

Integrating Gender into Peacebuilding Compacts and Fragility Assessments: Insights from South Sudan, Somalia and Afghanistan



This note is based on an event on “Gender Inequality, Fragility and the MDGs in South Sudan, Somalia and Afghanistan”, held in New York on 13 March 2014 during the 58th CSW, and builds on recommendations made by women’s groups from South Sudan, Somalia and Afghanistan.

Panelists:

- Hon. Khadija Mohamed Diriye, Minister of Women and Human Rights Development of Somalia
- Amb. Erik Laursen, Deputy Permanent Representative of Denmark to the UN
- Samira Hamidi, Afghan Women’s Network
- Halima Ibrahim, Somali Civil Society Coalition
- Rita Martin, EVE Organisation for Women Development, South Sudan
- Akinyi Walender, Director Women’s Leadership, Cordaid

Moderated by Sarah Douglas, UN Women

BACKGROUND

Despite the progress that has been made across the MDGs, fragility and gender inequality risk undermining development in many countries and reversing the gains that have been made over the past decades. Gender issues have also not been sufficiently taken into account in the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, a new initiative that aims to support countries to move towards sustainable peace and development.

In line with the commitments outlined in the New Deal, several countries have now prepared fragility assessments (FAs), and peacebuilding Compacts between governments and donors are being developed. Now that the actual implementation of the principles and priorities for engaging with fragile and conflict-affected states is coming into focus, developing concrete strategies for ensuring that gender issues and women’s priorities are effectively mainstreamed into all aspects of the New Deal is critical.

Doing so will not only build resilience and strengthen statebuilding and peacebuilding, but could also accelerate efforts to achieve the MDGs and remove some of the ongoing obstacles that women and girls face across the political, social and economic spheres in fragile and conflict-affected states.

KEY ISSUES

During the panel discussion, speakers from the three focus countries presented the priority issues and recommendations based on consultation with women’s groups in Kabul, Juba and Mogadishu in February-March 2014. The new Minister of Women and Human Rights Development of Somalia and the

Deputy Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations contributed a government perspective, and UN Women moderated and provided financial support for the event. Speakers and participants raised a number of issues related to the development and implementation of the New Deal:

Process:

- Inclusive ownership and partnership are core principles of the New Deal, and civil society’s role (including women’s organisations) is crucial for an inclusive approach to peacebuilding and statebuilding
- The post-2015 agenda presents an opportunity to revisit what peace and human security mean, and gender equality is a key part of this
- The New Deal PSGs could be used strategically to strengthen and leverage implementation of UNSCR 1325, particularly through National Action Plans

Content:

- FAs have fallen short of fully addressing gender-related issues, particularly violence against women and women’s participation in decision-making
- Gender should be mainstreamed within all of the PSGs, as well as women’s rights being a specific dimension of fragility

Implementation:

- Political circumstances such as the recent conflict in South Sudan can risk delaying or impeding the implementation of the New Deal
- Political dialogue between donors and g7+ countries is vital, and women should be included at all levels of this dialogue
- All stakeholders should adopt the UN Secretary-General’s 7 point action plan on peacebuilding that calls for 15% of all recovery funding to be allocated to women’s empowerment and gender equality.



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PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY COUNTRY

	South Sudan	Afghanistan	Somalia
Priorities	<p>The FA and draft Compact lack gender-specific goals, and no linkages are made with SCR 1325 or CEDAW</p> <p>There is no clear monitoring framework for the Compact to ensure transparency and accountability</p>	<p>There is no assessment of fragility or gender equality to determine priority issues</p> <p>The TMAF mentions only NAPWA and EAW, and does not link with SCR 1325</p> <p>CSOs have been involved in TMAF monitoring and implementation but there is a lack of information-sharing and clarity on process</p>	<p>Gender is a cross-cutting issue in the Compact, but has not been translated into priority and milestones</p> <p>Women's groups were not properly consulted with during the development of the FA, despite the importance of inclusion in New Deal, and it is difficult for women's voices to be heard in taskforce on Compact implementation</p>
Recommendations	<p>Review the FA and Compact and ensure consultation and inclusion of Gender Ministry and women's groups</p> <p>Establish an independent Compact monitoring group</p>	<p>Carry out a FA and gender equality assessment to identify implementation gaps</p> <p>Ensure all existing gender-related commitments are incorporated in TMAF follow-up discussions</p>	<p>Women need to be empowered politically and within decision-making committees</p> <p>Consultations should be held on the priority activities for each PSG and gender-specific milestones should be added</p>

LESSONS LEARNED

- Integrate gender analysis into new fragility assessments to identify needs and priorities relating to women's rights, and review and revise existing FA from a gender perspective
- Ensure that Peacebuilding Compacts refer to and are linked with existing gender-related commitments in Constitutions, relevant legal frameworks and policies such as National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325
- Take measures to ensure timely, transparent and inclusive information sharing and consultation with civil society organisations around the development and implementation of Peacebuilding Compacts
- Develop and use gender-sensitive indicators and ensure sex-disaggregated data is collected to enable effective monitoring of the impact of the Compacts
- Build the capacity of women's organisations to fulfill a watchdog role and effectively monitor government commitments relating to the New Deal, including around implementation of the Peacebuilding Compact