

## Promoting Gender-Responsive Approaches to Natural Resource Management for Peace

### MPTF OFFICE FINAL PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup> NARRATIVE REPORT REPORTING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2016 – 31 AUGUST 2020

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme Title: Promoting Gender-Responsive Approaches to Natural Resource Management for Peace</li> <li>• MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>3</sup> 00101928</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results<sup>2</sup></b></p> <p>The Joint Programme (JP) aimed to strengthen conflict prevention and peacebuilding outcomes by ensuring that men and women enjoyed equal rights and access to, control over and benefits from natural resources that are key for resilience, sustainable livelihoods and post-conflict economic recovery</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Participating Organization(s)</b></p> <p>Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNEP</li> <li>• UNDP</li> <li>• UN Women</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Implementing Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National counterparts (government)</li> <li>• Folke Bernadotte Academy, Sweden</li> <li>• Environmental Law Institute, USA</li> <li>• Vet-Care Organization, Sudan</li> <li>• Tierra Digna, Colombia</li> <li>• Fundación Natura, Colombia</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b></p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: USD 4,500,000</p> <p>MPTF /JP Contribution<sup>4</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNEP: \$565,434</li> <li>• UNDP: \$212,234</li> <li>• UN Women: \$355,784</li> </ul> <p>Agency Contribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNEP: \$200,000</li> <li>• UNDP: \$100,000</li> <li>• UN Women: \$100,000</li> </ul> <p>Government Contribution: N/A</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Programme Duration</b></p> <p>Overall Duration: 48 months</p> <p>Start Date<sup>5</sup> 08.09.2016</p> <p>Original End Date<sup>6</sup> 28.02.2019</p>

<sup>1</sup> The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.  
<sup>2</sup> Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;  
<sup>3</sup> The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)  
<sup>4</sup> The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)  
<sup>5</sup> The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)  
<sup>6</sup> As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

Other Contributions (donors):

- Norway: \$250,000
- Germany: \$100,000
- Sweden: \$50,000 + full-time secondment of expert (Dec 2016-March 2017) and in-kind support for programme delivery

**TOTAL: 1,933,452**

**Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.**

Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach*

Yes     No    Date: *n/a*

Mid-Term Evaluation Report – *if applicable please attach*

Yes     No    Date: *n/a*

Current End date<sup>7</sup> 31.08.2020

**Report Submitted By**

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<sup>7</sup> If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During its four years of implementation, the Joint Programme on Women, Natural Resources, Climate and Peace achieved several important results in advancing knowledge and capacity for policymaking and programming at the nexus of gender, natural resources, climate and peace.

At the country level, the Joint Programme's pilot projects in Sudan and Colombia successfully tested and validated new natural resource-based approaches to strengthen women's contributions to peace. The pilot projects demonstrated that women's knowledge and roles related to natural resource management offer a unique entry point to empowering women economically and strengthening women's leadership in governance, dispute resolution, and peacebuilding. The resulting methodologies, good practices and lessons are increasingly being integrated into peacebuilding planning and programming at country level. Most notably, the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) has supported replication and upscaling of the Joint Programme's methodology through a USD 4 million transboundary project in Mali and Niger; and teams in Sudan are engaged in the development of a new USD 3 million PBF initiative in Blue Nile State, in the context of the recent signing of the Juba peace agreement, building on the Joint Programme's approach. The approach has also shaped a USD 2.5 million PBF project in Côte d'Ivoire, which focuses on reducing conflict risk through inclusive natural resource management in the north-eastern border zone.

At the global level, significant progress has been made towards achieving integration of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and the emerging climate-security policy agendas. The Joint Programme's research and knowledge products have served to elevate lesson from the field and consolidate the available evidence at the nexus of gender, climate and security. These include the series of publications from [Colombia](#), the 2019 report "[Promoting Gender-Responsive Approaches to Natural Resource Management for Peace in North Kordofan, Sudan](#)" presenting the results and lessons learned from the Sudan pilot project, and the 2020 report "[Gender, Climate and Security: Sustaining Inclusive Peace on the Frontlines of Climate Change](#)," which provided a targeted set of recommendations for integrating relevant and complementary policy agendas. The Joint Programme's influence is visible through the increasingly nuanced understanding of gender considerations in debates and discussions on the security implications of climate change, as well as evidence of the "mainstreaming" climate and environment into the WPS agenda. For the first time, the 2020 annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the WPS agenda included a section dedicated to [climate change and its peace and security implications](#).

Finally, the Joint Programme has contributed to building system-wide capacity for integrated analysis and programme design in order to promote uptake and replication of tested methodologies. The Joint Programme successfully delivered its highly modular and adaptive training package seven times, specifically targeting key influencers and changemakers whose enhanced capacity has catalytic potential for influencing policy, research, and programming priorities. For instance, Joint Programme trainees included UN Peace and Development Advisors, foreign policy officers and staff of special political missions. To meet the growing demand for expertise, the Joint Programme developed a new [MOOC](#) on designing and implementing gender-responsive approaches to addressing climate-related security risks, adapting elements of the Joint Programme's live training in to a self-paced, online course. The MOOC, hosted on the One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership (UN CC: Learn) online platform, was designed to reach to broader group of stakeholders including political analysts and peacebuilding practitioners, climate adaptation specialists and gender and inclusion advisors seeking to better integrate climate, conflict, and gender considerations into their analytical processes and programming.

### I. Purpose

Since the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in 2000, there is a growing body of evidence showing that the meaningful participation of women contributes not only to the conclusion of peace talks, but also to the implementation of peace agreements and the sustainability of peacebuilding processes. While there has been a gradual increase in the number of women taking part in conflict resolution and peace processes since the adoption of the resolution, many barriers remain in ensuring that they have the opportunity to engage substantively and the capacity to influence key outcomes. Largely overlooked in gender-related peacebuilding programming to date, interventions around natural resources, environment and climate change provide significant opportunities to empower women politically and economically, and to strengthen their contributions to peace.

The Joint Programme on Women, Natural Resources and Peace was established in 2016 to promote natural resource-based interventions as a tool for strengthening women's participation in three areas:

- Participation in dialogue, mediation and conflict resolution efforts
- Participation in governance and decision-making at all levels
- Contributions to economic recovery and sustainable development.

This Joint Programme sought to build the capacity of UN and other international, national, local and community peacebuilding and development actors to design, implement, replicate and upscale gender-responsive natural resource interventions, and to ensure that these are integrated in national and local planning and programming for peace and development in conflict-affected countries.

This outcome was achieved through three main sets of sequential outputs: (i) pilot-testing of gender-responsive natural resource-based interventions in conflict-affected countries, (ii) development of tools for UN and other actors to design, implement, replicate and upscale successful approaches, and (iii) advocacy and outreach to promote uptake of these tools at country-level.

