

Annual report 2019

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



Norwegian Ministries

# INTRODUCTION

We are finalising this report in the midst of a pandemic that highlights the need for global solutions to global challenges, the urgency of a gendered approach to crises that affect men and women differently, and the imperative of supporting women on the front lines, who are out there doing the job long before the bigger wheels start turning.

We are reminded once again that health, the economy and the overall well-being of a population are closely linked to security. A crisis can result in common preventive measures and even ceasefires, as the UN Secretary General is calling for. Or it can also result in increased levels of violence, as experienced not least by women and children in the present situation.

As we prepare for the 20th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, it is evident that we need flexibility in order to be relevant and effective. We also need commitment to staying the course. Because, as much as we are facing new challenges and have to adapt, every conflict and crisis is an emergency, and women's rights and participation are non-negotiable, even when this demands creativity and resolve, i.e. most of the time.

Looking back, we may be frustrated by the slow progress and the persistent gaps in the implementation of women, peace and security commitments, and by women's continued suffering and underrepresentation in peace and security structures. We should be, because the failure to include women and integrate women's rights is not only unjust, it also makes our efforts less effective.

Yet, we must not forget what has been achieved: Peace actors are now faced with clear expectations to integrate women's rights, include women and civil society, and ensure the support of the people who will have to implement the peace. There are policies in place, and training and monitoring are improving.

This report gives a picture of Norway's efforts to improve in this area. Since our present national action plan was launched last January, new guidelines have been developed for the Foreign Service and new checklists and procedures have been put in place. 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.

The proportion and number of women in the Norwegian police and military are increasing, and this is reflected on most levels. We are close to gender parity in the police. Substantially more women were deployed by the Norwegian military in 2019, some fewer by the police, but the sample is small and the statistics are impacted by minor personnel changes. Both the police and the military deployed more women to international management positions last year, and both engaged in more missions specifically aimed at improving respect for women's rights and increasing women's participation in peace and security.

Norway's efforts for women's rights and participation in peace processes were consistent and generally improved. Norway supported civil society and other partners' work on inclusion and rights in every process we were formally involved in, also in phases where peace processes were inactive. Consistent work to this end does not necessarily result in gender-responsive peace accords or in women's rights being reflected in the implementation of peace agreements, however. Norway is a facilitator and a partner. We can advise, but do not decide for the conflict parties or other countries' authorities.

We are pleased to note that the current action plan's increased focus on women's rights and participation in early dialogue initiatives seems to have translated into more early engagement with women, more gendered conflict and actor analyses, new women, peace and security procedures and further training of our early dialogue teams.

A main priority in our Humanitarian Strategy is protection, and, in particular, combating sexual and gender-based violence and safeguarding women’s rights. The 2019 Sexual and Gender-Based Violence conference in Oslo greatly advanced funding and political commitment to the global effort, and more countries and organisations in areas affected by humanitarian crises were engaged.

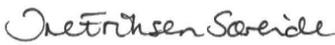
We are pleased that all our humanitarian partners involve women in need of humanitarian support in their response and have gender competence in their teams. The statistics are improving from the baseline level. However, not every organisation is able to demonstrate systematic efforts for women’s rights and inclusion in a way that can be formally registered, which is an area for improvement.

Other indicators also need to be followed up, such as the number of people working specifically on gender within the military, or the gender balance in each of our mediation teams. Measures are being put in place to improve results in these areas.

The proportion and amount of Norwegian bilateral assistance and humanitarian funding for countries affected by war and conflict that are marked ‘women’s rights and gender equality’ have increased, the latter substantially. This is in line with last year’s political decision to work towards the goal of 50% of all bilateral aid. More work is required to reach this goal, however. We need to ensure that our efforts for women and girls increase with our growing portfolios, and that the increase is reflected across sectors and budget lines.

Women peacebuilders must be enabled to do their work. This implies long-term, predictable funding, but also a safe working environment. Women peacebuilders and human rights defenders are reporting increasing levels of threats and violence. This is not only a serious breach of individuals’ human rights. It is also a problem for peace and security efforts that depend on women as well as men, and on civil society playing an active role. As we prepare for the next 20 years of women, peace and security work, enabling women peacebuilders has to be a top priority.

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This is the first annual report on the implementation of Norway's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2019–2022. 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 2019 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.

During this plan period, Norway has ten priority countries for women, peace and security: Afghanistan, Colombia, Mali, Mozambique (added in late 2019), 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 2019 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 on 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 2019.

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## KEY RESULTS

In the following, the results for 2019 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
<b>Outcome 1.1:</b> <b>Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate participation by women in all phases</b>	1.1.a) Percentage of women in UN mediation teams, at different levels	Number: 19 <sup>1</sup> in six processes.	39% (29/75) in five processes)
	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%)
	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%) <sup>2</sup>
<b>Outcome 1.2:</b> <b>Peace and reconciliation processes facilitate respect for both women's and men's rights, needs and priorities</b>	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
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
	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)
	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)
Output 1.2.1 Norway helps to ensure that parties to negotiations and mediators have	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	i) 4/5 ii) 2/5 iii) 2/5 iv) 2/5	i) 3/6 ii) 3/6 iii) 3/6 iv) 3/6

<sup>1</sup> Unable to obtain results as a percentage for 2018.

<sup>2</sup> 2 of 3 active processes throughout the year (67%).

sufficient capacity to integrate the gender perspective	rights, iii) protection against sexual and gender-based violence, and iv) due process protection		
	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)
Output 1.1.2 Norway helps to ensure that women's organisations have the capacity and opportunity to participate in peace and reconciliation processes	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
	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%)
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%)
<b>OPERATIONAL RESULTS</b>			
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% (20 of 59) Formal processes: 18% (4 of 22) Early dialogue initiatives: 43% (16 of 37)
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)
	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)

	8) Percentage of facilitation teams that have appointed a person with particular responsibility for following up women, peace and security	4 of 4 (100%)	5 of 5 (100%)
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The data on peace processes clearly demonstrate how the situation can change from one moment to the next in this line of work. Negotiations are suspended and picked up again. Four of six processes were active in 2019, although only three throughout the year. Informal processes become formal processes, and external factors can impact both the broader results and those that concern women’s participation and rights. These explanatory notes are therefore worth studying.

Our targets are high and not easily reached, given that Norway’s role is that of facilitator rather than decision-maker, but we could not aim for anything less. 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).

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. One process does not have a *facilitation* team, since Norway’s role is not that of facilitator, although it does have a team for the process.

In line with our target, women, peace and security was an integral part of all facilitation teams' work in peace and reconciliation processes where Norway had a formal role in 2019, compared to 80% of such processes in 2018. All teams had appointed one person with particular responsibility for following up women, peace and security, which is also in line with the target. While they do have regular interaction in various ways with women, peace and security experts, only four of 22 members of facilitation teams for formal processes report having further developed their competence in relation to women, peace and security during 2019 (target 100%). Despite the overall increase in training of our peace and reconciliation teams (up from 23% to 34%), we need to look into these figures and consider whether more systematic training needs to be introduced.

In three of four active processes, Norway worked strategically in 2019 to ensure women’s participation in negotiation and mediation delegations (target 100%). The fourth process had small, established delegations, and Norway works with various actors to increase women’s influence in broader peace and reconciliation efforts.

Norway supported the participation of women’s organisations in five of six peace and reconciliation processes in which Norway had a formal role in 2019 (target 100%). In all of these processes, both political/diplomatic and financial support was provided, in line with our target. In four processes, technical support was also part of the partnership. As for the sixth process, mapping of civil society and women’s organisations is under way (concluded in spring 2020) that will guide decisions about whom to support and how.

