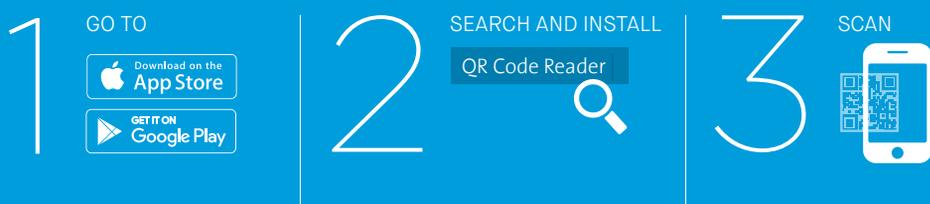


THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS:

COLLABORATING
TO ACHIEVE
“PLANET 50:50
BY 2030”



INTERACTIVE REPORT IN 3 STEPS



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Produced by UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

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COVER PHOTO: Women in Thailand march for gender-equal constitution - Planet 50:50 for Gender Equality on International Women's Day. Photo: UN Women/Niels den Hollander

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Photo: UN Women/Piyavit Thongs-Ard

Partnerships: A Powerful Force for Progress in 2015



Click here to listen
to a video message
from the Regional
Director



ABOVE: Photo: UN Women/Pornvit Visitoran

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals was accompanied by a sense of urgency for the universal achievement of social justice, inclusive governance, shared prosperity and environmental conservation.

The world's governments, drawing inspiration and direction from their populations and civil society organizations committed to leaving no one behind. It is a commitment that is also encapsulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is a commitment contained in human rights treaties and in particular in the Women's Convention.

Yet, many women and girls have been left behind, marginalised by patriarchal systems of entitlement and intersecting discriminations and bases of exclusions - whether income, geography, disability, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation. And women remain outside of governance, their perspectives and interests largely unheard.

Nothing for us, without us! All of UN Women's work is founded on the recognition of women's agency; of their demand and expectation to participate in and benefit from political and economic decision making. Facilitating women's voice is therefore both a means and an ends of our

work. In this, UN Women must work with women's movement, understanding that one indicator of sustained and implemented social policy progress is a vibrant and independent women's movement.

And so in 2015, across the 22 countries in the Asia-Pacific region where UN Women has programme presence, partnerships with ministries for gender equality, women's organisations, UN agencies and developmental agencies have shaped our work on economic empowerment, ending violence against women; addressing harmful practices based on gender stereotypes and advancing peace and security. We know that the scale of social norms change needed can only come about with whole of society commitments, including through work with faith institutions, media, the private sector, trade unions, civil society, popular culture movements and human rights organizations. And given the work on ending patriarchy, UN Women, through the HeforShe campaign, has expanded our work with men who understand their own obligations and accountability to reject patriarchal entitlement and to model equality, whether in the home, community or workplace.

For UN Women, we see the adoption of Sustainable Development Goal 5 and gender targets, not only as a reaffirmation of the values which the world needs but also central to the solutions to inequalities, extremism and climate change.

This Annual Report captures some of the work which we undertook in the Asia-Pacific region, in collaboration with governments, the UN system, development partners and civil society actors. It is an interactive report through which you will have access to our reports, advocacy tools and publications. We invite you to use these materials!

UN Women in the Region

UN Women carries out its work in the Asia-Pacific region via a network that encompasses 32 countries including a regional office, two multi-country offices, nine country offices and five project offices



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

MULTI-COUNTRY OFFICES

- India – Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka.
- Fiji – Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

COUNTRY OFFICES

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

PROJECT OFFICES

China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Philippines.
 UN Women also carries out programmes and activities in countries in the region where there is no office presence such as Malaysia, Mongolia and Singapore.

Our Partnership Results in 2015 at Glance

50

Constitutional provisions, laws and policies adopted

139

Laws and policies influenced and amended



15

States supported to report on CEDAW implementation

5

CEDAW "shadow reports" prepared by civil society groups



2,990

Women in politics supported:

2,437

Candidates

553

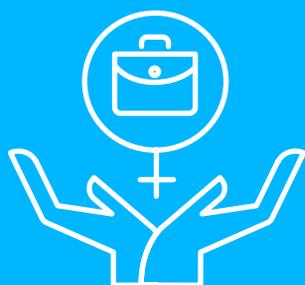
Politicians

6,833

Civil servants trained in gender issues

27,455

Women entrepreneurs supported



199,327

New jobs created for women through UN Women projects in the region



39,776

Women with improved access to public services



15 million

People reached during the 16 Days of Activism campaign

97

Publications produced by UN Women and its partners

319%

Increase in visitors to UN Women's regional website



125,000+

New "male champions for gender equality"



Over 2,500,000

reached through social media

Stepping Up Action and Accountability

Galvanizing Action on Gender Equality

In 2015 Asia-Pacific governments reaffirmed their commitment to accelerate the implementation of foundational commitments including the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995 and the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Member States also adopted new commitments under Sustainable Development Goals including Goal 5 - Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls.

Renewed political will was also apparent in the unprecedented high level attendance by 19 Asia-Pacific Heads of State at the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, co-organized by UN Women and the Government of the People's Republic of China in New York in September. There, Asia-Pacific leaders committed to specific actions to eliminate violence against women and girls; end child and early marriages; change social norms through the education system; and address unpaid care work through quality child care and paternity leave.



“The Government of Micronesia will pursue with more vigor the unfinished work of the Millennium Development Goals, while focusing on Sustainable Development Goal 5 and its cross-cutting effort.”

*Statement by H.E. Peter Christian, President, The Federated States of Micronesia addressing the 70th UN General Assembly High Level event “Government Leaders’ Meeting on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: A Commitment to Action”, New York, 27 September 2015
Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown*

Goal 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls

Targets:

- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
- Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.
- Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.
- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.
- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.
- Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.
- Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

Click here for a video on key commitments made by Asia-Pacific governments at the Global Leaders' Forum



PLANET 50-50 BY 2030 STEP IT UP FOR GENDER EQUALITY

@UN_Women | #Planet5050 | #IWD2016

Further commitments to ensure financing for gender equality were made during the Asia-Pacific High Level Consultation on Financing for Development in Jakarta. The final outcome document, which influenced the Financing for Development meeting in Addis Ababa, prioritized the need for investment in social sectors in order to address social disparities and income inequalities. It also underlined the need to ensure that the new financing for development framework contributes to raising living standards, creating decent jobs and empowering women and girls in the region.

Translating Global Commitments into Regional and Local Action

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Women have a critical role to play in all of the SDGs; many of the SDG targets specifically recognize women's equality and empowerment as both the objective and as part of the solution. Goal 5 is known as the "stand-alone gender goal" because it is dedicated to achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

During the year, UN Women partnered with a range of actors across the region to increase awareness about the gender equality commitments of the SDGs and make these goals part of national planning processes.

In **Timor-Leste**, the Government published the Declaration of Maubisse to ensure access to resources and information for rural women, who comprise 70 per cent of the nation's women. The Planning Commission in **Bangladesh** made the SDG targets part of the Government's 7th Five Year Plan, for 2016-2020. UN Women supported the incorporation of gender equality targets in the plan. In **India**, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation committed to collect data for SDG 5 – on ownership of assets, time use/unpaid work, and prevalence of violence. The Ministry also agreed to make the Management Information Systems of line ministries more gender-responsive.



Influencing and Carrying out Global Gender Equality Standards

India's pushes for gender-responsive development financing

In **India**, government and civil society actors joined forces in advocating for the inclusion of commitments on gender equality at the United Nations Third International Conference on Financing for Development. UN Women supported this effort by developing advocacy papers that were widely disseminated and a dedicated e-group to share information and updates on the financing for development process.

The conference, held in July in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, produced the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, a global framework for transforming global finance practices and generating investments for sustainable development.

After the agenda was adopted, UN Women organized a dialogue with the Indian Government and civil society groups on what the agenda means for women and what specific measures the country must take to carry it out in an accountable way.

ABOVE: A woman stitching garments at Asaripudhur Village, Tamil Nadu. The European Union co-financed SEIWD project helped 5,000 people, including economically weak and landless families in 20 villages, to enhance their income through specific income-generation activities. The four-year project was implemented by Karl Kabel Stiftung and Peace Trust in Dindigul District in Tamil Nadu. Photo: European Union

Implementing and Monitoring CEDAW

In 2015, government accountability on implementing CEDAW was enhanced across the region as countries prepared CEDAW progress reports. Periodic and interim reports were submitted by **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines and Thailand.**

Timor-Leste and **Viet Nam** organized national dialogues on CEDAW implementation. In the Pacific, the **Federated States of Micronesia** and **Nauru** submitted reports for the first time. **Tuvalu** attended a dialogue on its periodic report in Geneva. With the Republic of Marshall Islands and Kiribati in the final stages of drafting initial reports, soon every CEDAW State party in the Pacific will have submitted at least an initial report. UN Women supported all these governments at every stage of the reporting process by providing trainings, assisting with the draft reports and preparation for delegations to Geneva, and facilitating the governments' consultations with civil society.

UN Women also provided platforms and technical support to civil society organizations in monitoring CEDAW implementation and preparing CEDAW Shadow Reports in **Bangladesh, Nepal, Timor-Leste** and **Viet Nam.** In **Cambodia,** UN Women supported NGO-CEDAW, a coalition of 91 local non-governmental organizations, to promote the participation of marginalized groups – including young women, women living with HIV, and lesbian, bisexual, transgender and inter-sex people.

Click here to access
NGO-CEDAW's Shadow
Follow-up Report for
Cambodia



With funding from Global Affairs Canada, UN Women's CEDAW Southeast Asia Programme focused on supporting law reform in areas such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape, land, decentralization, and village elections. The programme covered **Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam** and **Timor-Leste.**

In **Thailand,** the Gender Equality Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender as well as sex, was adopted and took effect in September. Gender equality advocates successfully called for the removal of most exceptions to the definition of discrimination and the inclusion of a number of new issues such as substantive equality, violence against women and sex-disaggregated data.