This Joint Programme's results were predicated on the strong partnership between UNEP, UN Women, UNDP and DPPA, which not only ensured that the necessary expertise on the different dimensions of the nexus – peacebuilding, gender equality and women's empowerment, environmental sustainability and natural resource management, livelihoods and economic recovery – was available, but also allowed for truly integrated approaches to be designed and implemented.

## **II. Assessment of the Programme Results**

### **i) Narrative reporting on results:**

- **Outcomes:**

During its four years of implementation, the Joint Programme on Women, Natural Resources, Climate and Peace not only established environment and climate-related interventions as a key entry points for enhancing women's leadership and meaningful participation in mediation, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding processes, but also ensured that gender considerations were mainstreamed across the emerging climate-security agenda.

**Outcome 1: Gender-responsive approaches to natural resource management are integrated into national and local planning and programming for peacebuilding and development in conflict-affected countries**

<i>Achievements (green=target achieved, yellow=significant progress towards target achieved, red=target not achieved)</i>
5 peacebuilding and development programmes and planning frameworks in conflict-affected countries that integrate gender-responsive natural resource management practices
5 interventions to increase the institutional capacity (knowledge, skills, attitudes) of UN, national and local peacebuilding and development actors to design, implement and monitor gender-responsive interventions in various natural resource sectors in conflict-affected countries
USD 8,993,000 in increased financial investment in initiatives using gender-responsive natural resource management approaches for peacebuilding and development in conflict-affected countries

With respect to the first outcome, the project achieved all three indicator targets measuring **integration of gender-responsive approaches to natural resource management promoted by the Joint Programme into planning and programming for peacebuilding and development in conflict-affected countries**, despite raising only 43% its overall budget (USD 1.993 million of a targeted USD 4.5 million).

First, methodologies, good practices and lessons developed and tested through the Joint Programme’s two pilot projects are increasingly being integrated into peacebuilding planning and programming at country level. Most notably, the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) has supported replication and upscaling of the Joint Programme’s methodology through a USD 4 million transboundary project in Mali and Niger; and teams in Sudan are engaged in the development of a new USD 3 million PBF initiative in Blue Nile State, in the context of the recent signing of the Juba peace agreement, building on the Joint Programme’s approach. The approach has also shaped a USD 2.5 million PBF project in Côte d’Ivoire, which focuses on reducing conflict risk through inclusive natural resource management in the north-eastern border zone.

The Joint Programme has also successfully increased capacities among peacebuilding and development practitioners to conduct integrated analysis, design integrated programmes, and evaluate impact of project interventions at the nexus of gender, natural resources, climate and peace. This was achieved through the development and delivery of a comprehensive training package, which was delivered to more than 100 people, including UN Peace and Development Advisors, special political missions, civil society organizations and other key stakeholders across and outside of the UN system. In response to growing demand, the training package was transformed into a [Massive Online Open Course \(MOOC\)](#) on designing and implementing gender-responsive approaches to addressing climate-related security risks, in collaboration with a number of key stakeholders (e.g. the UN Climate Security Mechanism). Additionally, the Joint Programme’s [online knowledge platform](#) now hosts a community of practice of over 350 people.

Second, significant progress has been made at the global level towards achieving integration of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and the emerging climate-security policy agendas. The Joint Programme’s research and knowledge products have served to elevate lesson from the field and consolidate the available evidence at the nexus of gender, climate and security. These include the series of publications from [Colombia](#), the 2019 report “[Promoting Gender-Responsive Approaches to Natural Resource Management for Peace in North Kordofan, Sudan](#)” presenting the results and lessons learned from the Sudan pilot project, and the 2020 report “[Gender, Climate and Security: Sustaining Inclusive Peace on the Frontlines of Climate Change](#),” which provided a targeted set of recommendations for integrating relevant and complementary policy agendas. The Joint Programme’s influence is visible through the increasingly nuanced understanding of gender considerations in debates and discussions on the security implications of climate change, as well as evidence of the “mainstreaming” climate and environment into the WPS agenda. For the first time, the 2020 annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the WPS agenda included a section dedicated to [climate change and its peace and security implications](#).

<b>Outcome 2:</b> Specific challenges and/or opportunities presented by women’s access, use and control of natural resources are addressed in conflict-affected countries on a pilot basis
<i>Achievements (green=target achieved, yellow=significant progress towards target achieved, red=target not achieved)</i>

As for the second outcome, the project successfully **addressed specific challenges and opportunities presented by women's access, use and control of natural resources in conflict-affected countries**. This was achieved through two joint pilot projects, in Sudan (completed 2018) and in Colombia (completed 2019). At the local level in Chocó, Colombia, the project succeeded in leveraging opportunities presented by the restoration and rehabilitation of the Atrato River – a formal process mandated by ruling T-622 of the Colombian constitutional court – to increase women's capacity to meaningfully engage in environmental governance, natural resource management and the prevention of socio-environmental conflicts. Thanks to the support provided, the network of "River Guardians" in charge of overseeing the process expanded by nearly 70 additional people – women and men. Restoration of the river was seen by a plurality of stakeholders as a major peace dividend. This mirrored similar successes in North Kordofan, Sudan, where the first pilot enjoyed very positive outcomes with respect to women's participation and influence in natural resource conflict prevention and peacebuilding mechanisms. In both pilot locations, the Joint Programme's interventions demonstrated that empowering women through natural resource-based approaches at the local level can have highly positive impacts on conflict prevention and sustaining peace.

Further details on the outcomes of the joint pilot projects are provided below (see Output 1).

- **Outputs**

### **Output 1      Joint pilot interventions at country level**

<b>Output 1: Gender-responsive approaches to natural resource management tested and documented through pilot projects in at least three conflict-affected countries</b>
<i>Achievements (green=target achieved, yellow=significant progress towards target achieved, red=target not achieved)</i>
2 pilot projects completed (target = 3*)
<i>*note that only 43% of the full programme budget was raised</i>
2 reports documenting lessons and best practices for integrating gender-responsive approaches to natural resource management in peacebuilding contexts collected for upscaling and replication
Increase in the institutional capacity (knowledge, skills, attitudes) of UN, national and local peacebuilding and development practitioners involved in pilot projects to design, implement and monitor gender-responsive interventions in various natural resource sectors in conflict-affected countries

The Joint Programme successfully completed **pilot projects** in Sudan and in Colombia to **test and document gender-responsive approaches to natural resource management in conflict-affected countries**. Results from the pilot projects are presented in highly summarized form below. Detailed reports, including lessons learned, are available for each project (see links below). A third set of pilot activities, initially planned in the Democratic Republic of Congo, was halted due to significant delays associated with political challenges in the region and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Resources dedicated to this initiative were reprogrammed towards training to have a bigger impact in sharing lessons learned for programme design from the pilot projects.