In four of the five processes where Norway supports women’s organisations, these organisations stood up for women’s rights, needs and priorities in the peace process in 2019. As for the fifth, the team reports that the women have not been able to impact the process as such, because it was inactive.

Our teams in two of six processes had 67% women in 2019, while a third had 60% women. On average, our teams had 42.2% women in 2019. Overall, however, women made up 36.4% of team members in formal processes in 2019, which can be explained by the fact that one team only had male members. We are discussing procedures for recruitment to these teams. Because the teams are drawn from different

departments and entities, it is a complex process to monitor, and we might unintentionally end up with all-male or all-female teams.

In 2019, Norway had two special envoys to processes for which Norway is a facilitator: one woman and one man. We are pleased to note complete gender parity at that level. In a third process, we also have a special envoy who plays a formal role, a man. Four special envoys support other peace processes: three men and one woman. In addition, we have a special envoy for women, peace and security, who is a woman. All in all, we have eight special envoys involved in peace processes in different capacities: three women and five men.

Norway supports the UN's mediation work. We therefore monitor gender parity in their teams as well. We are pleased to note an increase in women's participation, from 19 in 2018 to 29 (of 75) in 2019. That is 38.7% of the people involved. The statistics are greatly helped by the fact that the bigger teams are close to gender-balanced, but all the teams are not doing as well. The overall female / male representation in the five active teams in 2019 was 35% women and 65% men. Women made up 11%, 29%, 41%, 45% and 50% of the five teams, respectively. We are pleased to note that the women involved include one UN representative, one co-chair, a deputy special envoy, a deputy director, as well as political advisers and other key staff.

The parties' delegations to formal peace negotiations in which Norway has a formal role are very different in nature and scope, but they tend to remain unchanged over time. One of the processes had 1 112 delegates in 2019, another only four.

One process was added to this data set in 2019, as it graduated from an early dialogue initiative to a formal process. This was the most significant change from 2018 to 2019, in addition to the fact that one of the delegations to another process was suspended along with the peace negotiations. These developments resulted in a minor decline in women's representation from 22.5% to 22.3%.

The percentage of formal peace and reconciliation processes in which Norway had a formal role in 2019, and where inclusion mechanisms or a formalised dialogue with women in civil society /civil society organisations had been established by 2019, decreased from 60% to 33% (target 100%). However, the challenges are caused by inactive processes and lack of progress rather than backsliding. We monitor one more process in 2019 that does not yet have an inclusion mechanism, which means that the sample is bigger. At the same time, peace negotiations in another process were suspended, including its inclusion mechanism. Other than that, the data remain the same. In fact, in 67% (two of three) processes that were active throughout 2019, inclusion mechanisms were in place.

Three of the six peace and reconciliation processes in which Norway had a formal role in 2019 addressed both women's and men's political rights, economic rights, protection against sexual and gender-based violence, and due process protection. It should be noted that two of the remaining processes were not active in 2019, which might explain their reporting under this indicator. As for the sixth, Norway has entered into a strategic partnership on women, peace and security, and continues to support initiatives to contribute to increased focus on women's rights in the broader peace and reconciliation efforts.

No peace agreement was concluded in processes in which Norway had a formal facilitation role. One ceasefire agreement was concluded in such a process, but this was a short-term ceasefire agreement with no thematic clauses. One peace agreement was concluded in a process in which Norway had another formal role. It had no reference to women's participation or rights.

As for dialogue initiatives in an early phase, 38% percent of our team members in 2019 (14 of 37) were women. A number of dialogue initiatives are handled by one person alone. One team consists of two men. Other than that, women made up 38%, 40%, 40%, 56% and 60% of the teams, respectively. 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.

Women, peace and security is reported to have been an integral part of 55% (target 100%) of the Norwegian teams' work in 2019 (6/11 compared to 6/10 in 2018), which means that there has been no change in the processes that were also monitored in 2018, and that the newest process does not yet integrate women, peace and security. 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.

However, looking at other indicators, we do note positive changes. In 73% (target 100%) of peace and reconciliation processes in which Norway was involved in an early phase in 2019 (8 of 11), Norway worked strategically to prepare the ground for women's participation. In 2018, the percentage was 60% and the figure was 6 of 10.

Norway had identified women's organisations or groups that can play a role in a resultant process in 36% (target 100%) of dialogue initiatives in an early phase (4 of 11). 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.

One gender-responsive conflict and actor analysis was carried out, and another one was initiated (concluded in spring 2020). 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.

Compared to 2018, a higher percentage of team members involved in early dialogue initiatives (43%, 16 of 37) had been given training or further developed their competence in relation to women, peace and security during the year.

We have noted an increased focus on women, peace and security in early dialogue initiatives among our partners, as well as within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A letter was sent to all partners in mid-2019 to make them aware of our policies on women, peace and security in early dialogue initiatives. Noref has provided training for employees and developed a checklist for women, peace and security in this early phase.

The proportion of peace and reconciliation funds earmarked for women's rights and gender equality decreased markedly from 2018 to 2019, both as a percentage and in absolute figures (from 38% to 27%, and from NOK 167 million to NOK 117 million). This was surprising, given the high priority this work has been given, and the many valued partnerships with women's organisations and others working for women's rights and participation. However, upon closer inspection, it is clear that the decline can largely be explained by the fact that one substantial partnership was supported via a different budget line in 2019, and that a new partnership (amounting to NOK 25 million in 2019 alone) was disbursed from a different budget line. Therefore, despite the statistical decrease in 2019, partnerships and support for women's participation in peace and reconciliation efforts continue. This is also evidenced by the reporting, for example from our teams in priority countries for women, peace and security.

We need to monitor individual budget lines over time, not least this one, which is key to our peace diplomacy. At the same time, we welcome broad ownership of the women, peace and security agenda, and appreciate that such efforts are valued – and invested in – by different parts of our system. There was an overall increase in funding for women's rights and gender equality in Norwegian bilateral assistance to countries affected by war and conflict in 2019.

## 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. Representatives of the Norwegian branch met with representatives of the Mediterranean network in Beirut in March 2019 to strengthen relations and explore opportunities for mutual support.

The Nordic Network met in Oslo in May 2019 and had substantial discussions with women from Afghanistan, Libya and Yemen on the challenges and opportunities for women's rights and participation in their specific peace and security contexts. Since then, the Nordic network has established resource groups for these countries as well as for Syria, which was the main focus of the 2018 annual meeting.

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 networks are in the process of specifying work methods and areas of common interest.

In June each year, a peace mediators gathering called *Oslo Forum* is 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 2019, 42% women and 58% men attended. The Foreign Minister organised a closed-door luncheon on women's participation in peace processes with key male and female actors in the field. In one session, female government negotiators shared the stage to talk about their experiences of reaching peace agreements.

## 2. IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACE AGREEMENTS

EXPECTED RESULT	INDICATOR	BASELINE 2018	2019
<b>Outcome 2.1</b> <b>Women's participation is facilitated in the implementation of peace agreements.</b>	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%.
<b>Outcome 2.2.</b> <b>When implementing peace agreements, steps are taken to safeguard both women's and men's rights.</b>	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
	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)
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.
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
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 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

As regards Norwegian support for the implementation of peace and ceasefire agreements, we monitor our work in Colombia, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar and South Sudan. The reporting from the relevant teams indicates slight improvements in women's participation and rights from 2018 to 2019, while the indicator data remain largely unchanged, as briefly exemplified in the following notes. 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.

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.

If we only look at the percentages, it can seem that implementation processes in which Norway is involved have a lower proportion of women involved in key implementation mechanisms in 2019 than in 2018. However, the statistical decrease is due to the fact that we monitor support for five implementation processes in 2019, compared to four in 2018. Three of the five processes have 1–5% women in key positions, compared to two of four in 2018. This indicates that the newest process is also in the lowest percentage range as regards inclusion. The two remaining processes have 10–30% women in key implementation mechanisms, as was the case in 2018. Therefore, while there has been no 'graduation' to the next level of inclusion for any of the processes, Norwegian support for implementation processes has been expanded.

