ways** of overcoming the issue of women's economic recovery in high security risk contexts
- ❖ **Conflict and trans border conflicts** are a significant challenge to women's access to economic opportunities
- ❖ **Access to services** - including transportation services in rural areas and child care services
- ❖ **Access to fair wages, fair contracts, markets and trade.** Also need to **un-stereotype** markets (handicraft and sewing as the only means of economic incorporation)
- ❖ **Scattered resources and investments** with no coordination between partners
- ❖ Sustainability of **funding**
- ❖ **Lack of coordination** between donors, which sometimes leads to concentration of money to one specific region at the detriment of other regions



Breakout Groups Challenges and Risks

Group 5: Humanitarian Response

Co-Facilitators: Jude Khalaf, Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD), Jordan, and Susan Naisara Grey, FemLINKpacific, Pacific Islands

This breakout session focused on the challenges and risks associated with humanitarian response and violence prevention. Participants brought listed examples from the field as well as ongoing concerns to humanitarian engagement to demonstrate the extent to which access and other aid is critical. Some of the main challenges include ongoing inequality in health, access to life-saving resources and care, donor coordination, and freedom of movement to reach populations who are most affected by conflict or in need of humanitarian assistance.

A representative from **Palestine** noted that 60% of Palestine is under the occupation. Many Palestinian women suffer, with little to no access to basic services such as education, infrastructure, energy, etc. Practices identified to initiate aid is the incorporation of women's committees to address various concerns. Palestinian women here play an active role in the protection of their family, and take on identities of a social and political leader. However, these barriers and challenges remain a key factor in delayed progress of civil society to effectively advance women's rights. In order to best address these challenges, participants noted the importance of addressing root causes of conflict and advocated for all organizations working to advance women's rights also work to address the structures that act violently upon women, such as looking at the gendered effect of occupation, governments in transition, and lack of access to resources.

In **West Africa**, there many terrorist attacks, and therefore humanitarian action is very hard to implement because extremist groups block access to resources. Additionally, women

and child mortality is very high in this region, and there is little access to the population that is in the most dire need of receiving vaccinations or other necessary resources because tensions are high in the region and terrorist groups impede access. Therefore aid is blocked from those most in need and who are most affected by these attacks. The representative notes that there is a peace contract but it is impossible to implement as there is a lack of resources; the situation is too political and therefore, the situation is not stable. Lack of access and restrictions to care are not just due to violence, but on an administrative level as well. Many have difficulty obtaining passports and identity cards to reach the locations and provinces that most need access, and in such there is no service for the population. It is imperative to work with INGOs, national organizations and to enhance partnerships between local and national governing bodies so access to basic services can be realized. With enhanced partnerships, it is possible to work together to achieve the goal of serving those most in need. As of now, there is drastic competition between and among organizations, rather than collaborative work for gender-responsive humanitarian assistance. Participants continue to advocate for gender-inclusive approaches to humanitarian response, which must be done in tandem and coordination with other civil society organizations, government, and donor agencies.



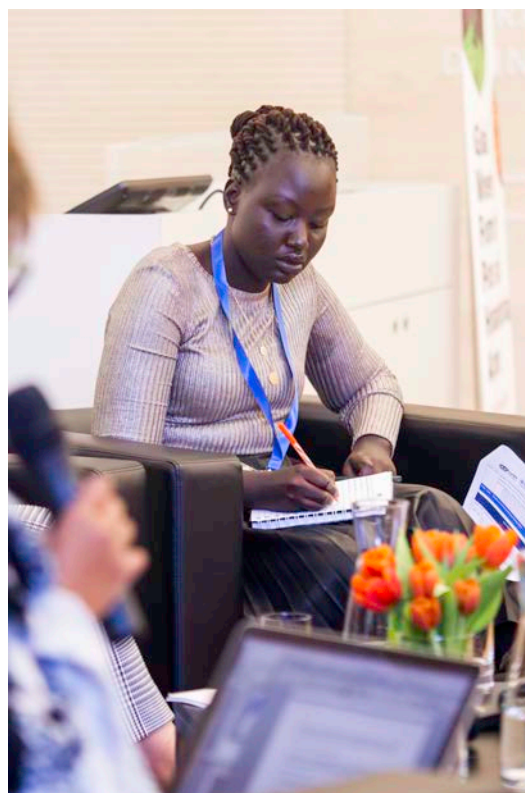
Addressing the Continuum between Women, Peace and Security, Humanitarian Response, HR and Development



Addressing the Continuum between Women, Peace and Security, Humanitarian Response, HR and Development

This Forum addressed the continuum at a critical juncture to work to identify best practices to serve vulnerable populations. In addition, this goal also aided to clarifying the interplay of the nexus of women, peace and security and humanitarian response as well as the importance of coordination among all sectors to ensure the nexus is best advocating for those most vulnerable in conflict.