*a.      Joint Pilot Project in North Kordofan, Sudan (finalized October 2018)*

Building on interventions conducted under UNDP's Community Security and Stabilization Programme (C2SP), the project sought to strengthen women's roles in local peacebuilding processes over natural resource-based conflicts. This was achieved by building women's capacity to participate more effectively in local

planning, decision-making and conflict resolution bodies that manage access to and use of natural resources in Al Rahad, North Kordofan, a community that is beset by climate-related environmental degradation and increasing conflicts over natural resources. The 18-month project (active implementation from March 2017 to October 2018) was jointly managed and implemented by the country offices of UNDP, UN Women and UNEP, and supported with a USD 300,000 grant from the Government of Finland (first phase funding).

## Achievements

- The project’s achievements are fully documented, along with lessons learned, in the [final report of the joint pilot project](#) in Sudan. The report was released on 8 March 2019 and broadly disseminated through the Knowledge Platform, social media, targeted meetings, events and training. The project’s results and lessons were also presented to key international stakeholders, including the Resident Coordinator and several donors, in Khartoum.
- As noted in previous reports, the project achieved very positive outcomes with respect to women’s participation and influence in natural resource conflict prevention and peacebuilding mechanisms in North Kordofan, as well as immediate gains in women’s economic empowerment. For example, the number of women affiliated to the local Conflict Mitigation and Peacebuilding Center, the main conflict resolution mechanism in the project area, doubled during the project lifespan (from 10 to 20 out of 50 members). Among other roles, these women now lead Dialogue Forums bringing pastoralist, farming and IDP communities together in each of the target villages to discuss various factors of tension, including access to land and water. Crucially, the Center has reported that three out of four mediation processes women were involved in as mediators concerned disputes over natural resources, whereas prior to the project, women’s opinions would generally only be sought on social issues, particularly domestic disputes. Moreover, since the end of the project, at least two women are systematically included as part of all mediation processes and *Jodeya* meetings, both within the Center and within the communities, irrespective of the type of conflict under discussion. Finally, 87% of the diverse group of women supported through the project reported increased income. This not only had an immediate positive impact on women’s ability to meet their immediate needs (and that of their families), but also had important effects on women’s sense of empowerment and self-esteem.
- The project – seen as one of the first to successfully link gender, climate change and security in a single theory of change – has generated considerable interest among peace and development actors. Most saliently, UNEP, UN Women and UNDP offices in Sudan are engaged in the development of a new USD 3 million project with the PBF (approved at concept stage) in Blue Nile State to replicate and scale the approaches tested in the pilot. Additionally, UN Women and UNDP were able to leverage the experience of the pilot to secure USD 4 million in funding from the UN Peacebuilding Fund to replicate and adapt the approach in a cross-border context in Mali and Niger. These successes have contributed to achieving the Joint Programme’s outcomes.

### *b. Joint pilot project in Colombia (finalized November 2019)*

The joint pilot project titled “Supporting the peace process in Colombia by strengthening women’s engagement in natural resource governance” was the second initiated under the Joint Programme. Within the context of the implementation of the Final Peace Accord with the FARC, the project aimed to establish the nexus of gender equality, women’s rights and inclusive environmental governance as a foundation for sustainable peace in Colombia. To achieve this goal, the project sought to support institutional and civil society initiatives to accelerate the participation of women in advancing reforms and programmes related to rural development and the management of natural resources. The project was focused on the department of Chocó, with specific activities in the lower Cauca area (in the department of Antioquia) and at the national level.

The 18-month project (active implementation from June 2018 to November 2019) was jointly managed by the country offices of UN Women and UNEP Colombia, while UNDP had an advisory role. This pilot project had a total budget of USD 537,200, comprised of USD 247,500 contributed by the Government of Finland through the MPTFO, as well as additional contributions of USD 121,800 from the Government of Norway (through UNEP), and USD 167,900 from the Government of Germany (through UN Women).

## Achievements

The project's main achievements can be summarized as follows:

- The project succeeded in increasing women's capacity to meaningfully engage in environmental governance, natural resource management and the prevention of socio-environmental conflicts in the department of Chocó. Capacity-building was conducted chiefly through a Women, Biodiversity and Peacebuilding Certificate Training Programme designed and delivered by the project, which trained 23 people, including 18 women and five men belonging to seven different civil society organizations. A key objective of the training was to consolidate the knowledge and leadership of the body of "guardians" of the Atrato river designated to oversee the implementation of the Constitutional Court ruling T-622, which recognized the river as a subject of rights, paving the way for a process of restoration seen by a plurality of stakeholders as a major peace dividend. Evidence of strengthened capacity includes:
  - The training was replicated by the trained "guardians" through local workshops in nine communities, with total participation of more than 500 people, allowing the guardians network to expand by nearly 70 additional people.
  - As an outcome of the training, participants in the certificate programme were able to develop 11 viable project proposals focused on environmental protection, production processes, sanitation and education regarding socio-environmental conflicts that affect local communities along the Atrato basin. Although the pilot budget did not allow for these community projects to be financed directly, the project supported the participants to market their proposals to local authorities and potential sources of funding.
- The project also contributed to strengthening institutional capacity – most notably that of the Ministry of Environment and the National Planning Department (DNP) – to mainstream gender equality objectives and better support women's participation in environmental planning and governance processes. As a result of the project, incorporation of women's needs and perspectives was improved in the formulation and implementation of several key processes, including the implementation of ruling T-622 on the Atrato River and the public policy of Chocó; policy guidelines to protect ancestral knowledge related to biodiversity; and the environmental sector's policy for citizen participation.
- The pilot was successful in connecting and networking women with multiple voices, experiences and backgrounds engaged in environmental and human rights and the defence of territory, thereby fostering the coordination of formerly isolated efforts and catalyzing the self-recognition and visibilization of many as "environmental defenders". In addition to the local process in Chocó, which brought together women from diverse communities, the project facilitated three dialogues among women working on environmental issues across the country, connecting local processes of different regions with each other, as well as with national processes. Recognizing the risks faced by environmental and human rights defenders in the country, protection was a significant focus of the project and training, supported by OHCHR.
- Finally, the project contributed to consolidating knowledge of the linkages between gender equality, environmental governance and peacebuilding in Colombia and to documenting good practices and approaches for replication and adaptation. Key knowledge products include: a) the [translation into Spanish](#)



of 2013 policy report *Women and Natural Resources: Unlocking the Peacebuilding Potential*; b) documentation of the experience of the Atrato River in Colombia through: a toolbox that allows for replication of the Certificate Training Programme; the book [Laughs, Dreams and Regrets: Experiences of the Atrato and Baudó River from the Perspective of their Guardians](#) and the document [Defending the Atrato River: reflections of the case and notes on the role of women in the defence of the territory](#); c) three documents and two videos that provide an analysis of other environmental governance processes where women have taken the lead; and d) *Mujeres que Cuidan la Naturaleza*, a book of portraits of 28 Colombian women defenders of the environment and pioneers in environmental matters in Colombia, which received particular resonance. All resources are available on [UN Women Colombia's dedicated web pages](#) as well as on the [Joint Programme's Knowledge Platform](#).

