

Annual report 2020

Implementing Norway's National Action Plan 2019-2022 Women, peace and security



Norwegian Ministries

INTRODUCTION

This is the second yearly report on women, peace and security that is being finalised in the midst of an ongoing pandemic. A pandemic that has had a major impact on the work with women, peace and security, just as it has across the board on the broader foreign policy and development agenda.

The pandemic has a profound impact on women advocating for human rights and peace around the world. In particular in countries affected by ongoing conflicts. Governments around the world have effectively limited the possibility for people to move, to gather and to communicate. Often for good reasons, but occasionally also using the pandemic as an excuse to clamp down on activities they do not welcome and that is seen as a challenge to their leadership.

Hence, the pandemic interrupted or halted a number of peacemaking efforts and peace processes. In some cases, limited talks continued, but it proved challenging to take forward broader inclusion efforts. In some contexts, actors were innovative in developing digital platforms and alternative means of communication. We are conscious that these come with access constraints, security concerns and also translation barriers. New experience and innovations have been gained and should be brought forward to strengthen peace processes and efforts, but these cannot fully make up for regular meetings and inclusion mechanisms.

Overall, we see both positive and negative trends on the global situation on women, peace and security. On the positive side, the 1325 agenda and its reach is continuously increasing. Countries that are doing well are doing better and better. And there are clear signs that there is agreement across the international community on most parts of the 1325 agenda and its language.

However, on the negative side, this relative consensus does not necessarily translate into commitments, and too often it remains as language only, without impacting events on the ground. Often referred to as the implementation gap. We also see that the countries that are doing worse on this agenda is doing continuously worse. Hence, widening the gap between those who deliver results, and those who don't.

This dynamic also effects our work on the UN Security Council. Through 2020 we have been focusing as much as possible on efforts that can have an operational effect on the ground in specific country situations. Likewise, we have paid particular attention to the relationship between women's participation and protection. In the understanding that for women to be fully able to participate, they must be able to do so without the risk of reprisals, including targeted killings. And to be fully protected, women must participate politically. So that they take part in shaping society, peace and security, giving protection systems and cultures a clear gendered approach.

This report gives a picture of Norway's efforts to improve on women, peace and security. And it is the second time that we report along the new guidelines developed for the Foreign Service. We have set ambitious goals, and we strive to achieve them in partnership with the UN, regional organisations, other countries, civil society and academia. We are pleased to note improvements in a number of areas, but also recognize that we do not always succeed in getting where we want to go.

In late 2019, Norway entered into a partnership with UN Women to support the Women, Peace and Security work within the Beijing + process, and dedicated 10 mill NOK to; a) enable the UN and member states to bridge implementation gaps as identified by the UN Secretary General in his report on Women, Peace and Security to the Security Council in 2019 and b) ensure that the Beijing +25 process includes young peacebuilders and enables intergenerational dialogue. In 2020, we supported the launch of the Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action during the 2020 Generation Equality Forum. Norway currently serves as a board member of the Compact, where we aim to actively work on the implementation and operationalisation of the commitments made.

Another important example is our preparations for Norway's membership in the UN Security Council. The Women, Peace and Security agenda is one of Norway's priorities in the Council and in our preparation for the membership, we promoted the agenda in all aspects of our work and strengthened important triangulation of communication between the embassies, the capital and our mission in New York. In 2020, we stayed in close contact with civil society and our embassies kept an ongoing dialogue with relevant partners on the ground. Because of our longstanding commitment and thorough preparation, we were well prepared for promoting this agenda in the UN Security Council.

In 2020 Norway has strengthened the gender perspective in international operations and missions and increased our efforts for women and girls in our humanitarian work. In June UN's first handbook for prevention and combat of CRSV was launched with strong support from Norway. This is the first handbook for UN peace operations that sees all the various actors' areas of responsibility in context, and will ensure a more comprehensive, coordinated and targeted effort in all peace operations that currently have a CRSV mandate.

In 2019, Norway supported the Mukwege foundation to establish the Global Survivors Fund for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. Despite Covid-19, the fund has during 2020 set up a board, started recruitment and the development of programs.

Norway is also a long-term supporter of the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund. This fund supports local women's peace and humanitarian efforts in a growing number of countries all over the world. In 2020, Norway also continued its annual funding to the fund and other funding to important women's organizations. We also initiated new partnerships, for example with NGO Working Group on WPS, in order to strengthen the work on women, peace and security among the members of the Security Council.

As this is the 2020 report, it does not cover developments throughout 2021, which have been significant, particularly in regards to certain country situations. In Myanmar, the military seized power after detaining Aung San Suu Kyi and other democratically elected leaders 1st of February 2021. And in Afghanistan, Taliban took control over Kabul 15th of August 2021. These events have had a major impact on people, politics and the humanitarian situation in general, and even more so for women. In Afghanistan for example, Afghan women find themselves fighting for rights they previously often enjoyed, such as access to education, access to labour, and access to political participation. These developments will, however, be covered in the report for 2021.

Likewise, Norway's first yearly report ever on women, peace and security covering a year where Norway has been an elected member of the Security Council will be the report on 2021. Norway's previous seat on the Security Council started in 2001, just months after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325, but it was years later that this resolution reached the attention and impact it has today.

Women, peace and security is a system-wide effort in the Norwegian government. Hence, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Culture and Norad, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation are central to this work. As well as several embassies across the world that deliver results on this agenda under difficult circumstances. Thanks to this system-wide efforts, Norway continues to be a global leader on women, peace and security.

Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



André Mundal

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
First annual report in a new phase	4
samples and targets	5
1. Peace and reconciliation processes	6
2. Implementation of peace agreements	11
3. Operations and missions	13
4. Humanitarian response	19
5. Sustaining peace	22
Afghanistan	26
Colombia	31
Mali	36
Mozambique	40
Myanmar	44
Nigeria	50
Palestine	53
The Philippines	59
South Sudan	65
Syria	73
AU	75
Norad's Civil Society Department	76

This is the second annual report on the implementation of Norway's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2019–2023. The basis for the report is the new results framework, which presents our expected results relating to a) the extent to which Norway enables women's participation in peace and security efforts, and b) the extent to which Norway helps to ensure that women's rights, needs and priorities are respected and addressed in peace and security work. The indicators in the results framework are not meant to give a complete picture of Norway's contributions in this field, but they give some indication of the progress made and where more efforts are needed on our part.

The first part of this report presents the 2020 results, reviewing **each indicator in the results framework**. The full results framework can be found in the National Action Plan. The guidelines to the foreign service's work on women, peace and security also include baseline data and targets. In this report, we have divided the results framework into five parts, reflecting the different chapters of the plan. For easy reference, explanatory notes and comments referencing baseline data and targets are included after each part. The notes are worth reading because the numbers and percentages might reflect a change to the sample, as well as decisive political or strategic developments.

The results framework also includes operational indicators that measure the results of our own plans and procedures, training and resourcing. Reporting on these indicators is included under the relevant chapters, e.g. when we discuss women in the Norwegian police, this is included in the chapter on operations and missions.

Our efforts to promote the Women, Peace and Security agenda draw on a broad range of diplomatic, political and financial tools. We work at the local, national, regional and global levels in a range of arenas, with various partners and across regions. Not all of this work is reflected in the results measured by the indicators.

We make no attempt to describe and synthesise the results of all relevant programmes and initiatives in this report, but the results of our women, peace and security programmes are subject to the same reporting requirements as other programmes funded by Norway. More information about the various programmes and initiatives – and their results – can be obtained on request from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Since the indicators are quantitative, we have included **country narratives** to illustrate what some of the results look like at country level. These narratives are found in part two of this report. The publication of the report was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the results and country narratives may not mirror the current situation on the ground in 2021.

During this plan period, Norway has ten priority countries for women, peace and security: Afghanistan, Colombia, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Palestine, the Philippines, South Sudan and Syria. Our delegation to the African Union is part of the same follow-up system. As of 2019, our embassies and teams in these countries report annually on progress made in relation to the expected results set out in the women, peace and security plan. They report on the indicators that are most relevant to their work. While not all-encompassing, these narratives provide an account of our key focus and results achievement in ten of the countries where we work most systematically.

Reporting is also included on special grants for civil society organisations' work on ensuring women's participation and rights in peace and reconciliation efforts. While these special grants are only one of many different types of relevant grants, they are earmarked for work on WPS. Most of the efforts supported through these specific grants are in priority countries. This chapter is therefore included in the second part of this report, which presents country narratives.

SAMPLES AND TARGETS

In the following, the data for 2020 are presented, with some explanatory notes. It should be noted that, while Norway's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security highlights ten priority countries, the plan will guide *all* Norwegian peace and security efforts. Norway is involved in more than fifty countries affected by conflict and crises, and in a substantial number of these countries, we support efforts for Women, Peace and Security. The baseline and results information that follows (the number and selection of countries) therefore varies, depending on Norway's engagement in a given year, and includes both priority countries and other countries.

We do not set targets for the UN or other partners. As for our own institutions, the Norwegian Ministry of Defence does not set target figures for women's participation, but it is endeavouring to steadily increase the proportion of women in the military with the aim of deploying more women to international missions. Moreover, no targets are set for the number of persons in the Armed Forces who have specific tasks relating to gender in their job descriptions, as the purpose of this indicator is to check whether the units that should have such positions actually do so. The number of operations in which Norwegian armed forces are involved and which include capacity-building of women in the security sector depends on which operations Norway is involved in, and target figures are therefore not set.

For most of our work, however, we have decided to set ambitious targets. While we recognise that our role as a facilitator of a peace process or a supporter of the implementation of a peace accord for example is limited, we cannot aim for less. We may not control the end result, but our goal has to be that women participate and that women's rights are taken into account in *all* processes that we are involved in – in all phases and at every level.

Baseline data and targets are not included in the matrix, but are discussed in the explanatory notes. Unless otherwise stated, the targets referred to are targets for 2020.

KEY RESULTS

In the following, the results for 2020 are presented, divided into five parts, reflecting the chapters in the National Action Plan.

1. PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROCESSES

EXPECTED RESULT	INDICATOR	BASELINE 2018	2019	2020
Outcome 1.1: Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate participation by women in all phases	1.1.a) Percentage of women in UN mediation teams, at different levels	Number: 19 ¹ in six processes.	39%	40%
	1.1.b) Percentage of women in the parties' delegations to formal peace negotiations where Norway has a formal role	23% (22.5%)	22% (22.3%)	10% (9.9%)
	1.1.c) Percentage of formal peace and reconciliation processes in which Norway has a formal role, where inclusion mechanisms or a formalised dialogue with women in civil society / civil society organisations have been established	3 of 5 (60%)	2 of 6 (33%) ²	2 of 4 (50%) ³
Outcome 1.2: Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate respect for both women's and men's rights, needs and priorities	1.2. Percentage of peace agreements, in processes where Norway has a formal role, that ensure both women's and men's i) political rights, ii) economic rights, iii) protection against sexual and gender-based violence, and iv) where mechanisms for transitional justice are established that include the gender perspective	1 agreement: 100% i) (1/1) ii) 1/1 iii) 1/1 iv) 1/1	2 agreements: 0% i) 0/2 ii) 0/2 iii) 0/2 iv) 0/2	No new agreements in 2020
Output 1.1.1 Norway helps to ensure that parties to negotiations and mediators include women	1.1.1 a) Percentage of women who participate in Norwegian peace and reconciliation teams	34% (40% in formal processes, 30% in early dialogue initiatives)	37.3% (8/22 i.e. 36% in formal processes, 14/37 i.e. 38% in early dialogue initiatives), 42.2% women in teams, on average	44.4% (37.5% 12/32 in formal processes, 54.5% 12/22 in early dialogue initiatives). 40% women in teams, on average

¹ Unable to obtain results as a percentage for 2018.

² 2 of 3 active processes throughout the year (67%).

³ 2 of 4 active processes throughout the year (50%).

	1.1.1 b) Percentage of peace processes in which Norway has a formal role where Norway works strategically to ensure women's participation in negotiations and mediation delegations	75% (3 of 4 processes)	75% (3 of 4 active processes)	100% (4 of 4 active processes) ⁴
	1.1.1 c) Percentage of peace and reconciliation processes in which Norway is involved in an early phase, where Norway works strategically to prepare the ground for women's participation	60% (6 of 10)	73% (8 of 11)	42.8% (3 of 7)
Output 1.2.1 Norway helps to ensure that parties to negotiations and mediators have sufficient capacity to integrate the gender perspective	1.2.1 a) Percentage of peace and reconciliation processes in which Norway has a formal role that address both women's and men's i) political rights, ii) economic rights, iii) protection against sexual and gender-based violence, and iv) due process protection	i) 4/5 ii) 2/5 iii) 2/5 iv) 2/5	i) 3/6 ii) 3/6 iii) 3/6 iv) 3/6	i) 2/4 (50%) ii) 2/4 (50%) iii) 1/4 (25%) iv) 2/4 (50%)
	1.1.1 d) / 1.2.1 b) Percentage of peace and reconciliation funds earmarked for women's rights and gender equality as i) the principal objective and ii) a significant objective	Principal objective: 9% (NOK 41 million) Significant objective: 29% (NOK 126 million)	Principal objective: 7% (NOK 31 million) Significant objective: 20% (NOK 86 million)	Principal objective: 10% (43 million) Significant objective: 28% (118 million)
Output 1.1.2 Norway helps to ensure that women's organisations have the capacity and opportunity to participate in peace and	1.1.2 a) Percentage of peace and reconciliation processes in which Norway has a formal role where Norway i) supports participation by women's organisations ii) politically and diplomatically, iii) financially, and iv) by providing technical assistance	i) 5/5, ii) 4/5, iii) 4/5, iv) 2/5	i) 5/6, ii) 5/6, iii) 5/6, iv) 4/6	i) 3/4, ii) 3/4, iii) 1/4, iv) 3/4 ⁵

⁴ One of the processes included only informal talks in 2020, while one other was only formalized at the end of the year, thus while Norway works strategically with regards to inclusion questions, results were very limited.

⁵ In one of the processes, Norway supports organizations which promote women's rights; however, they are not defined as women's organizations per se.

reconciliation processes	1.1.2 b) Percentage of dialogue initiatives in an early phase where Norway has identified women's organisations or groups that can play a role in a resultant process	3 of 10 (30%)	4 of 11 (36%)	5 of 7 (71.4%)
Output 1.2.2 Norway helps to ensure that women's organisations have the capacity to stand up for women's rights, needs and priorities in peace and reconciliation processes	1.2.2 Percentage of peace and reconciliation processes in which Norway has a formal role where Norwegian-supported women's organisations stand up for women's rights, needs and priorities	3 of 5 (60%)	4 of 6 (67%)	5 of 6 (83%) ⁶
OPERATIONAL RESULTS				
Increased competence/capacity in relation to women, peace and security among Norwegian personnel involved in peace and security work	3) Percentage of members of Norwegian facilitation teams who have been given training or have further developed their competence in relation to women, peace and security during the year	23% (11 of 47)	34%. Formal processes: 18%; Early dialogue initiatives: 43%	33%. Formal processes: 31%; Early dialogue initiatives: 36%
Plans and procedures are geared to integrating women, peace and security in peace and security efforts	6) Percentage of peace and reconciliation processes in which Norway has a formal role where women, peace and security is an integral part of the facilitation team's work	80% (4 of 5)	100% (5 of 5)	75% (3 of 4)
	7) Percentage of dialogue initiatives in an early phase in which Norway is involved where women, peace and security is an integral part of the Norwegian team's work	60% (6 of 10)	55% (6 of 11)	71% (5 of 7)
	8) Percentage of facilitation teams that have appointed a person with particular responsibility for following	4 of 4 (100%)	5 of 5 (100%)	100% (4 of 4)

⁶ Only four processes were active in 2020.

	up women, peace and security			
--	------------------------------	--	--	--

The data on peace processes clearly demonstrate how the situation can change from one year to the next in this line of work. Negotiations are suspended and picked up again. Four processes were active in 2020, but it should be noted that several of the processes experienced standstill and limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the definition of an active process becomes a bit blurred for 2020 due to the pandemic. In some cases, a level of communication or limited talks continued. In these cases, it proved challenging to take forward broader inclusion efforts. Some work moved to digital platforms, but the level of activity ended up being lower than it might have been had physical meetings been possible. The lack of opportunities to meet slowed efforts down, and in some cases maintaining a level of contact between actors was all that was possible.

Informal processes become formal processes, explaining changes in the numbers of processes, new preparatory processes were initiated, and again, external factors can impact both the broader results and those that concern women’s participation and rights. These explanatory notes are therefore worth studying.

While we do not set target figures for the UN or other countries, our goal is that 100% of the processes we are involved in have inclusion mechanisms, support women in civil society, address the needs of both women and men etc. We also expect gender parity in our own delegations (at least 40% women and 40% men). To nuance the picture further – one of the four active processes have quite good women representation, and an inclusion mechanism has not been prioritized by the parties. Norway nevertheless strives to strengthen a gender balance and a gender perspective in the process.

Generally, we note that our peace and reconciliation teams do what we want them to do and demonstrate progress in their contribution to the expected results of the National Action Plan.

In line with our target, women, peace and security was an integral part of most facilitation teams' work in peace and reconciliation processes where Norway had a formal role in 2020, compared to 80% of such processes in 2018 and 100% in 2019. The decrease from 100% in 2019 to 75% in 2020 is partially explained by the fact that the formal process only started towards the end of the year, and the facilitation team had few opportunities to advance the question at this stage. All teams had appointed one person with specific responsibility for following up women, peace and security, which is also in line with the target.

31% of facilitation teams for formal processes and 36% for early dialogue initiatives report having further developed their competence in relation to women, peace and security during 2020 (target 100%). This is an increase from 2019, however it is still below target. The facilitation teams in large measure consist of colleagues that have been involved for several years and have over time built up solid experience and capacity. Capacity development is then primarily done through mutual exchanges of experience and lessons, and hands on work. 2020 was also a year where training could not be carried out as usual due to the pandemic. The numbers might therefore not reflect the extent of capacity, but rather the extent to which capacity was further developed.

As for dialogue initiatives in an early phase, 54.5% percent of our team members in 2020 were women. On average 40% of our team members in 2020 were women. As a number of dialogue initiatives are handled by one person alone, in early dialogue initiatives, it is sometimes difficult to decide which of our partners are to be considered team members. Consistent reporting is therefore a challenge.

In three of four active processes (75%), Norway worked strategically in 2020 to ensure women’s participation in negotiation and mediation delegations (target 100%). The fourth process was just launched at the end of 2020,

and the opportunity to work strategically was limited. In this context, Norway works with civil society to increase women's influence in broader peace and reconciliation efforts.

Norway supported the participation of women's organisations in three of four active peace and reconciliation processes in which Norway had a formal role in 2020 (target 100%). Both political/diplomatic and technical support was provided, in line with our target. In two processes, financial support was also part of the partnership. In all processes where Norway supports women's organisations, these organisations stood up for women's rights, needs and priorities in the peace process in 2020.

On average, our teams had 40% women in 2020. Overall, however, women made up only 37,5 of team members in formal processes in 2020. Teams are drawn from different departments and entities, require specific language, background and knowledge, recruitment hinges on factors beyond gender, while strong efforts are made to have gender balance. In some rare cases, we might unintentionally end up with all-male or all-female teams.

The parties' delegations to formal peace negotiations in which Norway has a formal role are very different in nature and scope. One of the processes had 300 delegates in 2020, another only seven.

Two processes where Norway has a formal role is not included in the data set in 2020 as there was no activity in the process. Two processes were added to this data set in 2020, as processes were formalised. This was the most significant change from 2019 to 2020. These developments resulted in a decline in women's representation from 22.3% to 9.9%.

The percentage of formal peace and reconciliation processes in which Norway had a formal role in 2020, and where inclusion mechanisms or a formalised dialogue with women in civil society /civil society organisations had been established by 2020, increased from 33% to 50% (target 100%).

Two of the six peace and reconciliation processes in which Norway had a formal role in 2020 addressed both women's and men's political rights, economic rights, and due process protection, and one of six addressed protection against sexual and gender-based violence. It should be noted that two of the remaining processes were not active in 2020, which might explain their reporting under this indicator.

No peace agreement was concluded in processes in which Norway had a formal facilitation role.

Women, peace and security is reported to have been an integral part of 71% (target 100%) of the Norwegian teams' work in early dialogue initiatives in 2020 (5 of 7 compared to 55% (6/11 in 2019)), which means that there have been some changes to the processes monitored from 2019 to 2020. The individuals or teams handling these initiatives explain that on many occasions they are still just exploring opportunities and reaching out to parties. To say that women, peace and security is integrated in the work is therefore putting it too strongly.

Norway had identified women's organisations or groups that can play a role in a resultant process in 71.4% (5 of 7), up from 36% in 2019 (4 of 11) of dialogue initiatives in an early phase (target 100%). In 2018, this percentage was 30%, and the figure was 3 of 10. We understand that the teams are working to identify key women players, but that this takes time and may require actor analyses. At the same time, reaching out to and consulting women might be easier at this stage, before the delegations are appointed and the process formalised. Even though the total number of initiatives is reduced, we still see progress in this area.

One gender-responsive conflict and actor analysis was concluded and a second one initiated. The purpose is to ensure that our teams are better informed about the way forward in processes that are becoming more relevant and where Norway is likely to play a key role.

ALSO WORTH NOTING

The networks of women mediators are a resource in our peace and reconciliation work.

The Norwegian branch of the Nordic network numbers more than 60 women with vast and varied experience of peace and reconciliation work. We draw upon them both in our internal learning process and in concrete processes where Norway or other actors request their competence.

The Nordic Network has during 2020 had several virtual meetings with other networks, participated actively internationally in the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 and organised resource groups for Afghanistan, Yemen, Libya and Syria.

For the past two to three years, Norway has worked with the Nordic Network of Women Mediators and other regional networks of women mediators to establish a Global Alliance. It was successfully launched in New York in September 2019. The Global Alliance Contact Group held monthly meetings in 2020, and joined efforts in trainings, workshops and virtual events. The Global Alliance has also put together a list of deployable and experienced women mediators, which has been shared with the UN.

The annual peace mediators gathering *Oslo Forum* was not organised in 2020 due to the pandemic. It is usually organised by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in partnership with the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. Around 120 peace mediators, conflict parties, politicians, civil society representatives, experts and other relevant peace and reconciliation actors meet for two days in an intimate atmosphere to share experiences and seek solutions to today's conflicts. If peace processes are to be inclusive, it is important that the strategic thinking around conflict resolution is so as well. We therefore take our responsibility for ensuring a good gender balance at the Oslo Forum seriously.

In 2020, the organizers launched a new podcast called "the Mediator's studio" which looks at the hidden world of diplomacy and peacemaking. The podcast has hosted a total of 9 episodes out of 16 with women mediators.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACE AGREEMENTS

EXPECTED RESULT	INDICATOR	BASELINE 2018	2019	2020
Outcome 2.1 Women's participation is facilitated in the implementation of peace agreements.	2.1 Percentage of implementation processes in which Norway is involved that include women in key implementation mechanisms.	2 of 4 processes: 1–5%, 2 of 4 processes: 10–30%	3 of 5 processes: 1–5%. 2 of 5 processes: 10–30%	1 of 5 processes: 1-5%. 1 of 5 processes: 5-10%, 2 of 5 processes: 10-30%, 1 of 5 processes 30-50%
Outcome 2.2. When implementing peace agreements, steps are taken to safeguard both women's and men's rights.	2.2.a) Percentage of implementation processes in which Norway is involved where clauses in the peace agreement that specifically address women's rights are followed up with the same frequency as other clauses.	0% (0 of 4)	25% (1 of 4) The fifth has no such clauses	25% (1 of 4) The fifth has no such clauses

	2.2.b) Percentage of implementation processes in which Norway is involved where women's rights, needs and priorities are followed up in the peace agreement's (general) clauses	50% (2 of 4)	40% (2 of 5)	20% (1 of 5)
Output 2.1.1 Norway contributes to ensuring that the authorities, the UN and regional actors have sufficient capacity to include women in the implementation of peace agreements	2.1.1 a) Percentage of implementation processes in which Norway is involved where Norway assists a) the authorities, b) the UN and c) any regional actors i) politically and diplomatically, ii) financially and iii) technically, in order to ensure that women participate in the implementation of the peace agreement	100% The authorities: i) 4/4, ii) 2/4, iii) 1/4; the UN: i) 4/4, ii) 4/4, iii) 2/4; any regional actors: i) 3/4, ii) 4/4, iii) 1/4	100% The authorities: i) 5/5, ii) 3/5, iii) 1/5; the UN: i) 5/5, ii) 5/5, iii) 3/5; any regional actors: i) 3/5, ii) 3/5, iii) 0/5.	100% The authorities: i) 5/5 ii) 3/5 iii) 0/5; the UN: i) 5/5, ii) 5/5, iii) 1/5; any regional actors: i) 4/5, ii) 4/5, iii) 2/5
Output 2.2.1 Norway contributes to ensuring that the authorities, the UN and regional actors have sufficient capacity to integrate the gender perspective in the implementation of peace agreements	2.2.1 a) Percentage of implementation processes in which Norway is involved where Norway assists a) the authorities, b) the UN and c) any regional actors i) politically and diplomatically, ii) financially and iii) technically, in order to ensure that the gender perspective is integrated in the implementation of the peace agreement	100% The authorities: i) 4/4, ii) 2/4, iii) 2/4, the UN: i) 4/4, ii) 4/4, iii) 2/4; any regional actors: i) 3/4, ii) 4/4, iii) 2/4	100% The authorities: i) 5/5, ii) 2/5, iii) 2/5, the UN: i) 4/5, ii) 5/5, iii) 2/5; any regional actors: i) 4/5, ii) 3/5, iii) 2/5	100% The authorities: i) 5/5, ii) 1/5, iii) 0/5; the UN: i) 5/5, ii) 5/5, iii) 2/5; any regional actors: i) 4/5, ii) 4/5, iii) 3/5
Output 2.1.1/2.2.1 Norway helps to ensure that women's organisations have the capacity to stand up for women's rights, needs and priorities in connection with the implementation of peace agreements	2.1.1 b) /2.2.1 b) Percentage of implementation processes in which Norway is involved where Norway supports participation by and contributions from civil society in the implementation process by providing i) political and diplomatic assistance, ii) financial assistance, and iii) technical assistance	75% i) 3/4, ii) 4/4, iii) 2/4 3 of 4	80% i) 4/5 ii) 4/5 iii) 1/5 4 of 5	100% i) 4/5, ii) 5/5, iii) 1/5

As regards Norwegian support for the implementation of peace and ceasefire agreements, we monitor our work in Colombia, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar and South Sudan. It should be noted that the sample is small. Developments must be monitored over time in order to ascertain whether real change has taken place. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic also created challenges regarding the reporting on implementation of

peace and ceasefire agreements, as some negotiations were at a standstill during 2020, while others continued in an ad hoc basis.