Participants noted that smaller NGOs have been trying to address the needs of the context, and that such a nexus has been in negotiation to be adopted all around the world. Women are not heard and have lack of access to resources. **Noella Alifwa** of SOFEPADI discussed the continuum during the plenary by noting that women and girls are particularly overlooked within WPS and humanitarian response. She further presented that those who are most affected by conflicts are women because they are raped, tortured, and killed by armed groups, and are directly targeted because of what they represent in their communities, including through ideas of honor that perpetuates gender-based violence. The specific issues of women are not taken into account by organizations who do not understand the local context. This idea was prominent throughout



the forum, demonstrating that the skills and expertise of the local population is often devalued.

In terms of best practices, Alifwa called for women present in every situation peace is discussed. The village community needs to understand the role and importance of peace. She noted the example of access, saying that most of the time armed militia are men, and noted that it is not possible to negotiate in a group if only women or men are involved. All are imperative to lasting peace due to cultural boundaries in the negotiation process. Additionally, humanitarian support has not taken into account the community, and tools are not provided because communities are not asked what it is that they need. When addressing these concerns, Alifwa said, women must be consulted as they understand their communities and the needs within the local context.



Donors, INGOs, governmental agencies as well as other civil society actors do not prioritize the needs of at-risk individuals, and if they do so, they serve in the means that they best see fit and do not listen to the local population's demand for services. Local experts become critical in addressing the continuum of human rights, women peace and security, humanitarian aid and development. Without local actors, it is nearly impossible to understand local

context or adequately listen to the stories and voices of those engaging in this work.

When discussing peace, it is imperative to also engage in conversations of safety, security and development. Without peace, there is no development. Often, the proposed solution to access and complaints of inadequate infrastructure is to rebuild and enhance what

is there. However, participants in the GWF pointed to the reality that it is meaningless to build infrastructure if there is no peace, as military and armed groups will destroy the new infrastructure and lead to a further cycle of lack of access and waste of resources and investments. Real, meaningful investments come from investing in women's participation in sustainable and inclusive peace. In addition to safety, women are not safe when engaging in daily tasks, and often when women go to the market they are raped or violated. Participants called for additional support from donors and other actors to end violence, and again emphasized that if there is no peace, there is no development.



Also in addressing the continuum, participants spoke about the need for increased coordination across all sectors of development to enhance peace and humanitarian relief. **Rana El-Akhal** of Jordan spoke about the influx of refugees to Jordan. She notes that Many refugees are traumatized, cannot work, and have a fear of entering the workforce. As many refugees do not know their rights, or have access to work permits, their dignity is consistently challenged. Most refugees, El-Akhal stated, need the work and therefore work

for less wages and are prone to exploitation, and therefore the most important challenge is to be able to view the nexus in a comprehensive way. Support is needed for employment and emergency relief, which is not currently being done by donors. She elaborated to say that a refugee woman, for example, who has children will not go out and look for a job, or be able to leave the house for a job. This is why it is important to support home-based businesses for women. She emphasized that there are different ways of economic relief for refugees, and civil society organizations working across the nexus must be creative to meet these various needs.

Participants of the GWF also addressed the need to address trauma and context in a comprehensive manner. It is not reasonable to compare urban context with urban context, because each village is different and people are coming from different experiences. Additionally, if organizations and professionals do not address the trauma of displacement, such as rape, sexual and gender-based violence, and more, it informs the cycle of violence and deep-rooted inequalities. Participants called for an in-depth investigation in to how to better serve marginalized and vulnerable populations affected by violence, with specific reference to young girls and other vulnerable populations to better advocate for dignity, human rights and inform development practices.



Thinking Outside of the Box: Driving Innovation in Support of the Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Agenda



Thinking Outside of the Box: Driving Innovation in Support of the Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Agenda

This session addressed key insights into private sector partnerships, the value of technology within the nexus of women, peace and security and humanitarian response, as well as the introduction of the WPHF platform *Community of Practice* (COP).



