



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 21st issue of Transform! This issue focuses on a critical area of work for gender equality and women's empowerment: the development of national action plans on women, peace and security (WPS NAPs).

United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, together with nine subsequent resolutions, has been the central framework for tackling the many challenges that women face in conflict settings. Over the last decade, UN Women has played a crucial role in supporting the development and implementation of WPS NAPs as the main tool by which global WPS frameworks are translated into concrete strategies, actions and outcomes at the national level.

In 2020, UN Women's Independent Evaluation Service (IES) conducted an evaluation of UN Women's support to the development and implementation processes of WPS NAPs, assessing coherence and coordination, effectiveness, organizational efficiency, sustainability and the extent to which a human rights approach and gender equality principles were integrated in order to meet WPS commitments and adopt accountability frameworks in conflict and post-conflict countries.

The evaluation found that UN Women has been effective in facilitating processes that build awareness of and consensus on WPS NAPs at the national level and strongly contribute to their adoption. This work has helped to lay the foundation for transformative change in gender equality and human rights.

We hope this issue of Transform increases awareness and understanding of the importance of WPS NAPs as a tool for achieving gender equality and women's empowerment commitments, as well as UN Women's contributions to these efforts. The evaluation will help UN Women strengthen its work in this area, while also contributing to organizational learning and accountability.

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Think Beyond. Stay Ahead.

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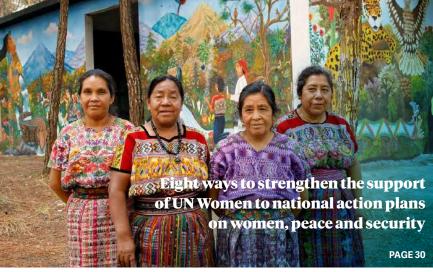
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ON THE COVER Members of the Guatemalan contingent of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) participate in a medal award ceremony in recognition of their service.

Photo ©UN Photo/Marco Dormino



Photo ©UN Women/Ryan Brown

the work of UN Women

Over the last two decades, United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security (WPS) has been the central framework for addressing challenges faced by women in conflict settings, along with nine subsequent supporting resolutions in this area.

National action plans (NAPs) for implementation of WPS objectives are the main mechanisms by which global WPS frameworks are translated into concrete strategies, actions and outcomes at the national level. Responsibility for implementation of WPS NAPs lies with national governments as outlined in resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions. As of November 2020, 92 United Nations Member States and territories had adopted a NAP on WPS, while several regional and subregional organizations also developed regional action plans for implementation of resolution 1325.

UN Women plays a pivotal role in WPS objectives at the global, regional and national levels. Globally, UN Women provides leadership, knowledge-sharing and advocacy on WPS and coordinates United Nations system work in

this area. At the regional level, UN Women supports an enabling environment for regional and subregional organizations to advance WPS objectives. At the national level, UN Women helps countries develop, implement, monitor and review their WPS NAPs by providing coordination, technical expertise, guidance and tools, as well as sharing lessons and best practices.

UN Women makes significant financial investments in WPS, specifically related to work on NAPs. During 2015–2019, UN Women's expenditure on its Strategic Output 4.1/4.1.2, 'WPS commitments and accountability frameworks adopted and implemented in conflict and post-conflict situations', was estimated to be US\$ 88 million, while the amount budgeted was estimated at US\$ 114 million. Ninety-six per cent of this funding came from non-core resources.

What methods and tools are available to advance gender-responsive evaluation?