Generally, Norwegian support for women’s participation and rights in connection with the implementation of peace agreements remains consistent, in line with our 100% target, and includes support for partners at several levels; authorities, the UN, regional organisations and civil society. Most often, various kinds of support are also provided at the same time: political/diplomatic, financial, and technical.

In 2020, we monitor support for five implementation processes. Only one of five processes has 1-5% women in key implementation mechanisms, compared to three of the five processes in 2019. This indicates that two of these processes now have increased women’s participation, as one of five processes now has 5-10% women, two of five have 10-30% women, and one of five has between 30-50% women included in key implementation mechanisms.

Four of the five agreements that Norway supports the implementation of include clauses that specifically address women’s rights. The four agreements are very different from each other. While one has a comprehensive range of clauses that address women’s rights, others have one, three or more clauses that address specific matters related to women’s situation and rights.

In 2018, reports from all of our teams indicated that these clauses were not followed up with the same frequency as other clauses. In 2019, concrete progress was made in one of the processes and this is still the case in 2020. While there is still some way to go, the parties are committed and have concrete ambitions to ensure follow-up, and Norway provided funding to secure action.

It should be noted that, while Norway’s goal is, and must be, that such clauses will be followed up with the same frequency as other clauses in 100% of the processes in which we are involved, Norway can only advise and provide technical assistance, nudge and recommend. Our aim is therefore to contribute to steadily improving results, while recognising that we do not control the end result.

Norwegian support for ensuring women’s participation in the implementation of peace or ceasefire agreements remains consistent, in line with the 100% target. In all processes, Norway supports both the authorities and the UN in their endeavours. In four processes, Norway also supports regional actors. Political/diplomatic and financial support is systematic, while technical support is provided in many cases, but not all.

The statistics are similar for Norway’s support aimed at ensuring that the gender perspective is included in the implementation of peace or ceasefire agreements. Norway supports the authorities’ and the UN’s efforts in all processes, and regional actors in four of five processes. See the matrix for details.

Support is not just provided to the authorities or civil society. Norway also provides support for the reintegration of non-state actors who are parties to peace agreements, such as FARC in Colombia.

3. OPERATIONS AND MISSIONS

EXPECTED RESULT	INDICATOR	BASELINE 2018	2019	2020
Outcome 3.1 International operations and missions facilitate participation by women	3.1 a) Percentage of women in UN operations and missions	4.2% (3 322 of 79 399)	5.1% (3 878 of 75 856)	7% (5740 of 82000)
	3.1 b) Number of women in leading positions in international operations and missions	1 (MoD), 3 (MoJ)	7 (MoD), 4 (MoJ)	5 (MoD), 2 (MoJ)

Outcome 3.2 International operations and missions facilitate the safeguarding of both women's and men's rights, needs and priorities	3.2 Percentage of UN operations that have a 'gender adviser' as part of the leadership of the operation	33% (7 of 21)	53.8% (7 of 13)	53.8% (7 of 13) ⁷
Output 3.1.1 Norway helps to ensure that international operations and missions include women	3.1.1 a) Percentage of women in Norwegian contributions to international operations and missions	MoD: 10.5% (101 of 964), MoJ: 41% (12 of 29)	MoD: 12.9% (131 of 1071), MoJ: 35% (8 of 25)	MoD: 11,5% (137 of 1195), MoJ: 36.6% (8 of 21)
	3.1.1 b) Number of operations in which Norwegian armed forces are involved and where capacity-building of women in the security sector is included	1	2 (of 11 operations)	1 (of 13 operations)
Output 3.2.1 Norway helps to ensure that international operations and missions have sufficient capacity to integrate the gender perspective	3.2.1 a) Number and nationality of persons who have received training in the gender perspective at the <i>Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations</i> .	202 persons from 37 countries; Australia 4, Austria 4, Bangladesh 1, Belgium 3, Brazil 2, Cameroon 1, Canada 51, Croatia 1, Denmark 13, Finland 6, France 1, Germany 5, Greece 2, Hungary 1, Iraq 1, Ireland 2, Italy 4, Japan 2, Kenya 1, Lithuania 2, Luxembourg 1, Moldova 2, Netherlands 25, Nigeria 2, Norway 2, Poland 1, Portugal 2, Romania 2, Slovakia 1, Slovenia 1, Sweden 34, Switzerland 1, Turkey 2, UK 11, Uruguay 2, USA 5	300 persons from 42 countries; Albania 3, Australia 4, Austria 5, Azerbaijan 1, Belgium 2, Bosnia/Herzegovina 2, Bulgaria 2, Canada 10, Central African Republic 2, Croatia 5, Czech Republic 1, Denmark 6, EU 7, Finland 10, France 2, Georgia 111, Germany 5, Greece 2, Hungary 1, Iceland 1, Iraq 1, Italy 13, Japan 1, Jordan 1, Moldova 5, Montenegro 4, NATO 9, Netherlands 30, New Zealand 3, Nigeria 5, Norway 1, Poland 1, Portugal 1, Republic of North Macedonia 4,	165 persons from 32 countries: Afghanistan 1, Australia 1, Austria 2, Belgium 2, Brazil 1, Bulgaria 1, Canada 7, Czech Republic 1, Denmark 2, Estonia 1, Finland 7, France 3, Georgia 1, Germany 1, Greece 3, Hungary 1, Ireland 1, Italy 3, Japan 1, Moldova 77, Netherlands 8, New Zealand 2, Nigeria 1, Norway 2, Poland 3, Portugal 1, Romania 1, Spain 5, Sweden 8, Turkey 2, United Kingdom 8, USA 7

⁷ Updated numbers currently not available from the UN.

			Serbia 1, South Africa 1, Spain 3, Sweden 11, Switzerland 2, Ukraine 3, United Kingdom 4, USA 14	
	3.2.1 b) Percentage of assistance for security sector reform marked 'women's rights and gender equality' as i) a principal objective and ii) a significant objective	Principal objective: 0% (0 million) Significant objective: 85% (64 million)	Principal objective: 0% (0 million) Significant objective: 79% (81 million)	
	3.2.1 c) Number of missions (and assignments) where the Norwegian police contribute to an improved gender balance and increased competence as regards women, peace and security, SGBV and the gender perspective	1	2	3
OPERATIONAL RESULTS				
A better gender balance in Norwegian institutions' peace and security work	1) The proportion of women in the Norwegian police: i) police employees, ii) women in leading police positions, and iii) admission to the Norwegian Police Academy	i) 8 114 women in the police of 17 636 employees (46% women); ii) 20% in leading police positions, 34% women in leading positions in total; iii). 46% women	i) 8 235 women in the police of 17 758 employees (46.4% women); ii) 22% in leading police positions, 35% women in leading positions in total ; iii) 50.5% women	i) 8 592 women in the police of 18540 employees (46 % women); ii) 24 % in leading police positions; 35 % women in leading positions in total; iii) 51.1 % women
	2) Number and percentage of i) female military personnel in the Armed Forces, including among ii) officers (OF),	i) 1 442 women of a total of 11 515 military personnel (12.5%). ii) 12.4%,	i) 1 530 of 11 660 (13.1%) plus conscripts, ii) 631 (11%), iii) 899	i) 1632 women of a total of 11.874 military personnel (13.7%); ii) 578 (11.36%), iii) 1120

	iii) specialists and iv) conscripts	iii) 14.2%, iv) 26.3 %	(15.1%), iv) 1 920 (28.7%)	(16.1%), iv) 3 180 (30.5%)
Increased competence/capacity in relation to women, peace and security among Norwegian personnel involved in peace and security work	4) Number of persons in the Armed Forces who have specific tasks related to gender in their job descriptions, broken down by i) strategic level, ii) operational level, and iii) tactical level	7 positions: i) 2 at strategic level; ii) 5 at operational level iii) 0 at tactical level	5 positions: i) 3, ii) 0, iii) 2	2 positions: i) 2, ii) 0, iii) 0
	5) Number/percentage of Norwegians deployed on international operations and missions who have participated in courses/training in i) women, peace and security, and ii) preventing and handling sexual violence	MoD: 100%, MoJ: 36 persons (100%)	MoD: 100%, MoJ: 43 persons (100%)	MoD: 100%, MoJ: 18 persons (100%)
Plans and procedures are geared to integrating women, peace and security in the peace and security effort	9) i) Number of cases where Norwegian personnel deployed abroad are reported to the police or charged with committing non-consensual sexual acts, exploitation or abuse, and ii) the percentage of such cases followed up by Norwegian authorities	i) 0 (MoD, MoFA, MoJ) ii) 0 (MoD, MoFA, MoJ)	i) 0 (MoD, MoFA, MoJ) ii) 0 (MoD, MoFA, MoJ)	i) 0 (MoD, MoFA, MoJ) ii) 0 (MoD, MoFA, MoJ)

Since Norway takes active part in UN operations and works with the UN to increase women's participation and strengthen women's rights, we monitor the UN's progress in a number of areas. However, we do not set target figures for the UN or other partners.

We are pleased to note that the proportion of women in UN operations increased from 5.1% in 2019 to 7% in 2020. The level is still far too low, but the positive change demonstrates commitment.

The percentage of women in Norwegian military contributions to international missions and operations decreased from 12.9% in 2019 to 11.5 % in 2020, however the actual number of women deployed increased from 131 to 137 which is consistent with the national action plan's goal to improve the gender balance. The Ministry of Defence does not set targets, but endeavours to increase women's participation and strengthen both women's and men's rights, and respond to their needs and priorities in international operations and missions.

On average, 21 Norwegian police officers were deployed during 2020 compared to 25 in 2019 and 29 in 2018. The percentage of deployed female police officers decreased from 41% to 35% (target 40%) from 2018 to 2019 and increased to 36% in 2020; in figures: 12 in 2018 compared to 8 in 2019 and 8 in 2020. The commitment to

deploying women police remains strong, but, as Norway's contribution of police officers is numerically small, this statistic changes as a result of only slight changes in personnel. Thus, while year-to-year comparisons may yield some fluctuations, efforts continue to maintain and strengthen the long-term trend of increased female participation in Norway's police contributions.

We are pleased to note that the number of Norwegian women in operational leadership positions and mission leadership positions in international operations has been at a somewhat consistent level since 2019 on the military side (6-8 in 2019 and 5 in 2020). However, on the police side we have seen a slight decrease (4 in 2019 to 2 in 2020) but still within target (2). The number of such positions is limited and therefore figures are likely to vary somewhat from one year to the next.

The number of operations in which Norwegian armed forces were involved, and where capacity-building of women in the security sector was included has not seen any drastic developments and only fluctuated from one in 2018, two in 2019 and one in 2020. However, the number of missions and assignments where the Norwegian police contributed to an improved gender balance and increased competence as regards women, peace and security, SGBV and the gender perspective has seen a steady increase from one in 2018, two in 2019 and three in 2020 (target of 3 by 2022 is therefore already achieved). These figures are small, but they indicate commitment and the ability to do more.

The deployment of women to international operations depends on a solid recruitment base. In order to identify women leaders for international operations, women need to rise through the ranks at home. We are therefore pleased to see an increase in military women's participation from 1530 women in 2019 to 1632 women in 2020 (13.1% to 13,7 %) in the Norwegian Armed Forces, and proud to note still close to the target of gender parity within the police (46%). It is an ongoing focus at all levels within the police. We still have some way to go, but we are moving forward.

The percentage and number of women police increased from 46% in 2018 to 46.4% in 2019 (from 8 114 to 8 235 women) and decreased to 46% in 2020. However, in numbers we also saw an increase from 2019 to 2020 (from 8 235 to 8 592 women). The proportion of women in leading police positions was 24% in 2020 compared to 22% in 2019 and 20% in 2018, and, overall, women filled 35% of leading positions in the police in 2020. The Norwegian Police Academy admitted 51.5% women, compared to 50.5% in 2019 and 46 % in 2018. In coming years, the Norwegian police will be very close to achieving complete gender balance, but it is important to continue to focus on giving female police personnel equal management and leadership opportunities. The Norwegian Police Directorate is taking active steps to move the police in the right direction.

Likewise, both the percentage and number of women in the Norwegian Armed Forces increased from 12.5% (1442 women) in 2018 to 13.1% (1530 women) in 2019, and to 13,7% (1632 women) in 2020. There is a slight increase in the percentage of women officers (from 11% in 2019 to 11.36% in 2020), and an increase in the percentage of women specialists (15.1% in 2019 to 16.1% in 2020). We are pleased to see the percentage of women conscripts increased from 28.7% in 2019 to 30.5% in 2020. 2 386 young women did their national service in 2020, and it should also be noted that, in general, the number of women in national service has increased significantly (up from 12% in 2014) since the Norwegian parliament passed the Universal Conscription Act. As a measure, in 2019 the Government set a minimum target of 30% women in basic officer and commander training in the Armed Forces.

The number of persons in the Armed Forces who have specific tasks relating to gender in their job descriptions decreased from five to two from 2019 to 2020. It is worth noting, though, that the decrease was mainly at the tactical level. There is no one at the operational level compared to five in 2018. In order to ensure that positions with specific gender-related tasks in their job descriptions are prioritised in accordance with the national action plan, in 2019 the Armed Forces were assigned the task of developing an internal action plan that includes increasing competence and capacity in the organisation.

All Norwegian police deployed on international operations and missions in 2020 participated in courses/training in women, peace and security (WPS) and in preventing and handling conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). That is in line with the 100% target. All Norwegian officers undergo college level training in WPS and CRSV, which are part of the curriculum. All personnel who will serve in NATO command and force structures undergo obligatory WPS education. Personnel who will serve in UN operations receive mission-specific education, of which WPS is a component.

As in 2018 and 2019, there were no cases in 2020 where Norwegian personnel deployed abroad were reported to the police or charged with committing non-consensual sexual acts, exploitation or abuse. (This statistic includes diplomats and personnel deployed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for any purpose.) Therefore, no such cases were followed up by the Norwegian authorities. Despite the good statistics, however, we continue to keep a close eye on these numbers, in order to ensure that we do what we can to make sure that any cases that might arise are reported and followed up.

ALSO WORTH NOTING

Norway has continued to support efforts to increase women's equal and effective participation in UN peace operations. This includes being a champion of the women, peace and security pillar of the UN Secretary-General's Action for peacekeeping (A4P) initiative. It also includes support for Canada's Elsie initiative – of which the research undertaken by DCAF (the Geneva Centre on Security Sector Governance) is a key element.

Norway is currently working with the UN Police Division on a project to increase the effectiveness of UN Missions by increasing the number of qualified female police officers deployed. This will be done by providing training for Anglophone female candidates. Training will enable them to fulfil the UN requirements. The project will hold ten training sessions for ten different police-contributing countries (PCCs), and at least 500 female police officers will be evaluated and trained in 2020–2021. The goal is that at least 225 female police officers will successfully pass the UN AMS exam by December 2021. Another objective is that at least 157 trained female police officers will be deployed on UN field missions by December 2021. Through the commitment of Member States receiving the training and enhanced monitoring of the deployments of the trained female officers, we aim to ensure that they are placed in key positions once deployed on missions.

Norway supported the 'all-of-mission handbook' developed with and for the UN on the prevention of and response to conflict-related sexual violence, for use in UN operations. It was soft launched in October 2019, and was supposed to be rolled out in missions in 2020. The implementation phase was delayed due to COVID-19, however, Norway has contributed to several ongoing efforts like the translation of the handbook into French (in digital and book format), in order to reach a broader audience.

4. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

EXPECTED RESULT	INDICATOR	BASELINE 2018	2019	2020
Outcome 4.1 Humanitarian efforts facilitate women's involvement	4.1 Proportion of humanitarian efforts under UN auspices that systematically involve women who are affected by the crisis in their work	60% (3 of 5)	60% (3 of 5)	67% (5 of 6) ⁸
Outcome 4.2 Humanitarian efforts facilitate the safeguarding of both women's and men's rights, needs and priorities	4.2 Percentage of humanitarian efforts under UN auspices that have formal competence in the gender perspective in the form of an adviser or unit with special responsibility for follow-up	30% (87 of 289)	32% (117 of 363)	35.5% (204 of 572)
Output 4.1.1 Norway helps to ensure that Norwegian-supported humanitarian organisations involve women	4.1.1 Percentage of organisations that receive Norwegian humanitarian support that report that women who need humanitarian aid are involved in their humanitarian work	100% (10 of 10)	100% (17 of 17)	80% (16 of 20)
Output 4.2.1 Norway helps to ensure that Norwegian-supported humanitarian organisations integrate the gender perspective in their humanitarian work	4.2.1 a) Percentage of organisations that receive Norwegian humanitarian support that report that the gender perspective is integrated in their humanitarian work	100% (10 of 10)	100% (17 of 17)	80% (16 of 20)
	4.2.1 b) Percentage of organisations that receive Norwegian humanitarian support that report data broken down by gender in their reporting.	100% (10 of 10)	94% (16 of 17)	70% (14 av 20)
	4.2.1 c) Percentage of Norwegian humanitarian assistance to countries marked by war and conflict that is spent on measures	Principal objective: 2% (NOK 60 million) Significant objective: 44%	Principal objective: 6% (NOK 187 million) Significant objective: 56 % (NOK 1 839 million)	Principal objective: 3% (104 million); Significant objective: 73% (2263 million)

⁸ Data not available from IOM.

	marked with a gender marker	(NOK 1 478 million ⁹)		
--	-----------------------------	-----------------------------------	--	--

In 2020, Norway provided NOK 5.5 billion in humanitarian aid, our highest humanitarian budget ever. As this humanitarian aid is provided through our partner organisations, our results are what they achieve. One of the core priorities in Norway’s Humanitarian Strategy is protection, with particular emphasis on combating sexual and gender-based violence and safeguarding women’s rights.

We do not set targets for the UN as such. As for the Norwegian-supported organisations’ work and staffing, our target is 100% for all indicators.

In 2020 Norway’s humanitarian partners continued to follow up our requirements on gender and our priority on combatting SGBV. The Gender perspective is integrated into all of Norway’s humanitarian efforts. Norway requires all humanitarian partners to assess and mitigate any risks of negative effects of their work on women’s rights and gender equality and to be familiar with UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and implement in a way that promotes the intentions of the resolution in the best possible way.

In 2020 we registered that 75 % of all humanitarian aid being qualified for use of a gender marker (gender being the principal or a significant goal of the partnership). Furthermore, we made efforts to trace how many of our partners responses had a gender adviser or a unit responsible for following up gender aspects of the response, reports gender disaggregated data and mapping how many of our partners responses were women’s organizations and/or local women involved.

We are pleased to note that women who need humanitarian aid are included in the work of most major organisations that receive Norwegian humanitarian support. In 2020, the 20 most important organisations were monitored and included in this report, compared to 17 in 2019 and 10 in 2018. 16 organisations out of 20 reported that they integrate a gender perspective, i.e. their work takes women’s and men’s rights, needs and priorities into account. 14 of the organisations report data broken down by gender. However, two of the 20 organisations were unable to provide data in time, which explain the sudden decrease in percentage.

The reports from our partner organisations demonstrate that they lean on both international guidelines and organisation-specific policies, procedures and practices. They report participatory exercises, focus groups and concrete initiatives to reduce obstacles to women’s participation. Many of the organisations specifically report working on women’s participation in decision-making and leadership structures. They emphasise how gender is integrated into all areas of their work, including implementation of programs, policies, and procedures, and in reporting and results assessments.

Accountability to Affected Populations and the four pillars of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda guide much of their work on integrating gender. Organisations report that they have carried out gender analyses that include women and men, girls and boys, and have established feedback mechanisms that are intended to ensure communication with all stakeholders. Women and girls are targeted both in broader programmes and in specific programmes that aim to address the needs and priorities of girls and women specifically. Programmes to prevent and respond to gender-based violence are a priority for many of our partners, as are adequate health services. Partners also emphasise gender training for their employees.

⁹ Adjusted baseline. It was estimated to be NOK 1 471 million, but has been adjusted after a further quality check

With regard to reporting data broken down by gender, we note that several of the organisations also explain how they aim to ensuring gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation systems. For instance, interviews can be conducted in safe spaces when necessary, and separate interview processes can be organised for women and girls, and men and boys.

We are mindful that these data have been received from our partners themselves and that, while some provide extensive examples of their work, others refer to policies and principles. However, reporting throughout the year is consistent with the overall picture provided in the matrix. Some of the organisations included for 2020 are also new to this reporting schemes and will likely be able to provide improved data in next year's report.

Checklists have been developed for the foreign service to ensure that gender and women, peace and security are raised at annual meetings with partners and that a number of relevant issues are specifically addressed in field visits. Several embassies have also developed their own action plans for their work on women, peace and security which includes activities and dialogue with partners on the ground.

As for humanitarian efforts under UN auspices, we monitor six organisations that receive substantial funding from Norway. The reporting indicates that all the monitored organisations have systems in place for involving women affected by the crisis in their work. However, there are differences in how standardised this inclusion is. Five of six organisations systematically involve women affected by the crisis in their work (an increase from three of five in 2019). However, one organisation does so in some humanitarian responses, while another is not able to quantify to what extent this is done but emphasise how local women are involved in almost all interventions. The organisations do describe how inclusion is achieved or they highlight best practices. It is worth noting that, while women could be more systematically included in some organisations' humanitarian responses and their participation better registered, a lot is being done to ensure women's involvement. Some examples: partners describe increased localisation; how local organisations, including women's organisations are now accessing funding that was previously only available to international NGOs. Some describe strategic partnerships with hundreds of organisations and work with women organisations to set up and implement their responses. One partner exemplifies this point and describe how they during 2020 worked closely with women faith-based organizations with a global network of over 4 million community-level workers across 84 countries, to disseminate information for the prevention and response to COVID-19 pandemic.

We see a similar pattern as regards gender expertise within the various responses and operations. All organisations have dedicated gender advisers at response or country level that can be registered in this matrix, however the numbers vary. Only one organisation has gender advisers in every operation. This is something to watch going forward, as in-house gender expertise is key to ensuring systematic gender-responsive programmes. However, they all have gender experts that they can access. Several of the organisations have gender units or SGBV units that backstop their responses. The responses receive technical support for gender analyses, gendered programme development etc. Some have senior gender advisers in regional offices whose primary responsibility is to provide technical support for countries. Some also have advisers with specialised gender expertise at country and regional office level, although this might not be their only responsibility.

As regards the specific results reported in the matrix, we see an increase from 32% to 35.6%, reflecting progress within three of five organisations (8%, 11% and 29% of operations had a gender advisor in 2019, compared to 17.6%, 15.5%, 39% in 2020). The total of organisations reported on increased from five to six in 2020. Note also that some organisations report on countries, others on responses. In all, they have reported on 572 responses in 2020 compared to 363 responses in 2019.

5. SUSTAINING PEACE

EXPECTED RESULT	INDICATOR	BASELINE 2018	2019	2020
The five focus areas in the Action Plan for Women's Rights and Gender Equality are followed up in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations	The percentage of countries in conflict and post-conflict situations where our embassies and specialist sections report on support for girls' education	63%	68.5%	57.4%
	The percentage of countries in conflict and post-conflict situations where our embassies and specialist sections report on support for efforts promoting women's political rights and participation	76.5%	76%	62.9%
	The percentage of countries in conflict and post-conflict situations where our embassies and specialist sections report on support for women's economic participation	72.5%	78%	55.5%
	The percentage of countries in conflict and post-conflict situations where our embassies and specialist sections report on support for initiatives to combat i) violence, including sexual violence against women, men and children, and ii) customs that are harmful to girls and women	i) 63%, ii) 41%	i) 65%, ii) 57%	i) 59.1%, ii) 46.2%
	The percentage of countries in conflict and post-conflict situations where our embassies and specialist sections report on support for initiatives promoting women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights	61%	57%	48.1%
	The action plans for women's rights and gender equality and on women, peace and security are followed up through	Percentage of Norwegian bilateral assistance to countries affected by war and conflict that is marked 'women's rights and	Principal objective 8% (NOK 722 million); Significant objective: 32%	Principal objective 7% (NOK 749 million); Significant objective: 34%

development assistance funds	gender equality' as i) a principal objective and ii) a significant objective	(NOK 3 097 million.) ¹⁰	(NOK 3 574 million.)	
Norway's work for arms control and for preventing and combating violent extremism include women and an integrated gender perspective	Percentage of Norwegian assistance for global security and disarmament that is marked 'women's rights and gender equality' as i) a principal objective and ii) a significant objective	Principal objective: 5% (NOK 10 million) Significant objective: 39% (NOK 74 million) ¹¹	Principal objective: 1% (NOK 3 million) Significant objective: 30% (NOK 88 million)	Principal objective: 5% (11 million); Significant objective: 34% (79 million)
	Percentage of countries where measures supported by Norway to prevent and combat violent extremism i) promote women's participation, and ii) integrate the gender perspective	i) 86%, ii) 86%	i) 50%, ii) 50% (3 of 6, but note support for ICAN/WASL in addition)	i)100%, ii) 100%

As of June 2019, Norway has committed to working towards the goal of 50% of all bilateral aid qualifying for the use of a gender marker (gender equality and women's rights being the principal or a significant goal of the partnership). This commitment is an important step forward, but it will take time to reach this level.

Furthermore, Norway is giving high priority to measures that promote women's and girls' reproductive health in humanitarian crises and has committed 9,6 billion NOK to SRHR (2020-2025). Norway was from the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic clear that funding should not be taken from important efforts and missions, and therefore Norway approved no-cost extensions and arranged for important allocation of funds.