Across the region, through research, consultations and training by UN Women, an increased number of judges and magistrates achieved a better understanding of CEDAW obligations to eliminate gender bias and stereotyping in the judicial process.

Empowering Young Women to Achieve Change through CEDAW

The International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific, funded by UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality

In 2015, International Women's Rights Action Watch **Asia Pacific** continued to partner with women's networks in **Lao PDR, Malaysia, Timor-Leste** and **Viet Nam** to train young women to advocate for CEDAW and human rights.

In **Viet Nam,** three civil society networks that participated in the training — Gender and Community Development Network, Domestic Violence Prevention Network and the Network for Empowerment of Women — brought the issue of dating violence to the attention of the CEDAW Committee during its

review of **Viet Nam's** report in 2015. Young women members of the networks felt that their concerns were not reflected in the State report or in inputs from other NGOs. Since there was no data available on the prevalence of dating violence, the networks jointly conducted a small-scale online survey. Among female respondents aged 18-30, 41 per cent were emotionally abused and 11 per cent were sexually abused by dating partners; 23 per cent experienced harassment through the Internet; and 24 per cent were stalked after break-ups. Representatives of the group took the survey results to the CEDAW Session in Geneva which reviewed Viet Nam's State party report. The group had a dialogue with the Committee. The Committee included in its Concluding Observations a call for the criminalization of all forms of violence against women including dating violence. This was a significant victory for the civil society networks; it strengthened calls for state action on dating violence.

In **Timor-Leste,** under the women's network Rede Feto, civil society organizations jointly wrote a CEDAW Shadow Report ahead of the CEDAW Committee's review of **Timor-Leste's** State periodic report. The Shadow Report highlighted discriminatory legislation, women's limited access to sexual and reproductive health, lack of legislation on human trafficking and discriminatory practices in employment. The CEDAW committee included some of these concerns in its Concluding Observations.

Click here to view FGE:
Young Women Making
Change - Stories of
Change. Video: IWRAW
Asia Pacific



With the engagement of judges in CEDAW training, there is growing evidence of citation of CEDAW in the determination of cases related to domestic and sexual violence in **Timor-Leste**.

CEDAW processes were also leveraged to strengthen evidence, advocacy, partnerships and scale-up programmatic support for strengthening women's rights in the context of HIV response. In **China**, **Viet Nam** and **Indonesia**, substantive issues concerning women living with HIV (and in Indonesia and Viet Nam, sex workers as well) were included in reports to the CEDAW Committee. In **Viet Nam** and **China**, UN Women brought together the Health Ministry, networks of women living with HIV, civil society organizations, and national gender

machineries to discuss action on the CEDAW Committee's Concluding Comments. The Committee called for addressing rights violations in health care settings and ensuring effective implementation of national strategies on the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS.

Beyond CEDAW, UN Women also supported governments in implementing their gender equality commitments in other human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Universal Periodic Review. In **Thailand**, UN Women joined the UN system to prepare a UN Country Team report on ICESCR where exceptions to the prohibition of discrimination in the Gender Equality Act were highlighted in an effort to improve

the draft submitted to the National Legislative Assembly. In the Concluding Observations, the ICESCR Committee noted its concern that the Gender Equality Act permits discrimination against women on grounds of religious practice and national security. The Committee recommended revision to eliminate any discriminatory provisions and called upon the State party to take measures to eliminate gender-role stereotypes, as well as ensure the equal enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by men and women.



Advancing Women's Leadership and Political Participation

Structural Change to Support Women in Politics

In 2015, women's participation in the legislative and executive branches of government remained marginal in many countries in Asia and the Pacific. During the year, the average proportion of women in parliaments increased less than one percentage point both in Asia (from 18.3 per cent to 19.0 per cent) and in the Pacific (from 15.3 per cent to 15.9 per cent).

However, in some countries steps were taken to advance women's participation in decision-making. In **Nepal**, temporary special measures for women at the

national level are provided for in the constitution so that no one can occupy more than two thirds of seats in the parliament. In **Mongolia**, a new law requires political parties to have a minimum 30 per cent women among their candidates. The latter was a result of joint efforts by civil society organizations, including Liberal Women Brain Pool, a UN Women Fund for Gender Equality grantee which took part in the consultation on the draft law. At the regional level, UN Women teamed up with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) to jointly research political party culture and how to increase commitment to women's equal right to participate.

ABOVE: Local women in China after casting their vote in the election of the two Committees at village level. Photo: ACWF

Empowering Women as Voters and Candidates in Elections

In **Sri Lanka**, a record 556 women candidates were nominated to contest the General Parliamentary Elections in August, the highest number of women nominations in the history of the country's electoral system. This was partly due to advocacy initiatives by UN Women and its civil society partners, including discussions with leaders of the political parties and discussions on electoral reforms. Collaboration between civil society groups and UN Women on the national "Vote for Women" campaign engaged youths and the media to raise nationwide awareness on the importance of women's representation in political parties. Women candidates were given a trilingual animated video and infographics and information on mounting a social media campaign.

In the **Autonomous Region of Bougainville**, the Government and UN Women convened a workshop for 45 women leaders to analyze the results of the 2015 election. After four women won seats in the June election, women made up 10 per cent of the Parliament. The workshop concluded that training in political processes, widespread advocacy campaigns on women and leadership, and one-on-one "political grooming" led to the increased number of female members of parliament and local government office-holders. UN Women also collaborated with the Government to develop the Strategic Plan for Women's Political Leadership in the **Autonomous Region of Bougainville** 2015-2020. The plan has been endorsed by the country's Chief Secretary.

Click here to access the animated video produced for the "Vote for Women" campaign



ABOVE: Photo: UN Women/Sarabjeet Singh Dhillon

Overcoming Barriers to Women's Political Participation in China

UN Women Fund for Gender Equality

In **China**, women's political participation has stagnated quite significantly over the last few decades even though the country was an early champion of "temporary special measures" and electoral quotas for women. To remove the obstacles women face and demanding accountability, the All-China Women's Federation ran a 2010-2015 project that was funded by the Fund for Gender Equality.

Through a mixed approach of advocacy, capacity building and increasing of knowledge of women as well as men in leadership positions, the Federation reached about 1,700 policymakers, 900 students and 8,000 villagers in the provinces of Shanxi, Heilongjiang and Hunan. The project contributed to increasing the number of women active in politics and public life at the local level. Quotas were also included in Women's Development Plans 2011-2015 in all three provinces and supplemented by relevant election guidelines and policies.

The programme produced a Monitoring Guide based on international best practices, and recommendations on how women's leaders and advocates in China can monitor women's political participation.

In 2015, more than 100 women and men from more than 20 provinces gathered to share experiences and lessons from working together in the programme.

Click here to access the Monitoring Guide



In **Samoa**, in partnership with the Government and with funding from the Australian Government, UN Women and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided training to journalists, students and potential candidates in order to promote women's political participation and increase the number of women in parliament in the 2016 election. As of March 2016, Samoa had five women in Parliament and the country's first female Deputy Prime Minister, Fiame Naomi Mata'afa.

Changing political culture and removing structural impediments as well as restrictive gender norms are all necessary to create democratic space for women. In 2015, UN Women supported countries across the region in these efforts.

In **India**, ICT was used in three sites to position elected women representatives and leaders to become generators, providers and users of information – breaking male control over information and communications and positioning women as key interlocutors in a local governance context. IT for Change, a grantee of UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality, and its partner organizations Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan and Area Networking and Development Initiatives (ANANDI) supported rural and socially excluded women to participate in political

processes through the use of technosocial innovations. Through these innovations, more than 800 elected women were better connected to their constituencies, making them more effective leaders. Over 100 local government resolutions benefiting women were passed – facilitating better access to land, health centres, schools, water and sanitation – and 7,000 entitlement claims to basic services were processed. With UN Women's help, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj incorporated lessons from this project in integrating gender into its local governance agenda under the Gram Panchayat Development Programme.

UN Women supported the Mon Cetana Foundation and the Mon Women's Network in **Myanmar** to run seven consultations and a training workshop

for 40 Buddhist monks and nuns in Ye and Mudone townships in Mon State. The consultations increased awareness on the need for women's political leadership not just for ethnic Mon women, but for all women. The monks agreed to share information on the topic in their monasteries and to encourage villagers to vote for women candidates. The monks also advised the Mon political parties to adopt policies on women's participation, including a quota system.

[Click here to see the Gender Sensitive Governance through ICTs Video: YouTube/ANANDI and Mahila Swaraj Manch](#)



In India, a local villager learns to use the Voice Recording System and a digital camera in newly set up information centers.

Photo: UN Women/ANANDI

Techno-social Innovations Used to Support Political Participation of Socially Excluded Women

- Interactive Voice Response platform for telephone information exchange among elected women and women's collectives;
- Media-based learning for elected women;
- Geographic Information System to map issues of community concern;
- Network of women-owned digitally enabled centres where marginalized women can access information and claim entitlements



Building Future Leaders

In April, young women activists from **Viet Nam, Malaysia, and Timor-Leste** attended the ASEAN People's Forum in Kuala Lumpur and hosted a workshop to discuss the issues that young women face in their home countries and their work to address them. The activists are part of "Young Women Making Change," a programme of the International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific which trains young

female activists to become effective women's rights advocates using CEDAW. Funded by UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality, the programme has strengthened the advocacy skills of 100 young women in the ASEAN region to become the leaders of tomorrow.