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. 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.

Some of our teams note that the implementation of agreements is slow or uneven in general. A low percentage result might not be due to not committing to implementing clauses addressing women's rights, but to these clauses not being prioritised over others. In one of the cases, there is clear disagreement between the government and various monitoring mechanisms about the implementation rate of the gender provisions in the peace agreement.

The capacity of key institutions is another issue. Some might have made a commitment, but are not able to deliver as intended. That is why Norway provides support for the authorities, the UN and regional actors, as well as for civil society.

As for the follow-up of women's rights in general clauses, the situation is unchanged for the four processes monitored in 2018; two follow up women's rights more broadly, while two do not (target 100%). The newest process does not follow up women's rights in general clauses. Therefore, as in the case of indicator 2.1, there is a percentage decrease, but what it indicates is that Norway is involved in one more process.

Where it is reported that women's rights in general clauses are followed up, this is due to the fact that specific measures have been taken, for instance, to include women in transitional justice or reintegration, or that new

laws have been adopted or partnerships forged that are likely to bolster women's rights in relation to matters relevant to the agreement. Where it is reported that women's rights are not followed up consistently, there are still signs of progress, such as the gender training provided for some of the implementation mechanisms.

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 three of five processes, we also support 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.

In general, the fifth implementation process included in the reporting for 2019 is supported much like the other four. However, this is the only implementation process where Norway does not specifically support civil society's efforts on women's rights and participation in the implementation of the peace agreement (target 100%). This is due to the fact that, at this point, women's civil society organisations do not have a formal role in the implementation of the peace agreement. However, Norway does support civil society efforts on women, peace and security more broadly, through various partnerships and initiatives.

### 3. OPERATIONS AND MISSIONS

EXPECTED RESULT	INDICATOR	BASELINE 2018	2019
<b>Outcome 3.1 International operations and missions facilitate participation by women</b>	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)
	3.1 b) Number of women in leading positions in international operations and missions	1 (MoD), 3 (MoJ)	7 (MoD), 4 (MoJ)
<b>Outcome 3.2 International operations and missions facilitate the safeguarding of both women's and men's rights, needs and priorities</b>	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)
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)
	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)
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, Ukraine 1, 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, 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
<b>OPERATIONAL RESULTS</b>			
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
	2) Number and percentage of i) female military personnel in the Armed Forces, including among ii) officers (OF), iii) specialists and iv) conscripts	i) 1 442 women of a total of 11 515 military personnel (12.5%). ii) 12.4%, iii)14.2%, iv) 28.5%	i) 1 530 of 11 660 (13.1%) plus conscripts, ii) 631 (11%), iii) 899 (15.1%), iv) 1 920 (27.8%)
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
	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%)
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)

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 4.2% in 2018 to 5.1% in 2019. The level is still far too low, but the positive change demonstrates commitment, as the increase happened at a time where the number of peacekeepers was reduced from 79 399 to 75 856.

Positive developments are also noted with regard to the proportion of UN operations that have a gender adviser as part of the operation's leadership: 53.8% in 2019 compared to 33% in 2018. It should be noted, though, that the number of operations was reduced from 21 to 13 in the same period. The increase is actually only a percentage increase. The number as such is unchanged.

We welcome the increase in the number of persons who have received training in the gender perspective at the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations, from 202 in 2018 to 300 in 2019. It is also a positive sign that more countries had representatives attending courses, up from 37 countries in 2018 to 42 in 2019.

The percentage of women in Norwegian military contributions to international missions and operations increased from 10.5% in 2018 to 12.9% in 2019. There was also an increase in the *number* of women deployed, from 101 to 131, 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, 25 Norwegian police officers were deployed during 2019 compared to 29 in 2018. The percentage of deployed female police officers decreased from 41% to 35% (target 40%); in figures: 12 in 2018 compared to 8 in 2019. 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 increased substantially, from one to seven (6–8 throughout 2019) on the military side, and from three to four on the police side (target 2). This is a sign of consistent follow-up, but, since the number of such positions is limited, the 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, doubled from 2018 to 2019, from one to two such operations. Likewise, 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 doubled from one to two (target 3 by 2022). The figures are small, but 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 a steady increase in women's participation in the Norwegian Armed Forces and proud to note close to gender parity within the police (which is the target). 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). The proportion of women in leading police positions was 22% in 2019, compared to 20% in 2018,

and, overall, women filled 35% of leading positions in the police in 2019, compared to 34% in 2018. It should be noted that, of legal and other civilian leaders within the police, women accounted for 47% and 58%, respectively. The Norwegian Police Academy admitted 50.5% women, compared to 46 % the previous year. 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 2018 to 2019, from 12.5% (1 442 women) to 13.1% (1 530 women). There is a decline in the percentage of women officers (from 12.4% to 11%), but an increase in the percentage of women specialists (14.2% to 15.1%). The percentage of women conscripts decreased from 28.5% to 27.8%. However, 1 920 young women did their national service in 2019, and it should 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. This increase has not had the intended effect on the number of female employees in the armed forces in general, however. 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 seven to five from 2018 to 2019. It is worth noting, though, that there are now three positions at strategic level, as opposed to two in 2018. There is no one at the operational level compared to five in 2018. However, there are two at the tactical level, where there was no one in 2019. 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 Norwegians deployed on international operations and missions in 2019 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. All Norwegian police who were deployed in 2019 were trained in WPS and CRSV, as were some extra personnel who might be deployed later. Forty people received basic training, while three were given specialist training.

As in 2018, there were no cases in 2019 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.

The percentage of assistance for security sector reform that was marked 'women's rights and gender equality' decreased from 85% in 2018 to 79% in 2019. However, the absolute amount has increased relatively substantially, from NOK 64 million to NOK 81 million. The percentage decrease is due to the fact that a large partnership that was not gender-coded was moved from another budget line to this one, increasing the overall budget. We are pleased to note that we supported more or larger programmes for women's rights and gender equality within this field in 2019. However, the statistics indicate that we need to keep an eye on the broader programmes. Our efforts for women and girls must grow with our portfolios.

## 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 will be rolled out in missions in 2020.

## 4. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

EXPECTED RESULT	INDICATOR	BASELINE 2018	2019
<b>Outcome 4.1 Humanitarian efforts facilitate women's involvement</b>	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)
<b>Outcome 4.2 Humanitarian efforts facilitate the safeguarding of both women's and men's rights, needs and priorities</b>	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)
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)
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)
	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)
	4.2.1 c) Percentage of Norwegian humanitarian assistance to countries marked by war and conflict that is spent on measures marked with a gender marker	Principal objective: 2% (NOK 60 million) Significant objective: 44% (NOK 1 478 million <sup>3</sup> )	Principal objective: 6% (NOK 187 million) Significant objective: 56 % (NOK 1 839 million)

<sup>3</sup> Adjusted baseline. It was estimated to be NOK 1 471 million, but has been adjusted after a further quality check

In 2020, Norway will provide 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.

We are pleased to note that women who need humanitarian aid are included in the work of all major organisations that receive Norwegian humanitarian support. In 2019, the 17 most important organisations were monitored and included in this report, compared to 10 in 2018. Similarly, all of them integrate the gender perspective, i.e. their work takes women's and men's rights, needs and priorities into account. All but one of the organisations report data broken down by gender. The one exception explains the lack of gender-disaggregated data by the fact that they to some extent rely on government figures that are not broken down by gender. Even though the sample was greatly expanded from 2018 to 2019, the same commitment to women's participation and rights in humanitarian support is evident among our partners.