Furthermore, we need to focus on the proportion of funding that has women's rights and gender equality as its principal objective. Looking at the overall bilateral assistance to countries affected by war and conflict, this proportion was the same in 2019 and 2020 (7% to 7%), despite the amount increasing by NOK 53 million. Our efforts for women and girls must grow proportionally with our portfolios.

It should be noted that Norway's substantial multilateral aid, such as core support for UN Women, UNFPA, DPPA, UNDP, DPO, PBF and other important WPS actors, is not included in these figures. Core support for UN Women and UNFPA increased from NOK 75 million and NOK 401 million, respectively, in 2016 to NOK 100 million and NOK 530 million in 2020. Norway's contribution to the PBF for the strategic phase 2017–19 was increased from NOK 120 million to NOK 260 million. In the new phase, 2020–24, there will be an annual increase of 30% with a total allocation of NOK 500 million for the period.

Both Norway's Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and the Action Plan on Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Foreign and Development Policy govern how Norway's peacebuilding efforts are implemented in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations. The plans are interlinked. For instance, girls' education and women's health are decisive for women's ability to take part in peace and security efforts. Women's participation in peace processes is political empowerment in a conflict situation. A life free from violence

¹⁰ After further quality checks, the baseline data have been adjusted. Previously published figures: Principal objective 8% (NOK 719 million); Significant objective: 31% (NOK 3 001 million).

¹¹ After further quality checks, the baseline data have been adjusted. Previously published figures: Principal objective: 5% (NOK 10 million) Significant objective: 42% (NOK 83 million).

implies, for instance, addressing conflict-related sexual violence. At times, it is difficult to distinguish efforts for women's rights more broadly from women, peace and security work.

The priorities of the Action Plan on Women's Rights and Gender Equality are 1) girls' right to education, 2) women's political rights and participation, 3) women's economic rights and participation, 4) a life free from violence and harmful customs, and 5) sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Norway provided development aid to 54 countries in conflict and post-conflict situations in 2020. We will keep a close eye on our overall work for women's rights and gender equality to ensure that Norway continues to support women's agency in various ways. We can expect some shifts between the different parts of the portfolio, however. In countries where Norway's development assistance is limited, our teams will have to prioritise one or two thematic efforts for women's rights, and will do so based on the local context, global developments and Norwegian initiatives.

We are pleased to note that, in the ten countries in conflict and post-conflict situations that received most development aid in 2020, Norway supported efforts in all five thematic areas that are prioritised in the Norwegian national action plan for women's rights and gender equality. In over 30 countries, Norway supported efforts within three or more thematic areas.

Some of the programmes that are supported by Norway are not specifically framed as women, peace and security programmes. Support for girls' education or women's entrepreneurship is an example. Some are clearly understood to be part of a country's conflict prevention or peacebuilding efforts, such as when girls' education or women's entrepreneurship are part of reintegration measures. Other programmes are women, peace and security-specific, such as support provided for the development and implementation of national action plans on women, peace and security.

Norway supported a programme through UN Women aimed at developing Gender Sensitive National Action Plans on UNSCR1325 in Southern Africa. The programme aims to advocate and change mind-sets in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland and build the capacity of gender advocates in the field of peace and security. Both South Africa and Namibia have adopted National Action Plans with the assistance of this programme.

Other examples of women, peace and security programmes are highlighted in the country narratives. At the global level, the following are a few relevant examples.

In late 2019, Norway entered into a partnership with UN Women to support the Women, Peace and Security work within the Beijing + process, and dedicated 10 mill NOK to a) enable the UN and member states to bridge implementation gaps as identified by the UN Secretary General in his report on Women, Peace and Security to the Security Council in 2019 and b) ensure that the Beijing +25 process includes young peacebuilders and enables intergenerational dialogue. In 2020, we supported the launch of the Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action during the 2020 Generation Equality Forum. Norway currently serves as a board member of the Compact, where we aim to actively work on the implementation and operationalization of the commitments made.

Another important example is the MFA's preparation for Norway's membership in the UN Security Council between 2021-2022. The Women, Peace and Security agenda is one of Norway's priorities in the Council and in our preparation for the membership, we promoted the agenda in all aspects of our work and strengthened important triangulation of communication between the embassies, the capital and our mission in New York. In 2020, we stayed in close contact with civil society and our embassies kept an ongoing dialogue with relevant partners on the ground. Because of our longstanding commitment and our thorough preparation, we were well prepared for promoting the WPS agenda (including important insights from our Compact board seat) within the UN Security Council.

In 2019, Norway supported the Mukwege foundation to establish the Global Survivors Fund for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. Despite Covid-19, the fund has during 2020 set up a board, started recruitment and the development of programs.

Norway is a long-term supporter of the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (NOK 24 million 2018–2020, and further support is planned). This fund supports local women's peace and humanitarian efforts in a growing number of countries all over the world. In 2020, Norway also continued its annual funding to the Fund and other funding to important women's organizations. Norway also initiated new partnerships, for example with NGO Working Group on WPS.

The second Global Index for Women, Peace and Security was launched in 2019, with Norwegian support. Support was also allocated in 2019 for the development of a third index, to be published in 2021. The Index is an important tool for monitoring women's rights and participation in a more holistic way, and it also includes security aspects.

The percentage of countries where measures supported by Norway to **prevent and combat violent extremism** promote women's participation shows a decline from 50% in 2019 to 25% 2020, however the percentage of countries where measures supported by Norway to **prevent and combat violent extremism** which integrate a gender perspective increased from 50% in 2019 to 100% in 2020. The first decrease is primarily due to the portfolio changing, with some partnerships ending and new partnerships being included. However, we are pleased to note that all countries supported by Norway do integrate a gender perspective in their work.

It is worth noting that the most substantial programme that Norway supports in this field is outside the scope of this reporting because it covers many different countries and initiatives: the cooperation with the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) and the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL). With core support of NOK 40 million (2018 to 2022), Norway contributes substantially to work in 60 different countries. For instance, we note impressive results in Nigeria, Afghanistan, Yemen and a range of other countries in the Middle East.

AFGHANISTAN

CONTEXT

(As this report is for 2020, the circumstances around, as well as after the Taliban take-over, is not part of the report.)

In late 2018, the US commenced direct talks with the Taliban to seek a political solution to end Afghanistan's four decades of conflict and the longest war in US history. During 2019, slow but consistent closed-door discussions took place between the Taliban and the US government. Distrust among major Afghan political parties and the government **prevented internal consensus** on a unified stance in the Intra-Afghan negotiations. On 29 February 2020, the US government and the Taliban signed an agreement leading to Intra-Afghan negotiations commencing on 12 September 2020. There are four women among the 21 members of the Afghan negotiation team, but no women in the Taliban team.

Civil Society (CS), women's rights defenders and the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) are consistently engaged in advocacy and lobbying government and the international community to uphold past achievements, human rights including survivors' and women's rights and their meaningful participation in both the peace negotiations and the post-peace process. Consultations with the Afghan negotiating team, particularly with its female members, continue to be highly important to women in Afghanistan. Likewise, CS started informal discussions with pro-Taliban figures and political parties to help overcome distrust and to secure their support on gender issues including the WPS agenda. Many civil society initiatives in 2020 reflect increased interaction and consultation with women and male religious actors and peacemakers at the grassroots level.

Similarly, the international community, including the UN, NATO, EU and embassies have increasingly consulted with the female delegates in the Intra-Afghan negotiation team, civil society organisations, youth, war victims, women religious scholars and peacebuilders to hear their concerns and demands relating to the ongoing peace talks with the Taliban, resulting in key messages and statements advocating Afghan women's rights, needs and demands. A notable result is seen in the documents adopted at the Afghanistan 2020 pledging conference. The pledging conference [communiqué](#) highlights women's meaningful participation in the peace talks and development efforts. Other documents, which were adopted by the government and the international community during the conference, including the [Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework II](#) and the [Afghanistan Partnership Framework \(APF\)](#), stress women's rights, gender equality, women's empowerment and the WPS agenda in all sectors, levels and by all stakeholders.

[The UNSC Resolution 2543 issued on 16 September 2020](#) calls on the Afghan government and international community to fully implement and finance the 1325 National Action Plan to ensure protection, including from sexual and gender-based violence, and that perpetrators of such violence and abuse are held accountable. The resolution also calls for an inclusive and meaningful peace process ensuring women's participation and protecting their economic, social, political and development gains.

The Afghan government has adopted a financial and monitoring mechanism for NAP 1325. A total of AFN 30 million was allocated for implementation of the plan in 2020. The first report on the second phase was prepared and approved by government at the end of 2020 and has yet to be published and disseminated in 2021. Around 19 relevant government institutions have prepared NAP 1325 implementation and monitoring plans, and have included their activity budgets for 2021 in the national budget, which is a great achievement in itself.

Challenges remain constant. [Reports on the killings of human rights defenders and media professionals](#), as well as religious scholars who are considered more open-minded, have raised concerns with no group taking responsibility for such causalities. Although the Taliban claim that their perceptions of women's rights have

changed, the reality on the ground does not support any change. At the same time, the Afghan government has fallen short in addressing high-level cases of sexual harassment of girls and women.

KEY RESULTS

This report sets out the Norwegian Embassy in Kabul's activities and results relating to Women, Peace and Security (WPS) during 2020, as well as a general perspective on Norway's engagement in Afghanistan. Norway's specific contributions to WPS through Norwegian and International NGOs and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) supported by Norad and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) are not included.

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROCESSES

Outcome 1.1. Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate participation by women in all phases

Outputs: Through diplomatic means and in all relevant national and international fora, the Embassy has stressed the importance of women's meaningful participation and their rights in the peace negotiations and reconciliation process.¹²

Contribution to outcome: Strengthened the political commitment to women's meaningful participation in the peace process. The Afghan government's high-level and high-profile statements on women's rights and participation, the increasing number of women at decision-making level both in the State Ministry of Peace (6 women) and in the High Council for National Reconciliation (15 women). The Intra-Afghan negotiations include four women (19%) in the Afghan negotiating team. Similarly, the Taliban's general statements on women's rights have now been set out in specific documents with more specific definitions and arguments, which can pave the way for more discussion on this topic.

Challenges: Inequalities in the number of women compared to men in the state structure and negotiation team. Similarly, there are still limitations in involving women in all relevant high-level dialogue on the peace negotiations. Civil society does not have a representative in the negotiation team. Although the female representatives in the negotiation team appear to be committed to raising women's voices in the peace process, local peacebuilders do not consider them well represented.

The Taliban does not consider women's participation in the peace talks necessary. Their justification is that Afghan women were not involved in the war and therefore, do not need to play a part in peacebuilding. There is no guarantee that the Taliban will commit to protecting women's constitutional rights.

Outputs: Nordic embassies in partnership with UN Women and UNAMA hosted a high-level dialogue with leaders from Afghanistan's government, women-led CSOs, think tanks and the international/diplomatic community on 26 October to mark the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325.

Contribution to outcome: Increased high-level discussion on the WPS agenda at various levels and fora.

Challenges: Ad-hoc coordination and interaction approach to supporting the WPS agenda in Afghanistan. Lack of programmatic/strategic coordination in terms of supporting civil society initiatives by all donors. Support so far has been based on short-term project funding that does not ensure the sustainability of the initiatives. Inadequate coordination means that a few initiatives/organisations receive funding from several donors while others do not receive such support.

¹² The Norwegian Embassy in Kabul is a member of the international community in Afghanistan, which contributed to this outcome. However, outcome results should not only be accredited to international stakeholders' advocacy and lobbying efforts. Civil society also contributed to these results through their advocacy and lobbying efforts.

Outcome 1.2: Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate respect for both women's and men's rights, needs and priorities

Outputs: Through [UN Women Afghanistan](#), [Norwegian Church Aid Afghanistan](#) and [UNAMA](#), Norway supports various peace initiatives at national and subnational levels, to ensure women's participation, rights, needs and priorities are being addressed by all stakeholders at both the peace negotiation table and other peace processes. Additionally, these initiatives supported the government's work on localisation of the national action plan on women, peace and security, translating the first report on the second phase of the NAP 1325 into English, capacity building and policy advocacy for implementation of the plan.

Contribution to outcome: UN Women and Norwegian Church Aid initiatives helped capacity building of women's rights activists and peacemakers, advocating for women's meaningful participation in peace talks, resolving local conflicts and raising the voices of women in national and international peace-relevant fora. UNAMA is a key player in political issues in Afghanistan and uses diplomatic means to share concerns or push for action in relation to both the government and Taliban. SRSB and the Head of UNAMA, a woman herself, has kept up the momentum of raising women's voices at high policy and political level discussions including UNSC sessions on Afghanistan.

Challenges: Civil society is given no or very limited opportunity to participate meaningfully in any discussion platforms on peace organised by the government. The Taliban's political statements consider women NGOs as spoilers and agents of foreigners that encourage immorality and un-Islamic culture. There is a lack of monitoring, follow-up and/or a feedback mechanism to see if promises and statements at policy level are being implemented by both parties. The implementation of the national action plan is still limited due to low capacity particularly at subnational levels. Measuring implementation progress against NAP 1235 indicators has been more challenging in 2020 due to limited evidence-based data, insecurity and COVID-19 issues.

Outputs: The Norwegian Embassy has co-hosted several meetings with UNAMA, UN Women, Nordic+ and civil society organisations, to promote women's voices regarding their rights, needs and priorities in the Intra-Afghan negotiations and peace process, as follows:

1. The Norwegian Embassy and UNAMA held a joint meeting with women Ulema from five provinces (Helmand, Zabul, Qandahar, Herat and Samangan) to share their views, and demands regarding the Intra-Afghan negotiations, and the role and challenges of women peacebuilders at grassroots level.
2. The Norwegian Embassy, UNAMA, UN Women, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and two civil society organisations (EQUALITY for Peace and Democracy (EPD), and Afghan Women's Peace and Freedom Organization (AWPFO)) co-hosted a meeting with provincial women religious and community leaders from 12 provinces of Afghanistan. A [statement](#) and a short [video clip](#) entitled 'Humanizing Women's Rights in Peace and War' was shown at the Geneva Conference on Afghanistan.
3. In the run-up to the Afghanistan Conference in Geneva (23-24 Nov. 2020) UN Women, UNAMA and Nordic+ co-hosted a side discussion (19 Nov. 2020)¹³, 'From Peacebuilder to Negotiator: Afghan Women Envision Peace' the meeting launched the six-month joint UN Women and Nordic+ campaign [#PeaceThreads](#) to demonstrate solidarity and elevate Afghan women's vision for peace, with particular focus on local and rural women peacebuilders in national and formal peace process.
4. The Organization for Policy Research and Development (DROPS) and the Norwegian Embassy in Kabul jointly launched the 6th Vol of Women and Public Policy Journal (WPPJ) '[Separating Discourse From Practice: What Does The Future Hold for Women In Afghanistan?](#)', on 20 December 2020.
5. The Afghan Women Peace and Freedom Organization (AWPFO) and the Norwegian Embassy in Kabul launched a book '[Untold Stories of War and Peace](#)', on 21 December 2020.

¹³ [Here](#) is a recording of the '[From Peacebuilder to Negotiator: Afghan Women Envision Peace](#)' side discussion. The passcode is: 4qaaXH@%

Contribution to outcome: Lively discussions resulting in specific recommendations and commitments on how to ensure women’s meaningful participation in the peace talks, protect their rights and preserve their achievements. Capacity building of women to share their views and analysis through research and open debates on the peace process. The statements, published materials and video clip serve as evidence that can be used by stakeholders and warring parties to consider women’s rights, needs and priorities in peace negotiations.

Challenges: There is a lack of coordination between the stakeholders (civil society, international community, political parties, government etc.), which have started different initiatives to increase women’s meaningful participation in the peace talks. Donors’ short-term project funds do not help sustained efforts.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACE AGREEMENTS

Outcome 2.1: Women’s participation in the implementation of peace agreements is facilitated

Outputs: The US Taliban Agreement does not specify women’s participation in the peace talks. There is no peace agreement between the Afghan government and the Taliban.

Outcome 2.2: When implementing peace agreements, steps are taken to safeguard both women’s and men’s rights

Outputs: The [US Taliban Peace Agreement](#) is the first step to bringing peace to Afghanistan. The agreement does not mention human and women’s rights issues and women’s participation in the peace negotiations.

Contribution to outcome: The release of 5,000 Taliban political prisoners and 1,000 Afghan prisoners, and the inclusion of four women in the Afghan negotiating team are positive steps. The formal start-up of the Intra-Afghan peace negotiations has been the main result in 2020. However, no progress has been made on discussion of the formal agenda.

Challenges: The Taliban does not consider women’s role in the peace negotiations important, as they do not believe women played a part in the war. Ignoring women’s voices as victims of war as well as their role in post-peace settlement and development is a major concern for Afghan women.

OPERATIONS AND MISSIONS

Outcome 3.1 International operations and missions facilitate participation by women

Outputs: Through diplomatic means, the Embassy has advocated for women’s meaningful participation in peace talks.

Contribution to outcome: The Government of Afghanistan and international organisations (UNAMA, Donors, RSM/NATO and Diplomatic Missions/Embassies) have declared their commitment to protecting women’s rights and achievements.

Challenges: Although there is political commitment to women’s participation in peace talks, the reality on the ground indicates that their participation is still at a minimum and/or symbolic.

Outcome 3.2 International operations and missions facilitate the safeguarding of both women’s and men’s rights, needs and priorities

Outputs: The Embassy has stressed human rights including women’s rights in peace processes as well as security sector reforms and operations in all relevant meetings with RSM/NATO and Afghan security institutions.

Contribution to outcome: Commitment by key security actors to consider both human rights as well as women’s needs and priorities in peace processes and in the security sector.

Challenges: No strategic approach to systematically following up and coordinating efforts that result in the inclusion of women’s agendas in the peace process and to addressing the issue of women working in the security sector.

HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

Outcome 4.1 Humanitarian efforts facilitate women’s involvement

Outputs: The Embassy has actively participated in processes related to humanitarian action in Afghanistan. The Embassy has been a strong advocate for integrating WPS issues in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

Contribution to outcome: The HRP for 2021 has a strong emphasis on women affected by conflict.

Challenges: Insecurity and natural disasters increase the number of IDPs and humanitarian aid vulnerability.

Outcome 4.2 Humanitarian efforts facilitate the safeguarding of both women’s and men’s rights, needs and priorities

Outputs: The Embassy has stressed gender equality and women’s needs and priorities in the humanitarian efforts.

Contribution to outcome: Women and girls collectively make up almost 50% of the intended target beneficiaries of the 2021 HRP plan.

Challenges: Insecurity and natural disasters increase the number of IDPs and humanitarian aid vulnerability.

OTHER RELEVANT RESULTS – SUSTAINING PEACE

Outputs: UN Women in collaboration with Nordic+ contributed to developing gender-specific recommendations and advocacy points to inform gender priorities for the Afghanistan Partnership Framework.

Contribution to outcome: Documents produced under the 2020 pledging conference on Afghanistan have integrated gender equality, women’s rights, empowerment and WPS in all documents including the conference communiqué, Afghanistan Partnership Framework and its Monitoring Framework.

Challenges: The implementation of these commitments has been challenged by weak governance, law enforcement and insecurity.

COLOMBIA

CONTEXT

The Colombian Peace Agreement and its strong emphasis on gender equality and inclusion has made the Colombian population more aware of gender dynamics, and the fact that women and men, girls and boys, have been affected differently by the armed conflict. This has incentivised women to organise themselves better, take leadership roles in their local communities and actively participate in the implementation of the Peace Agreement. However, while the government has underlined the importance of women's participation in all phases of implementation, several institutions monitoring the implementation have pointed out that the 130 gender commitments included in the agreement are implemented at a slower rate than other more general items. According to the KROC Institute, 42% of these commitments have not been initiated and only 9% have been completed. The most pressing challenges relate to women's inclusion in rural reform, access to security, the eradication of illicit crops and political participation. Furthermore, the Colombian authorities are struggling to prevent the ongoing assassinations of human rights defenders, ex-combatants and local leaders, of which several have been women or members of the LGBTI community. Despite these challenges, there are also positive developments. The three institutions that make up the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparations and Non-Recurrence (SIVJRNR) have assigned work teams to gender mainstreaming, and women have been appointed to decision-making positions. Mechanisms have been established to promote the participation of women, LGBTI persons and ethnic communities in collecting testimonies that are subsequently handed over to the Truth Commission. It is also important to emphasise the progress that has been made in recognising women as equals in reincorporation efforts and ensuring women's participation in livelihood projects as an integral part of returning to civilian life. As a guarantor country to the peace process, Norway has a particular responsibility to monitor and support the implementation of the peace agreement. Our role as guarantor, coupled with our substantial economic contributions to Colombia, gives us unique access to civil society and authorities at all levels. After years of supporting women's organisations and being one of the biggest contributors to UN Women in Colombia, Norway has earned credibility among local communities, and women in particular. Consequently, Norway is in a position, both economically and politically, to engage with various actors in different thematic and geographical areas to promote and support the WPS agenda.

In 2020, the Colombian government announced that it was developing an Action Plan for WPS. Since then, the Norwegian Embassy in Bogotá has been in close contact with the President's Gender Adviser, providing input to the Action Plan and emphasising the need for broad consultations with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). The Action Plan has yet to be approved by the Colombian MFA.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected women and girls severely. Many women, both in urban and rural areas, have lost their jobs and sources of income. The pandemic has reinforced traditional gender roles and the government has reported that domestic violence has increased. The consequences have been particularly severe for women migrants and refugees, many of whom are Venezuelans.

KEY RESULTS

The following is an account of Norway's contribution to relevant NAP outcomes in Colombia:

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROCESSES

Outcome 1.1. Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate participation by women in all phases

Negotiations between the Colombian government and the ELN are currently inactive after the government decided to end talks in January 2019 after the ELN assumed responsibility for a car bomb that left several police

students dead in Bogotá. The fact that there are no ongoing talks between the parties makes it challenging to report on this particular outcome. Nevertheless, Norway continues to support women's organisations in territories affected by the armed conflict between the government and the ELN, mainly on the Pacific coast. These mostly indigenous and Afro-Colombian organisations participate in local community councils where they promote and work to ensure the inclusion of women in local peace and reconciliation initiatives, such as the Humanitarian Deal in Chocó for example. When and if talks between the government and the ELN resume, these women's organisations, alongside other civil society actors, will be ready to provide input, and share their experiences. Through this support, Norway contributes to strengthening women's groups and organisations that are well positioned to play an important role in shaping a future agreement and ensuring that such an agreement has a strong WPS footprint.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACE AGREEMENTS

Outcome 2.1: Women's participation in the implementation of peace agreements is facilitated

Norwegian support for the WPS agenda in the implementation of the peace agreement between the Colombian government and the FARC-EP is comprehensive and covers a broad spectrum of initiatives. Norway is particularly engaged in the reincorporation of female ex-combatants, protection and strengthening of female social leaders and human rights defenders, as well as the inclusion of gender-sensitive assessments in the security sector. Norway is currently collaborating with numerous organisations to ensure that the gender sensitive items in the peace agreement are properly implemented. Some of our closest partners in this work are UN Women, the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the Norwegian Red Cross and FOKUS.

In 2020, Norway has supported projects aimed at strengthening the technical and organisational capacities of female ex-combatants. Through our *female peacebuilders'* programme with UN Women, female ex-combatants have been able to establish income-generating projects and access education and capacity building programmes. Last year, the Embassy continued to support a reincorporation project led by the Norwegian Red Cross focusing on formalising the skills of health workers from the FARC and ensuring access to adequate health services in reincorporation areas and neighbouring communities. The majority of ex-combatants who have benefitted from this programme are women.

Norway's efforts to promote the WPS agenda in Colombia also centres on strengthening women as peacebuilders and agents of change in their local communities and reinforcing protection schemes for women social leaders and human rights defenders. This work includes the UN Women ProDefensoras programme, which is being implemented in four departments in the Pacific Region. Through this programme, Norway supports initiatives aimed at strengthening the inclusion of women in decision-making processes, enhancing protection schemes for at-risk women leaders and ensuring that they have the necessary capacity to interact and influence policy-making at the local and national level.

In addition to this, Norway has continued to support the Colombian police and its efforts to become more gender sensitive. In 2020, the police, in coordination with DCAF, carried out a nation-wide survey aimed at mapping attitudes to gender equality within the police, targeting thousands of policewomen and men. The results of the survey will produce a set of recommendations for the Colombian police that sets out to improve the provision of security to Colombian women and strengthen gender equality within the police through the establishment of an action plan.

In 2020, the Embassy continued to raise the importance of women's inclusion in the implementation of the peace agreement in our regular contact with the Colombian government (the Presidential Adviser for Equality, the Presidential Adviser for Stabilization and Consolidation, the High Commissioner for Peace, the Foreign Ministry

etc.) and in various donor forums. The Embassy also agreed to assume the presidency of the national donor group for gender equality (Mesa de Género) in 2021.

Challenges: The KROC Institute, which monitors the implementation of the peace agreement, has revealed that the gender components of the agreement are implemented at a slower rate than other more general items. Organisations supported by the Embassy have reported the following challenges with respect to implementation:

- Lack of state presence in some of the most affected regions.
- Disagreement between communities and local authorities on what should be included in regional development plans.
- The inclusion of gender components is not prioritised if women are not included in decision-making processes.
- Female local leaders and defenders of the peace agreement are sometimes targeted by illegal armed groups.
- Community councils and local ‘peace groups’ are still dominated by men.

Political representation among women is still limited at all levels of governance (local, regional and national).

Outcome 2.2. When implementing peace agreements, steps are taken to safeguard both women’s and men’s rights

The homicide rate in Colombia has gradually decreased since the peace agreement was signed in 2016. However, the assassination of human rights defenders and local community leaders remains a major challenge. The protection of these leaders is a priority for Norway in Colombia, and, in 2020, the Embassy launched the above-mentioned ProDefensoras programme together with UN Women and ten women’s organisations in the Pacific Region. The programme aims to protect and prevent attacks and threats against female human rights defenders and strengthen state institutions responsible for protection, prevention and investigations.