## Output 2 Best practice and programming tools

<b>Output 2: Best practice and programming tools and guidance on gender-responsive approaches to natural resource management in conflict-affected countries developed</b> <i>Achievements (green=target achieved, yellow=significant progress towards target achieved, red=target not achieved)</i>
1 programming guide developed, validated and available to country-level practitioners
1 model results framework developed, validated and available to country-level practitioners
Online and in-person training materials developed and integrated into 7 existing training courses
1 web-based platform and community of practice established with 352 members (target = 500)
New data on key knowledge gaps available through 3 new research reports

The design and development of **programming tools and guidance on gender-responsive approaches to natural resource management in conflict-affected countries** was an important focus of the Joint Programme, especially in the final year of implementation. Key achievements under this output include the development of a comprehensive and modular training package to amplify lessons learned from the pilot interventions as well as the creation of a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC), developed in collaboration with other key stakeholders engaged in climate change and security programming. The Joint Programme also established a [Knowledge Platform on Women, Natural Resources, Climate and Peace](#) serving a resource centre for a growing community of practice on the theme.

### Achievements

- A comprehensive training package on gender, natural resources, climate and peacebuilding was developed in 2019 and continually updated, based on the most up-to-date research and the experience of the Joint Programme. This live training is designed to adapt to different contexts, audiences and time availability, allowing users to select relevant material from three modules. The available modules include an introduction to the linkages between gender, natural resources, climate change, and peace, and two interactive modules covering key phases of the programming cycle – including conducting integrated analysis and designing and implementing integrating programming. Materials include interactive lectures, scenario-based group exercises drawing on the Joint Programme's pilot projects (and other relevant project interventions), an integrated gender-climate-conflict analytical tool, and a comprehensive reading list. The training package has so far been delivered seven times to different audiences and in different formats both in-person and virtually, including at:
  - the International Environmental Peacebuilding Conference, USA (23 Oct 2019) – half-day;
  - the UN Peace & Development Advisors Fellowship Programme, Sweden (2-6 December 2019) – integrated over the course of three days;
  - Swisspeace, Switzerland (23 January 2020) – half day;

- Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and other UK Government departments, learning journey on climate, environment and stability (16 December 2020) – one day of a multi-week course;
- United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, Political Affairs and Mediation Group, Somalia (20-21 January 2021) – 2 days;
- Climate-Sensitive Training for Sustaining Peace, United Nations System Staff College and adelphi, global (17 February 2021) – one day of a multi-week course for WFP staff; and
- Integrated Analysis for Sustaining Peace, United Nations System Staff College (16 March 2021) – one day of a multi-week course.

Feedback from participants, as recorded through anonymous online surveys and rapid feedback sessions after each training, has been highly positive overall. Adjustments have been made after each delivery to reflect various points of feedback, including fine-tuning group exercises and timing.

- In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and to meet the growing demand for practical programmatic guidance on climate-related risks to peace and security, a decision was made to re-orient all remaining funds earmarked for country-level work in the Great Lakes, as well as remaining funds for programming guidance, towards the production of a comprehensive online self-paced course. The decision was validated by partners in August 2020.
- The Joint Programme’s live training package was thus adapted into a Massive Online Training Course or [MOOC](#) on designing and implementing gender-responsive approaches to addressing climate-related security risks. The MOOC, hosted on the One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership (UN CC: Learn) online platform, was developed in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the EU-funded Climate Change and Security project at UNEP as well as in close collaboration with a range of stakeholders spearheading work on climate change and security (including the interagency Climate Security Mechanism).
- The MOOC offers three core modules including an introductory module unpacking the interlinkages between climate change, peace and security through a gender and social inclusion lens, a module on how to conduct integrated analysis, and a module on programme design. All three modules present lessons from the Joint Programme, including on developing theories of change that use natural resource-based approaches to advance gender equality goals in conflict-affected contexts. The MOOC features expansive exercises based on the Joint Programme’s experiences in Sudan, interviews with Joint Programme beneficiaries, and guidance from gender, climate and security experts.
- As such, the MOOC serves as an innovative and interactive *programming guide*, the development of which was overseen and validated by an Advisory Committee consisting of members with gender, climate and peacebuilding expertise including representatives from UN Women, UNEP, UNDP, UN DPPA, and the Berlin-based think-tank adelphi.
- Additionally, the Joint Programme developed an [online knowledge platform](#) on women, natural resources, climate and peace. The platform, which was launched on 8 March 2019, is supported through a partnership with the Environmental Law Institute (ELI). The objective of the web platform – [www.gender-nr-peace](http://www.gender-nr-peace) – is to bring together practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and other actors to share resources on programming and research at the intersection of gender, natural resources, climate change and peace. The website is comprised of thematic pages providing an overview of key information on relevant topics; a library of more than 500 resources relevant to this nexus (which continues to grow on a monthly basis); a news and events section; and a listing of relevant employment opportunities. Since its inception, the platform has received more than 100,000 views.

- The knowledge platform serves a growing community of practice of more than 350 practitioners, researchers and policymakers representing 42 countries spanning the globe. While this is slightly below the stated target of 500 members, growth of the community of practice is steady and is expected to continue well beyond the closure of the Joint Programme. Members of community of practice receive a monthly newsletter compiling the latest news, blogs, jobs, announcements, and recent entries into the library (at reporting time, 25 newsletters have been published and [archived on the platform](#)).

### Output 3 Outreach and advocacy tools

<b>Output 3: Outreach and advocacy conducted at global, national levels to promote uptake of the tools in peacebuilding program</b>
<i>Achievements (green=target achieved, yellow=significant progress towards target achieved, red=target not achieved)</i>
15 events, meetings and consultations organized with member states, private sector and NGOs
25 newsletters developed and shared to date, as well as web stories, blogs, video reporting and documentaries, and a key messaging document.
Increased understanding and perception among key stakeholders of the importance of addressing the gender dimensions of natural resource access, use, management in conflict-affected settings through briefings conducted for key stakeholders, including the Climate-Security Mechanism, the Groups for Friends on Climate-Security and WPS.

**Outreach and advocacy at the global and national levels to promote uptake of the Joint Programme’s lessons and tools** – including through targeted policy guidance – were a significant focus throughout the implementation of the Joint Programme. This included the dissemination of a monthly newsletter on Gender, Natural Resources, Climate and Peace to the Joint Programmes’ growing community of practice, the production of a new UN policy report on Gender, Climate and Security, as well as the organization of outreach events and communication initiatives.

