

IN BRIEF

Lessons from UN Women evaluations in the Americas and the Caribbean

EVALUATION META-SYNTHESIS: WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

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Why is work in women, peace and security important?

The women, peace and security agenda recognizes women as fundamental actors in addressing conflict and violence. More sustainable results are achieved when women grassroots leaders and women’s organizations participate significantly in efforts for conflict prevention, early recovery in crises or emergencies, peace processes, and the planning and implementation of security and peacebuilding policies.

Recent data on global trends indicate that women continue to be largely excluded from peace negotiation processes. Between 1992 and 2019, women represented only 13% of those who negotiated, 3% of those who mediated, and only 6% of signatories of major peace processes during this period.*

The main challenges of the women, peace and security agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean go far beyond the conflict or post-conflict situations within which this agenda was traditionally framed. The region faces challenges related to the deterioration of human rights, the reduction of spaces for interaction with civil society organizations (CSOs), high levels of crime, and persistent levels of poverty, exclusion, inequality and discrimination that lead to greater conflict.

UN WOMEN STRATEGIC RESULTS AREAS IN WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY



More commitments on women, peace and security are implemented by Member States and the United Nations system, and **more gender equality advocates influence peace and security processes**



More women play a greater role in, and are better served by, **humanitarian response and recovery efforts**



More women play a greater role in, and are better served by, **disaster risk management processes**

Source: [Strategic Plan 2018-2021](#)

*Data from the [Report of the Secretary General on Women, Peace and Security](#), Sept 2020 (consulted 05 Nov 2020)

Which approaches have proven effective in women, peace and security?

UN Women has substantially contributed to the **fulfillment of State commitments** regarding women, peace and security in the framework of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 implementation. To this end, UN Women has directed its efforts to **strengthening the capacities** of government institutions and the **reinforcement of interinstitutional roundtables and committees**, while providing **technical support** in the design and follow-up processes of the 1325 National Action Plans. In Colombia, UN Women's support to gender mainstreaming within institutions responsible for implementation of the Peace Agreement, together with the support in the creation of a monitoring framework, is contributing to the fulfillment of the gender provisions of the Agreement.

Evaluations have also shown that the **convening and coordinating role of UN Women** has contributed to the creation of **dialogue between actors**, for example facilitating meetings between institutions and women's organizations to build trust and construct joint peacebuilding scenarios. Likewise, the **strategic relationship strategy** implemented within the framework of the Women's Citizenship for Peace, Justice and Development programme in Colombia has proven to be effective in generating spaces for dialogue involving public entities at the national and regional levels, generating opportunities for the positioning of the women's agenda.

Countries such as Guatemala, Colombia, and El Salvador have made progress regarding the women, peace and security agenda. At the regional level, the peace agenda derived from Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions are being implemented in response to various challenges, including: worsening **human rights situations**; increasing levels of **human mobility**; **environmental conflict**; and **disputes over natural resources**. These challenges imply greater efforts are also needed to ensure gender equality in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, addressing key issues such as security sector reform, planning and crisis response, human rights defense, and humanitarian action.

EFFECTIVE APPROACHES IN WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY



Support to interinstitutional roundtables

and governments in development of their National Action Plans has effectively contributed to the fulfillment of State commitments



A convening role

and support to women's organizations enabled strengthened conditions for their participation in decision-making processes, facilitating dialogue between distinct actors



The response to emerging challenges

in terms of the women, peace and security agenda was an important strategic element of progress across the region

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN TIMES OF COVID-19



The crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic has created a humanitarian emergency for communities in multiple countries in the region, with an estimated 28.7 million more people living in extreme poverty in the coming years.* In this context, UN Women has strengthened its work in humanitarian action to respond to the needs of thousands of women and girls.

- The response to mixed migratory flows** and the performance of an implementing role in humanitarian aid has allowed UN Women Colombia to demonstrate its niche as a humanitarian actor in the national context including through interagency coordination mechanisms.
- The management of humanitarian programming provided an opportunity to further systematize organizational approaches, such as processes related to project formulation and fund management in a humanitarian paradigm.
- The use of humanitarian funds in a transformative way implies developing models of action that mainstream gender in other interventions, including by partner agencies with a humanitarian mandate, to empower women and girls, change roles and reduce gender gaps.
- The participation of UN Women in local coordination teams is helping to strengthen and further embed a gender perspective into country-level humanitarian teams.

*Data from [Informe sobre el impacto económico en América Latina y el Caribe de la enfermedad por coronavirus](#) (consulted 05 Nov 2020)

** Mixed migratory flows are defined by the International Organization for Migration as complex population movements including refugees, asylum-seekers, economic migrants and other migrants ([IOM, 2019](#)).

How can UN Women in the Americas and Caribbean region improve its work in women, peace and security?

In order to maximize results in this area, UN Women can combine successful approaches with innovative elements, such as strengthening **partnerships with the private sector** in the framework of resource-based conflict mitigation and **youth initiatives**. Within the framework of the regional response to new challenges from the women, peace and security agenda, UN Women can strengthen its innovative approaches by addressing emerging issues related to: (i) human mobility, (ii) new forms of conflict, (iii) security sector reform, (iv) building safe spaces for women's, environmental and collective rights defenders, and (v) conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding.

To continue playing a key role in promoting United Nation Security Council Resolution 1325 based on participation,

protection, prevention and peacebuilding with national and local governments in the region, UN Women can design new strategies, aiming for example to strengthen more direct support to organizations that work on women, peace and security issues as well as promoting dialogue among different stakeholders.

Based on experience in Colombia, UN Women could develop and replicate a **sustainable peace approach** to promote the strengthening of the nexus between the peace, security, humanitarian action and development agendas. In this manner, UN Women would look to connect with other programmatic areas to respond to complex contexts, while continuing to strengthen the development of the women, peace and security programmatic line.

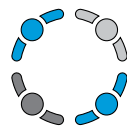
EVALUATION REPORTS CONSULTED:

- 2020, Country Portfolio Evaluation, [El Salvador](#)
- 2019, Country Portfolio Evaluation, [Colombia](#)
- 2019, Country Portfolio Evaluation, [Guatemala](#)
- 2019, Country Portfolio Evaluation, [México](#)
- 2018, Final Evaluation of the [Citizenship of Women for Peace, Justice and Development Programme](#), Colombia

All evaluations available at <https://gate.unwomen.org/>



Combine successful approaches with innovation, including issues related to the region's reinterpretation of the women, peace and security agenda



Ensure the promotion of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 in national contexts where political will and/or technical capacity is weaker



Commit to an approach for sustainable peace that promotes linkages between the development and peacebuilding agendas