Outputs: Through the ProDefensoras programme, ten women’s organisations have started the process of creating and enabling safe environments to defend human and women’s rights.

Activities:

- Risk assessments produced at the local level to define needs, demands and other non-expected consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Provision of biosafety and self-care kits to women and other target groups.
- Increased investment in knowledge products that facilitate virtual work.
- Preparation of technical and programmatic processes based on consultation and territorial dialogue to define the requirements and conditions to ensure the feasibility of expected results.
- Elaboration and implementation of methodological proposals to enhance capacity in risk-assessment, self-care and the establishment of protection mechanisms.
- Agreements with authorities and local entities as part of the organisations’ efforts to increase political participation and strengthen protection and prevention.
- Development of campaigns and communication materials to draw attention to and combat social stigmas about women leaders and human rights defenders.

A training process to strengthen the capacities of 500 public servants in the Ombudsman’s Office has been initiated.

OPERATIONS AND MISSIONS

Outcome 3.1 International operations and missions facilitate participation by women

Contribution to outcome: Norway supports the UN Verification Mission in Colombia (UNVM) and its efforts to strengthen gender provisions and include female police officers in its staff. The UNVM is committed to the promotion of the WPS agenda and has established gender focal points in the territories and introduced a programme to educate UN observers about gender dynamics. The UNVM's own gender advisers monitor the implementation of the gender provisions of the peace agreement. The Embassy is in close contact with the gender team and uses meetings with representatives not only of the UNVM, but the UN in general, to push the WPS agenda. The entire UN system, and the UNVM and UN Women in particular, sees Norway as an important partner in promoting and implementing the gender provisions of the agreement. There are currently two Norwegian police officers working in the UNVM, one woman and one man.

Challenges: While the gender focal point mechanism has worked relatively well for the UNVM, the lack of capacity has sometimes limited the close follow-up and technical support that is needed in the territories.

HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

Outcome 4.1 Humanitarian efforts facilitate women's involvement

All humanitarian operations supported by Norway must include a gender focus. In Colombia, Norway supports the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), which has operations in many parts of the country. In the Pacific Region, NRC, together with the church, is providing education and shelter in emergencies and distributing non-food items (NFI) and food/nutritional baskets, among other things. NRC is one of few humanitarian organisations present in the Colombian Pacific Region. NRC in Chocó has worked hard to achieve a gender balance in its humanitarian operations. To date, 47% of beneficiaries have been women, and the project has managed to ensure the broad participation of women and girls in training and information sessions although most community leaders are men.

The Embassy is also supporting a response programme for Venezuelan migrants and refugees implemented by UNICEF in Colombia and Ecuador, as well as COVID-19 response programmes implemented by Caritas and the Norwegian Red Cross. All these programmes have incorporated gender strategies, ensuring gender parity amongst beneficiaries.

OTHER RELEVANT RESULTS

In addition to the projects and initiatives already mentioned, Norway supports a long list of other gender-related activities.

The Embassy has supported women's organisations and the strengthening of the gender provisions of the agreement through the Multi Partner Donor Fund (MPTF). The Fund has increased its support to the implementation of the Secretary General's Seven-Point Action Plan on Peacebuilding with a Gender Perspective and the 1325 Resolution. The Fund has created the *Instancia Especial de Mujeres*, which monitors the gender provisions of the agreement and makes recommendations. The Fund has also supported the government in the implementation of an inter-institutional strategy that strengthens prevention and response mechanisms through training of community networks and local authorities.

Through the Fund, the gender approach was strengthened in the National Police, mainly in rural areas. Several hundred police officers have completed training modules in gender and operate in places where there is a high prevalence of gender-based violence cases (La Guajira, Cesar, Antioquia, Meta, Caquetá, Tolima and Cauca). The Fund supported 16 civil society organisations to strengthen women's political participation in peacebuilding, economic recovery and the development of alternative conflict resolution processes.

In addition to this, the Embassy also financed one gender adviser at the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Stabilization and Consolidation. Furthermore, Norway supported CSOs, of which many are women's organisations, through the Norwegian-Swedish CSO fund (FOS) and Norad.

This year, the Embassy, in partnership with UN Women, will continue to highlight and support women human rights defenders and the development of protection mechanisms through the enhancement of state institutions. We will continue supporting the police's work to become more gender sensitive, as well as female ex-combatants' reincorporation. The Embassy will also consider supporting projects that aim to support survivors of SGBV and ensure better access to justice through the transitional justice system.

In 2021, the Embassy will assume the presidency of the International Donor Group for Gender in Colombia. A broad spectrum of international actors participates in the Gender Group, and representatives from the government are often invited to share their priorities and plans and engage with the international community. As president, Norway will use this position to promote and strengthen coordination between the embassies and international organisations on topics such as WPS, protection of women leaders and human rights defenders, COVID-19 response, SGBV and political participation.

MALI

CONTEXT

In August 2020, following months of political unrest, Mali was subject to another coup d'état. After negotiations with ECOWAS in order for the sanctions to be lifted, the military junta agreed on a maximum transitional period of 18 months under a civilian-led government. A government including 20% women was eventually appointed, which is less than the 30% quota stipulated by national legislation.

Mali has experienced years of conflict since an armed Tuareg rebellion in the north in 2012, which was followed by a coup d'état in a context of increased jihadist pressure in Central and Northern Mali. An agreement on peace and reconciliation (the Algiers Agreement) between the government and the associations of armed rebel groups, CMA and Plateforme, was eventually signed in 2015. The agreement addresses political, security, justice and socioeconomic development issues. The transitional charter pledges continued commitment to the implementation of the agreement. All signatory parties participate in the transitional government.

National legislation outlines a 30% gender quota for appointed officials and electoral lists. The law has not been applied to mechanisms working on implementation of the peace agreement. The representation of women in the Monitoring Committee to the Peace Agreement (CSA) and other bodies of relevance to the peace process have until recently remained extremely low (approximately 3%). The formal inclusion of women (31%) in the CSA in October 2020, in which Norway was instrumental, thus marks a milestone. Further inclusion in related structures is yet to be effectuated.

Whereas the Algiers Agreement addresses the situation in Northern Mali, the security situation in Central Mali has deteriorated rapidly in the past years. This includes an escalation of intercommunal violence, terrorism and resource conflicts, the latter intensified by the consequences of climate change. There is no formal overarching peace process for Central Mali, but several community-level processes and peace agreements are in place.

Mali finalised its third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP) in 2019, after a broad consultative process. Norway contributes to the implementation of the NAP through support for UN Women.

Mali is ranked 159/167 on the Global Women Peace and Security Index (2019). Inequality between women and men is present in all sectors of society, be it education, health, political participation or economic inclusion. The embeddedness of harmful practices, such as child marriage (52% of all girls), female genital mutilation (89%) and gender-based violence (40%), contributes to an environment in which acts of GBV are met with silence, toleration and impunity. The prevalence of GBV is reported to have increased due to the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the transitional charter, democratic elections are to take place by March 2022. With all signatory groups in government, the transitional phase could represent a window of opportunity for accelerated implementation of the peace agreement. Norway has foreseen to support (1) increased participation of women in technical sub-groups to the CSA; and (2) capacity-building for women with key roles in the peace process in order to ensure equal, meaningful and effective participation.

KEY RESULTS

The following is an account of Norway's contribution to relevant NAP outcomes in Mali:

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROCESSES

Outcome 1.1. Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate participation by women in all phases

Outputs:

- Increased national ownership of Mali's third NAP on WPS (partner: UN Women).
- Consultations on the set-up of local Women's Observatories in all regions, aiming to include women in all discussions regarding peace processes and decentralisation.

Contribution to outcome: Through earmarked financial contributions to UN Women, the Embassy in Bamako supports the implementation of Mali's third NAP (2019–2023). Transitional PM Ouane signed the NAP in October 2020. Together with like-minded countries and the UN, the Embassy has raised the need for stronger national ownership of the agenda.

The Embassy participated in regular meetings on the implementation of high-level recommendations on women's participation in January 2020 (see also 2.2). One of the key recommendations is the establishment of independent Women's Observatories. Norway supports these efforts diplomatically and financially, through UN Women as well as through the Norwegian Church Aid. The ultimate aim of the observatories is to ensure that women are included in all bodies relevant to peace process(es) *and* the implementation of the Algiers Agreement, including decentralisation issues.

Through several partners in the field, Norway is furthermore supporting the inclusion of women in local conflict resolution networks. Increased participation of women in these networks contributes to resolving family and resource conflicts and is considered to have a lasting effect on men's recognition of women's competence.

Challenges: COVID-19, political unrest and a coup d'état have created difficult framework conditions with regards to swift implementation of the NAP.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACE AGREEMENTS

Outcome 2.1: Women's participation is facilitated in the implementation of peace agreements

Outputs:

- Formal inclusion of women in the follow-up committee to the peace agreement ('Comité de Suivi de l'Accord d'Alger', CSA), in line with national legislation (minimum 30%).
- Support to the selection process in order to ensure legitimate and effective participation.

Contribution to outcome: In January 2020, the Embassy co-sponsored a high-level workshop on the participation of women, organised by UN Women and MINUSMA. The workshop gathered 200 women from organisations in all regions of Mali, as well as representatives from the signatory movements, the government and the diplomatic community. The workshop, which was a direct deliverable on the 2019 MINUSMA mandate, produced a series of measures to improve and increase women's participation in the peace process and in governance issues. One recommendation pointed to their formal inclusion in existing peace structures, another key recommendation was the establishment of an independent Women's Observatory.

On request from the Government of Mali, the Embassy in Bamako has earmarked funding for the formal inclusion of women in the CSA through the UN Trust Fund for Peace and Security in Mali. The Embassy furthermore

received a mandate from the signatory groups to support the selection process, with the aim of ensuring efficient, legitimate and representative participation.

The Embassy engaged Fatima Maiga, founder and president of the Coalition of Female Leaders, as a consultant to lead this work. Mrs Maiga also received a mandate from the signatory parties. The Embassy produced audio messages with information about the CSA and the peace agreement translated into several local languages, which was shared with women's networks via WhatsApp through dedicated gender focal points in the signatory groups. Based on lists from the signatory groups, a panel of representatives from the Independent Observer to the peace agreement, the AU, the High Representative to the peace agreement, the embassies of Canada and Norway conducted interviews with the female candidates. Based on the conversations, Mrs Maiga produced a report with recommendations that was handed over to the signatory groups in order to support the selection process. Legitimacy, qualifications and motivation were key indicators. The selection process was carried out by the movements themselves.

Together with MINUSMA, UN Women and like-minded countries, Norway has advocated for the decision on inclusion to be formalised. Nine women – three from CMA, three from Plateforme and three from the government – were finally included on a permanent basis at the 41st session of the CSA in November. The number has subsequently increased to 12.

Norway has mobilised funding for the inclusion of women in the technical subcommittees to the CSA. Together with like-minded partners, Norway has advocated for the inclusion to be formalised.

Challenges:

- Disagreement between sub-fractions in the movements concerning numbers and the selection process.
- Women's participation needs to be expanded to other institutions of relevance to the peace process.

Outcome 2.2: When implementing peace agreements, steps are taken to safeguard both women's and men's rights

Norway has supported several activities, particularly through the UN, with a rights-based approach to peace dividends and the implementation of the peace agreement. They include the promotion of economic activities, protection against sexual and gender-based violence and access to justice. In addition, Norway, through UN Women, the UN Trust Fund for Peace and Security and civil society organisations such as the Norwegian Church Aid, supports activities aimed at increasing women's inclusion in discussions related to the implementation of the peace agreement.

OPERATIONS AND MISSIONS

Outcome 3.1 International operations and missions facilitate participation by women

Norway participates in the UN peacekeeping mission MINUSMA and takes part in a rotation scheme for a transport aircraft. In addition, a Norwegian UNPOL team, training the Malian police in investigation techniques and use of technical evidence in judicial proceedings, has been deployed for the period 2019 to 2022.

In February 2020, the Norwegian Major General Kristin Lund, the first woman ever to serve as Force Commander in a UN peacekeeping operation, visited Bamako to share her experiences. Major General Lund engaged in discussions with the Minister for the Promotion of Women, the National Commissions for DDR and SSR, civil society, the Peacekeeping School and the Deputy UN SRSG. In addition, General Lund spoke at a WPS conference

organised by UN Women, MINUSMA and the Government of Mali, gathering the most influential women leaders from all over Mali.

Outcome 3.2 International operations and missions facilitate the safeguarding of both women's and men's rights, needs and priorities

Norway supports human rights training of the G5 Sahel Joint Force through the OHCHR. Sensibilisation with regards to preventing conflict-related sexual violence is an integral part of the training.

HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

Outcome 4.2 Humanitarian efforts facilitate the safeguarding of both women's and men's rights, needs and priorities

In 2020 the unstable political situation, Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, continued resource scarcity, ethnic conflicts, terror, and military operations in Mali have led to a significant increase in the humanitarian needs that continued to grow throughout the year. The pandemic and the increased number of internally displaced persons made particularly women and girls more vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence. There is no specific national legislation against female genital mutilation and gender-based violence. As more and more schools were closed, young girls got more exposed to sexual violence, child and forced marriage. In step with increasing humanitarian needs, Norway's humanitarian efforts have had a stronger focus on that action must be gender responsive and ensure a sufficient focus on the most vulnerable, in particular women and girls, and recognize their potential to contribute to both social and economic development and conflict resolution. Increased action on protection specially women, children including protection against SGBV and facilitating women's involvement in Mali have been strengthened among others by supporting and partnering up with the UN, ICRC and entering into strategic partnership with several Norwegian humanitarian organizations aiming to mainstream the gender perspective and aligning efforts with the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Mali.

MOZAMBIQUE

CONTEXT

After years of conflict between the Government of Mozambique (Frelimo) and the opposition (Renamo), the parties signed a peace agreement in August 2019. In 2020, the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) process commenced, through which 5,221 combatants from the opposition will be reintegrated into society.

Although the peace process has been challenged by the Renamo Military Junta (RMJ), which has carried out attacks in the central region of the country, there has recently been commendable progress, with a ceasefire announced between the government and RMJ in late December.

The peace and reconciliation work in Mozambique focuses on gender inclusion in a number of ways, including by focusing on women's participation in negotiations; the role of gender in the design of the DDR process; sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV); and prevention.

While the peace process in Mozambique has sought to ensure that a gender perspective is included throughout the process, gender inclusion still faces challenges in the Mozambican context. Patriarchal norms are prevalent, and development indicators show considerable inequality of opportunity between women and men. Mozambique was ranked 110/167 on the Global Women, Peace and Security (WPS) index (2019).

However, in 2018, Mozambique launched its first National Action Plan (NAP) for WPS for the period 2018–2022. Mozambique has chosen Norway as its strategic partner for WPS. Norway contributes to the implementation of the NAP through its support to UN Women, which in turn provides support to the Ministries of Gender, Interior and Defence.

The Norwegian Embassy's work on WPS in Mozambique is an integral part of Norway's engagement for peace, reconciliation and gender inclusion in the country. Norway participates in the peace process' international contact group, and contributes technical expertise to the working group on DDR. The Embassy in Maputo supports UN Women's work, which aims to achieve full and equal representation and participation at all levels of peace processes and security efforts in Mozambique. In addition, the Embassy supports several relevant initiatives that will be an integral part of the implementation of the peace agreement.

The rise of violent extremism in the northern province of Cabo Delgado has led to a dramatic increase in humanitarian and security challenges. The province has seen regular attacks on civilians by extremist groups since October 2017, and this has accelerated in 2020. SGBV is a serious challenge in this context.

KEY RESULTS

The following is an account of Norway's contribution to relevant NAP outcomes in Mozambique:

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROCESSES

Outcome 1.1. Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate participation by women in all phases

The peace process in Mozambique has sought to ensure that a gender perspective is included throughout the process, in terms of women's participation in negotiations, the role of gender in the design of the DDR process, combatting and preventing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), the promotion of the WPS agenda in government, the Peace Process Secretariat, civil society and other actors involved in the peace and reconciliation work. The Peace Process Secretariat and UN Women's work has been thoroughly guided by the UN Security

Council Resolution 1325 and Mozambique's NAP on WPS, launched in 2018 with support from Norway. A current priority is to translate the WPS agenda and the NAP from policy to practice, and work to increase capacity and inclusion in all spheres.

Outputs:

- Political dialogue. In its work, the Embassy has focused on the importance of women's participation in dialogue with all relevant actors.
- Dissemination and popularisation of the NAP and other knowledge products and advocacy materials on WPS, directed towards government, development agencies, civil society, women's grassroots organisations and the general public.
- Community-based women's organisations strengthened their capacity to participate in conflict prevention, mediation and resolution in their communities.
- Police and defence officials enhanced their competence on promotion of gender equality, protection of women's and girls' human rights, as well as peace and security policies in security body strategies and programmes in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325.
- Government and civil society institutions were trained to provide protection, health, psychosocial and legal assistance to women and girls at risk of and survivors of violence.
- Continued support for staff and training of the WPS unit in the Ministry of Gender and Social Action (MGCAS), and technical support to MGCAS to lead the coordination and monitoring of NAP initiatives being implemented by different actors in Mozambique.
- Training of police and military academic institutions on gender equality and the WPS agenda. Partnerships with the Ministry of National Defence (MDN) and the Ministry of Interior (MINT).
- Sponsored professionals from the training academies of MDN and MINT as well as Eduardo Mondlane University who completed a post-graduate programme with a focus on WPS.
- Training of representatives from grassroots and civil society organisations on the WPS agenda and NAP.
- Establishment of the National Civil Society Platform on Women, Peace and Security, and provision of regular technical assistance to the Platform in the development of its strategic action plan.

Challenges:

- There are no formal mechanisms for women's involvement in peace and reconciliation processes.
- Challenges in getting processes to progress from the dialogue level to concrete initiatives.
- The interplay between gender roles creates barriers to women being seen as legitimate leaders, both within their communities and in the peace process.

Outcome 1.2: Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate respect for both women's and men's rights, needs and priorities

A key priority is to raise awareness of the rights and needs of women in rural areas. Norway has supported several advocacy initiatives by UN Women, particularly related to promoting and launching the National Action Plan of Mozambique in seven of ten provinces, with the focus on rural areas. A rights-based approach is key in activities facilitated by UN Women, and the feedback, at the grassroots level in particular, has been positive, especially related to gender-based violence. There are inspiring stories about women who have taken the lead to resolve local conflicts after the training.

Outputs: The Norwegian Embassy in Maputo supported the following outputs in 2020:

- Documented Good Practices in women's organisations for the promotion of the WPS agenda and socioeconomic recovery in Mozambique.
- Engaged men on the role of men in promoting the active participation of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding and consolidation at the community level through dialogue.

- Conducted a study to identify opportunities and a suitable model to facilitate women's access to socioeconomic opportunities in the context of post-conflict recovery.
- Fostered the development of safe spaces and the provision of referral services for women and girls at risk of or survivors of violence.
- Engaged government, civil society organisations, women led-organisations, development agencies and the private sector in consultations to identify economic empowerment opportunities for women, and contributed to the design of an economic opportunities model and strategy.
- Supported several workshops in rural areas with the focus on raising awareness of women's rights and SGBV.
- Facilitated a south-south solidarity workshop focused on exchanging experiences between women's movements and groups on peace, security and women's economic empowerment.
- Supported the IESE research institute to study the root causes of the conflict in Cabo Delgado, and how it affects women and men in the communities.

Challenges:

- Low degree of awareness of women's rights in rural areas.
- The needs are vast, and the level of public services is limited, particularly in rural areas.
- Although the legal framework is adequate, the lack of resources on many levels makes it challenging to ensure implementation of laws and government work plans, and thereby ensure real impact.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACE AGREEMENTS

Outcome 2.1: Women's participation is facilitated in the implementation of peace agreements

A peace agreement between the Government of Mozambique (Frelimo) and the opposition (Renamo) was signed in August 2019, which was a major achievement. Norway's primary contribution to this outcome is its support to the Peace Process Secretariat. In 2020, the focus has been on the commencement and progress of the DDR process. The Peace Process Secretariat seeks to ensure a gender perspective is included throughout the process. The increased participation and voices of women will positively contribute to the sustainability of peace in Mozambique.

Outputs:

- Political dialogue: inclusion of women is an integral part of the dialogue with the main actors, contributing to increased ownership of the WPS agenda among the actors in relation to the implementation of the peace agreement.
- Gender parity in the Peace Process Secretariat. Currently, 48% of PPS staff are women, with a 71% representation of women on the senior management team. This point has been actively promoted within PPS as an example of the core values of equality and diversity that guide its work.
- General progress of the DDR process. As of December 2020, six military bases have been closed and 29% of ex-combatants (1,490) have been integrated into the communities of their choice.
- Demobilisation of female combatants. 140 female combatants were demobilised during the closure of one of the bases, representing over half of the total (257) female ex-combatants.
- Practical steps have been taken to facilitate women's participation in DDR activities. These include; a) Identification of a Gender Focal Point within PPS to review all plans and procedures with a gender lens; b) Reinsertion packages which are given to all ex-combatants have been specifically tailored to women to ensure they include appropriate clothing; c) The Assembly Area (AA) where registration activities for DDR take place have been designed to include separate sleeping and lavatory facilities for women; d) Gender parity has been promoted among services providers working in the AA.

Outcome 2.2: When implementing peace agreements, steps are taken to safeguard both women's and men's rights

Norway has supported several activities through the UN and the Peace Process Secretariat in order to contribute to a rights-based approach to the implementation of the peace agreement. The Peace Process Secretariat is guided by the goal of facilitating a constructive reintegration process for female ex-combatants as well as the host communities, which is intended to mitigate the potential negative impacts of reintegration if its gender dimensions are not adequately taken into account.

Outputs:

- Thorough assessments have been carried out to map affected persons and identify needs in order to ensure that the social reintegration component of the peace agreement is able to respond to these needs.
- In relation to the demobilisation of female combatants, interviews were carried out with a random sample of 46 combatants in order to generate a better understanding of the needs of the women going forward.
- A gender consultant has been engaged to support this work with further assessments planned in the future.

MYANMAR

CONTEXT

The current peace process coordination mechanisms have seen minimal involvement and meaningful participation of women in 2020. Policy and legislation have yet to fully support women's participation in the peace process or the rehabilitation of women who have experienced conflict violence.

The Framework Agreement for Political Dialogue only established a non-binding goal of 30% women's participation. Only three of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee's (UPDJC) 48 members are women, well below the recommended minimum standard set out in both the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) itself as well as CEDAW. The Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JMC) does not substantively address the contributions women make to sustainable peace.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a limited number of participants at the fourth 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference organised in August 2020. There was a notable decline in women delegates at the Union Peace Conference. From 22% at the third Union Peace Conference held in 2018 to 17% at the fourth 21st Century Panglong Conference in August 2020.

Despite the institutional barriers that limit women's representation in leadership roles in politics, the year 2020 nonetheless saw some progress among the signatory Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) and political parties in advancing the WPS agenda. The ten Ethnic Armed Organisations that have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement established a women's wing of Women Leadership in Peace Process (WLPP).

In addition, more women leaders from the government, EAOs and political parties are now seen in the technical teams of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee. More political parties and NCA-SEAOs (the ethnic armed groups that have signed the NCA) are willing to develop gender policy by reaching out for technical support and drafting assistance.

Finally, the new peace architecture announced after the November election, which should pave the way for the participation of all stakeholders, indicates that the peace process will be more effectively implemented beyond 2020.

Through the new systems and mechanisms, civil society is ready to seize any political opportunities to further implement the WPS agenda and gender inclusion in the Myanmar peace process – at all levels and in all tracks. If allowed in, civil society organisations can play a very constructive role in promoting gender perspectives in peace process related forums.

KEY RESULTS

The following is an account of Norway's contribution to relevant NAP outcomes in Myanmar:

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROCESSES

Outcome 1.1. Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate participation by women in all phases

The armed conflicts continued amid the COVID-19 pandemic with clashes in Rakhine State, Chin State and Shan State in particular. Despite these clashes, several WPS actors and civil society managed to continue advocacy and coordination work for the Union Peace Conference held in August.

UN Women, as co-chair of the Technical Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, worked with the Alliance for Gender Inclusion in Peace Process (AGIPP) to enlist the technical assistance of the TWG, as a group, to the NRPC on how to integrate a gender perspective and facilitate the inclusion of women in the peace process.

UN Women further contributes through the development of a curriculum for the *Gender Leadership Programme – Women, Peace and Security* that will roll out to all members of the TWG in 2021 to ensure uniform understanding of the WPS agenda across actors.

Through the project, supported by Norway, UN Women further facilitated the participation of AGIPP in the global conference on WPS organised by the Government of Vietnam and the United Nations in December 2020.

With Norwegian funding, UN Women supported the development of a curriculum for local and grassroots women peace advocates, which will be rolled out in early 2021 in order to support women in Mon, Kayin and Kayah in monitoring the WPDPs and their broader participation in local conflict resolution processes.

Norway funded advocacy efforts by UN Women that have contributed to a shift in the government's attitude. The Department of Social Welfare (DSW) committed to increasing the focus on WPS in the next phase of the NSPAW and in the consultation process that will be established to guide its development and submission to the ASEAN ACWC, including a proposal to host a series of WPS regional seminars between 2021 and 2023.

The advocacy work and technical assistance of the Alliance for Gender Inclusion in Peace Process (AGIPP), with Norwegian funding, have yielded positive outcomes among ethnic parties in nominating women at decision-making level and candidates for the 2020 elections. Following the establishment of a gender-sensitive policy, the Mon Unity Party backed 8 women among the 59 members of the Central Executive Committee (CEC).

Funds for women's organisations and civil society are channelled bilaterally as well as multilaterally through the Joint Peace Fund (JPF). The flexibility provided by Norway's funding allowed women's organisations to work beyond peacebuilding, and across the participation and protection silos of the WPS agenda.

The Norwegian funding helped to improve the women's organisations' strategic planning and to build networks with stakeholders to advance both the protection and participation goals of the WPS agenda.

