



FACT SHEET: SUPPORTING WOMEN IN CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT CONTEXTS



IN MODERN WAR, civilians make up the vast majority of casualties — and women and girls are disproportionately affected by the violence and instability that conflict brings.

Even in non-conflict settings, women around the world face inequitable laws, a lack of accountability and weak institutions that do not adequately protect their rights. Armed conflict and its aftermath compounds these problems, and confronts women with circumstances that can impact their ability to access education, become financially independent or participate in governance and peace building processes.

Yet despite such conditions, women's strength and courage are clear. They strive to provide for and protect their families; they speak out against injustice; they work for peace and for the betterment of their communities.

UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality supports their efforts.

The Fund helps women from all corners of the developing world including in conflict-affected and post-conflict countries by underwriting innovative, effective programmes at local and national levels to fight inequality, help women advocate for their rights and better their lives. With USD 69 million, the Fund is one of the largest in the world dedicated to advancing the rights and improving the lives of women and girls. (For additional information please visit the Fund's website: <http://www.unwomen.org/how-we-work/fund-for-gender-equality/>).

Here are a few ways in which the FUND FOR GENDER EQUALITY addresses the issue of women in conflict and post-conflict situations:

- **IN COLOMBIA**, decades of warfare have resulted in the displacement and poverty of nearly 3 million people, many of them women and girls from rural, indigenous, and Afro-Colombian communities. The Fund's grantee is supporting the mobilization of a cadre of 180 women advocates for the inclusion of women's perspectives in the fight against unequal land distribution. They are monitoring the implementation of public programmes and engaging with the government to **ensure greater protections for and accountability to displaced people**.
- **IN LIBERIA**, the country is still recovering after 14 years of civil war that not only caused casualties, but disrupted the nation's infrastructure. Notably, for women, this resulted in the destruction of the country's markets — a cornerstone of the national economy. The Fund is helping rural and market women in Liberia **reclaim their livelihoods, gain access to credit, sell their goods, access business skills training, literacy classes, and early childhood education and care for their children**.
- **IN AFGHANISTAN**, despite certain legal protections under Sharia, women must fight to reclaim their economic rights. As the nation transitions from post-conflict recovery to development, the Fund's grantees are supporting women in asserting their rights to inherit and own property, **helping them gain an economic foothold in 10 provinces**.
- **IN LEBANON**, Palestinian refugee women who have seen generations of their families struggle in refugee camps are pushing back against gender discrimination. With the Fund's help, they are documenting and prosecuting human rights violations against women and girls. The Fund's grantee is supporting the call for women's leadership, **collaborating with women to develop the skill and tools necessary to gain access — for the first time — to powerful Popular Committees**.

UN Women launched The Fund in 2009 to fast-track commitments to gender equality focused on women's economic and political empowerment at local, national and regional levels. The assessment of grants is conducted, per mandate, by an independent Technical Committee of experts based in the regions of the world where grants are awarded. In the two short years of the Fund's existence and with the generous contributions of \$65 million from Spain, \$3.5 million from Norway, and

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\$800,000 from Mexico, it has underwritten 40 gender equality grant programmes in 35 countries.

The Fund approaches grantmaking holistically. In addition to providing funding, it employs regional specialists in every area of the world to provide capacity development to individual projects and supports grantees in sharing best practices across diverse regions and cultures. The Fund also prioritizes the systematization of results. It offers grantees ongoing technical assistance on results-based management processes and is **dedicated to supporting impact oriented grants that are achieving tangible results in the lives of women and girls.**

The Fund has made important headway, but the work is far from done. That is why support for the Fund is so critical — now and in the future. UN Women invites governments, the private sector, and individuals to contribute to UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality grantmaking efforts. To donate to the FGE please visit:
<http://www.unwomen.org/how-we-work/fund-for-gender-equality/donation/>.



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Published 10/2011