#### Achievements

- A major focus of 2019 and 2020 was the development of a new policy report on the linkages of gender, climate and security titled *Gender, Climate & Security: Sustaining Inclusive Peace on the Frontlines of Climate Change*, which aimed to elevate evidence from the ground to policymakers and donors at national and global levels, in order to ensure that gender considerations are fully on the agenda in ongoing policy debates on the security implications of climate change. The report is comprised of an opening chapter offering a conceptual framework for understanding how gender, climate and security are linked and why it is important to address them together – followed by 11 case studies or examples from the field. The cases were summarized from longer papers contributed by a diverse range of authors from academic institutions, NGOs, and UN agencies. The final chapter provides recommendations, organized by category (policy, financing, programming, research).
- Despite minor delays in production and a full move to virtual events due to COVID-19, the report was released on 9 June 2020 on a [dedicated launch site](#) (as well as on partner websites) and disseminated via social media and other online channels. A [joint press release](#) was issued, and all partners engaged in a coordinated social media campaign, which was joined by a number of other UN entities, including UN Peacekeeping and WFP, among others. UNEP also issued a [web story](#). Data tracked using the hashtag created for the report launch #genderclimatesecurity shows a reach of well over 25 million unique users; the report was featured in more than 30 news articles.
- The launch was marked by two virtual events, co-hosted by the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security. The first event was a lively presentation of the report by several of its authors attended by 400 participants (from 86 countries). In addition to providing a helpful introduction to the issues, the

authors discussed the gendered impacts of climate change on urban dynamics in Pakistan and Sierra Leone, as well as the gender dimensions of farmer-herder conflicts in Northern Nigeria. The second event featured a high-level dialogue with former President of Ireland Mary Robinson, Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto, former climate negotiator and current Dean of the Fletcher School at Tufts University Rachel Kyte and Freetown Mayor Yvonne Aki Sawyerr, facilitated by Ambassador Melanne Verweir. The event attracted 600 viewers (and over 1,000 registered) from 100 countries. In response to the report, Mary Robinson called for a High-Level Panel on Gender, Climate and Security to be established by the Secretary-General to guide and monitor the UN system on adopting integrated approaches to these linked challenges. The recordings to both events are available on the [dedicated report page](#).

- In addition to the events discussed in previous progress reports, the Joint Programme participated in several key outreach and advocacy events during its final year of implementation in 2020, with further opportunities in 2021 to share findings from the gender, climate and security report as well as lessons from the pilot projects, and to engage key stakeholders and decision-makers on issues related to this critical nexus. Speaking engagements included:
  - Berlin Climate Security Conference II, online coffee hour on Gender, Climate and Security; 17 September 2020
  - Briefing to UN DPPA gender advisors; 3 September 2020
  - Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), strategic thinking session on environmental integration into WILPF’s vision and programmes; 24 September 2020
  - Meeting of Groups of Friends on Climate and Security and WPS, co-organized by the Joint Programme (side-event to Open Debate on WPS), recording available [here](#); 10 November 2020
  - United Nations Studies on Peace and Justice, the Hague University of Applied Sciences; 4 December 2020
  - Global Learning event, “People and Planet: Integrating a Gender Lens into Environmental Programming” organized by the Sida Partnership Forum; 16-18 March 2021.

## • **Qualitative assessment**

The Joint Programme has achieved several important results in advancing knowledge and capacity for policymaking and programming at the nexus of gender, natural resources, climate and peace. Significant achievements include testing and validating a new methodology for integrated programming through the pilot projects; strengthening the evidence base at the gender, environment and climate nexus to secure gains in policy-making; building the capacity of practitioners and policymakers to design programmes and policies that support gender equality, environmental, and peacebuilding goals; and mobilizing resources to support uptake and scaling of the good practices developed through the Joint Programme.

### *a. Establishing a new methodology for integrated programming*

The Joint Programme tested and validated innovative natural resource-based approaches to strengthen women’s contributions to conflict prevention and peace. The successful pilot projects in Sudan and Colombia demonstrated that women’s knowledge and roles related to natural resource management offer a unique entry point to empower women economically and to strengthen women’s leadership in governance, dispute resolution, and peacebuilding.

In North Kordofan, Sudan, where the convergence of climate change and conflict exacerbate natural resource scarcity and push individuals – particularly men – to migrate away from rural villages to seek alternative solutions to faltering livelihoods, the project effectively engaged women who remain behind, and who increasingly describe playing the roles of both women and men in their communities. In Colombia, natural resources offered an entry point to strengthen women’s participation in peacebuilding initiatives at local and

national levels, making important contributions to sustaining peace despite an ever changing and complex political environment. In the department of Chocó, for example, project interventions built the capacity of women and men to implement the Constitutional Court rule T-622, granting rights to the Atrato river, whose continued protection is central to the social, cultural, and economic well-being of its surrounding populations.

Central to the development of this methodology the strong partnership between UNEP, UN Women, UNDP and UN DPPA, which contributed distinct yet complementary expertise on natural resource management and climate adaptation, sustainable livelihoods, dialogue and mediation, and women's leadership and capacity building.

While there is no “one size fit all” method for peacebuilding, the integrated approach developed through the pilot projects is grounded in three core principles: 1) using sequenced interventions, seeking to meet immediate livelihood needs first before engaging women in governance and peacebuilding activities, to both invest in climate-resilient livelihood options and – most pertinent – to build trust with the community; 2) supporting training and capacity-building for women in natural resource conflict mediation and resolution at local levels and linking these efforts to the broader peace architecture; and 3) leveraging women's participation in natural resource governance and management to shift community attitudes about the capacity of women to engage in leadership and decision-making more broadly.

The Joint Programme's integrated approach has generated considerable interest from peace and development actors. Most notably, the Joint Programme has supported partners to leverage funding from the UN Peacebuilding Fund to upscale and replicate the methodology in contexts affected by different climate-related and environmental security risks, including through a USD 4 million cross-border between Mali and Niger, and a USD 3 million project in Blue Nile State, Sudan (approved at concept stage). Gender has also been mainstreamed into several other Peacebuilding Fund projects addressing risks linked to natural resources and the environment, including a new project in Cote d'Ivoire.

#### *b. Influencing policy-making by strengthening the evidence base on the nexus of gender, environment and climate*

The Joint Programme made significant contributions to strengthening the evidence base at the nexus of gender, environment, peace and security, generating new research findings and documenting the experiences and lessons learned under the pilot interventions.