Through the JPF, the efforts, concerns and recommendations of women's organisations at the sub-national level are fed into the national peace process. The Joint Peace Fund has shown leadership by developing a separate window for Women, Peace and Security, and an ambitious commitment for a minimum of 15% of all funds to go to gender-sensitive inclusion.

Through the partnership with the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPCS), Norway contributes to women's peace leadership skills and to new strategies for more effective engagement in the peace process in Myanmar. Participants in the Transformative Peace Leadership programme (TPL) are selected because of their links to the wider Myanmar peace process with Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs), as women and organisations that can potentially influence the peace process.

In 2020, the Transformative Peace Leadership programme was completed. Analyses and reflections discussed with women leaders to assess their strategic positions and strengths in the Myanmar peace process were compiled in a report for reference purposes for stakeholders in WPS work.

Outputs: The Norwegian Embassy in Yangon supported the following activities in 2020:

- As co-chair of the Technical Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, UN Women supported the development of a *Gender Leadership Programme* curriculum and a curriculum for local and grassroots women peace advocates (Partner: UN Women).

- Norway facilitated the creation of an informal group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security among development partners, which enabled coordination efforts to be strengthened ahead of the resumption of the Panglong Peace Talks in August 2020 (Partner: UN Women).
- Provided technical support and gender advice to NCA-SEAOs, the WPS Technical Working Group and political parties, endeavouring to make more space for women in the peace process (Partner: AGIPP).
- Advocacy efforts with key stakeholders took place under the title of Advocacy Meeting with NCA-SEAOs and Women Leadership in Peace Process (Partner: AGIPP).
- Developed gender policy for Chin ethnic political parties (CNLD) (Partner: AGIPP).
- The last cycles of the Transformative Peace Leadership (TPL) programme were completed with six key women, and the first module of the Transformative Peace Leadership programme was held for ten women from Myanmar Civil Society (Partner: CPCS).
- Women, Peace and Security related capacity training across programme activities; 57% of 1,141 women received WPS-related capacity training (Partner: Joint Peace Fund).
- Participation of women in local, state and union level meetings on the peace process. Norwegian support has facilitated childcare while women have been engaged in meetings, capacity building for negotiation skills, as well as travel expenses to meetings relating to the peace process (Partner: JPF).
- Participation of women at the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference in August 2020 (4th Peace Conference). The number of participants/women declined due to the COVID-19 pandemic (Partner: JPF).

Challenges: Despite progress in terms of official discourse around the participation of women, the actual inclusion of women in the official peace process remains low among the main stakeholders, the civilian government of Myanmar, Tatmadaw and the ethnic armed groups.

Collaboration between the different EAOs and ethnic CSOs is challenging – there is a lack of trust, transparency and/or political will to work closely together to sustain the peace process. CSOs are struggling to secure and maintain the attention of key peace process actors in order to establish a firm agenda in the complexities of the ethnic contexts.

Getting men to engage in WPS awareness training and forums at state level is one of the many challenges as the WPS agenda has not been prioritised by some peace stakeholders.

The slow progress of the peace process has not helped. On the contrary, it has diluted efforts to strengthen the participation of women.

It will be important to watch whether the peace process accelerates under the new government in 2021, and to see whether a new window of opportunity opens that could allow for sustained advocacy and programmatic efforts in this space.

Outcome 1.2: Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate respect for both women’s and men’s rights, needs and priorities

Norway continued to fund UN Women’s work in support of women, peace and development plans (WPDPs) in three states, promoting steps towards fulfilling WPS commitments at state and national level.

The official launch of the last of the three Women, Peace and Development Plans for the Advancement of Women took place in Kayah in early 2020 just before the country started implementing stay-at-home orders linked to the COVID-19 crisis.

With renewed and specific support from Norway, UN Women supported the establishment of steering committees for monitoring and guiding the implementation of the WPDPs and supported the efforts made by the steering committees to re-prioritise the WPDPs in light of the COVID-19 crisis and its different impact in each of the states.

Approximatively 50% of the WPDPs were under implementation through government, UN and other development partners at the end of 2020.

The women, peace and development plans include comprehensive action points and approaches to enhance women's meaningful participation in the areas of peace process, women's safety, health, education, economic empowerment and natural resources management.

The plans provide a unique platform to ensure a firm state government focus on the specific needs of women and girls in relation to the COVID-19 crisis and to galvanise a response, thereby continuing to provide a unique model that is being considered for replication in other parts of the country.

Outputs:

- Launch event for the Kayah WPDPs (Partner: UN Women).
- Meetings of the Mon State and Kayin State WPDP steering committees to prioritise COVID-19 response needs for women and girls (Partner: UN Women).
- Regular consultations between UN Women and women CSOs in Kayin and Mon States focusing on the gender dimension of the COVID-19 crisis in those states, and in connection with the prioritisation exercise for the WPDPs (Partner: UN Women).
- Direct support for the implementation of the COVID-19 aspect of the WPDPs through support for women CSO-led women's economic empowerment efforts, focusing on mask and hand sanitizer production in partnership with Mon and Kayin States governments and with procurement of the items organised by these state authorities for distribution to women and girls in need.
- Development and adoption by the WPS TWG of a policy brief on *Return and Resettlement from a Gender Perspective* which has been submitted to the MNCW to support the roll out of the National Camp Closure Strategy (Partner: UN Women)

Challenges:

- The COVID-19 crisis impacted the ability of UN Women, as it did all development partners, to implement programmes in 2020. However, the COVID-19 crisis also acted as a catalyst and provided a new important evidence base for advocating gender responsive and inclusive governance at the local level.
- In both Mon and Kayin States, the WPDPs served as important platforms for focusing the state authorities' attention on the gender dimension of the COVID-19 crisis and on the need to calibrate the state-level response and to include women-led organisations as key actors in the response.

Norway therefore decided to expand its support to UN Women in 2020 to focus on the nexus between governance, peace and COVID-19, working on the structure and lessons learned by the WPDPs in Kayin and Mon States.

HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

Outcome 4.1 Humanitarian efforts facilitate women's involvement

The signing of the Joint Communiqué with the SRSG-SVC in December 2018 was the first formal recognition of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) by any Myanmar government. That is significant and should be utilised by the international community both to recognise steps in the right direction and to put pressure on the follow-up of these steps to further safeguard women's and men's rights.

In March 2019, the Government of Myanmar established a National Committee on the issue, including a wide range of relevant ministries. The Joint Communiqué commits to six preventive measures:

- Legal reforms and strengthening the rule of law.
- Training and capacity building for justice and security sector actors, particularly in connection with the investigation and prosecution of sexual violence, and in relation to International Humanitarian Law, including Protection of Civilians.
- Effective access to strengthened service delivery for survivors of sexual violence, particularly in conflict areas.
- Prevention of sexual violence included in specific provisions of any peace and/or repatriation agreements.
- Exclusion from amnesty for perpetrators of sexual violence.
- Risk mitigation measures relating to CRSV and raising awareness of sexual exploitation/violence among Border Guard Police and immigration officials.

Taking the signing of the Joint Communiqué as an opportunity to address the many challenges relating to CRSV in Myanmar, the Norwegian Embassy in Yangon signed an agreement with UNFPA at the end of 2019 to strengthen prevention of and accountability for CRSV through support for the meaningful implementation of Myanmar's Joint Communiqué on the matter.

The project has been organised during 2020 to support prevention and ensure accountability through the provision of contextualised and evidence-informed technical assistance, advocacy and dialogue, and to promote the engagement and capacity development of various stakeholders, including civil society organisations and the JMC in Shan State. The proposed programme is aligned with the priorities of Norway's Humanitarian Strategy and commitments to protection and combating SGBV.

Despite initial positive signals from the Myanmar government, tangible and meaningful progress towards the actual implementation of the *Joint Communiqué on Conflict Related Sexual Violence* has been weak. Engagement of security and relevant departments (Tatmadaw and the security ministries) is so far very limited.

Despite significant implementation challenges due to COVID-19 and the lack of government engagement in 2020, adaptations in the second and third quarters enabled UNFPA to continue advancing the CRSV agenda with the government with the support of Norway.

The MARA Working Group became functional, CSOs, I/NGOs and the donor community have increased awareness of the JC, CRSV and elevated knowledge in preparation for possible JCF formation.

Effective engagement with CSOs, I/NGOs and the donor community during 2020 has elevated conceptual and practical knowledge and understanding of CRSV prevention and response, as well as UN efforts and systems.

CSO engagement through seminars has enhanced practical understanding of CRSV in Myanmar and supported increased awareness of survivor-centred GBV data collection and reporting, which enables CSOs to provide input to the OSRSG annual reporting process.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is gradually implementing standard operating procedures for case management and clinical guidelines for responding to rape.

Outputs: Through Norwegian funding, UNFPA achieved the following results in 2020:

- Periodic input and communication with OSRSG to strategize enhancement of JC implementation.
- An International Senior Protection Adviser appointed – providing high-level technical support.
- Translations of key guidance and good practice resources made available to relevant stakeholders on an online platform. Periodic input and communication with OSRSG to strategize enhancement of the implementation of the Joint Communiqué.

Challenges:

- Due to physical distancing measures, stay-at-home orders and other public health restrictions under COVID-19, in-person events and meetings were halted with budgetary implications. Face to face meetings were required to be held virtually.
- Lack of engagement from the Myanmar government was another key barrier to delivering activities. Despite repeated attempts, the GoM did not meaningfully engage with the UN on CRSV in 2020.
- Constructive engagement with the Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JMC) was not possible either. The JMC has remained disinterested in the issue and engagement at this point runs the risk of being merely superficial.
- Contracting national consultants has been challenging due to an inability to meet remuneration requests commensurate with market rates yet exceeding UNFPA's policy.

There has therefore been less ad hoc technical support in 2020 than anticipated at CSO seminars, CRSV seminars and in media engagement.

NIGERIA

CONTEXT

Nigeria launched its second National Action Plan (NAP) on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in 2017, and State Action Plans (SAPs) have been finalised in 11 (Kano, Adamawa, Plateau, Kaduna, Gombe, Kogi, Bayelsa, Borno, Delta Yobe and Rivers) of the 36 states. An additional three states (Nasarawa, Benue and Bauchi) will launch their plans in 2021.

Nigeria is a patriarchal society with different security challenges that include conflict between herders and farmers in the Middle Belt, ethnic clashes and conflict over land and oil resources in the South, and terrorist insurgency in the North-East. Violence and conflict are increasing in the North-West.

Women in Nigeria face a number of barriers to leadership and decision-making, including cultural and traditional beliefs and practices. Nigeria has the lowest representation of women in parliament in Africa.

Boko Haram has made attacks on women's rights and security part of their strategy. However, women are also recruited, perform violent acts and put pressure on others to take part in violent extremism. Often, the roles women play in radical movements in northern Nigeria are determined by men.

Partners in Nigeria are working to develop early warning mechanisms to prevent conflicts. At times, women may have information that can provide early warning of conflict or impending violence. In other situations, women do *not* have access to information, while men do. This can lead to men leaving women behind in the village while they go into hiding. In these situations, women are often at higher risk of sexual and other kinds of abuse, which further impedes and delays their ability to escape.

Nigeria has seen a sharp increase in sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) after the COVID-19 pandemic reached the country. The situation has led to demonstrations and broad media coverage, which in turn have forced the government to focus on working against SGBV.

Autumn 2020 saw mass demonstrations against police brutality in several of the country's cities. While many high-profile cases of police brutality have been predominantly inflicted on young men, sexual assault and violent incidents against women are widespread. The protests known as #EndSARS called for an end to the abuse of power and disbanding the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS). Nigerian women were at the forefront of these protests, attracting broad recognition for their organisation and leadership skills.

Nigeria has many laws in place and is a signatory to many relevant resolutions. However, law enforcement and compliance are weak, and domestication of laws at state level is slow. Security sectors in Nigeria have been slow to adopt gender-sensitive policies and to include women in their establishment.

KEY RESULTS

The following is an account of Norway's contribution to relevant NAP outcomes in Nigeria:

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROCESSES

Outcome 1.1. Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate participation by women in all phases

Outputs: The UN Women WPS programme in Bauchi and Benue states made progress in several areas in the reporting period. State Action Plans (SAPs) were developed. However, the official launch was postponed to early 2021 due to COVID-19 challenges. Both states have incorporated the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act into laws.

The UN Women programme made more women come out and speak openly on issues such as gender-based violence. Additionally, women are involved in Early Warning and Early Response interventions.

The capacity of Ministries, Departments and Agencies' (MDAs) Gender Desk Officers in Bauchi and Benue was enhanced. A guide was developed on the Nigerian Legislature's Role in Advancing Women, Peace and Security. A gender assessment of security forces (the Nigerian Army, Police and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps), and the judiciary in the states was conducted, as well as a rapid gender impact assessment of COVID-19 on the sectors. A Gender Desk for the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps was established, and a gender policy is being developed for the Nigerian Armed Forces. Despite the challenges related to COVID-19, WPS programmes supported by Norway have delivered well. The Embassy has worked closely with partners to ensure that programme activities did not stop.

As part of the Beijing +25 anniversary, the Embassy, in partnership with UN Women, hosted the second part of an intergenerational dialogue that was launched in July 2019, between 25 Nigerian veteran women activists and 25 young activists. Together, they completed an in-depth mentorship programme in 2020, which has contributed to increasing the capacity, closing the generational gap and countering fragmentation in the women's movement.

Challenges: The Embassy aims to work closely with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs to strengthen government leadership and implementation of the WPS agenda. This is a challenge because the Ministry is underfunded and has limited technical capacity.

There is a lack of political will to change the current situation for women in the country. The persistent inability to pass the Gender and Equal Opportunities bill is one such example.

Women's networks in Nigeria are very fragmented. This fragmentation is a challenge for the Nigerian women's movement since they are unable to join forces and stand united.

The baseline is low at federal as well as state level. While decision-making partners at state level in principle support WPS as a policy area, in practice it is seen as an agenda for women, supported by the UN and the international community rather than something that truly can benefit the state. Local NGOs in some states have little or no experience of WPS. The context is often politicised, and NGOs struggle to play meaningful, neutral roles, especially outside the humanitarian space.

Programme implementation was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic with its implications for travel and people gathering for meetings and training.

Outcome 1.2: Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate respect for both women's and men's rights, needs and priorities

Outputs: The UN Women programme contributed to the development of a network of a total of 200 women mediators in Bauchi and Benue states. In addition, the programme developed a training resource pack for conflict prevention and peacebuilding with the aim of enhancing the capacity building training planned for the women mediators.

Efforts are underway to change public perception to create a more conducive environment for women in peace and reconciliation activities. Radio producers and presenters have been trained to ensure gender-sensitive programming. A WPS radio programme was established on Globe F.M and Radio Benue in Bauchi and Benue states. In total, 52 episodes in Bauchi and 46 episodes in Benue, plus jingles (including COVID-19 mainstreaming), have been aired.

A WPS website has been launched (wpsnigeria.net), for the purpose of exchanging resources, success stories and lessons learned. In addition, male gender champions were identified and engaged as allies for the WPS agenda.

Challenges: Please see reporting under outcome 1.1.

HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

Outcome 4.1 Humanitarian efforts facilitate women's involvement

Outputs: The Embassy advocated for a women's and gender lens in humanitarian assistance through our engagement with humanitarian partners, and through our own complementary development assistance such as with FAO, which supports climate-smart agriculture and has integrated a gender focus across the project. Support through UNICEF provided psychosocial support and counselling to women and girls who have been captured by Boko Haram and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

During the 16 Days of Activism campaign, the Embassy engaged relevant partners in the North-East, to ensure the campaign would reach beyond Abuja. In addition, the Embassy attended an online workshop in Adamawa on a Call to Action against SGBV in conflict areas.

The Embassy worked closely with humanitarian actors on issues related to SGBV.

Challenges: The COVID-19 pandemic made it challenging for programme partners to implement activities, especially due to travel restrictions.

PALESTINE

CONTEXT

There are many challenges facing Palestinian women and their right to live in peace and security. COVID-19, the Israeli threat of annexation and the Palestinian Authorities' (PA) decision to stop all coordination with Israel added to the already complex web of challenges with a particularly detrimental effect on Palestinian women.

No official peace process, decades of occupation, political strife and the geographical, political and legal fragmentation between the West Bank and Gaza have increased women's vulnerability to violence and serve as obstacles to their enhanced economic, political and social participation.

Despite Palestinian accession to several core international human rights conventions, discrimination remains in national legislation, as do the hallmarks of a patriarchal society, which uphold gender stereotypes and hinder women's empowerment and equality in their families and in society.

The PA has taken steps to institutionalise the WPS agenda, but progress is limited. The current Minister of Women's Affairs (MOWA) is eager to achieve results for Palestinian women, but the funds allocated to her ministry are low as is its political power.

Palestine has no functioning elected parliament, making it difficult to bring about much needed legislative reforms. Different laws are applicable in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, allowing for continued violations of women's rights in matters of women's legal status, marriage, divorce, child custody and inheritance.

Although CEDAW was ratified in 2014 without reservations, the formal national process has yet to be finalised. Publishing the Convention in the Official Gazette and incorporating it into national law are prerequisites for it becoming applicable in Palestine, but neither has yet been done.

Due to political instability, especially in Palestinian areas where clans have strongholds, extremism and conservatism are on the rise, expressed by opposition to women's rights. Attempts to advance women's rights in the past year have been met with broad counter-campaigns led by tribal leaders and sharia lawyers. Women's organisations and activists report on the shrinking space and fear of repercussions and for their own security.

Although Palestine has a high percentage of educated women, the significantly higher rate of unemployment among educated women (47%) relative to men (18%) is a striking feature of the labour market. Women continue to be under-represented in decision-making bodies and processes at all levels of public life, including in past peace negotiations and internal reconciliation talks. The participation of women in the PA's COVID-19 emergency response plans is limited.

COVID-19 has exacerbated gender inequalities in society. Lockdown measures are contributing to normalising 'keeping women indoors for the sake of their own protection'. With families at home and limited household resources, psychosocial pressure on family members has increased, as has domestic violence. A significant increase in all forms of domestic violence (physical, psychological and economic) towards women is evident.

COVID-19-restrictions on movement are reducing women's access to essential services (including health, protection, security and justice). The closures of courts have led to increasing reversion to traditional informal mediation, placing women at risk of exploitation. In line with women's traditional role as 'care takers', women have assumed additional, often unpaid, care roles for their families and local communities, rendering them more vulnerable economically and in terms of COVID-19 exposure.

Women constitute the majority working in the informal sector, where there is no work protection or income compensation. Additionally, almost 25% of women who work in the private sector do not have an employment

contract. Reduced income in addition to increased poverty and unemployment rates are consequences of the pandemic that are particularly significant for women.

Given the above context, our window of opportunity within the WPS agenda in Palestine is levelling the field for an inclusive and sustainable peace process and continuing Norway's support for institution-building in preparation for a negotiated two-state solution: increasing the capacity of Palestinian women and women's networks; and promoting meaningful increased participation by women and securing women's rights, needs and priorities. This includes strengthening the institutional framework for WPS in Palestine, supporting the WPS agenda set forth in the Palestinian NAP, and working on several levels from the political to the grassroots level.

We emphasise that although the occupation is one of the main obstacles for Palestinian women, Palestine must achieve change from within in order to be in a stronger position to address the obstacles from the outside. The patriarchal society and glass ceiling in politics and decision-making must be addressed. We uphold the potential powerful impact for Palestine and the Palestinian cause if Palestine would promote, elevate and hear its women in politics, in business and in peace and reconciliation.

KEY RESULTS

An account of Norway's contribution to relevant NAP outcomes in Palestine follows below:

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROCESSES

Outcome 1.1. Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate participation by women in all phases

In the absence of formal peace and reconciliation processes, both with Israel and internally, our efforts are geared towards levelling the field for future sustainable peace and state-building processes, by focusing on the inclusion and protection of women.

In 2020, Norway supported partners that achieved:

- Higher and meaningful women's participation in public life
- An improved public perception of women's roles through inclusive consultations at various levels
- A strengthened institutional set-up for the WPS agenda in Palestine.

The Palestinian Negotiation Affairs Department (NAD) maintained a 50% share of female negotiation advisers, and ensured women participated as negotiation advisers in national peace and security activities throughout the year. Norway has been in dialogue with NAD on further strengthening their focus on WPS in the coming year.

MIFTAH and UN Women focused on increasing women's political participation and improving public perception of women's roles in Palestinian society. MIFTAH took the lead on a national advocacy campaign building on its achievement last year; a quota of at least 30% female candidates in elections. The advocacy campaign led to increased awareness of the amended legislation and highlighted the need for further reform of the election legislation. By providing leadership and electoral training for 83 female council members and nominated candidates, the project ensured that women increased their readiness to participate as candidates in elections, and as meaningful contributors in the political sphere. In addition, (mostly virtual) consultations were held in the West Bank and Gaza that led to greater awareness of women's right to political participation and the importance of civic engagement as a means to achieve desired change. Through a participatory approach including the voices of Palestinian CSOs and women's organisations, MIFTAH developed the national advocacy strategy for WPS 2021–2023.

The joint UN Women and MOWA programme 'Advancing the WPS agenda in Palestine' (still under implementation) led to trained women leaders in the West Bank and Gaza being given support to engage in

reconciliation efforts, national dialogue and in the political sphere. At community level, (mostly virtual) awareness-raising workshops and consultations on UNSCR 1325 were held. Through the events, women voiced their needs to relevant key actors, in order to lobby decision-makers to address these needs. Norway strengthened the institutional set-up of WPS in Palestine, by funding the development of Palestine's new NAP 2021–2023, which was presented in November. A M&E system of the plan's implementation is currently under development.

Norway funded two virtual seminars marking the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 and the launch of the new Palestinian NAP on WPS. National and international WPS stakeholders at all levels participated. The seminars proved useful venues for the PA to commit political will to the agenda and obtain perspectives on how to ensure its implementation. Palestinian women leaders and CSOs voiced their opinions and interacted with senior government and UN officials. Policy briefs summarising the main recommendations were shared with the various stakeholders and the UN system. In his brief to the Security Council on July 21, the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process referred to one of the seminars and highlighted its importance. Most attendees emphasised the Norwegian-funded Palestinian NAP as an important achievement and step towards advancing the agenda going forward.

The cooperation between Norway and MOWA was further strengthened by a bilateral agreement signed in late 2020. By funding MOWA on project basis, Norwegian funds will build capacity within MOWA, support the Minister's political WPS agenda and contribute to gender mainstreaming across the PA. The results of this cooperation will be included in next year's report.

Contribution to outcome: The above outputs are expected to contribute to higher representation of women in politics, in COVID-19 recovery and in peace and security dialogue. The advocacy and outreach at different levels nationally are expected to contribute to an improved public perception of women's role in public life and peacebuilding. Norwegian support for the new Palestinian NAP has strengthened the institutional set-up for WPS in Palestine.

Outcome 1.2: Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate respect for both women's and men's rights, needs and priorities

Linked to outputs under outcome 1.1. The gender perspective and rights, needs and priorities of women targeted in the programmes are integrated in their design.

In addition, Palestinian women's rights are strongly linked to conflict prevention and to their security. The ongoing COVID-19 crisis has rendered Palestinian women more vulnerable to rights violations. We see the safeguarding of women's rights as a prerequisite for sustainable state and peacebuilding in Palestine.

In line with that, we supported programmes aimed at:

- protecting women's rights through recommendations for amendments of discriminatory laws
- providing legal counselling and enabling women to understand their rights and access justice

Two of our partners, WCLAC and MIFTAH in cooperation with the Coalition of Personal Laws in Palestine, addressed the many discriminatory Personal Status Laws in Palestine, governing women's legal status, marriage, divorce, child custody and inheritance. These laws oppress women in that they maintain women's status as inferior to men and hence serve as barriers to women expanding their roles outside their family units. Evidence-based studies were conducted, and concrete policy recommendations were presented to political decision-makers as input to necessary legislative amendments, and to civil society for advocacy and awareness-raising purposes. Our partners joined forces to push the PA to revise and pass the Family Protection Law, protecting women from GBV, domestic violence and femicide. After the last reading of the draft law in the Palestinian

Cabinet on 11 May, a broad counter campaign was launched by conservative elements in Palestinian society headed by Sharia lawyers opposed to improving women's rights. Although our partners successfully managed to get the Minister of Women's Affairs on board on six recommendations improving the draft law, the revision and passing of the law is now at a standstill.

WCLAC, PCHR and PFPPA continued their programmes protecting and empowering women suffering discrimination and violence. Our partners have responded to increased violations of women's rights stemming from the COVID-19 crisis, while at the same time tackling restrictions on movement and physical service provision by shifting service provision to a larger proportion of remote services: phone, e-counselling and 24/7 GBV hotline services. Due to COVID-19 lockdowns, the courts have been closed for long periods at a time. This has led to a backlog in women's legal cases that our partners report they have successfully managed to address by allocating increased resources once the courts reopened. As a result, a considerable number of women throughout the West Bank and Gaza were given access to their social and legal rights through court representation, mediation and counselling. The women were empowered beyond the timeframe of the interventions, through sessions of long-term social counselling.

Contribution to outcome: Linked to reporting under contributions to outcome, output 1.1.

In addition, it is expected that the project outputs described above (output 1.2) will have contributed to increased respect for women's rights, needs and priorities through empowering and counselling women themselves and through advocacy and the presentation of evidence-based recommendations for policy and legislative amendments to decision makers.

HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

The Norwegian Representative Office (NRO) does not provide humanitarian funds. The Foreign Ministry manages these funds, but the Office manages development funds for regions affected by emergency and crisis.

Outcome 4.1 Humanitarian efforts facilitate women's involvement

Responding to the gendered impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, Norway, through two of our partners, provided emergency direct household deliveries to marginalised women throughout the West Bank and Gaza. Our partners combined the deliveries with women's involvement in the design and implementation of the interventions. PFPPA's intervention led to 560 marginalised women receiving food and hygiene items, in addition to short-term and long-term contraception based on discrete prior approval. Local civil-based women's organisations were utilised to identify the beneficiaries and ensure that the organisation of the deliveries did not jeopardise the women's security. The women targeted were previous beneficiaries of PFPPA's SRHR and GBV services, whom as a consequence of the pandemic and pertaining restrictions were unable to access basic services or obtain necessities for their families. MIFTAH's intervention enabled female local council members and women leaders in the West Bank and Gaza to design and implement emergency response interventions targeting the most marginalised women in their communities. The intervention resulted in women's political and civic engagement in identifying and ensuring the delivery of 2,000 food and care packages to marginalised women head of households.