In **Cambodia**, a focus on closer dialogue between Cambodian youth and the government was initiated by UN Women's youth and gender equality programme. Thirty young women and men from 20 different youth

organisations came together to learn how they can play a part in the election process, before meeting national parliamentarians. Through a gender analysis training, all participants had to come up with their own recommendations on how the law should be revised to include a gender perspective. After the training, the youth met with national parliamentarians to convey their recommendations, an initiative resulting in closer relationships and a deepening of dialogue between the government of Cambodia and youth representatives.

ABOVE: Youth participants in "Gender and Youth Impacts of the National Election Law" in Cambodia. Photo: UN Women/Mariken B. Harbitz

BELOW: Members of Young Women Making Change at the ASEAN People's Forum 2015. Photo: IWRAW



"Having the chance to take part in ASEAN People's Forum has been one of the greatest and most eye-opening experiences for me so far. After 7 days, I gained countless precious learning points and unforgettable memories that will help me a lot in the future."

- Ngoc Anh (Viet Nam)



Realizing Women's Economic Rights

As the Asia-Pacific region continues to enjoy higher growth rates than the rest of the world at 6.5 per cent, distribution and redistribution of growth benefits remain the greatest challenge. Gender inequalities in labour force participation prevent women from taking advantage of the opportunities created by economic growth. Women create their own opportunities, but these are largely in the informal economy where women lack labour rights, social protection and income security.

In 2015, UN Women's efforts focused on generating evidence, data and macroeconomic analysis while simultaneously supporting work at the micro level to protect the rights of migrant women and ensure women's access to productive resources, in particular markets and land.

ABOVE: Khateeja Mallah (Durdana), 13, a once landless women farmer, proudly shows off 'her' land and Land Tenancy Agreement in Dadu District, Sindh Province, Pakistan. She is one of 1,214 landless women farmers who have received land tenancy rights through a programme implemented by UN Women, FAO and ILO. Photo: UN Women/Faria Salman

Action Points for a Gender Responsive ASEAN Economic Community

For increasing women's participation in trade oriented sectors:

- Bridge the education and skills divide
- Improve access to finance for women entrepreneurs through subsidized loans and other financial incentives
- Remove gender biases in publicly financed parental schemes
- Reform the entire child care system and family support system to help working mothers and not penalize them for taking time off
- Address the persistent gender based discrimination that persists in national policies relating to occupational choices and asset ownership
- Remove labour market distortions caused by unclear labour laws and create a level playing field
- Provide fiscal incentives for companies to encourage women in senior management positions
- Strictly enforce work place harassment laws

Generating Evidence-Based Analysis

As the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Community (AEC) began integrating the 10 members of ASEAN at the end of 2015, policy makers gained access to ground breaking research on potential barriers to women's equal participation in and benefit from the AEC through a study prepared by UN Women in partnership with the ASEAN Secretariat and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. The study, Projected Gender Impact of the ASEAN Economic Community, highlights that many women are not well enough positioned to take advantage of the growth expected from AEC. It makes recommendations towards increasing women's participation in the trade oriented sectors, as well as towards ensuring policies and practices support both women and men equally as the AEC is rolled out.

It is expected that the study will inform the ASEAN Economic Community in their efforts to address gender gaps in ASEAN labour markets.

[Click here to view the study Projected Gender Impact of the ASEAN Economic Community](#)



It is well known that women migrant workers, especially domestic workers, are vulnerable to labour exploitation, abuse and violence.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and UN Women produced research briefs on women's labour migration to be used to advocate for changes in migration regulations in the region and to support cooperation with the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour and the ASEAN Commission on the Rights of Women and Children. The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade supported the research.

[Click here to access briefs on Women Migrant Workers in ASEAN, Facts and Figures, Valuing the Contributions of Women Migrant Worker in ASEAN and Labour Inspection](#)



Influencing Policies on Decent Work and the Rights of Women Migrants

In **Cambodia**, a Roadmap on the Ratification of ILO Convention 189 concerning decent work for domestic workers was adopted by the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training.

In consultation with the Government and civil society in **Myanmar**, UN Women undertook a review of the draft Overseas Employment Act from a gender perspective. The recommendations were largely endorsed by the Government and are being incorporated into amendments to the draft.

In **Bangladesh**, the Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment addressed the specific needs of women migrant workers through the Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy. The policy mandates that the training workers receive before going overseas include information on their rights and the resources available to them if these rights are not respected - critical information for the 90 per cent of Bangladeshi women migrants working as domestic workers in the Gulf States. The policy incorporates recommendations from a UN Women study published in 2015.

In **Nepal**, women's economic empowerment, especially of the poorest and the most excluded, is a key priority in both the National Action Plan on Safe Foreign Employment and the Agriculture Development Strategy. Adopted in 2015, both policy documents were developed by the government with technical and financial support received from UN Women.

More specifically, the National Action Plan on Safe Foreign Employment contains a key goal which responds to the need to "address concerns of female workers in the labour market and ensure their rights in the overall migration cycle." A few of the key points further addressed by the plan emphasize support to undocumented women migrant workers overseas, a key concern in the context of Nepal. The plan also addresses the negative impact of foreign labour migration on communities, such as the risk of family breakup, a significant increase in the burden of women caring for family members, the separation of children from their parents, and the lack of care for the elderly.

In recognizing the "feminization" of agriculture in Nepal as a consequence of male workers migrating abroad, the Agriculture Development Strategy incorporated recommendations made by UN Women, towards the establishment of Community Agricultural Extension Service Centres that are fully owned and managed by communities, particularly female farmers. Indeed, currently land ownership of more than 5 hectares is dominated by men in census reports. Thus, among female landholders, the majority of them own only small areas of landholdings.

Strengthening Women's Livelihoods and Ensuring Access to Markets

In **India**, Gender Action Plans were adopted in the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). This was influenced by UN Women's research and advocacy to increase women's participation in rural wage employment. The Gender Action Plans call for innovative strategies to increase marginalized women's participation in employment through women-only worksites; quotas for women in supervisory roles; issuance of job cards to single women; and special measures to ensure wage parity with men. As a result of UN Women's advocacy with and for Dalit women under a MGNREGA research, the Uttar Pradesh State Government issued an order to provide employment to women manual scavengers, who have now given up this caste-based practice.

In **Pakistan**, with UN Women support, more than 800 women home based workers (HBWs) received trainings in employable skills in Punjab with 100 women HBWs increasing their income from PKR 2,500 to PKR 14,000-15,000 through employment in the organized sector. Similarly, in Punjab and Sindh provinces, 600 women HBWs have improved market access for their products.

Like the work with women market vendors in Gerehu and Gordons Markets in Port Moresby, **Papua New Guinea**, UN Women's Markets for Change initiative in **Fiji**, the **Solomon Islands** and **Vanuatu** ensures that marketplaces in rural and urban areas are safe, inclusive and promote gender equality and women's empowerment. Indeed, as a result of the initiative, over 10,000 market vendors — 75 to 90 per cent of them women — in 20 different markets across the three Pacific Island countries are now represented through Market Vendors Associations Executive Committees that defend their interests in dealing with market management and local authorities. Of the 20 Executive Committees, 10 have at least 60 per cent women in leadership positions. These advances were achieved through trainings for vendors and support in establishing and strengthening vendors associations. Many of these associations were established relatively recently, but local authorities are calling on them to inform official consultations, a significant step towards women's empowerment.

Securing Women's Right to Own Land

Land is a critical asset and without secure tenure, female farmers are unable to make long-term plans and investments, protect themselves from natural disasters, and raise their standards of living.

In 2015, 1,214 landless female farmers dependent on feudal and tribal landholding systems in **Pakistan's** Sindh Province received land tenancy rights. It is the first case of landless people receiving tenancy rights in **Pakistan**. In a project UN Women funded with the Food and Agricultural Organization and the ILO, UN Women collaborated with two local NGOs, Gorakh Foundation and Baanh Beli, in training landless women to prepare landholding maps and tenancy agreements with their male landlords in Dadu and Mirpur Khas districts of Sindh. This resulted in mutually composed and signed tenancy agreements between the 1,214 farmers and their landlords. A large majority of these women were issued with their first Computerized National Identity Cards, a requirement for acquiring land. In the tenancy agreements, the landlords leased their land to the farmers for an agreed period of time. The women now possess the right to access the land, have a place to live, can operate the farm according to their own plans, and receive a portion of the profit from the crops.



Preventing and Responding to Violence against Women and Girls

In the region, at least 31 countries have dedicated legislation to address violence against women and 13 countries criminalize marital rape. In 2015, three countries (**Cambodia**, **Lao PDR** and **Viet Nam**) adopted national action plans on combating domestic violence or violence against women.

During the year, UN Women sought to improve the policy response to violence against women and girls by focusing on law enforcement and regulatory mechanisms, as well as deepening political and institutional commitments on preventing such violence and punishing perpetrators.

Influencing Laws, Policies and Implementation Frameworks

In 2015, Members States of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) adopted the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Women (2016-2025) at the ASEAN Summit in November. The development of the Plan was led by the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children and the ASEAN Committee on Women. UN Women provided technical assistance in the drafting process. The plan addresses violence prevention, access to justice and services for survivors of violence, and speaks to the role of men and boys in ending violence against women, including through social norms change.

ABOVE: In a sea of orange, young Cambodians use a popular dance 'Madizon' to say 'no' to violence against women at the country's biggest event in Phnom Penh under the 16 Days Campaign to End gender-based violence. Photo: UN Women/Niels den Hollander

In **Lao PDR**, the Law on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Children was promulgated in 2015. Through its CEDAW Southeast Asia programme, UN Women supported targeted capacity building of staff of the Ministry of Justice and the National Assembly in gender-sensitive law making and advocacy. Cooperation and learning across countries in the region was also facilitated through the organization of study tours to the **Philippines** and **Viet Nam**.

China's legislature adopted the country's first Law against Domestic Violence. A task force set up by the United Nations System in China and co-chaired by UN Women and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided technical expertise to the legislators during the drafting of the law.