Technology has been used as a way to advance early warning systems for disaster prevention and response, as well as risk reduction. In the Pacific, there is a large-scale impact of climate crisis, and mass migration due to unstable weather conditions. **Susan Naisara Grey** discussed how technology has been used through FemLINKpacific, an organization

that established the program *Women's Weather Watch* (WWW), a community radio system that broadcasts and alerts of the population of when a natural disaster will strike, and how to best be prepared. WWW utilizes technological innovation to forward disaster risk management. Grey noted that the two must be seen as moving in tandem, as when paired together both technology and innovation can be used to literally save lives and create more efficient systems of protection and resilience. FemLINKpacific also holds trainings and forums for women on humanitarian response and empowers women to take on leadership roles in risk-reduction in their communities.

Throughout the forum, representatives of organizations continued to speak about the power of technology and innovation in ending and preventing violence, and increasing women's participation in peace and humanitarian response. Adding to the critique of the importance of technology, **Ghita El Khyari** discussed the value of private sector partnerships and investment in women's organizations to best build their capacities at all local, regional and national levels. El Khyari also underscored the value of private sector partnerships in enhancing access to resources for civil society, such as computers and other tools to build



capacity. WPHF currently holds partnerships with Starbucks through the *Needlist Project*, which works alongside volunteers to evaluate grant proposals from civil society organizations. Additionally, WPHF has partnered with Dell Technologies to launch the new *Community of Practice* (CoP) online forum, which allows WPHF peacebuilders and humanitarians from around the globe to connect online to share best



practices and lessons learned from their organization and context. WPHF and Dell believe this partnership and online CoP will yield meaningful results in creating further engagement in women, peace and security and humanitarian response. CoP will continue to foster sustained relationships and encourage grassroots leaders to share best practices on crisis management, as well as how to be connected to the resources they need to thrive.

Elizabeth Yokwe shared her experience with technology and innovation. In South Sudan, girls often know they will not finish school and feel that their only next steps are to get married. She helped develop a program to teach girls that there women and girls have a future in education and there is a career available to them. Beneficiaries of the program said that prior to joining the initiative they did not feel as though they had a voice, or had a place in women, peace and security. The program gave them confidence to speak up for themselves in all aspects of life, including with supervisors and military officials. Online innovation is assisting with this project, enhancing the amount of girls possible to be reached to spread knowledge of worth and capability. The goal of the project with technology was to reach 200 people, but the program had surpassed its initial set standard and ultimately reached 450 girls. Yokwe also noted the importance of technology for cross-border communication, referring specifically to Uganda and South Sudan. The ability to connect electronically, for those who are able, permits the opportunity to learn about best practices and cross border experiences and to engage in conversation with those who are making the decisions.

Regarding the important of technology and the private sector in sustaining peace and humanitarian response, **Britney Nemecek** noted that technology offers new solutions to face challenges that perpetuate inequality. Specifically, Nemecek discussed the role of technology in mobile money and emergency cash transfers, as people now have access to tools that enhance communication and digital data collection which allows to be more efficient than ever before. Technology, she said, can enhance the ways in which data is accessed in refugee camps and establish micro-credit loan history to forward economic recovery post-conflict. Applications and how it will be used will impact the field and how we innovate.

Moving the WPS Agenda and Gender-Sensitive Response Forward - Announcements



Moving the Women, Peace and Security Agenda Forward

Announcements of Commitments and Pledges to WPS Implementation in 2020 and Beyond

Moderator: Kristen Bell, Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) Global Advocate

Insert list of speakers and pledges (some informally signed up)



Conclusion



Conclusion

The *Global Women's Forum* served as a platform for discussions and recommendations from grassroots women, government and UN representatives, academics/experts and private sector partners. This global convening aimed to contribute to strategies working to fulfill commitments under the Women, Peace and Security agenda as well as the Generation Equality Forum ahead of Beijing +25.

Through the Forum, participants were able to understand how people around the world are working to respond to humanitarian emergencies, reflect on impact, exchange best practices and lessons learned, and discuss challenges. Ultimately, the forum effectively re-energized and built momentum for the global movement on women, peace and security and humanitarian response. The GWF received xx pledges and announcements in increased commitment to WPSHA agendas, in addition to the reaffirmed belief that civil society are doing the work that is needed to end violence and achieve gender justice. In intensive breakout sessions and plenary discussions on key recommendations, participants collectively examined the progress and challenges in implementation of WPSHA agendas, shared experiences and learned of concrete examples from around the world of how implementation must - and should - be strengthened.

Recommendations collected from participants were captured and reflected in the adoption of the Forum Outcome Declaration (FOD), which will inform future policy and advocacy in the field of WPSHA and reflects strategic goals and strategies of civil society representatives from the forum. This document is tangible evidence to the power of collective action for peace, security, humanitarian aid and human rights.