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.

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.

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.

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 and field visits are consistent with the overall picture provided in the matrix.

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.

As for humanitarian efforts under UN auspices, we monitor five 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. Three of five organisations systematically involve women affected by the crisis in their work. One organisation does so in some humanitarian responses, while another is not able to quantify to what extent this is done. The organisations do, however, 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 states that they work with 1 400 partners, of which 800 are NGOs. Most of them are women's organisations. There are examples of gender audits undertaken together with local women, and events and meetings to collect women's perspectives.

We see a similar pattern as regards gender expertise within the various responses and operations. Only some have dedicated gender advisers at response or country level that can be registered in this matrix. Only one 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 30% to 32%, reflecting progress within three of five organisations (0.2%, 24% and 46% of operations had a gender adviser in 2018 compared to 8%, 29% and 54% in 2019). Note that some organisations report on countries, others on responses. In all, they have reported on 363 responses in 2019 compared to 289 in 2018.

We are pleased to note that, as regards Norwegian humanitarian funds for countries torn by war and conflict, there has been a substantial increase in funds marked with a gender marker, greatly exceeding the goal of 50%. Both the percentage and the figures show an increase, from 46% (NOK 1 538 million) to 62% (NOK 2 026 million). Furthermore, the fact that a larger proportion of the funds have women's rights and gender equality as a principal objective is a positive development, from 2% (NOK 60 million) to 6% (NOK 187 mill). These significant improvements can most likely be explained by an increased focus on the substance matter, by more training and by more attention being given to the correct registration of programme data within our humanitarian response.

## ALSO WORTH NOTING

Norway will increase its focus on protection in its humanitarian response, with particular emphasis on combating sexual and gender-based violence and safeguarding women's rights. The gender perspective will be integrated into all our humanitarian efforts, and special priority will be given to women's rights and participation. Protection against SGBV will be given high priority in Norway's humanitarian efforts. Norway will call for more international action in this area and will increase its support for operational measures to prevent this kind of violence and to follow up survivors. In addition, we will work to ensure that our partners have the necessary capacity and expertise in this area.

As part of these efforts, Norway tripled its support for the *GenCap*, *ProCap* and *NorCap* programmes in 2019, deploying experts on gender and protection. This support will be continued in 2020. These system-strengthening mechanisms will strengthen operational responses in relation to gender, protection and SGBV by providing experts to assist governments, UN agencies and other organisations. The experts in these mechanisms contribute to integrating the gender perspective, including SGBV, in humanitarian responses.

In May 2019, Norway, along with Iraq, Somalia, the United Arab Emirates, OCHA, UNFPA and ICRC, hosted an international conference in Oslo on '*Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Crises*'. The conference brought together SGBV survivors and specialists, members of 167 national and 76 international civil society organisations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, representatives from 100 nations, global leaders and regional and international organisations. Some 50 States, UN agencies, NGOs and others submitted written political, policy and best practice commitments. Many others outlined specific measures and a political will to end SGBV.

Several hundred commitments were made relating to standards and legal frameworks, operational support, SGBV prevention and response services, leadership and coordination, advancing gender equality, and women's empowerment, addressing root causes and other issues that are specific to country contexts and areas of work. Participating actors focused in particular on the implementation of legal frameworks and strategies, as well as increasing operational support to ensure that survivor-centred services, care and protection are available in all crises.

Twenty-one donors committed USD 363 million for 2019 and 2020 and beyond, including USD 226.2 million for 2019 alone. *Norway committed to giving NOK 1 billion* in support for the years 2019–2021. In addition, generous non-earmarked and core funding was announced for humanitarian partners working to prevent and respond to SGBV, as well as funding for the Central Emergency Response Fund and country-based pool funds.

## 5. SUSTAINING PEACE

EXPECTED RESULT	INDICATOR	BASELINE 2018	2019
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%
	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%
	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%
	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%
	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%
The action plans for women's rights and gender equality and on women, peace and security are followed up through development assistance funds	Percentage of Norwegian bilateral assistance to countries affected by war and conflict that is marked 'women's rights and gender equality' as i) a principal objective and ii) a significant objective	Principal objective 8% (NOK 722 million); Significant objective: 32% (NOK 3 097 million.) <sup>4</sup>	Principal objective 7% (NOK 749 million); Significant objective: 34% (NOK 3 574 million.)
Norway's work for arms control and for preventing and combating violent extremism include women and an	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) <sup>5</sup>	Principal objective: 1% (NOK 3 million) Significant objective: 30% (NOK 88 million)

<sup>4</sup> 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).

<sup>5</sup> 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).

integrated gender perspective	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)
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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. It is a matter of truly ensuring that the broader development programmes and foreign policy initiatives benefit women and girls as well as men and boys. We are working on training and developing procedures that will enhance people's understanding and practical know-how. Compared to 2018, the figures for 2019 show that there has been an increase in Norwegian bilateral assistance to countries affected by war and conflict that is marked 'women's rights and gender equality'. The increase is both a percentage increase and an increase in absolute numbers (from 40% to 41% and from NOK 3 819 million to NOK 4 323 million). This indicates that we are on the right track. It may also reflect the political commitment made in mid- 2019 to work towards 50%.

However, more efforts are needed to reach that level. We need to ensure that the increase is consistent across sectors and budget lines, as illustrated by the financial statistics in Chapters 1 and 3 of this report. It should be noted, though, that when the budget lines are relatively small, even slight changes can impact the statistics.

Norwegian assistance for global security and disarmament is a good example. From 2018 to 2019 the proportion of funding marked 'women's rights and gender equality' decreased significantly (from 44% to 31%), although the actual figures showed an increase from NOK 84 million to NOK 91 million. A further increase was initially planned for, but did not materialise, because a key partner asked that more than NOK 7 million of its grant be transferred to another year, due to funds received from another donor.

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 decreased from 8% to 7% from 2018 to 2019, despite the amount increasing by NOK 27 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 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 2019. Of the 52 countries where the embassy and MFA country teams are involved, 48 report that Norway supported efforts to promote women's rights and gender equality in 2019 in line with the national action plan on women's rights and gender equality.

There was an increase in the proportion of countries where Norway supports education for girls (from 63% to 68,5%), women's economic empowerment (from 72.5% to 78%), efforts to combat violence, including sexual violence against women, men and children (from 63% to 65%), and harmful practices (from 41% to 57%). There was a slight decrease in reported support for women's political empowerment (from 76.5% to 76%) and a more important decrease in reported support for promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights (from 61% to 57%).

The statistics indicate that Norway's country-level efforts for women's rights and gender equality are consistent, broad and increasing. 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.

The greater attention given to combatting violence, including sexual violence, in 2019 (compared to 2018) is in line with the stronger focus on sexual violence in humanitarian responses, as highlighted at the Oslo Conference in May 2019 and by the pledge of NOK 1 billion for this purpose (from 2019 to 2021). The increased country-level focus on ending harmful practices might contribute to fulfilling the renewed political commitment in this field. The decrease in reported support for sexual and reproductive health and rights could be due to more funding being allocated through multilateral actors. We know that overall Norwegian support (for all countries – not only those marked by conflict) for sexual and reproductive health and rights increased by 1.5% in 2019, but that a bigger proportion than before was channelled through regional or global initiatives, rather than through country-level work. We will follow the data closely over time in order to monitor trends.

We are pleased to note that, in the seven countries in conflict and post-conflict situations that received most development aid in 2019, Norway supported efforts in all five thematic areas (as reflected in all six related indicators) that are prioritised in the Norwegian national action plan for women's rights and gender equality. In 40 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.