At the country level, a series of publications from Colombia, available on the Joint Programme's [knowledge platform](#), document the experiences of women living on the frontlines of linked environmental and security crises, while a study conducted by the Joint Programme in Sudan presents new findings on [gender and pastoralism in a changing climate](#). In 2019, the Joint Programme launched the report [Promoting Gender-Responsive Approaches to Natural Resource Management for Peace in North Kordofan, Sudan](#) presenting the results and lessons learned from the Sudan pilot project. As the first publication of its kind – documenting an integrated approach to promoting women's empowerment, climate adaptation, and peacebuilding – this report generated significant interest from practitioners and policymakers alike seeking to better align these three goals. At the global level, a major achievement of the Joint Programme was the development of a new policy report on the linkages of [gender, climate and security](#) launched in June 2020, featuring 11 case studies contributed by diverse group of authors illustrating gender dimensions of climate-related security risks in different context across the globe.

The Joint Programme's investment in research and documentation served not only to consolidate knowledge at the intersection of gender, environment and peace, but also had significant impact across relevant policy agendas. Specifically, it served to substantially improve integration of climate and environmental considerations into the WPS agenda on the one hand, while strengthening gender mainstreaming into the emerging agenda on climate change and security on the other. Several achievements show the Joint

Programme's success in this area. Markedly, for the first time, the 2020 Secretary-General's annual report on Women, Peace and Security included a dedicated section on [climate change and its peace and security implications](#), drawing directly from the gender, climate and security report. This section will remain in the Secretary-General's report for the foreseeable future, as evidenced by the report outline for 2021.

Mainstreaming of gender into the climate-security agenda can also be observed through the increasing recognition of gender considerations in Security Council debates on the security implications of climate change. In the debate of 24 July 2020, six speakers made significant contributions recognizing the gender dimensions of climate-related security risks, with several delegations presenting a more nuanced understanding of "gender" as compared to the previous debate, in which mentions of gender overwhelmingly referred to women only as vulnerable victims disproportionately impacted by climate change and insecurity. Gender has also been more systematically considered by key bodies such as the UN Climate Security Mechanism, which invited the Joint Programme to brief the growing community of practice on climate and security. During a high-level meeting organized by the Joint Programme in [November 2020](#), the Group of Friends on WPS (chaired by Canada) and the Group of Friends on Climate Security (co-chaired by Germany and Nauru) both emphasized the importance of the gender, climate and security nexus and committed to further action in this area.

*c. Building system-wide capacity for integrated analysis and programme design*

The Joint Programme contributed to building system-wide capacity for integrated analysis and programme design in order to promote uptake and replication of lessons and good practices. The Joint Programme successfully delivered its training package seven times, specifically targeting key influencers and changemakers whose enhanced capacity has catalytic potential for influencing policy, research, and programming priorities. For instance, the Joint Programme trainees include UN Peace and Development Advisors (training delivered during annual global training in 2019), foreign policy officers (training delivered to UK foreign office in 2020), and staff of special political missions (training delivered to UN Assistance Mission in Somalia in 2021). The training has also been integrated into relevant courses conducted by the UN System Staff College, expanding its reach to staff across the UN system.

To meet the growing demand for expertise, a key achievement of the Joint Programme was the new [MOOC](#) on designing and implementing gender-responsive approaches to addressing climate-related security risks, adapting elements of the Joint Programme's live training in to a self-paced, online course. The MOOC, hosted on the One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership (UN CC: Learn) online platform, was designed reach to broader group of stakeholders including political analysts and peacebuilding practitioners, climate adaptation specialists and gender and inclusion advisors seeking to better integrate climate, conflict, and gender considerations into their analytical processes and programming.

Finally, the Joint Programme established the first [online knowledge platform](#) dedicated to gender, natural resources, climate, and peace. The knowledge platform, which has received more than 100,000 visits since its launch in 2019, consolidates relevant resources – including publications, news articles, job advertisements, and events – relevant to the topic and sends a monthly newsletter with the latest resources from the month to its growing community of practice of more than 350 people.

## ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP**s - provide details of the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why.

	<b><u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)</b>	<b>Source of Verification</b>
<p><b>Outcome 1<sup>8</sup>:</b> Gender-responsive approaches to natural resource management are integrated into national and local planning and programming for peacebuilding and development in conflict-affected countries</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 1. Number of peacebuilding and development programmes and planning frameworks in conflict-affected countries that integrate gender-responsive natural resource management approaches <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 3</p> <p>2. Increase in the institutional capacity (knowledge, skills, attitudes) of UN, national and local peacebuilding and development actors to design, implement and monitor gender-responsive interventions in various natural resource sectors in conflict-affected countries <b>Baseline:</b> 0 interventions <b>Planned Target:</b> 5 interventions</p> <p>3. Increased financial investment in initiatives using gender-responsive natural resource management approaches for peacebuilding and development in conflict affected countries <b>Baseline:</b> USD 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> USD 5,000,000</p> <p><b>Outcome 2:</b></p>	<p>Target achieved: gender responsive NRM approaches integrated into 5 peacebuilding programmes (in Sudan, Colombia, Mali, Niger, Côte d'Ivoire)</p> <p>Target achieved thanks to the guidance and tools produced by the programme, including 6 trainings delivered, 2 high-level meetings with thought leaders and policymakers, and strategic guidance provided towards the development of 3 new projects</p> <p>Target achieved: total investment raised to date: USD 8,993,000. This includes USD 1,993,000 raised through the JP and a USD 4 million UN Peacebuilding Fund project replicating and upscaling the Joint Programme's approach in the Mali/Niger border region, and USD 3 million UN Peacebuilding Fund project replicating the approach in Blue Nile state, Sudan.</p>		<p>Review of Peacebuilding Strategies, UNDAFs and other national and local planning frameworks in conflict-affected countries; review of programming documents and budgets; interviews and surveys of UN staff, national and local stakeholders.</p>

<sup>8</sup> Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlined in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc.