The UN Women programme (ongoing) includes interventions where unemployed women participate and voice their needs in relation to emergency recovery planning and implementation, including COVID-19, both in the West Bank and Gaza. To ensure that civic participation is coupled with economic compensation, while also addressing the needs stemming from the ongoing pandemic, female health graduates were offered job placements as nurses, after participating in a capacity-building programme focusing on WPS and civic participation. In addition, through a reallocation within the UN Women programme, Norway supported MOWA's COVID-19 emergency response plan which was implemented in the West Bank and Gaza by local women's organisations.

Our partner Ma'an (ongoing, signed agreement in late 2020) aims to increase women's economic participation in the most marginalised communities in the Jordan Valley (JV). The project will lead to women's direct participation in the recovery of their local economies, through microgrants establishing micro-enterprises led and owned by women. By targeting women who would otherwise most likely have remained unemployed or have been forced to work in Israeli settlements, the project combines humanitarian assistance with long-term development for and by marginalised women.

Norway is a substantial contributor to the Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) in Palestine focusing on economic empowerment of marginalised women in Hebron. The funds are managed by the Ministry, but the Office, as part of the National Steering Committee, takes part in the selection processes, assessments and follow-up. One year into its three-year implementation period, all 11 projects have been contracted and started. Results will be reported on in next year's annual WPS report.

Contribution to outcome: Our partner's involvement of women affected by crisis as active participants in recovery and in COVID-19 emergency response interventions ensures that the programme's output contributes to the outcome.

Outcome 4.2 Humanitarian efforts facilitate the safeguarding of both women's and men's rights, needs and priorities

The NRO does not provide humanitarian funds. The Foreign Ministry manages these funds, but the Office manages development funds for regions affected by emergency and crisis.

WCLAC in collaboration with fellow women's organisations ensured new regulations were approved by the council of ministers, safeguarding women GBV victims' rights for protection prior to being referred to shelters. Initially women victims of GBV were required to quarantine for 14 days in their homes where the abuse was likely to continue, thus hampering women's access to protection. The new procedural guidelines include COVID-19 testing for victims of GBV in urgent need of protection, provision of a safe space for women awaiting their results, and the guaranteed approval of a place in a shelter once a negative result is confirmed.

Through its programme 'protecting women's rights in the Gaza strip', PCHR targeted the most marginalised and crisis-affected region in Palestine. Through legal consultations and representing their cases in Sharia courts, women victims of GBV in Gaza accessed legal protection and justice.

In addition, women were given legal aid to secure their right to health and access health care facilities that are not available in Gaza. As a result of legal interventions, such as filing complaints to the Israeli Humanitarian Centre at the Erez Crossing, female patients were able to travel for advanced treatment in the West Bank or Israel.

Responding to the increased levels of violence towards women stemming from the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, Norway supported three emergency protection shelters for women in the West Bank and Gaza. WCLAC's emergency shelter provided emergency protection to women whose lives were under threat. The sheltered women gained the skills and knowledge required to claim their rights and to work with local communities to enable their reintegration. The project also included capacity building of local CBOs on how to provide legal and social counselling to women and raise women's awareness of their rights. This led to increased social and legal service provision in marginalised areas where such are scarce, and increased women's knowledge of where to access such services in their own communities or nearby. Norway's support to Nablus shelter and Beit Al Aman shelter in Gaza is ongoing, agreements were signed in late 2020. These shelter interventions will ensure qualified staff and essential infrastructure improvements to the shelters, in addition to improving the quality-of-service provision to the women sheltered.

Contribution to outcome: The emergency legal assistance that was provided contributed to securing marginalised women's rights, protecting them from violence and giving them access to health services. In the long term, it is likely that such interventions will lead to higher general awareness among women and those who violate their rights. As such, it might contribute to safeguarding women's rights. However, the violations of these rights are due to complex factors that also need to be dealt with separately, such as Israel's siege of Gaza and the entrenched discriminatory social norms and laws in Palestine.

THE PHILIPPINES

CONTEXT

The Philippines has experienced armed conflicts with different non-state armed groups for many years. Mostly low in scale and intensity, skirmishes take place in the most remote areas of the country. The conflicts can be broadly divided into three categories: the communist-ideological groups spread across the country; the separatist-autonomist Islamic self-determination groups in the southern part of Mindanao; and the terrorist groups and smaller cells with links to ISIS and its regional counterparts. A peace agreement with the largest armed group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, was signed in 2014, a core element of which was the establishment of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) in 2019.

The Philippines still ranks as the best performing country in Asia for gender parity based on the 2020 Gender Gap report. However, it has dropped eight places since the previous report. This has been attributed to a decline in both women's political participation and their representation in government in recent years. The Philippines' Magna Carta for Women enshrines a participatory, empowering and violence-free environment for women. It has also developed its second National Action Plan on the UNSCR 1325, which largely focuses on women's participation. However, implementation challenges related to patriarchal arrangements within the state and the sway of traditional customs and belief systems are still to be met.

Aside from the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, including the longest lockdowns in the world in 2020, the Philippines is also one of the most climate-vulnerable countries, with humanitarian crises, both natural and man-made, triggering regular contractions in the economy and internal displacements.

Norway has been the third-party facilitator between the communist armed insurgency, the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army/National Democratic Front of the Philippines – CPP/NPA/NDFP, and the Philippine government since 2001.

KEY RESULTS

An account of Norway's contribution to relevant NAP outcomes in the Philippines follows below:

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROCESSES

Outcome 1.1. Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate participation by women in all phases

Outputs: Norway continued to support the creation of women mediators' groups in different communities nationwide. Norway's local partners have trained and documented the work of women as peacekeepers in different conflict areas in the Philippines, including clan conflicts, mining in indigenous lands and community mediation. Their work has been documented through a short documentary.

Contribution to outcome: Local Women, Peace and Security champions are identified and trained. Training and workshops were provided in conflict resolution and reconciliation skills, Norwegian grants prioritize women-led projects that nurture women's community organizing initiatives. A local training manual was developed and a 12-woman training team was organized. Over 50 women mediators and local community peacekeepers have been trained.

Challenges: While the policies are conducive to women's participation, the current practices prevent stronger support of women through civil society organizations' engagement in the national government's formal agencies and processes. Furthermore, the peace negotiations stalled and platforms for enhancing women's participation in peace processes have been limited under the pandemic. There are also fewer women in leading positions in the peace processes, as many of the key civilian roles are filled by men. The current administration has engaged WPS champions to a lesser degree than in the past and has extensively appointed persons with a security sector background to civilian government positions. This has led to a reduced emphasis on WPS in the peace processes.

Outcome 1.2: Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate respect for both women's and men's rights, needs and priorities

Outputs: Norway supported several communities' COVID-19 response through the organized cooperatives of former women rebels. The celebration of the 20th anniversary of the UNSCR 1325 with UN Women and civil society organizations highlighted the gaps and areas of work to be addressed in the WPS process. Norway continued its engagement with the Philippine Ministry of Peace in its implementation of the peace agreement in the Bangsamoro region, supporting a strong focus on Women, Peace and Security in its governance work. Norway also supported the drafting of the Bangsamoro NAP 1325 priorities and the Bangsamoro women's agenda that outlined priorities and principles for the new Bangsamoro Transitional Authority.

Contribution to outcome: The Bangsamoro peace agreement's transition is supported by Norway increasing the capabilities and expertise of the Bangsamoro Women Commission, and in civil society, with local partners and through grassroots initiatives.

- Organized government-community interaction through dialogue with the Bangsamoro Women Commission.
- Organized five cooperatives/community associations composed of over 70 former women rebel operatives (Moro Islamic Liberation Front and Bangsamoro Islamic Women Auxiliary Brigade members).

Challenges: The consultations and face-to-face dialogue meetings were hampered by the lockdown restrictions during the pandemic.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACE AGREEMENTS

Outcome 2.1: Women's participation is facilitated in the implementation of peace agreements

Outputs: Women, Peace and Security initiatives are supported in post-conflict zones in Mindanao.

Contribution to outcome: Local WPS policies at the local government level are supported through different projects implemented by UN agencies and their local NGO partners. Norway also supported inclusionary measures relating to women in communities, women rebel returnees and widows of war in community dialogue and action plans for the regional Bangsamoro government.

Contribution to outcome: Supported the development of the Bangsamoro Women's Agenda, which included principles and priorities for the new Bangsamoro government's gender focus.

Challenges: Gender is not prioritized due to pressing issues: counterterrorism and radicalization recruitment in Bangsamoro and other areas in Mindanao, and the COVID-19 pandemic response. Fundamental laws on the new regional government's legislative agenda were delayed or not yet passed in 2020 due to the pandemic.

The peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation enshrined progressive policies such as affirmative action on gender, reserved seats for women in the Bangsamoro parliament (one seat is currently reserved for a woman),

but more pro-active policies would have been desirable to close the gender gap in the region. There have been strong expectations for the MILF leadership to outperform its predecessors in government, however, the skill sets required for war and governance are diametrically opposed and many of the promises have yet to be fulfilled. Women play an integral role in rebuilding the Bangsamoro community but are not a policy priority in BARMM, and formal panel-level discussions have not been prioritized either by the government or the MILF negotiating panels in 2020.

Outcome 2.2. When implementing peace agreements, steps are taken to safeguard both women's and men's rights

Outputs: The capacities of the Bangsamoro leadership to institutionalize WPS in the government transition plan were supported. Norway provided support for women's sexual and reproductive health rights, personal protective equipment through the following local and multilateral partnerships:

- Pioneering work with IOM in Zamboanga, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi on preventing violent extremism through social cohesion work with the local governments and local civil society organizations.
- Work with the BIWAB (Bangsamoro Islamic Women Auxiliary Brigade, the 'women mujahideens') on the women's agenda in the Bangsamoro transition and normalization process.
- Work on local community assertions of transitional justice and reconciliation in communist guerrilla zones through dialogue on women with the local government and military.
- Work with the Bangsamoro Women Commission, former MILF and MNLF women leaders on agenda-building and policymaking: promotion of the WPS agenda in the peace agreement implementation.
- Projects on sexual and reproductive health rights support the monitoring and participation of youth and women in local governance, in and outside Bangsamoro conflict zones.

Contribution to outcome: Bangsamoro Women Commission, traditional women leaders in communities, former rebels and widows of war engaged in online and offline consultations and dialogue on programs and plans during the pandemic.

Challenges: While the Bangsamoro Transition Authority is open to WPS work, it has yet to complete the work of setting up government, i.e., its revenue code, civil service laws, compensation system etc., due, in part, to the pandemic. The regional government also lacks the support of civil society organizations due to community lockdowns. The mid-term report on the Bangsamoro transition indicated that development outcomes in the most impoverished area of the country will not be accomplished within the three-year post-conflict transition period and that the Bangsamoro leaders are requesting an extension.

OPERATIONS AND MISSIONS

Outcome 3.1 International operations and missions facilitate participation by women

Outputs: Mission-critical elements of the Bangsamoro peace agreement are supported by Norway through the Independent Decommissioning Body (IDB), where Norway deploys security experts through NORCAP. The IDB is an international body that supports the peace agreement and leads the deployment of over 200 personnel. Women security experts were also deployed on the ground from 2019.

Norway has also been working with the Philippine government to draw key learning and further explore women peacekeeping deployments for the UN. The Philippine Ministry of Foreign Affairs is keenly exploring this area of international work and has worked with the Ministry of Defence on several previous peace-making missions.

Beyond the Bangsamoro peace track, Norway is the third-party facilitator of the Philippine government's peace negotiations with the communist group National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and has

continuously and deliberately advocated for increasing women's involvement and meaningful participation in the process.

Norway's third-party facilitator team in the Philippines, from 2013–2021, has always been led by women.

The Norwegian Embassy in the Philippines conducts regular dialogue with women leaders on the ground, both directly through field visits, and through its multilateral partnerships.

Contribution to outcome: Norway deployed several Norwegian experts in the Independent Decommissioning Body that oversees the MILF decommissioning process. However, the study on fielding women peacekeepers for the Philippines has been put on hold due to the global pandemic situation.

- The last three third-party facilitators/Special Envoys to the NDFP peace process, including Norway's current one, were women.
- Two international mission deployments to the decommissioning body are Norwegian women, with plans to increase women deployments as necessary.

Challenges: The majority of the challenges or delays in the process may be the result of the pandemic and limited in-country movement. Inevitable delays in the transitional government process in Bangsamoro will likely affect the decommissioning timeline.

Outcome 3.2 International operations and missions facilitate the safeguarding of both women's and men's rights, needs and priorities

Outputs: Norwegian support in the post-conflict Bangsamoro peace process, and catering to specific gendered needs.

Constant collaboration with GNWP and the Section on Gender Equality supports the local initiatives and highlights the different gender perspectives in the Philippines.

Contribution to outcome: Norwegian women experts in the Bangsamoro decommissioning process facilitate the safeguarding of all genders' rights, needs and priorities in the context of post-conflict reconciliation and rebuilding efforts.

Challenges: While Norway has continuously fielded and trained women with expertise in peace processes, post-conflict reconstruction and rebuilding efforts, work remains on filling the gap between the limited number of experts and the scarce opportunities for more women taking significant roles in missions and operations. Both the governments and the former rebel group MILF's perspectives need to be broadened in order to include more women as both local and international experts.

HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

Outcome 4.1 Humanitarian efforts facilitate women's involvement

Outputs: Continuous dialogue and engagement of the United Nations Humanitarian Country Team in the Philippines. Direct community engagement and response to the challenges of the pandemic.

Contribution to outcome: Norway's grants and ODA highlight the nexus of the COVID-19 response, the needs of women in conflict zones as well as the importance of strengthening women's engagement in humanitarian and

relief efforts under the conflict/post-conflict work in Mindanao but also against the backdrop of COVID-19 tracking systems, humanitarian relief and community response.

- COVID-19 humanitarian response and tracking supported by Norway in most remote areas of the Philippines.
- Five cooperatives and community associations run by former MILF women rebel returnees receive livelihood starter kits and personal protective equipment (PPE).
- 20-day livelihood training (PPE production) for 60 out of 75 former MILF BIWAB operatives (Bangsamoro Islamic Women's Auxiliary Brigade).
- Research is currently underway on the dynamics of radicalization and recruitment with gender-balanced views and profiles.
- Fragile community members (i.e., vulnerable to recruitment, former terror operatives etc.) have been profiled, and their needs are being addressed.
- 43 municipal/city technical working groups (local focal points for activities and projects) were organized in provinces vulnerable to terrorism.

Challenges: The military operations against terror cells continued throughout 2020, even during the difficult periods of the health crisis. Bombing attacks in Sulu continued and the skirmishes have displaced over 400 families there. More than 2,300 families from Zamboanga's coastal towns were also evacuated due to flooding caused by heavy rains.

The mobility of local teams remains limited due to pandemic restrictions and teleconferencing, and internet technologies are not viable options in the island provinces.

The different initiatives are taking place at basic levels and have not universally reached a level approaching the norm in the projects supported by the national or Bangsamoro regional governments. Civil society participation, a key element of the humanitarian efforts, is also perceived as limited and has not scaled up during the pandemic.

Outcome 4.2 Humanitarian efforts facilitate the safeguarding of both women's and men's rights, needs and priorities

Outputs: Work with UNICEF helped girls to return to school in war-torn areas in Mindanao by providing them with school supplies and education tracking mechanisms installed at the local and community level.

Secondly, the pandemic response at the community level in Bangsamoro is supported through Norway's commitment to UN Women and UNFPA initiatives that support women leaders in post-conflict communities and build community resilient responses to the virus by providing them with livelihoods, health education and humanitarian relief goods.

Contribution to outcome: Norway's grants and ODA support women's and girl's rights and priorities in humanitarian contexts in the Philippines.

- 257 schools (100% of the target schools) in 10 municipalities received learning materials and supplies that benefitted 72,000 children.
- 3 rounds of learner tracking were completed where 65,000 families were interviewed on the in-school/out-of-school status of their children.

Challenges: Norwegian-funded ODA projects have reached only a small, focused and highly vulnerable region, even though the entire country is constantly vulnerable to humanitarian crises due to man-made and climate-

triggered causes. Many of the partners and projects complain of logistical delays and transport access issues during the pandemic.

OTHER RELEVANT RESULTS – SUSTAINING PEACE

Outputs: Local dialogue and consultation meetings with local governments, the military and community leaders, youth and women across the Zamboanga Peninsula region. Local engagements have built up local capacities that address the education and employment concerns of young people. The Embassy is partnering with IOM to address violent extremism through social cohesion and grassroots community work.

Contribution to outcome: Social cohesion projects in the areas of the country most vulnerable to terrorism recruitment. The majority of international agencies and the in-country diplomatic community have focused on the Bangsamoro transition in mainland (central) Mindanao, especially after the Bangsamoro peace agreement, leaving the (western Mindanao) island provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi vulnerable to tackling the allure of ISIS-affiliated terrorist groups among young women and men in the communities.

Challenges: While this area of work largely falls under ‘counter-terrorism, prevention of violent extremism or global security issues’, the most effective response is a combination of peacebuilding and community work. Organizing the women in these communities also creates a stronger incentive for their families and children to explore employment, education and livelihood opportunities. This important project however faces challenges due to travel restrictions and restrictive guidelines on public assemblies and meetings.

SOUTH SUDAN

CONTEXT

The parties to the conflict signed a revitalised peace agreement (R-ARCSS) in September 2018, with the objective of forming a government in May 2019. The pre-transitional period was subsequently extended several times until February 2020, when the Government of National Unity was finally formed. One woman was appointed among the five vice presidents in government. The provisions in the agreement are currently being implemented, albeit slowly. Cooperation with local and regional partners to strengthen women's participation in the peace negotiations leading up to the peace agreement, contributed to an agreed 35% women's representation in all mechanisms, bodies and institutions under the peace agreement.

However, due to political and societal reasons, there is still a long way to go before women fulfil the 35% provision in all mechanisms and bodies under the peace agreement. The parties have largely failed to adhere to the provision, most notably in the appointment of political positions in government. When the government was formed, only nine (9) ministers were female, out of 12 (female) positions required by R-ARCSS. It is worth noting that the main opposition parties, SPLM-IO and SSOA, did meet the requirement. However, several of the female ministers hold prominent positions in the government, such as Minister of Defence and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the appointment of South Sudan's first female Minister of Defence sends a positive signal. At the same time, South Sudan appointed a new female Minister of Gender. She seems to have the necessary political will, but lacks the necessary resources required to be fully effective. Norway will establish a close relationship with the new Minister of Gender. Moreover, the parties have not appointed the required number of women to other political positions, such as deputy ministers and state governors, with the exception of SPLM-IO, which appointed one female governor out of the three they were allocated.

These cumulative results indicate that most of the parties to the R-ARCSS show limited political will and commitment to the 35% provision in the peace agreement, not only at the national level but also at the local level. If properly implemented, the R-ARCSS allows for progress towards inclusiveness, mostly by ensuring a minimum proportion of women's representation in its structures and mechanisms.

Since the signing of the peace agreement, civil society organisations – particularly women's organisations – have reported a shrinking space for freedom of speech and increased harassment. At the same time, the women's movement has become stronger: Female representatives and organisations are better organised, even across political affiliations. The issue of women's representation is almost constantly on the agenda in meetings and fora concerning the peace agreement. This is evident in the bodies and mechanisms under the peace agreement requesting more training and support from gender advisers, as well as consultations with women's organisations. Norway has a strong standing as a consistent partner over many years and can play a key role in supporting civil society, including advocating for the WPS agenda.

Despite some improvements, sexual and gender-based violence is still used systematically as a weapon of war. Most of the assaults are still committed with impunity due to a weak judicial system, but also as a result of a lack of will to hold the perpetrators accountable. Norway should continue to be an advocate for increased efforts against SGBV at country level, for instance through increased support to the organisations working on SGBV.

South Sudan's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security expired in 2020 (2015–2020). The action plan was not fulfilled, largely due to the civil war that erupted in 2016. The Ministry of Gender is currently reviewing the action plan, with assistance from UN Women.

KEY RESULTS

The following is an account of Norway's contribution to relevant NAP outcomes in South Sudan:

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROCESSES

Outcome 1.1. Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate participation by women in all phases

South Sudan has been in the implementation phase of the agreement since the peace agreement was signed in September 2018. Reconciliation efforts are interlinked with the implementation of the agreement (please see outcome 2 on Norway's support to the implementation phase).

Outcome 1.2: Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate respect for both women's and men's right, needs and priorities

The formal reconciliation process has not fully begun as implementation of Chapter V of the peace agreement is lagging behind. Chapter V includes a provision on establishing a 'Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing' as well as a 'Hybrid Court' and 'Compensation and Reparation Authority'. The Commission's task is to investigate, document and report on the circumstances of all aspects of human rights violations and abuses committed against people in South Sudan by state and non-state actors, as well as to recommend remedial processes.

According to the R-ARCSS, the Commission is set to be established by legislation no later than three months after the transitional government is formed, which was in February 2020, but this has not taken place and is delayed. According to the agreement, 35% of the members of these bodies shall be women.

The peace agreement tasks the AU Commission (AUC) with establishing the Hybrid Court. However, this also requires the government of South Sudan to adopt enabling legislation, making the court a joint endeavour. The government of South Sudan has not yet done so, effectively blocking the establishment of a hybrid court. [At the beginning of 2021, the government has tasked the Ministry of Justice with commencing the procedural steps of establishing the SSHC – but substantial steps await.]

The Working Group (consisting of the parties, RJMEC, the international community and other local stakeholders) on Chapter V under R-ARCSS has been formed and will likely work proactively to get this process moving in the coming year. Norway is not a member of this group but works closely with the international community on these issues.

In September 2020, the Embassy participated in an 'informal' reconciliation event organised by the South Sudan Council of Churches. The Ambassador gave the opening remarks at the launch of a 'trauma healing manual'. This manual may be an important tool in the reconciliation process and a first step for the national reconciliation process.

The Embassy has not worked specifically on ensuring men's rights in any of our projects. However, Norway continues to advocate for the formal mechanisms responsible for reconciliation processes, which will take both men's and women's rights, needs and priorities into account. The Embassy is also working to champion men to advocate for women's issues.

The Embassy has also seconded a gender expert to the monitoring mechanism CTSAMVM (see more on Outcome 2), in addition to being in close contact with the gender experts in RJMEC and IGAD. These experts continue to report on human rights abuses, as well as the conditions for women and children in cantonment/training sites, in order to raise the parties' awareness of these issues and for the parties to ensure that action is taken.

Challenges:

- The delayed formation of the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing.
- Lack of political will to establish the Hybrid Court, as stipulated in the R-ARCSS.
- Access for monitoring mechanisms.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACE AGREEMENTS

Outcome 2.1: Women's participation is facilitated in the implementation of peace agreements

Outputs: Through our partners, the Norwegian Embassy in Juba has supported several activities related to women's participation in the implementation of the peace agreement:

- Through UN Women, the National Transformational Leadership Institute (NTLI) continued to conduct training targeting women in particular. Women were mentored and coached in leadership and advocacy skills, as well as in various practical and substantive aspects of leadership including conflict management, gender-based violence (GBV) and trauma healing. Training has been conducted in several places outside of Juba. A total of 406 women attended the training from various government institutions, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) Faith-based Organisations (FBOs) and political institutions. Norway directly funded 214 of the women trained.
- NTLI has also raised awareness of key gender provisions in the peace agreement in order to influence nominations and appointments of women leaders to fulfil the 35% gender quota provided in the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS).
- Young Women Leadership Training (EVE Organisation): Training provided to young women all over South Sudan as preparation for participating in decision-making at all levels of leadership. EVE organised an alumni event to strengthen the role of young women's participation on national issues and to encourage networking, social cohesion and intergenerational dialogue. EVE was in the final stages of its agreement with the Embassy and as such did not conduct many activities in 2020. The Embassy is awaiting the final report from the organisation.
- Norway, together with Sweden, co-chairs the Women, Peace and Security Working Group. The group published various statements in the national media calling on the parties to adhere to the 35% provision of the R-ARCSS and to mark the 20th anniversary of the WPS resolution (February, July and October).
- The WG conducted a mapping exercise to identify gaps or opportunities in the donor funding for the four pillars under WPS. The mapping exercise led to a recommendation report, highlighting particular challenges for women in South Sudan relating to the WPS agenda. The recommendations in the report will be translated into an 'action plan' for the WPS WG in 2021.
- The Embassy has developed a strategy for the WPS work in South Sudan for the coming years 2021–2023 to determine Norway's priority areas as well as a 'one pager' on our priorities to be distributed to partners and colleagues.

Contribution to outcome: R-ARCSS stipulates 35% affirmative action for women in all areas of government in South Sudan. R-ARCSS also opens up for an amended constitution and elections in 2022, making the demand for women's leadership and political engagement significant. Our own findings when developing the Embassy's strategy, as well as the mapping exercise carried out by the WPS Working Group identified a lack of sufficient skills and experience to be a barrier to effectively participating in decision-making and policy-making processes. Strengthening the capacity of women leaders and institutions on leadership skills and promoting their participation in public decision-making processes are needed in order to ensure women's participation in the peace process, which is key to the overall goal of sustainable peace. The women trained are actively lobbying to advocate for their input to be included in peace negotiations.

The Embassy's involvement in the Working Group contributes to the overall goal by consolidating financial, technical and advocacy resources to advance the cause of women, peace and security in South Sudan.

The Embassy continuously raises the importance of women's inclusion and participation in the implementation of the peace agreement in dialogue with the parties to the peace agreement and in board meetings with the various monitoring mechanisms under the peace agreement (CTSAMVM and RJMEC).