Our cooperation with South Africa is a good case in point: In collaboration with the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation, Norway supported the Centre for Mediation in Africa at the University of Pretoria in order to enhance knowledge and expertise in conflict resolution, mediation and negotiations in South Africa and the African continent. The programme has a particular emphasis on training African women, who are currently involved in peacebuilding in their respective communities, at the national, regional and continental levels, so that they can take their rightful place among the ranks of senior peacemakers. These women receive training in how to understand the root causes/underlying causes of conflict, and in strategies for resolution through mediation and negotiations.

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.

Norway's ongoing cooperation with UNDP on women, peace and security was expanded from a pilot to a full programme in 2019. It focuses on parliamentarians' responsibilities and opportunities for implementing the women, peace and security agenda. Work is ongoing in seven countries. A handbook for parliamentarians on WPS was launched in Oslo in November 2019. It builds on experiences from the pilot countries.

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. Norway was on the board of the Fund in 2019, as one of its four largest contributors.

In 2019, Norway entered into a new partnership on the new Global Survivors' Fund with the Mukwege Foundation (with whom we have a longstanding cooperation) as well as with Nadia's Initiative and UN. Norway's contribution helps to set up functional structures and piloting activities. The Fund works with survivors of conflict-related sexual violence to enable a holistic response.

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.

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The percentage of countries where measures supported by Norway to **prevent and combat violent extremism** promote women's participation and integrate the gender perspective shows a decline from 86% in 2018 to 50% in 2019. This is primarily due to two factors: firstly, the portfolio has changed, with new partnerships being included. Secondly, colleagues are now reporting actual results rather than intentions set out in programme outlines. Therefore, we are pleased to note that efforts in 50% of countries where Norway supports work to prevent and combat violent extremism do promote women's participation and integrate a gender perspective.

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.

Norway supported the UNDP and ICAN/WASL *Invisible Women* report, which was launched in Oslo in January 2019. This report provides new insights into women's different roles and situations in the face of violent extremism. Furthermore, the organisations' annual meeting was held in Oslo in 2019, to enable experience sharing between the many peace activists and relevant Norwegian stakeholders. Issues on the agenda included the safety of women peacebuilders and the role of parliamentarians in following up women, peace and security commitments.

## ALSO WORTH NOTING

In 2019, Norway adopted a new International Strategy to Eliminate Harmful Practices (2019–2023), with financial commitments amounting to NOK 760 million.

The Norwegian Government is strengthening its efforts to combat modern slavery, and is consolidating these efforts in a development programme. The development programme is being developed on the basis of a survey undertaken in 2019.

Norway's support for vulnerable groups has increased. A new budget line for this purpose will be created in 2020. The allocation will be used, among other things, to support efforts to combat modern slavery.

In Nairobi in 2019, Norway committed to remaining a global champion of SRHR, both financially and politically. Financially, Norway committed to investing NOK 9.6 billion in SRHR during the period 2020–2025 (Norway's total commitments: <https://www.nairobisummiticpd.org/commitments>).

# AFGHANISTAN

## CONTEXT

In late 2018, the USA started direct talks with the Taliban to seek a political solution to ending the Afghanistan conflict, which has now lasted for more than four decades. Similarly, other countries, including Russia, supported intra-Afghan talks to facilitate informal discussions between Afghans and the Taliban. However, there was very limited participation by women, sometimes none, that would have enabled them to share their concerns and demands. The Moscow conference, for example, included only two women from political parties.

At the beginning of 2019, there was considerable support from civil society for women's participation in the peace process. Several large gatherings and consultative meetings with women were organised around the country. Position papers and resolutions from these consultations were shared with national and international organisations. They demanded an immediate ceasefire between the Government and the Taliban, consideration for women's rights and the preservation of women's achievements during the past 19 years. 'Afghan Women's National Consensus for Peace' was one of several noteworthy meetings. It was organised by the first lady's office in cooperation with the Afghan Women's Network. It gave voice to 3,500 women from across the country.

Advocacy by civil society organisations and women's rights activists resulted in meaningful participation by women in the Consultative Loya Jirga on peace. Women made up 30 per cent of the participants. The Doha intra-Afghan peace talks included 11 women out of 62 participants from government, political parties and civil society. They were given an opportunity to speak and share their concerns and demands, and be part of the committee that drafted the Doha conference resolution.

Women's meaningful participation in peace talks and preservation of their rights and achievements were stressed in UN Security Council meetings on Afghanistan. The international community, including NATO Senior Civilian Representative's Office and embassies, has held several consultative meetings with civil society organisations to listen to their concerns and demands relating to ongoing peace talks with the Taliban. This resulted in political/diplomatic statements stressing women's meaningful participation in the peace process and preserving women's rights and achievements in peace negotiations.

Even though talks between the US and Taliban were called off by president Trump in September, the negotiations were resumed in December 2019. In 2019, the Afghan government established a State Ministry of Peace that is tasked with leading the government's peace efforts, and it has emphasised the importance of having an inclusive team in possible intra-Afghan negotiations between the Taliban and other Afghan political forces, including the government. However, the number of women taking part in the negotiating structure is unclear, although women's rights are mentioned as an absolute priority that must be respected in such talks with the Taliban.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan received support from donor communities and UN Women to finalise the second phase of Afghanistan's national action plan on SCR 1325, which contains specific indicators and clear targets for women's participation in peace talks, and other issues relevant to women's peace and security.

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## KEY RESULTS

This report sets out the Norwegian Embassy's activities and results relating to Women, Peace and Security (WPS) during 2019, as well as a general perspective on Norway's engagement in Afghanistan. Norway's specific contributions to WPS through Norwegian and International NGOs and CSOs supported by Norad and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) are not included, primarily because the embassy does not have grant management responsibility.

## PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROCESSES

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

**Outputs:** Through diplomatic channels and in all relevant national and international forums, the embassy has stressed the importance of women's meaningful participation in the peace talks.

**Contribution to outcome:** The Afghan government's statements show a commitment to women's rights and to preserving their achievements in the peace talks. The Taliban's statements show respect for women's rights in the peace talks and a commitment to women's Islamic rights.

**Challenges:** There is no guarantee that the Taliban will commit to preserving women's constitutional rights.

**Outputs:** Through UN Women, Norway supported the Afghan Women's Network's advocacy and lobbying for increased and meaningful participation by women in the Doha intra-Afghan talks.

**Contribution to outcome:** In the Doha talks, the Afghan delegation included 11 (16%) women.

**Challenges:** It is not clear whether women's rights issues have been discussed, guaranteed and are included in the peace deal/agreement that will be signed between US and Taliban. Similarly, there is no information or clarity about mechanisms for monitoring the peace process. Women are not sure whether they will get to play a meaningful role in the official peace talks. Similarly, there is no evidence on the ground of a change in the Taliban's attitude towards women – as they claim.

**Outputs:** Through UN Women, the High Peace Council (HPC), Norwegian Church Aid and UNAMA, Norway supports various peace initiatives by civil society organisations. (Specific details can be provided by Norad and the MFA as they manage the grants from Oslo.)

**Contribution to outcome:** These initiatives build the capacity of women peace mediators and facilitators, advocate for women's meaningful participation in peace talks, resolve local conflicts and give a voice to women in national and international peace-relevant forums.

**Challenges:** Civil society will probably be given no or only a very limited opportunity to participate meaningfully in the peace talks. The Taliban's political statements regard women NGOs as spoilers in the community that encourage immorality.