<p>Specific challenges and/or opportunities presented by women’s access, use and control of natural resources are addressed in conflict-affected countries on a pilot basis</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> <i>TBD according to the nature and focus of selected pilot projects</i></p>	<p>Achieved: challenges &amp; opportunities related to women’s access and benefits from natural resources addressed in Sudan and Colombia (see final reports and available resources on the Joint Programme knowledge platform, <a href="http://www.gender-nr-peace.org/programme">www.gender-nr-peace.org/programme</a>)</p>		<p>TBD according to selected indicators</p>
<p><b>Output 1.1:</b> Gender-responsive approaches to natural resource management tested and documented through pilot projects in at least three conflict-affected countries</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1.1</b> Number of pilot projects completed <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 3</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1.2</b> Lessons and best practices for integrating gender-responsive approaches to natural resource management in peacebuilding contexts collected for upscaling and replication <b>Baseline:</b> No existing collection of best practice <b>Planned Target:</b> One document compiling lessons learned and best practice</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1.3</b> Increase in the institutional capacity (knowledge, skills, attitudes) of UN, national and local peacebuilding and development practitioners involved in pilot projects to design, implement and monitor gender-responsive interventions in various natural resource sectors in conflict-affected countries <b>Baseline:</b> TBD <b>Planned Target:</b> TBD</p>	<p>Target partially achieved: two pilot projects completed in Sudan and Colombia and lessons documented through resources available Joint Programme knowledge platform: <a href="http://www.gender-nr-peace.org/programme">www.gender-nr-peace.org/programme</a></p> <p>Target achieved: one <a href="#">final report</a> published compiling lessons learned and good practice from pilot in Sudan; several other publications also document good practices and lessons learned, as does the MOOC.</p> <p>Achieved: 100 UN and other practitioners (including 12 UN Peace and Development Advisors) whose capacity to design and implement gender-responsive interventions linked to natural resources in conflict-affected countries was increased through targeted training.</p>	<p>A significant funding gap limited the Joint Programme’s capacity to implement a third pilot project (USD 1,993,000 raised out of USD 4.5 million). The Joint Programme made a modest contribution project design of a larger EU-funded initiative in the Great Lakes region. However, the project suffered significant delays, exacerbated by the COVID-19 situation and a third pilot project was not realized.</p>	<p>Review of project documents and legal agreements, quarterly progress reports, completion report, evaluations and communications and outreach materials; interviews of project staff, stakeholders and beneficiaries</p>



<p><b>Output 1.2:</b> Best practice and programming tools and guidance on gender-responsive approaches to natural resource management in conflict-affected countries developed</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2.1</b> Programming guide developed, validated and available to country-level practitioners <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 1</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2.2</b> Model results framework developed, validated and available to country-level practitioners <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 1</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2.3</b> Online and in-person training materials developed and integrated into existing training courses <b>Baseline:</b> 0 training courses including material on women, natural resources and peace nexus <b>Planned Target:</b> 3 training courses including material on women, natural resources and peace nexus</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2.4</b> Web-based platform and community of practice established <b>Baseline:</b> 0 platforms, 0 members of COP <b>Planned Target:</b> 1 platform, 500 members</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2.5</b> New data on key knowledge gaps available <b>Baseline:</b> 0 new research reports <b>Target:</b> 3 new research reports</p>	<p>Target achieved: a self-paced, Massive Online Open Course (MOOC), making available tools and practical guidance on gender-responsive approaches to natural resource management in conflict affected countries developed.</p> <p>Target achieved: model results framework established, validated and documented in the project's comprehensive training package.</p> <p>Target achieved: a self-paced, Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) and an in-person training package on women, natural resources, climate and peace developed and integrated into 7 training courses targeting different audiences.</p> <p>Target partially achieved: web-based platform established (<a href="http://www.gender-nr-peace.org">www.gender-nr-peace.org</a>) and fully functional.</p> <p>Target achieved: a comprehensive research report <a href="#"><i>Gender, Climate and Security: Sustaining Inclusive Peace on the Frontlines of Climate Change</i></a>, published featuring 11 case studies and background papers and a <a href="#"><i>study on gender and pastoralism</i></a> in Sudan.</p>	<p>Community of practice established with 352 members as of March 2021 and growing at a steady pace beyond the closing date of the Joint Programme.</p>	<p>Review of print and web versions of the programming guide, the web-based platform, training modules and training-of-trainer workshop materials and documentation, expert advisory group membership documents, outreach and communications materials, model results framework and new research reports; interviews of experts</p>
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<p><b>Output 1.3:</b> Outreach and advocacy conducted at the global, national levels to promote uptake of the tools in peacebuilding programming</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.3.1</b> Number of events, meetings and consultations organized with member states, private sector and NGOs <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 6</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.3.2</b> Number of outreach tools and materials developed, tested and disseminated <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 5</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.3.3</b> Increased understanding and perception among key stakeholders of the importance of addressing the gender dimensions of natural resource access, use, management in conflict-affected settings <b>Baseline:</b> TBD <b>Planned Target:</b> TBD</p>	<p>Target achieved: 15 outreach events, meetings and consultations organized by end 2020.</p> <p>Target achieved: 25 newsletters developed and shared to date, as well as web stories, blogs, video reporting and documentaries, and a key messaging document.</p> <p>Achieved: briefings conducted for key stakeholders, including the Climate-Security Mechanism, the Groups for Friends on Climate-Security and WPS.</p>		<p>Review of meeting and event agendas and minutes; interviews of member state representatives, stakeholders, private sector actors; surveys of peacebuilding and development practitioners in conflict-affected states; review of multimedia outreach tools and materials available in print and online</p>
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### iii) Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

The implementation delays and challenges in the implementation of the Joint Programme included challenges linked to field implementation (specifically related to the intervention in the DRC), challenges related to managing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the final year of the Joint Programme, as well as challenges related to fundraising. Details are as follows:

- *Field implementation challenges:* While minor implementation delays were experienced with the pilot projects in Sudan and Colombia (due to internal as well as external factors, such as elections), planned pilot activities in the DRC ultimately had to be abandoned due to very significant delays beyond the Joint Programme's control. The decision to invest in strengthening a larger UNDP project in DRC as a third opportunity for pilot activities was motivated by two main factors: the catalytic potential of a small amount of funding and the opportunity to focus specifically on mediation as opposed to more general forms of conflict prevention and peacebuilding. This approach, however, carried inherent risk: without control over the implementation process and calendar, the Joint Programme's engagement could be delayed in ways that complicated the completion of its own commitments to partners and donors. UNDP's EU-funded project had already faced significant challenges in 2019 when the COVID-19 pandemic halted all field implementation in early 2020. Realizing that it would not be possible to carry out planned activities within the Joint Programme's timeframe, the Steering Committee approved a decision to reorient the remaining funds for the DRC pilot towards the development of the MOOC.
- *Covid-19 pandemic:* The global pandemic that engulfed the world during the final months of programme implementation had significant consequences on two key activities, beyond the compounded delays experienced in the DRC, as discussed above. First, the Joint Programme was unable to carry out a final round of field monitoring planned for Q2 2020 in Sudan due to restrictions on travel and movement. This would have helped to confirm whether the interventions had had a long-term impact beyond the end date of the project, such as the continued engagement of women in conflict resolution and natural resource management structures. Second, the pandemic delayed the launch of the Gender, Climate, and Security report from April to June 2020. Despite initial disruptions, the Joint Programme adapted quickly to the confines of a virtual reality and was able to successfully leverage the opportunities afforded by digital technologies for outreach and dissemination. The Joint Programme also developed key messages on the gender, climate, security nexus in the context of Covid-19.
- *Resource mobilization:* In a difficult climate for resource mobilization, the Joint Programme successfully leveraged resources for replicating and scaling the pilot projects through the UN Peacebuilding Fund. However, the Joint Programme's model – dedicating a least two thirds of its resources directly to the field – posed challenges to potential donors, who are not well equipped to fund (and monitor) integrated programming addressing issues that are typically funded from different budget lines and overseen by different departments or ministries. Several years after the adoption of the “mantra” of integrated programming, many have still not been given clear policy or administrative guidance on multi-issue and multi-partner programming. Additionally, while there is significant demand for expertise and training, and a clear need for a coordination or clearing house function – services that have been provided at an ad hoc basis by the Joint Programme – there is little appetite among donors to fund standing technical capacity at headquarters or even regional levels.