In **Viet Nam**, the National Assembly adopted amendments to the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code to broaden the definition of rape and strengthen the response to human

trafficking. UN Women worked with the Ministry of Justice team that drafted the amendments.

Through the Regional Programme on Ending Violence against Women (supported by the Government of Australia), in **Lao PDR, Indonesia** and **Timor-Leste**, UN Women developed costing frameworks that provide the foundation for increasing resources for comprehensive support services for survivors of violence.

Providing Evidence and Data

In **Lao PDR**, the *Lao National Survey on Women's Health and Life Experiences 2014: A Study on Violence against Women*, was the country's first-ever national survey on violence against women. The survey found that almost a third of women in **Lao PDR** have experienced physical violence, sexual violence or emotional abuse at the hands of their partners, in most cases their husbands.

The findings form the basis for effective policy implementation in the country and also provide baseline data for the Law on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Children. The study was spearheaded by the **Lao PDR**, National Commission on Advancement of Women and the Statistics Bureau, with technical and financial support from UN Women, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

[Click here to view the Lao National Survey on Women's Health and Life Experiences 2014](#)



In **Cambodia** with support from UN Women and the World Health Organization (WHO) the first ever *National Survey on Women's Health and Life Experiences* was conducted by the National Institute of Statistics of the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Women's Affairs. The survey confirmed that violence against women is one of the most pervasive human rights violations in Cambodia. The survey found that one in five of women who have had partners had experienced physical or sexual violence from that partner, often accompanied by controlling behaviour. Almost half of those women had never told anyone about the violence. One in five reported that their first sexual experience was coerced or forced. The study filled a gap in evidence and provided a strong basis for developing an integrated national response to gender-based violence.

Building Awareness and Garnering Public Support: 16 Days of Impassioned Activism

From 25 November-10 December, countries around Asia and the Pacific commemorated the annual 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence, a global event to raise awareness and mobilize public action for change. The Asia-Pacific commemorations reached out to 15 million of people through social and traditional media, and joint advocacy efforts with governmental and civil society partners. As part of the UN Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign and its theme "Orange the World," national landmarks across the region were lit up in orange to symbolize, both visibility of the issue and to signal a brighter future without violence.

UN Women also supported social norms change by promoting among young people non-violent notions of masculinity and respectful relationships. Strategies included peer education, curriculum development, sports-related outreach, and use of social media. A public service announcement video on sexual harassment produced by UN Women in 2015 reached more than 500,000 people. UN Women organized the Bangkok International Film Festival on Ending Violence against Women and Girls during the 16 Days of Activism. More than 2,000 people attended the event and the film festival's Facebook event reached 86,000 people and engaged 1,500 people.

[Click here for a glimpse of the first Bangkok International Film Festival on Ending Violence against Women and Girls](#)



[Click here to view the Public Service Announcement Active Bystander](#)



As part of UN Women's partnership with the International Federation of Muaythai Amateur, the governing body for the popular traditionally male-dominated sport, 23 sports federations from around the world committed to promote gender equality and to train coaches and athletes to prevent violence against women and girls. A joint pledge signed by the federations was presented to UN Women during the Muaythai Royal World Cup 2015 held in Bangkok in August. The signing ceremony was witnessed by over 400 delegates from around the world.

In December, UN Women organized a Regional Forum on Preventing Violence against Women and Girls, with a focus on building empirical evidence and tools for changing social norms. Over 80 technical experts and policymakers from across the region shared promising practices on preventing violence against women and girls that were backed by the latest evidence. UN Women's global framework on the prevention of violence against women, finalized in 2015, was launched regionally at the forum.

[Click here to access the UN Women's Global Framework to Underpin Action to Prevent Violence Against Women](#)



In the **Pacific** region, UN Women trained 150 people from 41 organizations on primary prevention theory and approaches. Particular focus was given to the intersections of violence, gender and disability by engaging participants from organizations for people with disabilities. The trainings increased public discussion about what approaches work to stop violence and what men and boys and religious communities should do to prevent violence. After the trainings, there was a noticeable increase in public discourse on preventing violence against women.

Together with its partners, UN Women also facilitated the development of a curriculum resource and teacher guidance on preventing gender-based violence in schools. In **Lao PDR**, the Vice-Minister of Education and Sports, Lytou Bouapao, committed to introduce training on ending violence against women and girls into the national school curriculum. Breaking silence about violence was one key message of a public service announcement that the Ministry of Education produced with support from UN Women.

[Click here to access the Lao PDR Public Service Announcement calling for zero tolerance of violence](#)



BELOW: In New Delhi, India, the iconic India Gate was lit orange during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. Photo: UN Women/Rineeta Naik



In the **Pacific**, UN Women developed and launched a user friendly guide, *How to Design Projects to End Violence against Women and Girls*, to help organizations in designing interventions and mobilizing resources. International Planned Parenthood Federation, and Derekinakelo Musfarat Forum, an ethnic minority women's community, are among the groups using the guide.

[Click here to access *How to Design Projects to End Violence against Women and Girls* guide](#)



Awareness and understanding of violence against women and girls with disabilities was also enhanced following the development and dissemination of a disability inclusive toolkit designed for use by disabled peoples' organizations in the Pacific. The toolkit, the first of its kind in the region, was developed by the Pacific Disability Forum and the Fiji Disabled Peoples' Federation with financial and technical support from UN Women. It was showcased at the year's session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. There are plans to translate it into other Pacific Island languages and distribute it across the region.

[Click here to access the disability inclusive toolkit](#)



Capacity development support for health care providers on gender equality, women's rights and rights of key affected women and girls was conducted in two provinces in **China** including setting up of coordination and monitoring mechanisms for addressing rights violations facing women living with HIV in health care settings. Together with the Women's Network against AIDS and the National Centre for AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Disease Control and Prevention, a nation-wide media campaign was conducted on ending rights violations and the stigma faced by women living with HIV. The campaign reached over 168,000 internet users.

Creating Safe Cities and Markets

In **Papua New Guinea**, Ginigoda Bisnis Development Foundation and UN Women launched a partnership to expand the current Port Moresby: Safe City Free of Violence against Women and Girls to include Safe Public Transport. The launch coincided with the first anniversary of the female-passengers-only Meri Seif Bus. In a country where over 90 per cent women and girls have experienced some form of violence when accessing public transport, the Meri Seif Bus provides them with a safe and free transport option. During the year, demand for the service was high with a daily average of more than 400 commuters.



Women commuters on the Meri Seif Bus.
Photo: UN Women

[Click here to access the ABC news feature on the Meri Seif Bus](#)



Ongoing reduction in violence against women in the market places of Port Moresby was achieved through the Safe Cities programme. Police and UN Women data showed no reported cases of violence against women in Gerehu market and a large reduction in cases in Gordons Market, the Pacific's largest market, which has been associated with violence and civil disturbances. The establishment of police posts in markets and training for police, market controllers and security guards contributed to the reduction in violence against women.

Improving Services

Despite existing response services, coordinating different types of services for female victims of violence remains a challenge in the region. Thus, in 2015, a number of countries focused efforts on establishing 'one-stop' centres.

In **India**, the country's first hospital-based One Stop Crisis Centre opened during the year. The model for the centre was recommended jointly by the United Nations Country Team and UN Women. It was the first of a projected total 660 such centres.

The foundation of the **Pakistan's** first ever one stop Violence Against Women Center (VAWC) was laid in 2015 in Multan city, Punjab Province, and will be formally opened in 2016. The 24-hour centre brings together under one roof all "justice delivery" services for women victims: first aid, police reporting, legal aid, prosecution, medical examination, forensics, post-trauma rehabilitation. The centre, run entirely by women, not only provides immediate relief and protection but also raises public awareness about the problem and



intervenes in communities where complaints are received. UN Women provided advice on the initial concept and design of the centre. In recognition of its strong partnership with the Office of the Chief Minister's Special Monitoring Unit, Law and Order, UN Women was invited to open the foundation-laying ceremony.

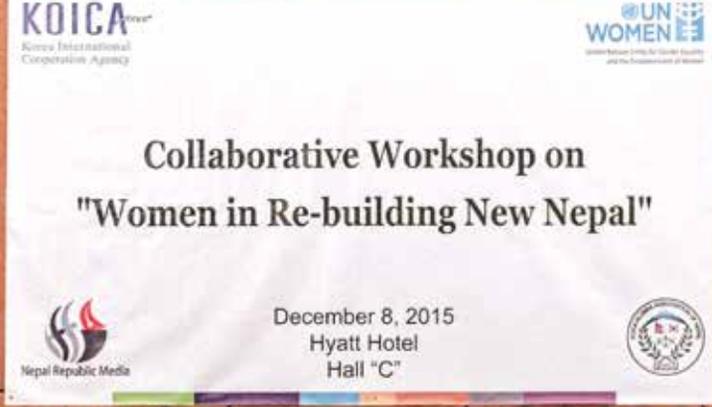
In **Afghanistan**, UN Women-funded Women's Protection Centres and Family Guidance Centres responded to the most immediate needs of women survivors of violence. UN Women's protection programme helped over 3,500 female survivors with services including legal assistance, shelter and livelihoods training.

ABOVE: Photograph of the guest speaker at the ground breaking event in Multan city. Photo: UN Women/Faria Salman



Sadaf, 26, has been at an Afghan Women's Skills Development Centre shelter, funded by UN Women, for two weeks with her four children, who range in age from two and a half to seven years old. She was married at the age of 17 to the son of a powerful but traditional and close-minded family in Afghanistan and was locked up in a room for three years. After enduring serious and prolonged mental and physical abuse, Sadaf fled her house along with her children and has been seeking refuge at the shelter, fearing that her husband will take away her children.