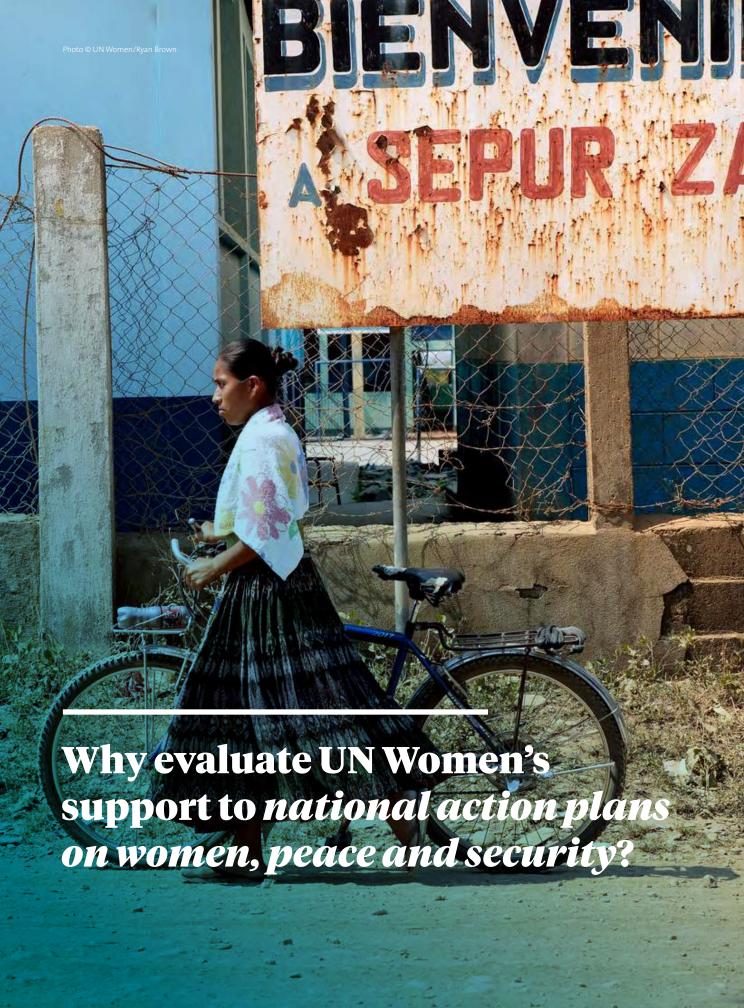
What can we learn from successful gender-responsive evaluation approaches? How can we empower rights holders and maximize their participation?

GOOD PRACTICES IN GENDER-RESPONSIVE EVALUATIONS

Download the interactive PDF here









Are we getting it right?

Does our support positively change the lives of women, girls, men and boys and contribute to gender equality?

Are we working on a scale that makes a difference for gender equality?

To get better results, we need to know what works. We also need to know what doesn't work and how to fix it.

The Independent Evaluation Service of UN Women's Independent Evaluation and Audit Services undertook a corporate evaluation of the organization's support to national action plans on women, peace and security (WPS NAPS).

The evaluation focused on support to NAP development and implementation processes in order to meet WPS commitments and adopt accountability frameworks in conflict and post-conflict countries. UN Women's work in this area was assessed across the organization's integrated mandate: normative, operational and coordination work at the country, regional and global levels. The evaluation focused on the period 2015–2019 and covered results from the UN Women Strategic Plan 2014–2018 and the first two years of the Strategic Plan 2018–2021.



EVALUATION OBJECTIVES



Assess the **relevance** and coherence; **effectiveness** and organizational efficiency; and **sustainability** of UN Women's global, regional and national work to support WPS NAPs development and implementation processes



Identify a menu of evidence of what works and what doesn't work in terms of UN Women's support to NAPs development and implementation to facilitate choices about future investments



Analyse how human rights perspectives and gender equality principles are integrated into UN Women's support to WPS NAPs development and implementation processes



Identify **lessons learned** and provide action-oriented **recommendations** to solidify UN Women's work in this area

In addition to these objectives, the focus of the evaluation was expanded during the inception phase to include a light-touch assessment of the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for WPS and the work of UN Women in this area.

The primary intended users of the evaluation are the UN Women Executive Board, UN Women senior management, and programme staff at the global, regional and country levels. The evaluation is also intended to be useful for other

EXPERT'S VIEW



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As the technical lead on gender equality in fragile and conflict-affected contexts at the Development Co-operation Directorate of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), I was invited to provide feedback on the corporate evaluation of UN Women's support to national action plans on women, peace and security. Prior to joining the OECD, I had worked for different United Nations agencies, including in sub-Saharan African countries affected by conflict and fragility. These experiences have taught me the importance of bringing out perspectives from the field and assessing the impact of our work

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