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

**Outputs:** The Norwegian embassy in Kabul has started a series of informal debates on women's participation in the peace process. This initiative is intended to facilitate discussions between women's rights activists and experts in the rule of law and freedom of expression. The goal is to debate and challenge parties to negotiations on their stance on women's rights in the peace process in light of the current context. Similarly, through these discussions, the embassy aimed to ensure that participants could come closer to arriving at a common stance and agree stances on women's rights issues (including red lines and compromise options) that were acceptable to both sides and to a majority of the people (both men and women in rural and urban communities) of Afghanistan. So far, two debates have been hosted. Participants included women's rights activists, researchers, academics and religious scholars, men and women with expertise in women's rights, rule of law and the freedom of expression. In addition, embassies of the Nordic+ countries were also invited to engage with Afghan participants, share their views and ask questions.

**Contribution to outcome:** Lively discussions took place in these debates that resulted in specific recommendations on how to ensure women's meaningful participation in the peace talks, protect their rights and preserve their achievements. Based on the participants' recommendations, the embassy is willing to continue its facilitation role. It is necessary to involve other stakeholders.

**Challenges:** There is a lack of coordination between stakeholders (civil society, the international community, political parties, government etc.) that have started different initiatives to increase women’s meaningful participation in the peace talks.

**Outputs:** The embassy actively participated in discussion forums, provided technical support to relevant government agencies, and issued diplomatic statements on women, peace and security. Through UN Women, Norway supported the government’s work on localisation of the national action plan on women, peace and security, with a view to enabling better implementation by relevant stakeholders.

**Contribution to outcome:** Finalisation of the second phase of the Afghanistan national action plan. Capacity building of relevant government institutions as regards the implementation of the plan and joint follow-up of its implementation by donors.

**Challenges:** The implementation of the national action plan is limited due to limited capacity at the national and local level.

**Outputs:** Women’s rights and the inclusion of women are topics that the embassy often raises when talking to different stakeholders.

**Contribution to outcome:** An increased commitment by different stakeholders to women’s rights and inclusion.

**Challenges:** Commitments are more political and on paper. There is no guarantee that these commitments will be followed up in practice.

## OPERATIONS AND MISSIONS

*Because of the current security situation in Afghanistan, security actors are involved in political processes aimed at bringing the parties to the table and securing peace. The embassy is therefore working with Afghan and international security actors to facilitate a more inclusive process that also results in the rights of women being respected.*

### **Outcome 3.1 International operations and missions facilitate participation by women**

**Outputs:** Through diplomatic means and in dialogue with security actors, 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) declare that they are committed to protecting women’s rights.

**Challenges:** Even though there is a political commitment to women’s participation in peace talks, the realities on the ground indicate 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 meaningful participation by women in peace processes in all relevant meetings with RSM/NATO and Afghan security institutions.

**Contribution to outcome:** Commitment by RSM/NATO and Afghan actors to advocate for 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 address issues relating to women working in the security sector.

## HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

### **Outcome 4.1 Humanitarian efforts facilitate women's involvement**

**Outputs:** The embassy has participated actively 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 2020 strongly emphasises women affected by conflict.

### **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 humanitarian efforts.

**Contribution to outcome:** Women and girls make up almost 50% of the intended target beneficiaries of the 2020 HRP plan.

# COLOMBIA

## CONTEXT

The Colombian peace agreement and its strong emphasis on gender has made the Colombian people more aware of gender dynamics and the fact that women and men, girls and boys have been affected differently by the armed conflict. The agreement's focus on equality and gender has motivated women to organise themselves better, to take on leadership roles in their local communities, and participate in local peace dialogue initiatives.

However, while the government has underlined the importance of women's inclusion in the implementation of the peace agreement, several institutions monitoring its implementation have pointed out that the 130 gender commitments included in the agreement are being implemented at a much slower rate than other more general items. As of August 2019, 42% of these commitments had not even been initiated (KROC Institute). The most pressing challenges relate to women's inclusion in rural reform, access to security, the eradication of illicit crops, and political participation. Furthermore, Colombia is struggling to prevent the continued assassination of human rights defenders and local leaders, several of whom 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 (SIVJNR) have assigned work teams for gender mainstreaming, and women have been appointed to decision-making positions. Mechanisms have been established to promote the participation of women, and to help LGBTI individuals and ethnic communities to collect testimonies that will later be handed over to the Truth Commission. It is also important to emphasise the progress that has been made in terms of recognising women as an equal party 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 a lot of goodwill among local communities, and particularly among women, who are key actors in the implementation of the peace agreement. Consequently, Norway is in a position, both financially and politically, to engage with various actors in different thematic and geographical areas to promote and support the WPS agenda.

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## 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. The government decided to end talks when the ELN took responsibility for a car bomb in Bogotá on 17 January 2019 that left 22 police students dead. The fact that there are no ongoing talks between the parties makes it challenging to report on this particular outcome. However, 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 organisations participate in local community councils, where they promote and ensure the inclusion of women in local peace and reconciliation initiatives, such as the Humanitarian Deal in Chocó.

When and if talks between the government and the ELN resume, these women's organisations, together with other civil society actors, will stand ready to provide input and share their experiences and grievances. 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 ensure 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 and the protection and strengthening of female leaders, 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 Norwegian Red Cross, the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and FOKUS.

In 2019, Norway 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 gain access to education. The embassy continued to support a reincorporation project led by the Norwegian Red Cross that focused on formalising the skills of health workers from 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 are also centred on strengthening women as peace builders and agents of change in their local communities. This work includes the above-mentioned UN Women female peacebuilders programme, which has been implemented in nine departments, and benefitted 5 606 individuals, of whom 81% are women and girls. Through this programme, Norway supports initiatives such as women's participation in community councils (principally Afro and indigenous women), dialogue initiatives between CSOs and the Truth Commission, the participation of women in formulating regional development and peacebuilding plans, and the inclusion of gender components in such public policy plans.

In addition, Norway has continued its support for the Colombian police and its efforts to become more gender sensitive. The project, which is coordinated by the police, DCAF and CIASE, has produced a set of recommendations for the Colombian police that aim to improve the provision of security to for women living in territories formerly controlled by the FARC-EP. This work continued in 2019 and dialogue sessions were held between women's groups and security and justice providers.

In 2019, 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 Advisor on Equality, the Presidential Advisor on Stabilisation and Consolidation, the High Commissioner for Peace, the Foreign Ministry etc.) and in various donor forums.

**Outputs:** In 2019, the Norwegian embassy in Bogotá supported the following activities:

- A series of workshops aimed at training female political candidates in campaign management and communications (Partner: MAPP/OEA).
- Workshops with women in rural areas on the role of the police and the dynamics between communities and the police (Partner: DCAF/CIASE).
- Training of health workers (ex-combatants), which has resulted in ceremonies where hundreds of health workers have received diplomas formalising their skills (Partner: Norwegian Red Cross)

- Six projects supported through the female peacebuilders programme in Chocó, Valle del Cauca, Cauca and Nariño. Women’s organisations supported through this programme have organised workshops, training and courses on the prevention of violence, protection of leaders, and inclusion of women in the implementation of the peace agreement, as well as strategies to include gender-sensitive norms in public policy documents and guidelines.
- 24 courses aimed at strengthening the skills of female ex-combatants in reincorporation areas across Colombia.

**Challenges:** The KROC Institute, which monitors the implementation of the peace agreement, has revealed that the gender components in the agreement are being implemented at a slower rate than other more general items. Organisations supported by the embassy have reported the following challenges when it comes to implementation:

- Lack of state presence in some of the most affected regions, such as Chocó.
- 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.
- Community councils and local ‘peace groups’ are still dominated by men.

### **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 decreased gradually since the signing of the peace agreement in 2016. However, the assassination of human rights defenders and local community leaders remains a big challenge. Protection of these leaders is a priority for Norway in Colombia, and in 2020, the embassy will launch a new programme together with UN Women that aims to protect and prevent attacks and threats against female human rights defenders, and strengthen state institutions responsible for protection, prevention and investigations. In 2019, Norway supported efforts to protect female human rights defenders in Chocó through the UN Central Emergency Fund (CERF).