Photo: UN Women/Kiana Hayeri



Integrating Gender Equality Principles into Humanitarian Response and Recovery

Women, men, girls and boys are affected by natural disasters in different ways. Gender inequalities and power differences limit women's ability to protect themselves and recover from disasters and the impact of climate change. This is particularly acute for single women, female-headed households, and women with disabilities and older women, who often experience discrimination in access to relief services and information. This understanding shaped UN Women's work, including with countries hit by disasters in 2015.

Advocating for Gender-Responsive Coordination of Humanitarian Action

Integrating gender concerns into the United Nations system's humanitarian work was the focus of regional efforts. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee Working Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action was established and co-chaired by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and UN Women. With the technical leadership of a Regional Gender Standby Capacity Project Advisor, the Working Group developed guidance for UN Country Teams on mainstreaming gender into humanitarian preparedness and response.

Click here to access the key advocacy messages on gender equality and the empowerment of women in emergency response



The Working Group also supported the integration of gender equality principles in regional and national-level consultations where disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action and climate change was discussed in preparation for the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai in March and the UN Climate Change Conference held in Paris in November.

The Pacific Consultation for the World Humanitarian Summit called for the Summit to endorse policies and programming on climate change and disaster risk reduction and response that ensure women's human rights and full and equal participation. This engagement included close collaboration

ABOVE: Photo: UN Women/Samir Jung Thapa

with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and ActionAid in developing a *Gender and Humanitarian Action* background paper and co-hosting a workshop for women delegates to the Summit, resulting in a coherent communiqué on the issues affecting Pacific women and girls in humanitarian settings.

[Click here to view the Communiqué](#)



Responding to Women's Needs in Disaster Response

The Asia Pacific region was hit by three major disasters in 2015: Super Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu, a major earthquake in Nepal, and extensive flooding in Myanmar. In all three countries, the humanitarian disaster response was shaped by women's participation and responded to the common and differentiated needs of women, men, boys and girls in the post-disaster and early recovery phases.

In response to Tropical Cyclone Pam in **Vanuatu**, UN Women and the Department of Women's Affairs, jointly assessed the impact on women as part of the Government-led Post Disaster Needs Assessment. The Assessment was the first in the Pacific to specifically analyze the gendered impacts of the disaster under each sector.

In **Myanmar**, analysis of the differential impacts of the floods on women and men was conducted which informed the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment and its recommendations for the recovery plans. The World Bank and UN Women co-led the gender chapter of the Assessment, conducted in-depth consultations with civil society and worked with the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Programme and the government on a damage and loss assessment in agriculture from a gender perspective.

"The chapter on gender was one among three others that was well-anchored in consultations with multiple stakeholders, including local NGOs": Dr. Yin Yin Nwe, President's Advisor and Chair of the Advisory Group to the National Natural Disaster Management Committee. Not only did gender constitute a stand-alone chapter, it was also mainstreamed into other sectors – agriculture, fisheries and livestock; banking and finance; health and education; housing, water and sanitation, electricity, and communications; as well as employment and livelihoods and social protection.

Vanuatu: Tropical Cyclone Pam Post-Disaster Needs Assessment

Key Findings:

- Certain social groups within the affected provinces experienced more severe impacts than others and widespread gender inequality and discrimination against women and girls placed them at a disadvantage long before the disaster hit.
- Women, girls, and female headed households—as well as people living with disabilities and other vulnerable groups—were overrepresented in the lowest wealth quintiles, and therefore had fewer resources for coping with disaster impacts. Given the existing division of labour in the agricultural sector, the impact on subsistence farming meant that women's resources to generate income and provide food and nutrition for their families significantly decreased.
- The extensive damage to houses meant that female headed households who make about 24 per cent of the households faced enormous challenges in rebuilding their homes due to lack of manpower and higher levels of poverty.
- With limited access to political and policy decision making, women likely faced difficulty influencing, participating in, and benefitting from recovery interventions and resources, especially at the community level.

Recommendations:

- Equitable post-disaster recovery can contribute towards reducing women's disadvantaged conditions, build back better their lives and livelihoods and increase their overall resilience; it is therefore important to orient recovery resources toward vulnerable groups and to strengthen the capacities and skills that they are already using to cope with the disaster.
- Women as well as men must have access to resources including land, reconstruction and rehabilitation jobs, as well as public works, investment funds, and income-generating projects, to support their long-term economic recovery.
- Post-disaster recovery strategies and resources must strive to safeguard, restore, and promote women's economic engagement. These efforts must seek to redress inequalities and at the very least not perpetuate unequal access to power and resources.

Putting Women at the Forefront of Relief and Recover Efforts in Nepal

In its first humanitarian involvement in a natural disaster, UN Women in Nepal made significant contributions to humanitarian results by ensuring the Government and UN's response to the April and May earthquakes integrated women's empowerment and gender equality.

UN Women's assistance to the National Planning Commission and Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare led to a Post-disaster Needs Assessment that contained a dedicated Gender Equality and Social Inclusion chapter. The assessment included a commitment to apply the Government's Gender Responsive Budgeting principles to all recovery and reconstruction programmes, and the Ministry of Finance requested all ministries to adopt them in reconstruction plans. UN Women also supported the integration of gender

concerns into the Government's draft Disaster Management Act and the work of the National Reconstruction Authority.

UN Women convened key women's organizations and facilitated the drafting of the Common Charter of Demands for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment; the charter called for women's equal representation and leadership in shaping and implementing the humanitarian relief, recovery and reconstruction efforts.

Through its established partnership with women's groups, UN Women was able to provide support to 42,703 women affected by the earthquakes. This included the distribution of thousands of non-food items such as solar lanterns, dignity kits and radio sets in seven districts and the establishment of five multi-purpose women's centres and three information centres, which gave 19,116 women access to a range of services including psychosocial counselling and trauma assistance.

Lessons from **Nepal** provide essential guidance for ongoing national, regional and global efforts to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment is central in humanitarian action.

Click here to access the video "Nepal Earthquake 2015: Women Respond"



BELOW: A woman and her son returning to their camp in Khokana from a field where they worked all day. Khokana town was badly affected by the earthquake. Many lost their family members and homes and live in overcrowded tents. Locals are afraid to go back to their homes because of the aftershocks. Photo: Vlad Sokhin/UN Women



Ensuring a Role for Women in Disaster Preparedness

With the lessons of the 2011 floods in mind, UN Women **Pakistan** increased efforts to ensure a gender-sensitive approach to emergency response at all levels, including the grass-root community level. Together with the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the National Disaster Management Authority, UN Women provided training on gender and humanitarian response for the humanitarian community in Lahore and supported the government's efforts to make the 2015 Strategic Response Plan responsive to the differential needs of women, men, boys and girls. In the rural communities of Sindh province, UN Women collaborated with local partners and authorities to help set up 120 Village Disaster Management Committees, in which 40 per cent of members were women. The committees developed 120 village disaster management plans and two district disaster management plans. The project engaged 5,630 people —more than half of them women and girls — in disaster risk reduction and management in Mirpur Khas and Dadu Districts of Sindh province. They included farmers, sharecroppers and landless women.

In the Pacific, UN Women supported the Climate Change Division of the Government of Fiji in integrating gender equality into its localized Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment tool used for assessments in the communities. UN Women worked to highlight the gender dimensions of these assessments.

Building Women's Resilience

Strengthened livelihood skills and increased income improved the resilience, confidence and daily living situation of poor women affected by climate change in **Bangladesh**. Since 2012, in partnership with the international development organization BRAC and with support from the Norwegian Embassy, UN Women implemented a project to reduce the vulnerability of 19,100 women in the 10 districts most affected by climatic change. 5,296 of these women received skill training in livelihoods such as rice processing, crab farming and fish-net weaving and 85 per cent reported their income had increased as a result. Within this group, 3,820 women also received grants, and 1,600 of these women have been able to expand their new businesses.

In 40 villages of **Pakistan's** Sindh province, UN Women supported training on alternative food preservation methods for 1,703 women and men farmers out of which 822 are women. This knowledge will improve the villagers' livelihoods and food and economic security, particularly during disasters, and also help them become small-scale entrepreneurs.



Restoring Women's Livelihoods after Cyclone Pam

In **Vanuatu**, UN Women's Markets for Change project is working with market vendors, market councils, the national and provincial governments, as well as the Australian Government, to help women restore their livelihoods after Cyclone Pam, and strengthen their resilience to future natural disasters.

Marobe Market House re-opened on April 2, almost three weeks after the Cyclone ripped through the island nation. It was the first fresh produce market to re-open, the result of a UN Women-facilitated agreement between Port Vila Municipality and Shefa Provincial Government. The market, funded by UN Women's Australian National Committee as part of Markets for Change, was largely undamaged by the cyclone. It re-opened to all vendors while the Port Vila Market was being repaired.

The majority of market vendors in Vanuatu are women, most of whom also grow the products they sell. The cyclone destroyed up to 90 per cent of crops on affected islands and left up to 75,000 needing temporary shelter. That meant many women have lost both their homes and their sole source of income in one blow.

ABOVE: Women market vendors sell root crops and hand-crafts at the newly re-opened Marobe Market House in Port Vila, Vanuatu. Photo: UN Women/Ellie van Baaren



Advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

For decades, the region has been home to some of the world's longest running armed struggles and from 1992 to 2012, subnational conflicts affected half of the countries of South and Southeast Asia. In line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325, an increasing number of governments across the region are recognizing how conflict affects women and girls differently and are taking steps to ensure that women participate and take leading roles in peace and security efforts.

Making Gender Equality a Priority in Peacekeeping Missions

In **India**, UN Women worked with the Indian Centre for UN Peacekeeping in organizing a pilot training for 32 female military officers on how to implement UN policies and to protect civilians, especially women and girls, from all forms of violence including conflict-related sexual violence, during peacekeeping operations. The course was cited as a promising practice in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 Global Review in 2015 and by the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres in 2015. The Office of Military Affairs in the UN Peacekeeping Operations conducted the training and committed to deploy

the trainees within a year. UN Women, partnering with the Indian paramilitary force that sent the first all-female police contingent to the United Nations mission in Liberia, trained 30 Indian police officers on protection of civilians.