Challenges:

- Lack of political will to appoint women in leadership positions (please see paragraph 1 on context).
- Gender stereotypes and patriarchal attitudes – links to the point above.
- Delays to the implementation of the R-ARCSS peace process: For women leaders trained to have the intended impact, the R-ARCSS institutions must be established.
- Government pushback on advocacy efforts for women's meaningful participation: Women need security clearance to hold meetings within South Sudan, and a representative of the country's intelligence services must be present when meetings are held. Feminist initiatives have been affected, with the result that national-level advocacy for women occupying positions has been reduced, along with the shrinking space for civic engagement overall.
- Women's meaningful participation in political and peacebuilding processes is inhibited by various intersecting power dynamics, as well as economic and cultural barriers.
- Most leadership positions are politically appointed positions. There appears to be no barrier to women becoming members of the parties. However, once membership is obtained, (gendered) barriers appear to intensify.
- Women are often targeted, and violence against women hinders them from engaging with their constituencies.
- Lack of funding for programmes and initiatives specifically working on women's participation.
- Low education and skills level: A lack of education and literacy stands in the way of women becoming leaders, particularly within the formal governance system.
- COVID-19 has presented challenges across a wide spectrum, delaying the process of implementing the R-ARCSS, increasing the barriers to women's participation.

Outcome 2.2. When implementing peace agreements, steps are taken to safeguard both women's and men's rights

Since the signing of the peace agreement, civil society organisations – particularly women's organisations – have reported a shrinking space for freedom of speech and increased harassment. At the moment, some women's group leaders currently live outside the country out of fear for their own or their families' lives.

In order to ensure that women's and civil society organisations are able to operate safely, Norway has continued to raise the issue of shrinking space for freedom of speech and the importance of including civil society in order to create a sustainable peace. The Embassy has continued to address human rights issues at the political level in different fora and meetings with the government and other stakeholders, including raising awareness on unlawful detentions.

Specific measures to support human rights issues in the peace process include secondment of a gender adviser to one of the monitoring mechanisms to the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and the 2018 Peace Agreement (CTSAMVM). One of her main tasks is to strengthen reporting on gender-based violence and child soldiers.

The Embassy has supported work on the integration of former child soldiers and prevention of recruitment of children through its support to UNICEF. Norway is also a member of the 'Group of Friends of Children and Armed Conflict'. Working on preventing recruitment of child soldiers is important because recruitment of children is in violation of the Peace Agreement of 2018 as well as the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement from 2017. New recruitments effectively hinder proper implementation of the peace agreement, create distrust among parties and are in violation of the human rights of the child.

Norway continues to advocate strongly for better living conditions for all soldiers, male and female, at cantonment and training sites when meeting with government officials and in formal meetings such as the RJMEC plenary. The conditions are perilous and a threat to the life and security of soldiers, who are now leaving the sites to look for food.

Norway is in close contact with various human rights-specific organisations on the ground but did not provide particular funding to any of these in 2019. One human rights organisation reported that close contact with foreign embassies provided some protection from government interference. Norway, together with the UK and US, is leading an informal working group on human rights. The group discusses emerging human rights issues and responds and follows up by organising briefings on particular issues and liaising with the Human Rights Division of UNMISS. The group was dormant in the beginning of 2020, but because of an initiative by Norway, has been able to consult and discuss best practice, specific HR cases and potential follow-up etc.

Challenges:

- Ensuring that interventions are not perceived as a political agenda by the government.
- Do no harm: Balancing advocacy for human rights defenders with considerations of their safety.
- Shrinking space for civil society actors, harassment and surveillance by National Security Services.

OPERATIONS AND MISSIONS

Outcome 3.1 International operations and missions facilitate participation by women

All UN peacekeeping operations, including the UN Mission to South Sudan (UNMISS) is committed to ensuring gender as a cross-cutting issue is integrated into all mission-mandated tasks. UNMISS has established a Gender Affairs Unit that provides senior mission leadership with policy advice, technical and operational support, strategic planning and capacity development and training. UNMISS also has a gender focal point in each of the operation departments.

Key milestones in 2020 include the development and launch of an SGBV Prevention and Response Strategy to guide the mission, women-to-women fora across the country to raise awareness of gender provision in R-ARCSS, advocacy and monitoring activities to provide oversight to the parties' commitment, as well as documentation of best practices on increasing women's participation at the local level.

The UNMISS Gender Affairs Unit is also a member of the WPS working group meetings, where Norway is co-chair with Sweden, and works closely with Norway on WPS matters.

At the end of 2020, Norway supported UNMISS by providing 16 people (Force) and 19 police officers (six of whom are women), where 18 serve as UNPOLs. Two of the 18 UNPOL staff are working in a Finnish-led Specialised Police Team (SPT) focusing on SGBV and CRSV in particular. At the moment, Norway has two women on the team, who will soon be replaced by one man.

The SPT is a project with an original timeframe of 1.5 years. The project was supposed to end in August 2020, but a decision has been made to extend it. SGBV and CRSV are among the main focuses of the UN, and the team has enjoyed success working independently as a small group. The team's mandate is to work together with the local police to enhance the capability and capacity of the South Sudanese National Police (SSNPS) to investigate and prosecute cases of SGBV and CRSV. The team has conducted meetings with the local police leadership, visited local police stations in Juba, and arranged workshops for the SSNPS on SGBV-related topics, including police work and investigations. The team's work was affected by the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020. A lot of the activities involving physical contact with the SSNPS, and other stakeholders was postponed for up to six months

due to regulations and restrictions implemented by the UN and the local government. As these restrictions were lifted, training and activities were resumed.

The share of Norwegian women in UNMISS and UNPOL is 12.5% and 31.5% respectively. Norway is thus under the goal set by the UN for the share of female field officers in UNMISS (15% in 2017).

Contribution to outcome: The Norwegian contribution to UNPOL – and the specialised team working on SGBV in particular – is important because sexual violence is used as a tactic by the parties to the conflict against the civilian population. Even after the R-ARCSS was signed, cases of CRSV and SGBV are still met with impunity. The overall objective of the specialised team is to enhance the capacity of the National Police (and other national justice authorities) in addressing SGBV and CSRV, such as (but not limited to) increasing the quality of investigations and the number of police officers capable of investigating the topics. This work is essential to the full implementation of the peace agreement, particularly chapter 5 on transitional justice, accountability, reconciliation and healing.

Outcome 3.2 International operations and missions facilitate the safeguarding of both women’s and men’s rights, needs and priorities

Human rights are integral to the UNMISS mandate, and UNMISS is tasked with monitoring and investigating human rights violations and abuses, as well as ensuring a safe environment for civilians. Ensuring human rights is a cross-cutting issue in the mandate. Norway is in close dialogue with the UNMISS Human Rights Division.

HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

Outcome 4.1 Humanitarian efforts facilitate women’s involvement

1. South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF)

The Norwegian Embassy in Juba contributed NOK 61 million to the SSHF in 2020. Other donors to SSHF include the EU, UK, the Netherlands, Sweden, Canada and Germany. Previously managed by UNDP, the fund has been managed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) since January 2021.

SSHF Objectives:

- Reduce morbidity and mortality as well as suffering from protection threats and incidents, of the most vulnerable populations.
- Facilitate safe, equitable and dignified access to critical cross-sectoral basic services.
- Enable vulnerable people to recover from crisis, seek solutions to displacement and build resilience to acute shocks and chronic stresses.

Women’s empowerment

The SSHF promotes women’s involvement at all stages of the project cycle by adhering to the five UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) commitments on Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), namely – Leadership/Governance, Transparency, Feedback/Complaints, Participation, Design Monitoring and Evaluation. In addition, OCHA:

- Has a Women Lead Organization (WLO) representative on the SSHF Advisory Board.
- Requested, during the first Standard Allocation strategy, that partners demonstrate women’s participation in their workforce.
- Will improve funding to Women Lead Organizations (WLOs).

Challenges: Partners were asked specifically to identify the percentage of women employed per proposed activity and type of employment/post, but this type of reporting has not been done. OCHA will continue requesting this data following training/capacity building sessions for future allocations.

2. UNFPA

The Norwegian Embassy in Juba contributed NOK 9 million (approx. USD 877,000) to UNFPA South Sudan's Country Programme (CPD) in 2020. Other donors to the programme included the Government of Sweden/SIDA, Canada, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), European Civil and Humanitarian Aid Operations (EU/ECHO), Swiss Development Cooperation, Columbia University (GRID3 Project), South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF) and the UN Foundation.

Norway's support focused on the CPD's outcome area 4 – Gender equality and women's empowerment, and specifically on *prevention and response to gender-based violence*, especially child marriage. The CPD's other outcome areas are – Sexual and reproductive health and rights; Adolescents and youth; and Population dynamics.

Outcome: Gender equality and women's empowerment

UNFPA makes concerted efforts to ensure that service delivery, capacity building and advocacy efforts facilitate women's involvement as beneficiaries as well as actors at the individual and structural level. Sexual and reproductive health rights awareness contributes to increasing women's involvement and informed participation in reproductive health choices at the individual, family and community levels.

Output: Increased multi-sectoral capacity to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and harmful practices, including child marriage

Indicator 3 - National mechanism to engage multiple stakeholders, including civil society, faith-based organisations, and men and boys, to prevent and address GBV and child marriage

- 181 service providers (police, health workers, community development workers) – 43% women, 57% men – trained in child marriage, case management/response and GBV prevention and case management, and 56 service providers (64% women, 36% men) trained in case management.
- 204 duty bearers (68% men, 32% women) trained in GBV coordination and case management.

Challenges:

- Continued high prevalence of the negative socio-cultural practices that perpetuate child marriage and GBV across the country.
- A number of duty bearers, cultural and religious leaders in particular, and civil servants are still not on board in relation to addressing child marriage.
- Although there has been some improvement, funding for gender-based violence/early and child marriage (GBV/ECM) programmes is still inadequate.

Delayed formation of state governance structures has negatively affected the full functionality of the multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms for prevention and response to GBV and child marriage.

Outcome 4.2 Humanitarian efforts facilitate the safeguarding of both women's and men's rights, needs and priorities

South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF) – *(SSHF has not yet produced its annual report for 2020 and the information provided here is preliminary):*

The SSHF facilitates the safeguarding of both women's and men's rights by adhering to the five UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) commitments on Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) – Leadership/Governance, Transparency, Feedback/Complaints, Participation, Design Monitoring and Evaluation.

In 2020, a total of USD 26.8 million was allocated to protection activities, including child protection, gender-based violence, and general protection (housing, land and property). According to initial data, 1,065,577 million have received assistance from such projects (44% males, 56% females).

Challenges: The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated numerous adjustments to modalities of interventions in 2020, linking the national response, working closely with partners and ultimately ensuring/supporting the mainstreaming of protection into the response, as well as carrying out key protection interventions.

UNFPA

Outcome: Gender equality and women's empowerment

Output: Increased multi-sectoral capacity to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and harmful practices, including child marriage

Indicator 1 - One stop Centres (OSC) established in public health facilities

4 Norway-supported One stop Centres (OSC) operational in Bor, Torit, Kapoeta and Yambio, providing integrated GBV case management in public health facilities.

978 GBV survivors (89% female, 11% male) provided with integrated GBV case management at Norway-supported centres.

221 survivors (total country programme) received at OSCs had their cases referred to court and were provided with legal assistance.

299,623 people (total country programme) reached with GBV prevention and response information in areas around the OSCs. 147 community outreach sessions and 30 radio shows. (Audience included 62% females, 38% males.)

Challenges:

- Continued high prevalence of the negative socio-cultural practices that perpetuate child marriage and GBV across the country.
- A number of duty bearers, cultural and religious leaders in particular, and civil servants are still not on board in relation to addressing child marriage.
- Although there has been some improvement, funding for GBV/ECM programmes is still inadequate.
- Delayed formation of state governance structures has negatively affected the full functionality of the multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms for prevention and response to GBV and child marriage.

OTHER RELEVANT RESULTS

Norway has been a significant actor on WPS in South Sudan in 2020. Our role in the WPS WG has helped the group to gain more visibility, although the group is still working out a number of challenges.

As part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign, Norway organised a breakfast discussion on SGBV with the Minister (and Undersecretary) of Gender, the (female) head of UNPOL, UNFPA and representatives of Civil Society. Bringing together actors who normally would not meet (such as the Minister and CSOs) enabled the CSOs to be informed of the Ministry's plans for introducing a SGBV bill, although they were not consulted. Taking this role as a facilitator of meetings between the government, civil society and the UN mission might help to bring good forces together to pull in the same direction. The Ambassador and the Undersecretary of Gender also participated in a radio interview on SGBV. The radio is an effective medium in South Sudan to reach a greater number of people with our messages.

SYRIA

CONTEXT

Syrians from all walks of life are facing struggles in the security, political, economic, humanitarian and human rights contexts. In many ways, the ongoing violent conflict that erupted in 2011 has disproportionately affected women and girls, who are subject to discriminatory social norms that shape interactions in the social, political, cultural and economic spheres. Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) has been a pervasive feature of the conflict that is used as a common tactic of war by different parties. Syria is ranked as number 146 out of 149 in WEFs 'Global Gender Gap Index 2018'. In national plans, women's rights are mostly described in accordance with international laws and practices. In reality, there is a lack of political will and financial resources to ensure implementation. 3 out of 29 Ministers in the new Syrian government appointed in 2021 are women. However, there are also several examples of women becoming increasingly influential in the public sphere, in the work force and in shaping Syria's future. During the past year UN Women, with support of Norway, has continued its gender advisory services to the Office of the Special Envoy (OSE) for Syria, and in particular the support for the Syrian Women's Advisory Board (WAB). The 17 Syrian women in WAB are selected to ensure the widest possible representation, and act as a sounding board for the UN Special Envoy. Their regular discussions give him an indication of where the problems lie and where possible solutions can be found, also in the work of the Syrian Constitutional Committee (CC), that is an important part of the UNSC res. 2254 on a political solution in Syria. In 2020 the Syrian Constitutional Committee met twice in Geneva, consisting of representatives of the Syrian Government, the Syrian Opposition (SNC) and a 'middle third' bloc. WAB has over the last year met mostly digitally due to Covid-19.

KEY RESULTS

The following is an account of Norway's contribution to relevant NAP outcomes in Syria:

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROCESSES

Outcome 1.1: Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate participation by women in all phases

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has supported UN Women's work to increase Syrian women's participation in the Syrian peace process from the very start. Likewise, Noref's engagement in the Civil Society Support Room is ongoing and continued and showed progress in 2020, with Norwegian support. In different ways, these partnerships contribute to women's participation in and influence on the ongoing peace processes. The Norwegian Embassy in Damascus (based in Beirut) appreciates and benefits from contact with many of the women involved through these mechanisms, in Damascus and Beirut, in particular. Norway supports some additional peace and reconciliation projects where women, peace and security is focal. The UN Women program aims to empower Syrian women to participate meaningfully in political processes for peace and reconciliation and to ensure a sustainable peace that integrates Syrian women's perspectives, rights and needs. The cornerstones of this effort are support for the Syrian Women's Advisory Board (Track I/1.5), and dialogues among Syrian women across different groups/geographies/regions and political affiliations inside and outside Syria (Track III). UN Women continued to focus on enhancing mechanisms, capacities and abilities to influence and support consolidation around and for a peace process. At the Track I level, UN Women continued to extend technical, secretarial and logistical support to the OSE and WAB, in line with the recommendations of the WAB perception monitoring exercise/needs assessment carried out in 2018 and with the focus on the constitutional process. Given the vitalization of the Constitutional Committee (CC) in 2020, and that this may be a door-opener to the wider process, this work has increasingly focused on the CC. The CC consists of 150 members of whom 45 are part of a smaller drafting committee. Twenty-eight per cent (45) of the Constitutional Committee's members are women. The 45-member drafting committee has 28.9 per cent women (13) overall.

This represents unprecedented levels of women's representation in the political process, in both Syria and the broader Middle East region. A substantial proportion of the women now involved in the CC have been involved in UN Women's activities in the past few years, which might indicate that UN Women has mobilized influential women and/or enabled these women to play a role in the current proceedings. It was the women's coalition, supported by UN Women and Norway, that first insisted on 30% representation of women. This was later reiterated by WAB and also supported by UN Women. UN Women is one of the few actors that convene meetings of Syrian actors from the entire political spectrum – it is willing and able to bring women from the north-east, government-held and opposition-held areas, and the diaspora – to engage in dialogue. During 2020, WAB met with the new UN Special Envoy to Syria physically and digitally and had several constructive meetings.

Challenges: Members of the CC and WAB continue to face serious pressure due to their participation in the process, and intimidation has been reported since its formation. The Covid-19 situation made it difficult for WAB to meet physically in 2020, also in parallel with the physical meetings of the Constitutional Committee, that is an important arena for WAB to meet the CC members and the Office of the UN Special Envoy.

Contribution to outcome: The CC it is unprecedented in its diversity – close to 30% of its members are women – both in the broader group and the smaller drafting committee – and the existence of the middle third bloc, while it has been challenged, has opened for new ways of working and less traditional negotiation structures. Within Syria, dialogue and work continue at the community level to find pathways for a viable future and for building trust. This includes efforts to maintain spaces for independent civil society organizations, and to support and increase tolerance of rights – including women's rights and gender equality.

Outcome 1.2: Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate respect for both women's and men's right, needs and priorities

Reference is made to the aforementioned partnership with UN Women. WAB underwent a rotation and in 2019 the new group needed to get to know each other and establish a working relationship. They discussed the sensitive topic of religion and the women's rights agenda. They also addressed a number of other sensitive topics, including reconstruction, the return of refugees and IDPs, participation of under-represented groups in the political process, diplomatic relations, ISIL family members etc. This in itself is a contribution to ensuring that both women's and men's perspectives are reflected in ongoing conversations. When the CC was launched, an analysis was carried out of the plenary speeches. The themes of gender/women's rights/equal citizenship came up 17 times. Some of the women in the room had been supported through the work of UN Women. In the drafting committee, some of the present and former WAB members actively drew links to the women's rights agenda during every discussion point. UN Women also worked in a systematic gender analysis of the conflict for the use of various stakeholders. New partnerships were formed in 2020 and improved relations were noted in some areas, but Covid-19 also hindered direct contact and planned activities to be held.

Challenges:

It is difficult for WAB to engage in outreach activities inside Syria due to Covid-19 and safety concerns. It is becoming an increasing priority for UN Women to address the security of women peacebuilders.

Given the moment in the conflict and the fractured nature of the women's movement, UN Women chose not to continue its work on a more comprehensive Women's Charter. Instead, they are focusing on bringing organizations and actors together on specific issues and building alliances around them.

AFRICAN UNION

CONTEXT

Over the past years, the African Union (AU) has had a greater focus on gender equality, especially the work of the Women and Gender Development Directorate (WGDD), the Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security (WPS), in addition to the Women, Gender, Peace and Security Programme (WGPSP) and the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWise-Africa). Several guidelines (policies) have been developed, and the AU promotes gender equality and facilitates this work throughout the commission. Nevertheless, the AU still encounters problems such as lack of capacity and poor coordination between departments etc.

The Norwegian delegation to the AU cooperates with the AU at several levels in relation to WPS. Norway has supported the AU Special Envoy for WPS since 2015, and, in 2019 and 2020, we supported the deployment of FemWise members to Sudan, South Sudan and the AU Commission in Addis Ababa. In addition, we financially supported the development of the Continental Results Framework (CRF), which is currently being used by the Office of the Special Envoy (OSE) to monitor and report on the implementation of the WPS agenda in Africa.

Norway also has a partnership with the UN Office to the African Union where WPS is one of the priority areas.

KEY RESULTS

Below is an account of Norway's partnership with the African Union and contribution to the AU's efforts to promote the WPS agenda in Africa:

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROCESSES

Outcome 1.1. Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate participation by women in all phases

Contribution to outcome: Norway's continuous support for the work of the AU Special Envoy for WPS, Mme Bineta Diop, has contributed to greater awareness and stronger implementation of the WPS agenda in Africa.

- In 2020, the Office of the Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security (OSE) continued to work with Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to monitor and report on the implementation of the WPS agenda in Africa, based on the Continental Results Framework (CRF). The CRF was developed with financial support from Norway. As a result, the OSE received reports from 30 countries that have adopted National Action Plans (NAPs), a rise from 17 countries in 2015. This is an increase of 56.6% in the last five years, making Africa the continent with the largest number of NAPs, with 54.5% of Member States in Africa having adopted such a plan. At the regional level, six Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms have Regional Action Plans. These are ECOWAS, Mano River Region, IGAD, SADC and ECCAS.
- The AU Office of the Special Envoy for WPS, together with UN Women, AWLN Mali and other national women's organisations in Mali and in the diaspora, held discussions on how the AU can be useful in helping to solve the current crisis in Mali. Through the support of UN Women, AWLN has sent an envoy to the African Union Commission to enlist its support for married women being able to actively contribute to the transition process.
- On 26 August 2020, the Special Envoy convened a High-Level Consultation on the mediation of women leaders of Mali on ending the socio-political crisis. The High-Level Consultation was facilitated by the Office of the Special Envoy (OSE) of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security, and UN Women, as AWLN global co-conveners. It focused on enhancing the role and effective

participation of women in overcoming the crisis, building social cohesion and strengthening the Malian state for sustainable peace and development. As an outcome of the High-Level Consultation, UN Women has appointed a Special Adviser to the UN Women Executive to work closely with the women of Mali as they continue their actions and prepare for the elections to be organised after the 18-month transition.

- On the Protection Pillar, protection centres for survivors of sexual violence were established.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACE AGREEMENTS

Outcome 2.1: Women's participation is facilitated in the implementation of peace agreements

- In 2020, four (4) members of the FemWise-Africa roster were deployed through the NORCAP Rapid Support Mechanism (RSM) to support the Sudan and South Sudan processes. Specifically, two (2) were deployed to Sudan, one (1) to South Sudan and the last one (1) was deployed to the Sudan/South Sudan Desk at the AUC in Addis Ababa in order to harmonise and support the work of those deployed to the field. The deployees had the following roles and designation: i) FemWise Mediation and Advocacy Officer (Khartoum, Sudan) ii) FemWise Military & Security Advisor (Khartoum, Sudan); iii) FemWise Mediation and Advocacy Officer (Juba, South Sudan); iv) FemWise Mediation & Political Analyst Officer (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia).
- In terms of participation in mediation, in November 2020, one member of the FemWise Secretariat as a deployee and member of the Network, actively supported the Mission of the AU Special Envoy to Ethiopia primarily through reporting. Another member of the FemWise Secretariat, although not an accredited member of the Network, nonetheless similarly supported this mission in her capacity as a NORCAP deployee to the Secretariat. The FemWise members did not participate in active mediation in the field, while the deployees did meet their terms of reference, primarily through in-country field missions (both within and outside the respective capitals) and engage with women stakeholders and women's groups, including those who feel marginalised from the ongoing processes. These are important elements of the WPS agenda. The primary goal of these missions was to provide a sensitisation and advocacy platform for the ongoing processes and to ensure that the concerns of the affected populations and local women in particular were duly incorporated, through reporting and policy considerations, in the AU support to the respective processes.

Contribution to outcome: Norway's support was critical to the work and success of the FemWise-Africa Network in 2020, primarily in enabling the successful implementation of the first set of long-term field deployments by the Network, and its positive outcomes. Through the NORCAP deployees, the Network was able to localise its work directly in the field where the deployees provided a much-needed direct link between local women actors/stakeholders and a channel for articulating and incorporating their needs into the broader AU support to the ongoing mediation processes. These deployments also laid a critical foundation for lessons learned and best practices, which the Network can emulate and further build on for future field deployments. Again, Norway's support to the Secretariat enabled the continued operationalisation of the Network, particularly by strengthening the functioning of the Network's Capacity Building and Deployment pillars through the deployed officers' work to support these portfolios.

OTHER RELEVANT RESULTS

- In January 2020, the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) and the African Union Commission (AUC) jointly produced and published a book named 'She Stands for Peace: 20 Years, 20 Journeys', which captures the stories of outstanding African women who have worked tirelessly on implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda on the continent. The book was funded by Norway and launched in the margins of the AU summit by the Norwegian Prime Minister, UN Secretary General and Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

- The African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) hosted a two-day High-Level Dialogue to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). Under the theme, 'Advancing the WPS Agenda: Political Leadership, Partnerships and Concrete Action Beyond 2020', the dialogue took place virtually on 30 November and 1 December 2020, and was organised in partnership with Sweden and Norway.
- In relation to election observation missions, FemWise had five (5) FemWise-Africa members who supported the electoral process around the elections in Cote d'Ivoire in October 2020. Three (3) members were deployed on a high-level mediation mission to engage relevant high-level political actors in dialogue prior to the elections, with the aim of calming tensions in the lead-up to the election and paving the way for potential post-election mediation processes that they could support. The remaining two (2) members were deployed as part of the AU EOM, one as general observer and one as a lead expert. At the regional level, a few other members were also engaged, primarily in West Africa through the REC.

NORAD'S CIVIL SOCIETY DEPARTMENT

CONTEXT

The Norwegian National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) 2019-2022 highlights four priority areas:

1. Peace and reconciliation processes
2. Implementation of peace agreements
3. Operations and missions
4. Humanitarian efforts

Norad's civil society WPS portfolio focuses on the first two priority areas of the NAP on WPS:

1) **Peace and reconciliation processes** comprise initial peace discussions, ongoing negotiations, localised mediation or informal Track 1.5/2. The priority area has two separate outcomes: one concerning women's participation and the other concerning safeguarding women's and men's rights.

Countries that are reported on under this outcome: Palestine, Nigeria, Myanmar, Colombia, Syria, the Philippines, African Union and Globally.

2) **Implementation of peace agreements** refers to situations where there is a peace agreement or ceasefire in place and where support is provided for implementation of the agreement. The priority area has two separate outcomes: one concerning women's participation and the other concerning safeguarding women's and men's rights.

Countries that are reported on under this outcome: South Sudan, Mali, Mozambique, Colombia, the Philippines and Globally.

KEY RESULTS

In the following, we present result highlights for Norwegian Women, Peace and Security partner countries in line with priorities from the Norwegian National Action Plan on WPS. The result highlights are based on reporting from the following organizations: Berghof Foundation, CARE Norge, Casa de la Mujer, Forum for Women and Development (FOKUS), Global Network for Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), International Media Services (IMS), Internews, KFUK-KFUM (Y-Global), Legal Action Worldwide (LAW), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), West Africa Network for Peacebuilders (WANEP), Women's League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and World Federalist Movement (WFM), Norwegian Refugee Council/NORCAP.

