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Years of Challenge
Years of Change

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

Milestone

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UN Reform



Reducing Poverty with a Women's Perspective

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

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

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

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

Milestone

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

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

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

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



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