In **China**, UN Women collaborated with the China Peacekeeping Military Training Centre and the Ministry of National Defence to organize a workshop on protection of civilians for 34 military officers — the country's first such course. The workshop put special emphasis on how peacekeepers should protect women and children from sexual violence.

In collaboration with **Pakistan's** National University of Science and Technology/Centre for International Peace and Stability, UN Women is delivering sessions on Women, Peace and Security to enhance the knowledge of peacekeepers. These pre-deployment sessions have created awareness amongst 170 peace keepers about human rights, protection of civilians and issues pertaining to gender, sexual exploitation and abuses.

ABOVE: Police officers participating the International Women's Day PNTL Validation Workshop. Photo: UN Women/Christina Yiannakis



“As a woman peacekeeper, I have better access to the community. I have better access to the women and children who are majorly subjected to this violence and attacks.”

[Click here to view a video of the training](#)



Women, Peace and Security

In 2015, governments from **Afghanistan, Bougainville, Indonesia, Nepal** and the **Philippines** adopted and implemented commitments and accountability frameworks in the area of Women, Peace and Security.

The adoption of a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security in **Afghanistan** constituted a major milestone for ensuring women's participation in post conflict and peace building development processes. UN Women provided valuable technical support in the development of the Plan and continues to support its implementation.

In **Indonesia**, increased leadership by the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection in taking forward the implementation of National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security resulted in the integration of the Plan into the annual planning and budgeting of 16 Ministries, two State Institutions and two Government Institutions.

In the **Philippines**, the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission integrated gender considerations into its study and recommendations on how to address legitimate grievances to the Bangsamoro people, historical injustices, human rights violations and marginalization through land dispossession. The report, which was handed over to the Peace Panels in December, underscored the need for all recommendations to take gender and cultural sensitivities into consideration and called for key institutions of the government such as the Philippine Commission on Women and the Regional Commission on Bangsamoro Women to lead and address the various gender-related recommendations in the report. It recommended the provision of basic and specialized health services to individuals who may have suffered physical and mental disabilities linked to conflict-, gender-, and identity-based violence as well as cultural and gender-sensitive, psychosocial healing services for the Bangsamoro and indigenous peoples who have suffered traumatic experiences, in particular trauma associated with sexual violence.

To fully commit to ending discrimination against women, the National Police of **Timor-Leste** (PNTL) conducted an assessment of gender issues within their ranks by adopting the Gender Self-Assessment Guide for the Police, Armed Forces and Justice Sector. Developed by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, the Self-Assessment evaluates where there are gaps in the institution's response to gendered issues. The assessment provides a strong picture of how gender inequality affects the police in achieving its security mandate and will help to create an action plan to address any problems found. The PNTL began the Self-Assessment with the establishment of a working group in June 2014 led by the PNTL Gender Section, with support from UN Women. To present, validate and invite additional inputs into their assessment results, the PNTL held a validation workshop during the International Women's Day celebrations to take forward the conversations started during the assessment.

BELOW: Female members of the Afghanistan Armed Forces in Herat. Photo: UNAMA/Fraidoon Poya



Moving from the Periphery to the Forefront: Women's Participation in Myanmar's Ceasefire Agreement

The armed conflict in Myanmar has been characterized as one of the longest-running armed conflicts in the world, dating back to the country's pre-independence era. Until recently, women's specific contributions to advancing peace and responding to crises were largely unrecognized and exclusionary peace structures kept women from playing formal roles and inadequately addressed their priorities in peace agendas.

A historical change took place in 2015 when State and Ethnic armed organizations' affirmed women's rights in the Nation-Wide Ceasefire agreement and the Framework for Political Dialogue they signed in 2015. Both agreements contain important gender provisions including the right to women's participation in the political dialogue.

UN Women undertook peer mentoring and coaching for women, especially women at the ceasefire negotiating table and those drafting the framework for political dialogue. Awareness raising and capacity building was also provided for government, ethnic armed organizations, parliamentarians and political parties to encourage them to include women and their priorities in the agreements.

UN Women also met with the most senior government officials involved in the peace process to advocate for the inclusion of women and their priorities. UN Women provided a list of women for consideration as participants in the peace negotiations. Three of these women were included in the political dialogue framework discussions and one woman on the committee that drafted the framework. Moreover, the ceasefire agreement has three gender provisions; the principle of non-discrimination based on gender; Article 9 on preventing sexual violence against women; and Article 23 on including women in the political

dialogue for a peace agreement. The political dialogue framework provides for equal opportunity for men and women to participate in the dialogue; at least 30 per cent women's representation in the dialogue; and the need to address social issues in the dialogue from a gender perspective.

*BELOW: Hpa-an, Kayin State, 2014.
Photo: Julie Marie Hansen*





Ensuring Gender-Responsive Budgets and Plans

Financing Gender Equality

The Asia-Pacific region is home to some of the earliest and most innovative strategies of Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB). In an effort to harness the experiences and practices of governments and gender equality advocates from 17 Asia-Pacific countries, UN Women published a report documenting how gender-responsive financial accountability tools have been adopted in different countries. The report was launched at a gathering of senior officials from the ministries of finance and national gender machineries from 20 Asia-Pacific countries. The report and gathering were part of a broader effort to create a Community of Practice on GRB. The first of its kind, the Community of Practice is envisaged as a platform that will facilitate a periodic review of commitments to finance gender equality and women's empowerment, through cross learning and knowledge sharing among countries.

The Community of Practice on GRB in the Asia-Pacific region has lifted the profile of GRB work and brought ministries of finance to the forefront. During the Community of Practice consultation, UN Women and the Lao National Commission for the Advancement of Women advocated with the representative from the **Lao PDR** Ministry of Finance for GRB to be integrated in the newly revised State Budget Law. Indeed, following this, the Ministry representative introduced GRB into the new law. The National Assembly passed the revised law in December. Article 6 identifies gender equality as one of the main principles of the law.

In **Afghanistan**, the Ministry of Finance sought to integrate GRB principles into the work of six ministries. This led to the subsequent signing of a Letter of Agreement between UN Women and the Ministry which will provide an important basis to build sustained GRB capacity in Afghanistan.

[Click here to access the report Budget Call Circulars and Gender Budget Statements in the Asia Pacific: A Review](#)



ABOVE: Senior representatives from the Ministries of Finance at the workshop. Photo: UN Women/Pornvit Visitoran

The Government of **Bhutan** strengthened its efforts to integrate gender across Government plans and budgets. UN Women assisted these efforts by providing technical and capacity building support to the Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Education to incorporate gender issues in their sectoral programmes and budgets.

In **India**, UN Women’s technical support influenced significant policy pronouncements to mainstream gender equality commitments in three states. In one of the largest states of the country, Madhya Pradesh, all departments were instructed to establish separate Gender Budget Cells, as well as include a chapter on gender issues in their annual administrative report. Six departments have constituted such cells. In the states of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, GRB commitments were made in the State governor’s budget speeches of 2015-16.

In **Nepal**, UN Women provided training to 50 officials of nine ministries on GRB implementation, and all ministries were requested by the Government to adopt GRB principles in their post-earthquake reconstruction plans. To date, 17 ministries and all 75 District Development Committees have established GRB Committees, up from six ministries and 39 Committees in 2014. UN Women with the ministries of finance and local development jointly supported the development of a GRB Localization Strategy and Software which was installed in the offices of 11 District Development Committees and is being used to track budgetary allocations.

In **Bangladesh**, UN Women supported training on GRB for 11 frontline officials of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, including members of the national AIDS programme. This increased understanding of the application of GRB in planning, budgeting and monitoring of the HIV response. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Women and Children’s Affairs, UN Women is engaged in dialogue with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to influence GRB policy and increase budget allocations in the health sector.

Mainstreaming Gender Equality in National Planning

In 2015, governments across the region increased efforts at greater accountability in implementing gender equality commitments in national planning.

In **Bhutan**, the latest Five Year Plan demonstrated the Government’s increased recognition that gender equality is critical for national development. The plan is significantly stronger on gender equality than previous plans. The plan highlights the country’s underlying structural inequalities and the importance of women’s voice and agency. It commits the Government to 11 targets on gender equality. At the request of the Government, UN Women did the supporting research that was used to prepare the plan. UN Women also undertook a study that supported

building gender equality in 13 sectors. It facilitated reviews of the draft plan by gender equality advocates and engaged in dialogue with the Planning Commission at all stages of the drafting process.

In **Timor-Leste**, acting on a directive from the Prime Minister’s office, nine ministries included gender equality targets in their annual budgets. Together with the Secretary of State for Support and Socio-Economic Promotion of Women, UN Women helped line ministries to integrate gender concerns into their annual plans. UN Women also advocated for placing gender experts at the highest levels of the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Interior, and the Secretary of State for Support and Socio-economic Promotion of Women.

At least five countries in the region — **Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, and Viet Nam** — have increased data, knowledge, tools, and skills to analyze gender concerns and have created and executed gender-responsive plans on HIV.

In **China**, UN Women worked with groups of women living with HIV to identify the stigmas they faced and the gaps in services they needed. Together they highlighted these issues to the CEDAW Committee. The Committee’s review led to China’s commitment to ensure that the new National Action Plan on HIV includes measures to combat the discrimination against HIV-positive women and to support women’s organizations that assist them.

Meeting the Priorities and Needs of Marginalized Women in India

In **India**, the Ministry of Rural Development adopted state-level Gender Action Plans in 2015 to provide wage employment and social protection to women from Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Muslim communities, especially single women. This was recommended by a UN Women research project in the three states of Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, a flagship programme of the Ministry of Rural Development. The Ministry has invited UN Women to develop and implement Gender Action Plans in four other states.