## **OPERATIONS AND MISSIONS**

### **Outcome 3.1 International operations and missions facilitate participation by women**

Norway supports the UN Verification Mission in Colombia (UNVM) and its efforts to strengthen gender provisions and include female police officers on its staff. The UNVM is committed to promoting 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 has its own gender advisers who monitor the implementation of the gender provisions in the peace agreement. The embassy is in close contact with the gender team and uses meetings with representatives not only of the UNVM, but of the UN in general, to push the WPS agenda. The entire UN system, and particularly the UNVM and UN Women, sees Norway as an important partner in promoting and implementing the gender provisions of the agreement. Two Norwegian police officers are currently working in the UNVM, one woman and one man.

**Challenges:** While the gender focal point mechanism has worked relatively well for the UNVM, a 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, provides education and shelter in emergencies and distributes non-food items (NFI) and food/nutritional baskets, among other things. NRC is one of few humanitarian organisations present in the Colombian Pacific region. In Chocó, NRC has worked hard to achieve a gender balance in its humanitarian operations. To date, 47% of the beneficiaries have been women, and the project has managed to ensure broad participation by women and girls in training and information sessions despite the fact that most community leaders are men.

**Outputs:** Event concerning sexual and gender-based violence in Bogotá with participation from Dr Denis Mukwege and SEMA, a global network of victims and survivors dedicated to ending wartime sexual violence.

## OTHER RELEVANT RESULTS

In addition to the projects and initiatives already mentioned, Norway supports many other activities that are gender-related.

The embassy has supported women's organisations and strengthening of the gender provisions in the agreement through the Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF). The Fund has increased its support for implementation of the Secretary General's Seven-Point Action Plan on Peacebuilding with a Gender Perspective and SC Resolution 1325. The Fund has created a forum for women, *Instancia Especial de Mujeres*, which monitors the gender provisions of the agreement and makes recommendations. In 2019, the Fund also supported the government in its implementation of an inter-institutional strategy that strengthens prevention and response mechanisms training community networks and local authorities. This project reached 2 258 beneficiaries in Nariño, Putumayo, Chocó and Norte de Santander.

The gender approach in the National Police was strengthened through the Fund, mainly in rural areas, and 437 police officers have now completed training modules on gender and operate in places where the number of gender-based violence cases is high (La Guajira, Cesar, Antioquia, Meta, Caquetá, Tolima and Cauca). The Fund supported 16 civil society organisations in order to strengthen women's political participation in peacebuilding, economic recovery and the development of alternative processes for conflict resolution.

The embassy also financed one gender adviser in the Office of the Presidential Advisor on Stabilisation and Consolidation. Furthermore, Norway supported CSOs, many of them women's organisations, through the Norwegian-Swedish CSO fund (FOS) and Norad.

# MALI

## CONTEXT

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 between the government and the associations of CMA and Plateforme armed rebel groups (the Algiers Agreement), was eventually signed in 2015. It addressed political, security, justice and socioeconomic development issues. Although several mechanisms have been adopted, notably the Monitoring Committee of the Agreement (CSA) and its sub-committees, implementation has been slow.

Whereas the Algiers Agreement addresses the situation in Northern Mali, the security situation in Central Mali has deteriorated rapidly in the past few 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.

The international military presence in Mali includes the UN peacekeeping mission MINUSMA, the French mission Barkhane and G5 Sahel joint forces. Norway takes part in MINUSMA, notably in a rotation scheme for a transport aircraft, and also contributes a police team to UNPOL.

Mali finalised its third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP) in 2019. Norway contributes to the implementation of the NAP through support for UN Women, which, in turn, collaborates closely with the Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and Family Affairs. Women's representation in the leading mechanisms for the implementation of the peace agreement is very limited (approx. 3%). According to a law on gender equality from 2015, both sexes should have at least 30 per cent representation in all public institutions.

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 slow implementation of the Algiers Agreement means that there is still a window of opportunity for women to have a stronger say in the peace process. Norway seized this opportunity in 2019, at the formal request of the government and the signatory groups, and initiated a process that is set to culminate in increased and legitimate women's participation in 2020.

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## KEY RESULTS

Mali is a new Norwegian priority country for Women, Peace and Security. A good foundation for the embassy's work on WPS has been laid in 2019, including support for the third Malian National Action Plan on WPS and support for the inclusion of women in implementing mechanisms of the peace agreement. Most activities will be carried out from 2020 onwards.

The following is an account of Norway's contribution to relevant NAP outcomes in Mali, with particular emphasis on the embassy's activities. Several WPS-related activities in Mali are also carried out with support from Norad, and are accounted for in Norad's report.

## PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROCESSES

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

#### Outputs:

- Finalisation of Mali's third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (partner: UN Women).
- Strengthened women's participation in local conflict prevention and conflict resolution networks.

**Contribution to outcome:** One overarching goal of the NAP is to increase the inclusion of women in the peace process and in post-conflict governance. Local conflict resolution networks have contributed to resolving family conflicts and are considered to have had a lasting effect on men's recognition of women's competence.

**Challenges:** Although it includes and commits several Ministries, the third NAP is yet to be officially approved by the Council of Ministers. The previous NAPs have suffered from lack of ownership and resources – the third NAP is based on a broad consultative process and benefits from technical assistance from UN Women, as well as support from Norway and several like-minded countries.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACE AGREEMENTS

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

A peace and reconciliation agreement for Northern Mali between the Government and two associations of armed groups – Coordination of Azawad Movements (CMA) and Plateforme – was signed in 2015. The implementation of the agreement, which includes political, security, justice and socioeconomic development issues, has been slow. Women's participation in the implementation of the peace agreement is very limited (approx. 3% on relevant committees).

#### Outputs:

- Strengthened political dialogue: the inclusion of women is an integral part of Norway's dialogue with all key parties – signatory groups, the Malian government and other members of the key implementing mechanisms.
- Formal inclusion of women: Norway finances the process of including women in the implementing mechanisms of the peace agreement (the CSA and related committees).
- The embassy organised a study trip to Norway for the parties to the peace agreement, with particular focus on decentralisation models and the inclusion of nomadic groups. Women were required to be included in the delegations, thus laying the foundation for further dialogue on the inclusion of women.

**Contribution to outcome:** Norwegian support has laid the foundation for a process whereby women are included in the CSA and related mechanisms coordinating the implementation of the Algiers Agreement.

**Challenges:** Women have not been included from the beginning of the peace processes. For the study trip, women were not included in the initial delegations. Since men are unlikely to give up their seats, the implementing mechanisms will need to be enlarged in terms of the number of representatives. Norway has therefore agreed to co-finance the enlargement with the Malian government. A further challenge is to ensure *efficient, legitimate and representative* participation. Norway has been given a mandate to lead a process to that end in 2020.

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

The Embassy has supported several activities, mainly through the UN system, that aim to safeguard women's and men's rights under the peace agreement. They include the promotion of economic activity, protection against sexual and gender-based violence and access to justice. For example, a street light project in Timbuktu will help to protect women from gender-based violence, facilitate safe movement and thus stimulate increased economic activity.

## 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 (2 women and 3 men) for training the Malian police is deployed for the period 2019 to 2022.

### **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. Work against conflict-related sexual violence is an integral part of this.

## HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

### **Outcome 4.1 Humanitarian efforts facilitate women's involvement;**

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

In step with increasing humanitarian needs, Norway's humanitarian efforts in Mali have been strengthened in recent years. All humanitarian operations supported by Norway are based on a gender analysis. Resource scarcity, the intensification of ethnic conflicts and military operations in Central Mali have led to a significant increase in the number of internally displaced persons, who now number more than 330 000. Displacement and conflict make 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 are closed, young girls are exposed to child and forced marriage.

