

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

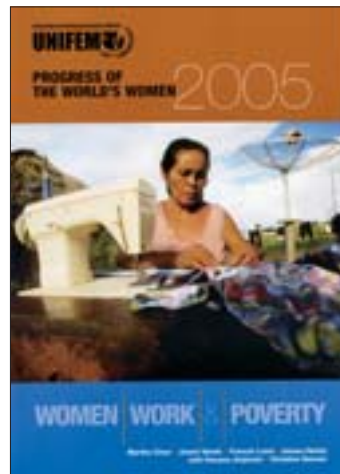
Milestone

# Key Knowledge

## UNIFEM PUBLICATIONS

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

Learn more: [www.unifem.org/resources](http://www.unifem.org/resources)



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



### Promoting Gender Equality in New Aid Modalities and Partnerships

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

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

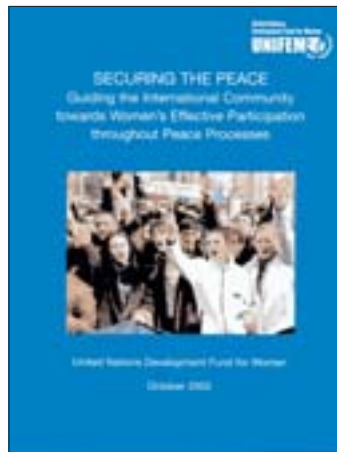
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lines the usefulness of some key tools such as gender budget analyses as well as gender statistics and indicators that can be used to address the gaps that currently exist in the monitoring frameworks of the new aid agenda.



## Building Partnerships for Promoting Gender Justice in Post-Conflict Societies

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



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

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

## UNIFEM WEB PORTALS

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

### Gender and AIDS Web Portal

[www.genderandaids.org](http://www.genderandaids.org)

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

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

### Women, War & Peace Web Portal

[www.womenwarpeace.org](http://www.womenwarpeace.org)

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

### Gender-Responsive Budget Initiatives Portal

[www.gender-budgets.org](http://www.gender-budgets.org)

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

### MDGenderNet

[www.MDGender.net](http://www.MDGender.net)

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

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Years of Challenge  
Years of Change

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

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