Vienna Declaration 2020

The Forum Outcome Declaration is drafted and adopted by grassroots women's organizations, which will feed into international policy and action ahead of UNSCR1325+20 and Beijing +25, to strengthen implementation of women, peace and security and humanitarian response and improve resilience to reduce vulnerability to conflict. Thematic breakout groups met to discuss the draft Forum Outcome Declaration which compiled civil society representatives' key recommendations and action items discussed at the forum.

The final Forum Outcome Declaration was presented by **Wolfgang Lapuh** and **Mavic Cabrera-Balleza**. The below document was thereby adopted at the *Global Women's Forum for Peace and Humanitarian Action* on 20 February 2020 at the University of Vienna in Vienna, Austria.

Vienna 2020 Declaration

Women Peacebuilders & First Responders Defining Key Priorities in 2020 and Beyond

We, women peacebuilders, humanitarian responders, and civil-society representatives from diverse backgrounds and from 17 countries across Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, the South Caucasus and the Middle East, convened at the Global Women's Forum for Peace & Humanitarian Action¹ in Vienna, Austria, on February 19 – 20, 2020.

Ahead of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security, the 5th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth and Peace and Security, and the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, we exchanged experiences and set key implementation priorities for the way forward. We call for greater recognition for and support to our work in building and sustaining inclusive peace.

Our critical work creates positive change in our communities. Nevertheless, we continue to face the following challenges:

- Our lives and our rights are disproportionately threatened by violent conflict. The root causes of conflict, including gender inequality and other intersecting forms of violence and discrimination, the political and economic systems of war (including militarization and arms proliferation), weak accountability for violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, and other threats like climate change, the rise of violent extremism, and organized criminal networks, remain insufficiently addressed.

- Our diversity is not sufficiently recognized. Women and young women are not homogenous groups of people. The meaningful and effective participation of women and youth does not sufficiently extend to all persons who identify as such, including many historically marginalized communities.

- Our work remains underfunded. The failure to allocate sufficient, timely, direct, flexible, reliable, adequate and sustainable resources is a major obstacle to our work. When funding is available, it is often short-term and inaccessible to grassroots civil society, and even more so for grassroots youth organizations.

1 The Global Women’s Forum for Peace & Humanitarian Action was organized by the Austrian Development Cooperation, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, and the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund in Vienna, Austria on February 19 – 20, 2020. This Declaration, an outcome document of the Forum, will feed into the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 and contribute to the Generation Equality Forum and the UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review.

- Our lives and our families are at risk because of our work as women peacebuilders. In addition to legal and socio-cultural barriers, we face harassment, threats, arrests, torture and violence. The space for our work is rapidly shrinking.

- Our potential is limited by patriarchy, negative stereotypes, discriminatory socio-cultural practices and policies. Harmful policies, social, and cultural norms as well as

traditional concepts of masculinity and femininity promote violence and militarization, while sustaining gender inequalities.

- We remain excluded from most peace processes and political decision-making at all levels, despite evidence that our participation makes them more effective, more inclusive and more sustainable. When peace agreements are reached, we are further marginalized in the implementation process. Most peace agreements are little known or understood by local communities, and often not translated into local languages. As a result, implementation is slow – and even slower for gender-responsive provisions, if they exist.

- Many of us do not have access to economic resources and opportunities. Often, we cannot own land, inherit properties, travel safely, or make financial decisions. This is worsened during conflict and humanitarian crises where there is scarcity of economic resources and opportunities, in particular for refugee and internally displaced persons (IDPs), the majority of whom are women and girls.

- We are not recognized as experts and excluded from the design and decision-making on priorities. Despite our extensive experience, our positive impact and our knowledge as peacebuilders and humanitarian responders, our contributions are unrecognized and undervalued. Because of this, we are excluded in decision-making, donor priorities do not reflect our needs and our realities, and our initiatives remain underfunded and overlooked.

- We are excluded in the design and implementation of humanitarian programmes. In refugee and IDP camps, the majority of decision-makers and leaders are men. As a result, the needs of women and young women refugees, internally displaced, and host communities remain invisible and unaddressed. This makes it difficult, and at times, unsafe for us to access services and aid.

These grave challenges are exacerbated for women who face added layers of discrimination based on ethnicity, economic status, age, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity, such as young women, elderly women, indigenous women, widows, women veterans, women with disabilities, refugee and internally displaced women, women

migrants, women returnees and former combatants, women in rural communities, women living in unrecognized territories, and other marginalized groups.