COVID-19 AND THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF UN RESOLUTION 1325 ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted the ability to achieve results under the WPS agenda and forced organizations to adjust their work substantially. Efforts have been made to assist women who have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic and ensure an emergency response that has included access to sexual health and reproductive hygiene products, as well as basics such as food packs and hygiene kits to women and other hard-to-reach marginalized groups. Information and social media campaigns have also been introduced to raise awareness on the impact of COVID-19 on women, and its implications for peace. Local women have also advocated to uphold ceasefires. For example, in Colombia, Global Network for Women Peacebuilder (GNWP) and its local partner, Red Nacional de Mujeres, launched a campaign #PeaceCannotWait/#LaPazNoPuedeEsperar. In Nigeria, West Africa Network for Peacebuilders (WANEP) engaged with women groups and civil society organizations to raise concern over the heightening rates of Sexual

and Gender Based Violence. Webinars were organized to sensitize the people on existing SGBV Laws, and to synergize and push innovative survivor centered approaches to ensure justice and accountability. As a result of this women peacebuilders have contributed to uphold peace during the pandemic.

2020 also marked the 20th anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, on which the Women, Peace and Security Agenda rests. Most partners found innovative ways to commemorate this during the year. World Federalist Movement (WFM) supported Humanas, who alongside 44 other organizations, advanced a communications campaign, #20Años, designed for the 20th anniversary of Resolution 1325 and called attention to the perceived disconnect between the Colombian government's actions and the gender measures of the peace agreement.

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROCESSES

Outcome 1.1. Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate participation by women in all phases

Increased capacity of female mediators to participate in peace negotiations and/or local level mediation in African Union, Colombia, the Philippines and Globally.

Outputs/ Contribution to outcome: At the **African Union**, a new NORCAP project started in 2020 with the aim of supporting operationalization and deepened institutionalization of the FemWise-Africa and Mediation Support (MSU) initiatives within the African Union Commission. The NORCAP project supports the secretariat, operationalizes the FemWise and MSU roster, and deploys experts from this roster to conflict prevention and mediation missions across Africa. In 2020, four experts were deployed, with the aim of a total of 150 deployment months annually in the 2020-2022 project period.

In **Myanmar**, with support from the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), The Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) organized consultations with women and youth civil society organizations prior to peace negotiations with the government to emphasize the specific needs of women and men, as well as girls and boys. KNPP has four female members in its Central Executive Committee, of which two have participated in peace talks. Karenni National Women's Organizations, an organization for refugee women has facilitated and participated in peace consultations to ensure that topics such as: prevention, protection and participation of women and girls are included in the peace negotiations.

Internally displaced, indigenous women in the **Philippines** strengthened their abilities to advocate for a human-rights based approach to conflict prevention and resolution between the government of the Philippines and the Communist Party (CPP-NPA-NDF). They developed collective plans to hold local security sector, government, and armed groups accountable to the implementation of the peace agreement (CARHRIHL) with the support of GNWP.

Berghof Foundation facilitated online peer-to-peer expert talks for women from eight armed and political movements on the challenges faced by women in negotiation processes, lessons learned and strategies for inclusive peace processes. The talks allowed a secure and open forum for women in, or associated with, non-state armed groups to discuss and create specific strategies for addressing challenges preventing women's participation in peace negotiations. Open reflection and sharing lessons learned have served as a motivator for women in the network to explore alternative mechanisms of engagement in negotiations. Additionally, these women are looking at ways in which they can engage men in their movements as allies in the push for greater inclusion of women in negotiation processes. By broadening participation to women outside the armed groups but associated with the peace processes in the project countries, (such as social movements, political wings, lawyers, for example), the talks broadened engagement of women who may contribute to peace negotiations beyond a focus on traditional Track 1/1.5 negotiation processes.

OUTCOME 1.2: Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate respect for both women’s and men’s rights, needs and priorities

Increased visibility of women in the media as both experts and survivors at the local, national, and international level has brought women’s rights, needs and priorities to the fore in Colombia, Myanmar, Syria, Nigeria, and the Philippines.

Outputs/ Contribution to outcome: Media attention on the Covid-19 pandemic has left little media space for issues related to women, peace, and security for much of 2020. Nevertheless, efforts to produce content has not stalled, and has in many cases served as documentation on the impact of the pandemic on women, peace, and security issues.

In **Nigeria**, WANEP’s “Women’s Voices for Peace” radio program has aired on radio stations across seven states in Nigeria and amplified the voices of women in the promotion of peace and security. Since August 2019, over 200 women and 115 men have been engaged as guests with an outreach of almost 40 million listeners. There is an increased awareness of UNSCR 1325 approaches, contexts, and methods among stakeholders. Government agencies are continually reminded of their role in the implementation of UNSC resolution 1325.

In **Myanmar**, Internews has supported the production and publication of more than 110 stories on women, peace, and security in national, regional, and ethnic media outlets through working with 37 media outlets.

Berghof Foundation, together with Fight for Humanity and the London School of Economics and Political Science, hosted policy events where women negotiators from armed and political movements were able to personally articulate the role that they wish to play in supporting gender-inclusive peace(building) processes, and the support roles that can be played by the international community. The event afforded these women visibility in a discussion that often excludes or reduces the voices of women (ex)-combatants to the role of victims or perpetrators, thus undermining their agency in peace processes and post-war transitions and preventing their shaping of policy positions at the international level. Both events were simultaneously interpreted into four languages and attracted an international audience of more than 200 participants in each event.

In **Colombia, Myanmar and Syria**, International Media Support (IMS) have partnered with women’s rights organizations and developed editorial guidelines for Gender and Conflict Sensitive reporting and trained journalists in gender and conflict-sensitive journalism. Stories from the conflict are now being told with a gender and conflict sensitive lens. To date 40 stories – video clips, articles, and podcasts – have been produced with the support of the project. The content covered amongst others, topics such as Syrian women as political activists, life, and rights of internally displaced women in Myanmar, a group of indigenous women finding their way back to their roots in Colombia, and families demanding justice for forced and undocumented disappearance of their loved ones. The Syrian media monitoring report shows that 40 percent of published stories challenge existing, rigid gender stereotypes. Some stories highlight and argue for critical rights of women, such as the right to safety and protection, the right to an acceptable standard of living, the right to education, the right to inheritance and the right to justice.

Women’s organizations contributed to ensuring that gender issues are addressed in peace negotiations in Nigeria, Myanmar, the Philippines, Colombia, Syria.

Outputs/ Contribution to outcome: In **Nigeria**, WANEP supported the setting up of the United Women Peacebuilders Network in Delta State; Coalition of Ogoni Women Development Initiative in Rivers State and Women in Peacebuilding Network in Bornu State to strengthen women’s peacebuilding capacity. The capacity of 295 women in six project states in Nigeria have been strengthened to promote the WPS Agenda. The inaugurated women group in Ossissa, Delta State has contributed to enhancing peace advocacies in various communities. The women are more confident in challenging social norms and demanding their involvement in community affairs. WANEP and the Women International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) have been collaborating in the

production of a biannual Women, Peace and Security Journal on the concerns and views of women in peacebuilding.

NORCAP supported the process of promoting an enabling environment to guide the implementation of commitments related to women, peace, and security in **Nigeria** through work with security and legislative sectors. NORCAP supported the strengthening of women's representation, engagement and effective participation in formal and informal peace building and peace processes in Nigeria. Advisory support to the Ministry of Women Affairs was provided, in addition to supporting the operationalization of several regional State Action Plans on WPS and the creation of an umbrella body for women's civil society organizations in these states.

In **Myanmar**, Internews has strengthened the advocacy and media outreach capacity of women's organizations and networks. One of the project partners, Women's League of Burma, developed a video campaign for the gender quota policy in the peace process, which was live streamed on Facebook ahead of the 2020 elections. Project grantee Rakhine Women Initiative Organization produced a "*For Rakhine Women*" song that contained subtle messages encouraging women's participation in politics and the peace process. The song received 24,000 reactions and comments within a few days of its release.

In **Colombia**, with the support of GNWP, national and local women peacebuilders conducted national-level advocacy for the negotiated resolution of conflict and commitment to reinitiating negotiations with ELN. GNWP's partner, Red Nacional de Mujeres, co-wrote a letter to President Duque, calling for re-initiation of the peace negotiations with ELN.

In **Syria**, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) in partnership with Syrian organization Dawlaty, held a series of Policy Briefs on the need of a gender-sensitive transitional justice process in Syria. The first policy brief presented a feminist approach based on a gendered analysis of sexual violence crimes in Syria, and Syrian partners used it to advocate with stakeholders. WILPF made a submission to the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantee of non-recurrence which emphasized a feminist perspective and analysis to the transitional justice processes.

WILPF also co-organized a side-event on the margins of the Brussels Conference on **Syria** titled "Women building the future of Syria – Realizing a feminist peace". It created a platform for exchange and provide recommendations on how to create conditions for a gender-inclusive and transformative approach to peace in Syria and brought together different organizations to share their experiences and highlight the role women and girls play. The discussion was centered around the question "What does feminist peace look like in Syria?" WILPF provided support for Syrian partner speakers ahead of the online side-event to coordinate advocacy messages and speaking points.

Women's organizations contributed to reducing violence and tension in target communities in the Philippines, Palestine, Myanmar, and Nigeria.

Outputs/ Contribution to outcome: WANEP built capacity on early warning and peace narratives for women and community stakeholders in three states – Bauchi, Gombe and Bornu in the Northeast region of **Nigeria**. This has contributed to changing the existing narrative on violence and countering violent extremist propaganda within communities. Also, existing women traditional peacebuilding structures, headed by the Omu of Anioma in Delta State were supported to enhance women's participation in peace and human security as well as mentoring young women traditional chiefs on implementing UNSCR 1325 in their communities.

In **Palestine**, YWCA of Palestine, partner of Y-Global, selected and supported 31 community initiatives, including psychological support for women exposed to domestic violence due to the pandemic lockdown and economic

situation. Support was provided through local partners and youth groups. Also, YWCA implemented awareness sessions on GBV and the Family Protection Bill through the Global fund for Women, in partnership with Al-Muntada,. These sessions are part of the continuous pursuit to combat violence and mobilize more youth to advocate for passing the Family Protection Bill.

In **the Philippines**, local women supported by GNWP, participated in barangay (local government) development councils. Through their participation, local women have led efforts for gender-sensitive, community-based peacebuilding, which addresses the root causes of conflict and the re-initiation of negotiations with the Communist Party (CPP-NPA-NDF). They advocated for the parties to uphold ceasefires (which were declared in response to the COVID-19 pandemic) and to safeguard the delivery of humanitarian aid. Representatives from indigenous (lumad), Moro (Muslim), and Christian communities participated in an interfaith dialogue to prevent violence against women in conflict affected communities. They identified strategies to monitor and address incidences of violence against women through community mechanisms for conflict resolution through processes of dialogue.

In **Myanmar**, CARE partners supported male gender equality champions working together with other men and women to prevent gender-based violence and promote gender equality. Male champions led community GBV awareness sessions targeting men. Partner organizations also conducted legal awareness trainings and GBV counselling and referral training for first line responders. CARE also held group discussion to highlight current practices and social norms affecting the lives of the participants, including GBV. CARE Partner, Law Home held a workshop on laws preventing violence against women that sought to increase female participation and inclusion of women's voices in legal processes. Through these activities, communities gained awareness, knowledge and contributed to changing attitudes and practices of harmful social norms preventing gender equality and reducing GBV within households and communities.

Increased awareness among peace negotiators/local mediators of conflict related SGBV in Colombia and Syria

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most countries have introduced restrictions related to infection control which have had the indirect effect of an increase of sexual- and gender-based violence (SGBV). Conflict prone areas have likely had an even higher increase of SGBV than areas with relative peace.

Outputs/ Contribution to outcome: In **Colombia**, NORCAP assisted in the institutional response to gender-based violence cases across the country, affecting former combatants and their family members. The deployed expert also advocated for and supported the establishment of a gender working group within the Technical Security and Protection Table to prioritize risk analysis and the delivery of protection measures to former women combatants, militants of the new political party FARC and their family members. This entailed the development of an action plan to better articulate protection and access to justice, define non-material protection measures for women and their family members, and improve the gender capacity in all responsible state entities.

In **Syria**, WILPF supported partners in the development of a policy brief presenting a feminist approach based on a gendered analysis of sexual violence crimes in Syria. The findings contributed to amplifying partners' voices and bring their views and perspectives to international stakeholders and actors involved in the conflict, such as the Commission of Inquiry on Syria and the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism that assist in the prosecution of serious crimes in Syria. As a result, the most recent report was considered an improvement and emphasized the work of CSOs engagement.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACE AGREEMENTS

Outcome 2.1: Women's participation is facilitated in the implementation of peace agreements

Increased women's capacity to participate politically in local and national decision-making in connection with implementing peace agreements in South Sudan, Mali, Mozambique, Colombia, the Philippines and Globally.

Outputs/ Contribution to outcome:

In **Colombia**, as part of the preparation of the report to the Truth Commission, Casa de la Mujer supported women to review proposals for local development plans and submit proposals for adjustments to the Municipal councils (bodies responsible for approving plans). This has contributed to moving forward on the creation of women's offices and in including women in implementing the Peace Agreement. Reports submitted to the Truth Commission were also presented in communities.

In **Mali**, with the support of WFM-IGP local women's organizations have met at least four times with the UN Security Council on mission in Mali. Malian delegates were invited to New York to attend the UN General Assembly to advocate for the active participation of women in the Peace and Reconciliation process. A National High-Level Forum was organized to develop a roadmap with important recommendations bringing together 200 women from all over Mali. The Forum recommended, amongst other things, training, ownership of the Peace Agreement, reparations to victims, the economic recovery program, participation in the Agreement's monitoring mechanisms and the establishment of an Observatory for Women. Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) has initiated the establishment of a "observatory of women in the implementation of the agreement for peace and reconciliation" in collaboration with local partners and government bodies, with the aim of increasing participation of women in mechanisms set up for implementing the peace agreement.

In **Mozambique**, the peace negotiation process between the Government and the opposition political party of RENAMO has been conducted behind closed doors, excluding civil society organizations and women from the negotiations. Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) have supported women in organizing their own forums composed by organizations such as MULEIDE and FORUM MULHER and in working with political parties, members of parliament, and local media. MULEIDE have, together with other women's organizations, also ensured women's engagement and participation in the preparation of plans for humanitarian response, resettlements as well as post-conflict reconstruction processes through awareness raising sessions on gender issues.

Berghof Foundation facilitated an online tailor-made workshop on ceasefire monitoring mechanisms with women (and men) from or associated with armed movement 1.1 in country 1¹⁴. Women and children are disproportionality affected by violence and breaches in the terms of the ceasefire provisions within military-controlled areas, s. Despite this, women are under-represented in monitoring and reporting committees established under the agreement, and therefore have little recourse through formal mechanisms. At the request of the workshop group, virtual training addressed a lack of access to formal training and knowledge on mechanisms monitoring the implementation of the ceasefire among women leaders within the movement. The workshop contributed to the ongoing efforts to include women in discussions around security and increase their representation in leadership positions.

In **the Philippines**, with the support of GNWP, local women from women's rights organizations identified gender-sensitive, sustainable strategies to mediate "rido" (clan warfare) and counter the radicalization and recruitment by violent extremist groups (including the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and Dawla Islamiya) in their communities, which threaten to jeopardize the fragile peace. Local women's rights activists also met with representatives from the BTA and barangay officials to highlight critical gaps in the implementation of the BOL and transition to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. As a result, coordination mechanisms between barangay and the BTA were established, where local women can meaningfully participate.

¹⁴ Due to the sensitivity of their interventions, Berghof Foundation has requested that cooperating countries and partners are not published. The countries and organizations are therefore coded

In **South Sudan**, Hope Restoration South Sudan (HRSS), with the support of NPA, organized and trained women on advocacy, mediation and negotiation skills on conflict mediation and peace building. HRSS supported women in forming two community peace networks in Bentiu and Rubkona. The body will engage payams (villages), counties and political leaders on the Revitalized Peace Agreement and local conflict resolution.

Increased participation of women in transitional justice processes in Colombia and South Sudan

Outputs/ Contribution to outcome: In **Colombia**, the FOKUS program has supported and follows up 149 cases/processes of transitional justice following the Peace Accord. These cases are mostly collective processes within criminal, agrarian and land restoration jurisdictions. So far, 14 of the decisions have been favorable to claims from the women. Humanas, with the support of WFM-IGP, represented 20 victims of conflict-related sexual violence in the special jurisdiction for peace (JEP), and reviewed 10 case reports dedicated to justice on the progress of the processes of sexual violence against victims in armed conflict. During 2020, Humanas delivered three reports to the JEP documenting 45 incidents of sexual violence and land seizures. Casa de la Mujer documented cases on violence against women and three reports were prepared and submitted to the Truth Commission that identified the social factors that lead to repeating violence against women. A chapter in the report includes recommendations from women requesting guarantees of non-repetition. Casa de la Mujer also prepared a document on the analysis of sentences in decisions rendered by Transitional Justice and includes recommendations on the approach to violence and women in judgments and judicial decisions. The analysis shows that there is a trend of moving away from victims being given a prominent place and focusing on the role of perpetrators.

In **Colombia**, with the support of GNWP, women's organizations led an advocacy effort for the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) to recognize the systematic use of sexual violence in the conflict between the government and FARC and opening a "macro-case" on sexual violence. Building on the outcomes of monitoring the peace agreement implementation, GNWP's partner, Red Nacional de Mujeres, together with Alianza Cinco Claves, led advocacy for the opening of the "macro case" on sexual violence and reproductive violence, as well as other gender-based crimes committed in the context of armed conflict.

In **South Sudan**, Legal Action Worldwide (LAW) supported local partners in holding nine community forums in Juba, Wau, Yei, Torit and Unity state, drawing participants from faith groups, traditional leaders, lawyers, civil servants, youth organizations, women rights organizations, local community members and civil society organization representatives to raise awareness on transitional justice and on conflict related sexual violence. Grassroot community leaders who have participated are empowered to disseminate information on transitional justice and to engage with the Transitional Government and local administrations. In addition, workshops on the implementation of women, peace and security were delivered to justice professionals, local authorities and grassroot CSO members. Steward Women, with the support of NPA, held household-based dialogues on GBV related issues and transitional justice in Nimule. The dialogue discouraged the increasing trend of mob justice during the Covid-19 pandemic when courts were rarely functional, and early marriages of girls during school closures.

OUTCOME 2.2: When implementing peace agreements, steps are taken to safeguard both women's and men's rights

Women's organizations have more influence on peacebuilding processes at the national level in South Sudan, Colombia, the Philippines, Mali

Outputs/ Contribution to outcome: In **South Sudan**, FOKUS has trained young women leaders to meet the Youth Representative of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) to present their recommendations on security, GBV and governance. FOKUS' partner, Women's International Peace Center

(WIPC), and other members of the South Sudan Women's Coalition for Peace met members from political parties to discuss the implementation of the 35% women representation at the executive level and beyond.

NORCAP supported the **AU**-level young women presentations at the pre-summit consultative meetings network. 40 women peace builders made specific recommendations to the Special Envoy of the AU Chair on Women, Peace and Security. The South Sudan Women's Coalition was represented by one woman on the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC). JMEC is responsible for monitoring and overseeing the implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement and the mandate and tasks of the Transitional Government of National Unity. This has enabled women to participate actively, review documents and provide input on the concerns and needs of women.

In **Colombia**, FOKUS has contributed to include the prevention of intrafamilial, sexual and gender-based violence and femicide in the local development plan in Bogotá. Also, because of continued initiatives and efforts by rural women beneficiaries of the program, an important decree law concerning rural women and their access to land was modified in favor of rural women's rights. The efforts included collaboration and lobby from women beneficiaries and partners of the FOKUS program with the Presidential Office for the Equality of Women (Consejería Presidencial para la Equidad de la Mujer) and the Ministry of Agriculture.

In **Colombia** and **Philippines**, online workshops convened local women, including indigenous women, young women, rural women, and women of religious and ethnic minorities. Participants analyzed the level of implementation of the peace agreement in their local areas and presented their priorities and recommendations to the local authorities, academia, security sector and other key actors. The lead negotiators of peace agreements between the Colombian Government and FARC, and the Philippine Government and MILF, also participated in an online panel event organized by GNWP in collaboration with the New York University Center for Global Affairs and UN Women with over 500 participants representing global policymakers, including representatives from Member States, UN entities and civil society organizations.

Increased visibility of women in the media as both experts and survivors at the local, national, and international level in Colombia, the Philippines, and South Sudan.

Outputs/ Contribution to outcome: In **South Sudan**, freedom of expression is being contravened through arbitrary arrest and unlawful detention by security organs. NPA supported female advocates to create a network to defend freedom of expression between female judges and female journalists. The female advocates assured media actors pro-bono legal services when media laws are contravened by security organs. The women-led Catholic Radio Network (CRN) also trained female journalists on conflict sensitive reporting and peace journalism. These trained journalists conducted 56 live radio talk-shows with over 1,000 callers across the network. A total of 1,000 news articles on peacebuilding were broadcasted and published on the CRN website. Steward Women held radio talk shows on GBV prevention and available services for GBV survivors reaching a total of 12,000 radio listeners.

FOKUS contributed towards a research report and several policy briefs on gender-responsive implementation of the peace agreement that was launched at a press conference with 48 partners in Juba, highlighting peace and security issues. Leaders of the Young Women Leading for Peace trainee program, and partner women's rights organizations in Juba, publicized an open letter to the president on the status of the peace agreement and particularly gaps in women's participation in peace and political processes through the press. On International Peace Day, a national television talk show with WIPC, the head of the 2019 trained women leaders and Ministry of Gender Under Secretary discussed R-ARCSS implementation from a gender perspective with a focus on women's political participation, and the implementation of the 2015-2020 National Action Plan UNSCR 1325. The talk show shed light on the concerns of displaced women and women in the armed forces who are currently in cantonment sites.

LAW organized two webinars involving South Sudanese women-led organizations on the opportunities and challenges of addressing sexual violence in the conflict, and the role of CEDAW in protecting survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.

In **the Philippines**, with the support of GNWP, 70 journalists participated in a national media competition. Most submissions were received from local journalists from Mindanao who highlighted under-reported aspects of peacebuilding in the conflict-affected region, and 26 radio programs were broadcasted and reached approximately 9,000 people raising awareness of the roles of women peacebuilders.

In **Colombia**, with the support of World Federalist Movement (WFM-IGP), Humanas appeared 106 times in the media on issues such as violence against women, justice for women and girls who are victims of sexual violence, and peace building with women, amongst others. 23 journalists supported by GNWP participated in a national media competition in Colombia. Submissions included podcasts, radio spots, articles, and audio-visual pieces promoted women's leadership in peacebuilding, implementation of the peace agreement, and conflict prevention.

Women's organizations hold implementing parties to account for provisions in the peace agreements relating to conflict related SGBV in South Sudan, Colombia, and the Philippines.

Outputs/ Contribution to outcome: In **South Sudan**, YWCA of South Sudan with the support of Y Global developed a podcast to share experiences and case studies on working on peace and GBV. The emphasis was on how leaders can involve women in peace related activities and become peace actors at community level. The podcast was shared on multiple digital platforms emphasizing women as experts and advocates of peace and justice as well as GBV in conflict situations.

With the support of FOKUS, 40 South Sudanese women peace builders trained by WIPC made specific recommendations based on their experiences on conflict related SGBV to the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, and a representative of the women leaders was invited to present the specific recommendations and proposed actions to the AUC-hosted Africa Forum on Women, Peace and Security. FOKUS also supported WIPC as a member of the AU ECOSOCC Advisory Opinion Group. This forum discusses and agrees on key strategic recommendations to Member States on priority actions to accelerate the implementation of the WPS agenda, including SGBV in conflict.

In **South Sudan**, with the support of NPA, Steward Women legal aid clinic in Nimule registered GBV cases from communities and referred to the Special Protection Unit (SPU). The collaboration between the legal aid clinic and the SPU provided timely management and resolution of GBV cases among communities in Nimule and contributed to reduce tensions. The cases involved sexual violence, child abuse and domestic violence.

In South Sudan, NCA has supported the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) which through women mediators continued the reconciliation processes in several local communities. The gatherings they facilitated also provided a safe space for women to discuss conflict issues affecting their communities including Gender-based Violence, boundary disputes, and conflicts over water and grazing land. SSCC also organized peace conferences in disputed areas, where women held prominent roles. With the support of NCA, the Christian Council of Churches has repeatedly addressed the implementation parties of peace agreements to follow up on conflict related SGBV.

In **Colombia**, with the support of GNWP, local women activists successfully advocated for the inclusion of gender-responsive provisions to be included in local development plans and resulted in 19 out of the 42 provisions involving municipalities included specific provisions dedicated to implementing the gender provisions of the peace agreement in their local development plans. The concrete actions included information campaigns to prevent SGBV, development and adoption of local policies on the protection of sexual and reproductive health rights and improving the delivery of the services to SGBV survivors, all in consultation with SGBV survivors. Steering Committees on the implementation of the peace agreement, consisting of representatives of various

marginalized groups - including indigenous women, Afro-Colombian women, rural women, LGBTQI+ persons, and former FARC combatants, were appointed and continued to meet regularly in two localities.

In the **Philippines**, with the support of GNWP, three socioeconomic enterprises were launched as Track 2 initiatives by displaced indigenous women and former women combatants. These initiatives will economically empower many women, who survived violence and insecurity, and uplift their families. The Municipal Gender and Development Code and Local Development Plan were both approved in 2020 with corresponding budgets and have now been updated to include relevant provisions from the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP), and the Magna Carta of Women. Local women peacebuilders led advocacy campaigns for the adoption of ordinances to support the NAP and the implementation of the BOL by BARMM and non-BARMM barangays. The ordinances will establish an economic empowerment program and a technical working group to address the needs of former women combatants and survivors of gender-based violence.