The Ministry also drafted a Community Operations Manual on gender based on the lessons from a UN Women project that trained 9,300 women from Self-Help Groups belonging primarily to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and Muslim communities in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh States. This project also trained 93 government employees on the economic rights and empowerment of women.

Click here to view the video *“My Rights, My Identity”*





Partnerships are the foundation of all aspects of UN Women’s work. Having a broad array of partners who make distinct contributions fosters a widely shared commitment to upholding women’s human rights. This translates into stronger capacities for action, including through sustainable coalitions that accelerate progress towards gender equality.

Realizing Results through Partnership and Coordination

Providing a Platform for Women’s Movements to Effect Change

During 2015, UN Women’s engagement with women’s networks and civil society across its work, including with UN Women’s Civil Society Advisory Groups, enabled UN Women to maintain a responsive relationship with civil society.

Throughout the year, civil society organizations actively influenced the development of global and regional norms and standards and advocated for implementation of new and existing commitments at the country-level. The channels for civil society organizations to lobby with ASEAN also expanded with the adoption of the Guidelines on the Inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) Relations with Civil Society Organizations. In its collaboration with governments, UN Women helped to broker space for

civil society and women’s organizations to meaningfully influence local and national policy discussions, including on the drafting of laws and drafting of CEDAW reports.

ABOVE: UN Women trains youth activists to use social media to advocate to end violence against women. Photo: Viet Nam Volunteer Center, Youth Union

Expanding Partnerships and Creating Champions for Change

Changing social norms requires the greater engagement of men, youth leaders, cultural and sports figures and the private sector. Innovative use of social media played a key role in broadening UN Women's partnerships with these groups. UN campaigns, such as HeforShe and UNiTE to End Violence against Women engaged many people in cities and college and school campuses. Through social media, UN Women garnered over 1 million HeforShe Pledges in 2015, including by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bhutan's Prime Minister Tsering Tobgay. The campaign earned 7.1 million "impressions" on Twitter and reached 2.43 million on Facebook.

Continued engagement with women's networks in 2015 enabled marginalized and vulnerable women to further amplify their voices and to jointly advocate for their rights.

In **Cambodia**, UN Women and the Open Society Institute supported a project in which young women leaders helped marginalized young women and girls living with HIV, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and inter-sex people to more effectively advocate for their collective causes. These groups formed a network to share their knowledge and build the advocacy skills of its members. Their voices were increasingly heard by decision-makers at the ministries, parliament and local communes. Their concerns were incorporated into the draft National HIV/AIDS Strategy and the National Policy on Women, the Girl Child, and HIV/AIDS/STIs.

In **China, Indonesia and Viet Nam**, UN Women supported capacity development of women living with HIV networks and sex workers' networks on CEDAW, gender equality and women's rights, and facilitated their participation in the national reporting, implementation and accountability processes.

In **Nepal and Philippines**, the Fund for Gender Equality supported programme 'Global Leadership School for Indigenous Women in Nepal and the Philippines' strengthened the capacity of indigenous women and their organizations to engage in different levels of advocacy and decision-making especially at the community and national levels. Through the work of women's advocates, 285 cases of violence against indigenous women were officially documented in the Philippines and 100 in Nepal.

During the year, a number of influential cultural and sports figures lent their voices to gender equality and women's empowerment. Newly appointed UN Women National Ambassadors included actress Hai Qing of China and artist-writer-singer-activist Muniba Mazari from Pakistan – the country's first female National Ambassador. Renowned Muaythai boxer Buakaw Banchamek of Thailand also partnered with UN Women to speak out against sexual harassment.

“UN Women has encouraged AICHR [the ASEAN Inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights] and civil society organizations to carry out more productive relationships, especially with the Commission’s adoption of the Guidelines on its relations with civil society. AICHR is the first body in ASEAN to adopt such guidelines, thus a significant step forward in institutionalizing stakeholder engagement.”

— Ambassador Manalo, Representative of the Philippines to AICHR and Director of the Centre for Gender Equality



"I am a strong supporter of UN Women and the role we have in ending gender-based discrimination, working towards gender equality and making it a lived reality by 2030. This is the time to empower women and girls because when you empower one woman you empower a whole generation."

*Muniba Mazari becomes Pakistan's first female National Ambassador.
Photo: UN Women/Atif Mansoor Khan*



"Despite the inequality in society, I still believe that women and men should equally contribute and strike a balance between family and work, instead of making one partner shoulder most of the family responsibilities. Women should have equal rights and career opportunities, instead of facing gender-based inequality."

Hai Qing the first National Ambassador from China. Photo: Courtesy of Hai Qing

Muaythai boxer Buakaw Banchamek is encouraging young people, especially men, to take action on ending violence against women and girls by starring in the Active Bystander public service announcement and supporting the HeForShe campaign.

Muaythai boxer Buakaw Banchamek and HeForShe advocate Photo: UN Women/Niels den Hollander



Engaging Men as Advocates for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

Recognizing the need for a more comprehensive approach, where involvement of men is understood as a key feature of accountability for ending patriarchy, UN Women partnered with male-dominated institutions and male gender equality advocates to achieve policy and programming changes in security, justice, economic and other sectors.

In **Nepal**, the MenEngage Alliance announced its support for gender equality and women’s rights. The alliance is the country’s largest group of male activists and comprises the broadest range of professions. During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare and UN Women set up a Male Leaders’ Network.

The global solidarity movement for gender equality HeForShe continued to generate waves of support across the Asia and the Pacific. Tens of thousands of boys and men committed to take a stand for gender equality and in 2015, there were 186,890 sign-ups on the campaign’s Asia Pacific website. From mega-concerts to marathons, from ministers to actors, from young boys in rural areas to men in big cities, an increased number of gender equality champions joined the HeForShe campaign during the year.



In the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Chiefs; Paul Kanaropa (Kopi Constituency), Thomas Kopai (Malabita Village Assembly), Anthony Korike (Hire Village Assembly) and Wilmo Kuitai (Hire Village Assembly) commit to take action against all forms of violence against women and girls. Photo: UN Women/Julius Otim

[Click here to view the HeForShe Interactive Map for Asia and the Pacific](#)



In **Afghanistan**, the HeForShe campaign spurred honest discussions and discourse among Afghan men and boys about the issues faced by Afghan women in their continuous struggle for equality. The campaign was localized with the slogan “A Brave Man Stands for Women” to influence the Afghan socio dynamics of men-women relationships. Launched in Kabul and four other provinces, the campaign benefited from the participation of over 1,700 people mostly men and boys from diverse fields. During the launches, testimonies by male champions of women’s rights highlighted practical experiences of standing for women’s rights.

With support from the Danish Innovation Facility, UN Women piloted innovative strategies in 2015 to promote non-violent notions of masculinity among youths. Through peer education, sports-related outreach, and social media campaigns, young leaders from 13 countries, more than half of them young men, increased their capacity as peer educators on issues of transforming harmful masculinities using a newly developed youth-friendly toolkit.

Supporting Youth as Agents of Change



Beijing Royal School students pledged to stop violence against women and girls. Photo: Courtesy of Beijing Royal School

[Click here to access The Change-Makers: A Young Activist’s Toolkit for Ending Violence against Women](#)



The 13 young leaders led trainings for about 150 youths in **Cambodia, Fiji, Viet Nam and China**.

In **Viet Nam**, UN Women supported peer training on gender equality and ending violence against women and girls for 35 young “Change-Makers.” Following the training, the Change-Makers launched their own creative campaigns, reaching more than 300,000 people and receiving 8,000 “likes” in just three months. They also produced and posted on social media video clips of celebrities challenging gender stereotypes and highlighting issues such as sexual harassment on public transport.

In **China**, 50 student peer educators from the Beijing Royal School joined a training on, “Using Social Media to Promote Gender Equality and Prevent Gender-Based Violence.” They discussed gender equality, power structures, gender biases, and ways to build relationships based on mutual respect. Following the training, the students pledged to be Change-Makers promoting gender equality and fighting to end violence against women and girls in their daily lives.

Private Sector Partnerships

Private businesses have huge influence in the region as creators of jobs and drivers of consumption and economies. Engagement with the private sector in 2015 provided a critical channel for UN Women to advance gender equality, in particular women’s economic empowerment.

During the year, four CEOs from **Nepal** and 17 from **Pakistan** signed the Women’s Empowerment Principles. They pledged to empower women in their companies, and set specific gender equality targets. In Pakistan, this included improving the conditions of women in the workplace. In Nepal, commitments were made to increase women’s participation in the company and to train and promote them to higher positions.

In **Thailand**, Proctor & Gamble joined the HeforShe campaign bringing visibility to men’s responsibility to advance gender equality. This was accompanied by corporate commitment to promote women’s leadership and opportunities in the company. The company also committed to supporting its female employees, offering them specialised training to further their careers as well as safety and health-related programmes and flexible working hours.

In **Bangladesh**, H&M, an international clothing retailer and the largest buyer of garments from Bangladesh, gathered a diverse group of people to create a safer, more healthful community for women in an area with many garment factories. UN Women facilitated discussions between women workers and architects on the design of new housing for workers that meets the needs and priorities of women, and supported a needs assessment that includes questions on women’s safety.

Supporting Innovation through Partnerships



Finding Innovative Solutions for Women to Travel Safely

Only one-fifth of **Pakistan’s** women hold salaried jobs primarily because they lack safe public transportation to and from workplaces. With support from UN Women and Toyota Pakistan, the Pakistan Innovation Foundation sought out new ideas to correct this injustice.

The foundation organized a three-day hackathon in which teams of students, computer programmers and designers

developed innovative ways to provide women with safe transportation. These included strengthening the existing minivan transport system and making it more women-friendly; motorbike services for women; community carpools; mobile phone applications with e-tickets and tracking; buses with separate compartments for women and men; and even eco-friendly cars especially designed for women.