The lessons learned and best practices from the implementation of the Joint Programme are as follows:

- *An integrated approach can deliver co-benefits for gender equality, sustainability and peace:* The Joint Programme’s integrated and sequenced approach yielded significant interest from a broad range of audiences. Over time, and with concrete examples to share from ongoing field work, the messaging around the Joint Programme became sharper and more easily accessible to different audiences. The Sudan pilot project served as a concrete illustration of some of the key gendered impacts of climate change in fragile contexts (and in particular the Sahel), and also of how to address the resulting risks and opportunities. In Colombia, the integrated approach to the pilot project’s design – linking gender, natural resource governance, conflict prevention and peacebuilding – proved highly relevant and timely. Governance of natural resources provided women with unique opportunities to develop and deploy their leadership skills for preventing and solving conflicts – and natural resource management served as a platform for building social cohesion between and among different groups.
- *Integrated approaches to complex, multidimensional issues are successful when different agencies work as One UN:* The successful outcomes of the Joint Programme demonstrate that integrated approaches predicated on the distinct, yet complementary, expertise and mandates of different UN partners can be highly effective at tackling complex multidimensional issues such as the nexus of peace and security, gender equality and women’s empowerment, and environment and climate change. This Joint Programme represents a positive example of the type of UN programming – and the partnerships underlying it – that can help achieve the 2030 Agenda and international commitments around conflict prevention and sustaining peace. Documenting and sharing results and lessons learned is crucial to ensuring such experiences can be built upon and expanded.
- *Focusing on areas of influence with the potential for catalytic impact can be instrumental to driving system-wide change:* Central to the Joint Programme’s success influencing system change has been its strategic engagement with key actors and influencing bodies who contribute to shaping priorities within relevant policy agendas. For examples, the Joint Programme’s cooperation with the interagency Climate Security Mechanisms helped mainstream gender within the emerging agenda on climate change and security. Similarly, the Joint Programme’s partnerships with leading Women, Peace and Security policy think tanks as well as their social media outreach contributed to putting climate and environment more squarely on the WPS agenda. Focusing on engaging with influential “levers” enabled the Joint Programme to significantly elevate its influence, beyond the immediate impact of the Joint Programme’s outputs.
- *A modular and flexible approach is key to integrating key messages and good practices into existing training courses.* There is clear demand for practical training on integrating gender, environmental and/or conflict considerations into existing programming and strategies, as evidenced by new requests received from a range of actors. This includes targeted training for how to conduct integrated analysis and programme design, monitoring and evaluation. The Joint Programme’s highly modular and flexible training package has proven to be an effective approach for integrating materials into existing training courses and adapting to different audiences. However, delivery of training material requires considerable expertise of the gender and environment nexus. Integration of the Joint Programme’s training material into a MOOC on climate change and security has helped to create the conditions for broader uptake that do not require the Joint Programme Secretariat to facilitate each of the sessions.
- *More testing is needed to assess how the Joint Programme’s approaches can be applied in contexts facing different climate emergencies and with different peacebuilding needs:* As climate-related security risks garner ever more recognition in conflict prevention and peacebuilding policy and practice, there is significant opportunity to leverage the project’s results to catalyze further attention and support to ensuring that gender considerations are fully part of emerging responses. Further testing and adoption of these approaches is required, however, to assess how the Joint Programme’s approach can contribute to

peacebuilding in contexts faced with different climate-related security risks. This can include, for example, in urban areas or in small island states where risks include threats to women's safety, environmental and food insecurity, local crime, and/or economic instability. Additionally, while the pilot projects demonstrated how the environment can create entry points for peacebuilding at local levels, it would be valuable to assess whether and how the environment and natural resources can be used to enable and support women's meaningful in track 1 and 1.5 mediation processes, among other areas.

- *Building the evidence base on the gender dimensions of climate-related security risks is a continuous process:* The body of research compiled by the Joint Programme on gender, environment, climate, peace and security constitutes an initial attempt at a compilation of knowledge and understanding on the gender dimensions of climate-related security risks. However, the Joint Programme's report on Gender, Climate and Security also highlighted the need for deeper and continuous analysis of the gender dimensions of climate-related security risks, including how gender shapes the experiences of women and men across contexts exposed to different climate risks (drought vs. sea level rise) and security threats (armed conflict vs. criminality); how gender dynamics shape climate and conflict-related displacement and migration; and the peacebuilding impacts of engaging women in natural resource governance and climate-resilient livelihoods.
- *Digital platforms create new opportunities for engaging global communities of practice.* In its final year of programming, due to COVID-19, the Joint Programme adapted to a new virtual reality. Despite the many challenges associated with the global pandemic, the transition to a more digital working environment also created opportunities for engaging with a much broader set of stakeholders, including civil society actors. This has been particularly evident through the launch of the Gender, Climate and Security report. By focusing on online events and social media outreach, the report dissemination was far wider and more global than traditional approaches involving physical workshops. Similarly, the Joint Programme has demonstrated that online platforms can also be effective vehicles for learning.
- *Where technological capacity or resources are low, digital connection also creates new barriers.* There are, however, some areas in which virtual communication and work have presented some clear challenges. This includes activities related to data collection at the local level, which require in-person discussions, interviews or household surveys to understand project impact, as well as activities which require active communication where internet connectivity is poor, language barriers exist and/or technological capacity is limited. The Joint Programme was fortunate to have completed most of its field implementation before the onset of the global pandemic. In designing future projects and programmes, these lessons – including how to both leverage opportunities for remote connection and how to support capacity building for working remotely – should be fully integrated from the onset.

As a programme focused on learning – testing new approaches, generating new evidence, documenting good practices and developing tools for replication and upscaling – the Joint Programme continually sought to capture lessons learned, adapt management practices and strategic decisions accordingly, and ensure that both negative and positive outcomes were addressed throughout the implementation period. The results and lessons learned of both pilot projects were extensively documented, serving as a basis for the tools, guidance and outreach produced by the programme. A final evaluation of the Joint Programme is not planned at this stage, however, due to lack of funding (only 43% of the programme budget was raised).