To address them, we urgently call on:

The United Nations and Donor Community, including the private sector:

1. To provide adequate, accessible, flexible, demand-driven and long-term funding, particularly to grassroots women's rights and youth organizations, to simplify funding application procedures, and to meaningfully include women of all backgrounds and ages in the design of funding priorities and programmes.

2. To support women's self-protection initiatives, including through (i) rapid funds and coordination to respond to women peacebuilders and humanitarian actors facing risks and safely relocate; (ii) supporting civil society-led monitoring and information-sharing on threats and risks, (iii) provision of legal and psychosocial services.

3. To support women's -including young women's- rights and access to education, economic resources and opportunities, recognizing that when women and young women, are economically empowered and financially independent, they can more effectively contribute to decision- making, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, sustaining peace, and the promotion of human rights and gender equality.

4. To provide dedicated financial support to enhance women's and youth civil society organizational capacities, especially at the grassroots level, and strengthen coordination among women peacebuilders, humanitarian responders and civil society, including through intergenerational dialogues.

5. To recognize climate change as a driver of conflict and to invest in women-led initiatives aimed at climate change mitigation and adaptation as a conflict prevention strategy.

6. To make resources, infrastructures, and tools such as access to internet and new technologies available to grassroots women, including young women, through cooperation

with the private sector in ways that are non-exploitative and respectful of local women's and youth's capacities to make decisions.

7. To create and make accessible conflict-sensitive rapid response funding for women and young women's initiatives in humanitarian emergencies.

8. To utilize goods and services produced by local women and intentionally invest in economic enterprises led by local women in conflict and crisis situations.

Member States and local and national authorities

9. To improve coordination with women's rights organizations and increase funding to support their work in implementing the Women and Peace and Security resolutions and gender-sensitive humanitarian action.

10. To enable and institutionalize women's meaningful participation, particularly at the local level, in developing, adopting and implementing gender-sensitive environmental policies as a conflict- prevention strategy.

11. To recognize, support and protect women peacebuilders and humanitarian responders and their families, so they can safely carry out their work, by condemning actions that violate their rights and preventing all risks, reprisals, and other interference with their work.

12. To adopt gender-responsive macro-economic policies and gender-responsive national and local budgets, particularly in post-conflict economic recovery, and to enable women's meaningful participation in the design, implementation, and monitoring.

13. To remove legal, logistical and institutional barriers such as excessive visa restrictions to women's and young women's participation in international meetings, conferences and other policy and decision-making spaces.

14. To strengthen the nexus between WPS and humanitarian action by integrating a strong WPS perspective in humanitarian action and by guaranteeing meaningful participation of women

peacebuilders in the design and implementation of humanitarian programmes; ensuring the meaningful participation of women refugees, internally displaced women, and women in host communities in developing and implementing National Action Plans and Local Action Plans on WPS.

15. To hold Member States accountable to uphold and enforce national, regional, and international laws and policies on WPS, human rights and humanitarian situations.

All stakeholders

16. To meaningfully include women refugees, IDPs and women from host communities, at all stages of design, implementation, and monitoring of humanitarian programs which contribute to social cohesion between communities, and to ensure that they are represented in all coordination and leadership mechanisms in crisis contexts.

17. To further invest in initiatives focused on social cohesion between host communities, refugees and IDPs.

18. To guarantee the meaningful participation of local women from diverse backgrounds as mediators and negotiators in all peace processes, including official negotiations.

19. To design and fund programmes that cut across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and with a strong human rights-based approach.

20. To adopt comprehensive codes of conduct, including strict zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse; and transparent reporting and accountability mechanisms;

21. To involve boys, young men and men of all ages– including traditional and faith leaders – as allies in the implementation of the Women Peace and Security resolutions and international humanitarian laws and agreements, while ensuring women’s leadership and promoting positive masculinities.

22. To promote the portrayal of women as peacebuilders, leaders and decision-makers in the media; support women’s access to decision-making positions in media organizations; and hold the media accountable for hate speech and misogyny.

23. To invest in holistic and survivor-centered sexual and reproductive health care services, psychosocial support, and access to justice programmes for support to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and humanitarian crises.

24. To ensure local women's participation in all stages of design and implementation of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration programmes

25. To recognize, support and stand with women peacebuilders Call to Action to elevate their vital work and address the insecurities they face.

26. To guarantee synergies and remove silos between the effective implementation of all international frameworks on peace and security, human rights, and development, including the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, UN Security Council Resolution 2250, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sustaining Peace resolutions, and to use the 2020 milestone anniversaries as an opportunity to garner political support, allocate funding, and build on momentum.