The event created awareness and discussion on women and public spaces under the hashtag #TakeBackTheWheel, which trended at No.2 on Twitter in Pakistan.

ABOVE: Photo: UN Women/Henriette Bjørge

Harnessing United Nations Efforts to Leverage Change for Gender Equality

In support of the United Nations system's efforts for advancing gender equality, UN Women worked with United Nations Country Teams and Gender Theme Groups to develop United Nations Joint Strategic Frameworks in the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Maldives, Thailand, and Viet Nam**. These UN inter-agency teams were also brought together at regional level, in collaboration with the UN Development Group for Asia and the Pacific (UNDG AP), to share best practices and harness opportunities to further progress women's rights and gender equality as defined in the Sustainable Development Goals.

The outcomes on the Commission on the Status of Women 59 and the Regional 20 year Review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+20) were widely discussed within the UN system, contributing to joint investment in evidence-based research to support national level policy making and programming. Indeed, at regional level UN Women and OHCHR established a UNDG AP inter-agency Task Team to conduct research to identify good practices to advance women's and girls' rights in challenging contextual environments. The UN system in **Malaysia** is undertaking research on the effects of early marriage on the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In bringing together the UN's operational and normative work, and expanding the UN system's joint understanding of gender equality issues at national levels, UN Women engaged UN inter-agency teams in CEDAW reporting processes in **Viet Nam**, where UN agencies jointly prepared and presented a high-quality UN Country Team report to the CEDAW Committee. To advance UN joint investments in gender equality in Lao PDR, UN Women supported the roll-out of the Gender Scorecard, enabling the UN Country Team to assess how the UN system contributes to gender mainstreaming, and to jointly promote gender equality in the country. The results of the Scorecard are being used by the UN Country Team to feed into the operationalization of the next country level UN Strategic Framework.

In **Nepal**, UN Women promoted the integration of gender responsive research and practices into the humanitarian response to the April earthquake. As a result, "gender-humanitarian group" formed by the Government, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the Humanitarian Response Inter-Cluster Gender Working Group provided advice and regular updates on the situation of women and girls during the crisis. Through the Group, civil society organizations and women's groups were also supported to access humanitarian funding opportunities so that they could meet the specific needs of women and girls in areas affected by the earthquake. The gender-humanitarian group continued recovery and development work in 2016. This model has been recognized as a good practice for humanitarian disasters, particularly as a coordinator of efforts to reach women and girls in most need of protection and support to rebuild their lives.



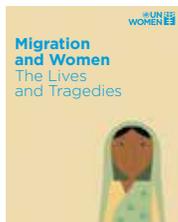
Annex 1: Selected Publications and Videos



Briefing Note on the Situation of Ethnic Minority Women and Girls in Viet Nam



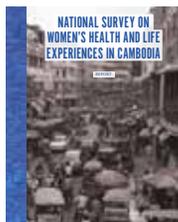
Promoting Women's Political Participation: A Monitoring Guide



Migration and Women: The Lives and Tragedies



Disaster Management in Bangladesh: What Women Need



National Survey on Women's Health and Life Experiences in Cambodia.



Out from Behind Closed Doors: A Study on Domestic Workers in Cambodia



Making it Count: Integrating Gender into Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction



Good Practices in Promoting Women's Human Rights Compliant Justice Delivery



Gender, Trade and Green Growth Volumes I and II



Assessment of Women's Livelihood Needs in Three Eco-Zones of Bangladesh



Inside the News: Challenges and Aspirations of Women Journalists in Asia and the Pacific

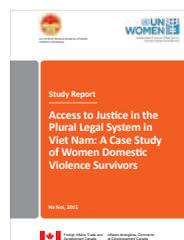


"A Time to Stand" - comic edition

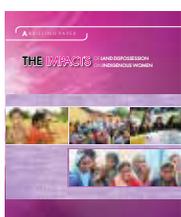




Empowering Widows: An Overview of Policies and Programmes in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka



Access to Justice in the Plural Legal System in Viet Nam: A Case Study of Women Domestic Violence Survivors



The Impacts of Land Disposition on Indigenous Women



Substantive Equality: Non-Negotiable: Progress of Women in Nepal (1995-2015)



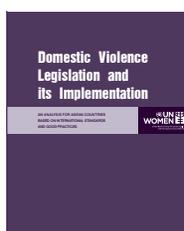
Discussion Papers - Afghanistan Legislation and Gender



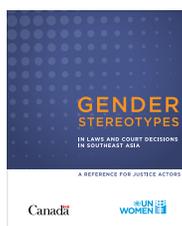
How to Design Projects to End Violence against Women and Girls



Global Processes and Gender in the Pacific



Domestic Violence Legislation and Its Implementation: An Analysis for ASEAN Countries Based on International Standards and Good Practices



Gender Stereotypes in Laws and Court Decisions in Southeast Asia: A Reference for Justice Actors





Safe Markets for Women Vendors in Papua New Guinea



Cambodia: Women Protecting Their Properties



Solomon Islands: Uprooting Violence against Women



No More Silence: Video calls to stop the silence about violence against women and girls in Laos



Engaging Men and Boys as Allies to End Violence Against Women



Nepal Earthquake 2015: Women Respond



Women and Climate Change in Bangladesh



Free from Fear: Quezon Becomes a Safe City for Women and Girls

Annex 2: Civil Society Advisory Group Members across Asia-Pacific Offices in 2015

Name	Nominating Organization	Country
SOUTH ASIA		
Aroma Dutta	PRIP Trust Bangladesh	Bangladesh
Ayesha Khanam	Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP)	Bangladesh
Mashuda Khatun Shefali	Nari Uddag Kendra (NUK)	Bangladesh
Ranjan Karmakar	Steps Towards Development	Bangladesh
Rokeya Kabir	Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS)	Bangladesh
Rokeya Rafique	Karmojibi Nari	Bangladesh
Salma Ali	Bangladesh National Women Lawyer's Association (BNWLA)	Bangladesh
Shakirul Islam	Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Program (OKUP) Bangladesh	Bangladesh
Sheepa Hafiz	BRAC Bangladesh	Bangladesh
Selima Ahmad	Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BWCCI)	Bangladesh
Sumaiya Islam	Bangladeshi Ovhibashi Mohila Sramik Association (BOMSA)	Bangladesh
Zakia Hassan	DIPTO-A Foundation for Gender and Development	Bangladesh
Lily Wangchhuk	Druk Chirwang Tshogpa (Bhutan Social Democratic Society)	Bhutan
Namgay Zam	Journalists' Association of Bhutan	Bhutan
Abhijit Das	Centre for Health and Social Justice	India
Anuradha Kapoor	Swayam India	India
Asha Kowtal	All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (AIDMAM)	India
Jahnvi Andharia	ANANDI	India
Meenakshi Gopinath	Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace	India
Nandita Shah	AKSHARA India	India
Hameedah Bano - Nayeem	University of Kashmir	India
Ritikaa Khunnah	Pravah	India
Rosemary Dzuvichu	Nagaland University- Kohima Campuss	India
Sumathi	Musician and Human Rights Activist	India
Suneeta Dhar	Jagori	India
Vrinda Grover	Supreme Court of India	India
Mariyam Shakeela	Institute of Counselling and Psychotherapy (ICP)	Maldives
Humaida Abdulghafoor	Independent Social Research	Maldives
Ms. Romi Giri	Center for Research on Environment Health & Population Activities (CREHPA)	Nepal
Meena Acharya	SAHAVAGI Nepal	Nepal
Chandni Joshi	Former Regional Programme Director UN Women South Asia Regional Office	Nepal
Durga Sob	Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO)	Nepal
Ganesh Gurung	Former member of National Planning Commission	Nepal

Name	Nominating Organization	Country
Lily Thapa	Women for Human Rights, Single Women Group	Nepal
Prativa Subedi	Women Awareness Center Nepal	Nepal
Rama Dhakal	Nepal Disabled Women Association (NDWA)	Nepal
Shobha Gautam	Institute of Human Rights Communication Nepal (IHRICON)	Nepal
Usha Jha	Samjhauta Nepal	Nepal
Visaka Dharmadasa	Associated of War Affected Women	Sri Lanka
Selvy Thiruchandran	Women's Education and Research Centre	Sri Lanka
Kumudini Samuel	Women and Media Collective	Sri Lanka

EAST/SOUTHEAST ASIA

Kamlala Chandrakirana	A women's human rights expert	Indonesia
Kazuko Ito	Human Rights Now	Japan
Mary Shanthi Dairiam	International Women's Rights Action Watch	Malaysia
Cai Yiping	Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)	Philippines/China
Noelene Frances Nabulivou	Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)	Philippines/Fiji
Kate Lappin	Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)	Thailand
Siriporn Skrobaneck	Foundation For Women (FFW)	Thailand

THE PACIFIC

Paulini Turagabeci	The Young Feminist Fund (FRIDA)	Fiji
Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop	AUT University, Auckland	New Zealand
Rae Julian	National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ)	New Zealand
Susan Jane Kedgley	Oxfam New Zealand	New Zealand
Anne Waiko	University of Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea
Betty Lovai	University of Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea
Isi Oru	Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC)	Papua New Guinea
Leitana Nehan	Women's Development Agency	Papua New Guinea
Lorna Maso	World Vision	Papua New Guinea
(Representative)	Friends Frangipani	Papua New Guinea
Lilly Be'Soer Kolts	Voice for Change	Papua New Guinea
(Representative)	Youth Alliance on HIV & Aids (YAHA)	Papua New Guinea
(Representative)	Papua New Guinea Women in Maritime (PNGWim)	Papua New Guinea
(Representative)	Fortunate Women Humanitarian Foundation Incorporation (FWHFI)	Papua New Guinea

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UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women’s equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women’s leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women’s economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system’s work in advancing gender equality.



UN Women works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls.



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