Gender-sensitive humanitarian assistance is a central topic in the embassy's dialogue with Norway's partners. Women and girls are often hardest hit by humanitarian crises. Through political dialogue, the embassy has underlined the importance of prosecuting acts of gender-based violence.

Our partners have a particular focus on girls' education in crises and on the inclusion of women in economic activities. The latter applies in particular to Norway's longer-term interventions in the agricultural sector, which employs 80% of all Malians.

# MOZAMBIQUE

## CONTEXT

After years of conflict between the government and the opposition, the parties to the peace process in Mozambique have reached agreement on a framework for peace. A peace agreement was signed between the parties on 6 August 2019.

While gender-disaggregated data specific to the Mozambican peace process are limited, other country-specific data suggest that gender inclusion still faces many challenges in the Mozambican context. Patriarchal norms are prevalent, and development indicators show considerable inequality of opportunity between women and men. Mozambique was also ranked 110/167 on the Global Women, Peace and Security index (2019). The peace and reconciliation work in Mozambique focuses on gender inclusion in a number of different ways, including by focusing on: women's participation in the negotiations, the role of gender in the design of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and prevention. Norway supports this work.

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

Norway participates in the peace process's international contact group, and contributes technical expertise to the working group on DDR. In addition, the embassy in Maputo supports several relevant initiatives that will be an integral part of the implementation of the agreement.

The rise of violent extremism in the northern province of Cabo Delgado has led to a sharp increase in humanitarian and security challenges in Mozambique. The province has seen regular attacks on civilians by extremist groups since October 2017. We know that sexual and gender-based violence is a challenge. However, there is little verified information on the conflict, and much less gender-disaggregated data. Norway supports research aimed at improving our understanding of the root causes of the conflict and how it affects women and men in the communities.

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## 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**

As a result of the peace agreement signed in August 2019, the process is now focused on DDR and social reintegration of former combatants of the opposition group Renamo. The Norwegian Embassy's work on WPS in Mozambique is an integral part of Norway's engagement for peace and reconciliation in the country. The embassy's work also focuses on the conflict in Cabo Delgado. This conflict has increased in intensity during 2019, and GBV is a serious challenge.

## Outputs:

The Norwegian Embassy in Maputo supported the following activities in 2019:

- Political dialogue. In its work, the embassy has focused on the importance of women's participation in dialogue with all relevant actors.
- Continued support for staff and training of the dedicated WPS unit in the Ministry of Gender (partner: UN Women).
- Supported several women's camps at grassroots level, where women from seven provinces came together to discuss the consequences of the conflict, as well as how they can join forces to improve their situation and make themselves heard (partner: UN Women).
- Participation by a member of the Norwegian branch of the Nordic Network of Women Mediators at a regional Police Conference in Maputo in August 2019 (partner: UN Women and the Ministry of Interior).
- Supported Women, Peace and Security capacity-building sessions for police, military and health workers (partner: UN Women and the Ministry of Gender).
- Supported training of army officials in gender equality principles, UN Resolution 1325 and the UN framework on WPS. The training of trainers was facilitated by UN Women in partnership with the Ministry of Defence.
- Supported familiarisation with and knowledge of WPS among government personnel at all levels, through technical support to the ministry team provided by an international expert on Resolution 1325, who trained a core team from civil society, as well as the Ministries of Gender, Interior and Defence (partner: UN Women).
- Supported the work of civil society organisations on setting up a network for Mozambican peace mediators – to be launched in 2020 (partner: UN Women).
- Supported the establishment of the National Civil Society Platform on WPS, which was launched in April 2019 (partner: UN Women and Corem).
- Support for the research institute IESE in order to better understand the root causes of the conflict in Cabo Delgado and how it affects women and men in the communities (partner: IESE).

## 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**

One of the key priorities with regard to outcome 1.2 is to raise awareness of rights and needs among 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, particularly at the grassroots level, has been positive, especially related to gender-based violence. There are inspiring stories about women who have taken the lead and organised themselves to resolve local conflicts after the training. In partnership with Joaquim Chissano University, Norway supported the facilitation of a series of Peace Cafés in Maputo, where various topics related to Women, Peace and Security were discussed.

Some of the activities supported were:

## Outputs:

- Launch of the National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security in seven provinces.
- Supported Peace Cafés, a series of public events at which several WPS topics were discussed.

- A scoping study in selected provinces to identify knowledge gaps and the needs of women and children in communities affected by the conflict was finalised. Measuring the level of knowledge about own rights was part of the study.
- Supported several workshops in rural areas with the focus on raising awareness of women's rights and Gender-Based Violence (partner: UN Women).
- Supported the operationalisation of safe spaces in seven provinces for the provision of integrated assistance for women and girls at risk or survivors of violence.
- Facilitated South-South experience sharing: over 300 women from all provinces of Mozambique, as well as activists from Angola, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, United States of America and Zimbabwe, were engaged in a South-South, North-South Solidarity Conference on Exchange of Experiences of Women's Movements and Groups on Peace, Security and Women's Economic Empowerment (partner: UN Women).

#### **Challenges:**

- Low degree of awareness of women's rights in rural areas.
- The needs are vast and the level of public services limited, particularly in rural areas.
- Although the legal framework is good, due to a lack of resources on many levels, it is hard to ensure the implementation of laws and government work plans, and thereby 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 parties was signed on 6 August 2019. This was a major achievement. Norway's primary contribution to this outcome is its support for the Peace Process Secretariat, which carries out a gender analysis for all programmes. Norway also has an expert seconded to the DDR process, which is led by the UN and the Peace Process Secretariat.

#### **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.
- Supported the planning and implementation of the DDR process. WPS is an integral part of this planning.
- Seconded a Norwegian expert on DDR to participate in the implementation of DDR.

### **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. 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.

# MYANMAR

## CONTEXT

The prolonged absence of formal peace negotiations continued in 2019. The situation remained deadlocked and there were new setbacks. The implementation of the 21st Century Panglong Conference also faces challenges and no date for the fourth session was agreed in 2019. It should be noted that, in early January 2020, the parties held a successful Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting (JICM) at which they agreed to hold the fourth Union Peace Conference (UPC) in April 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the UPC however has been postponed until September 2020.

In 2019, at least a dozen informal peace talks were held between the Myanmar government's peace commission and the ethnic armed organisations (EAOs), but the parties were not able to reach any agreement on matters of substance.

Military tensions continued on the ground, however, with military clashes in Mon, Shan and Rakhine States throughout the year. Civilians in conflict-affected areas were targeted by different armed groups. In 2019, 42 000 new displacements by conflict were recorded. Perhaps as many as 241 000 displaced persons remain in camps or camp-like situations after fleeing violence in Kachin, Kayin, Shan and Rakhine states. Some observers claim that the number of IDPs in Rakhine State alone could be as high as 160 000.

While the formal peace process was stalled and WPS progress was minimal, the year nonetheless saw a positive development related to the appointment of a woman to the Peace Process Working Team. She represented an ethnic armed group (PNLO) and became one of three women leaders representing ethnic armed groups in the peace negotiation process. In the Myanmar gender context, this is groundbreaking and significant.

In February 2019, the Government of Myanmar submitted a special report to the CEDAW Committee on the situation of Rohingya women and girls from northern Rakhine State. The CEDAW Committee's concluding observations included several key recommendations that relate directly to UN Women's policy advocacy and technical support for the Government, and that are also in line with the recommendations put forward by the United Nations Country Team.

Following the signing of a Joint Communiqué with the UN in December 2018, the Government appeared to be taking steps towards complying with its international commitments on the WPS agenda by developing prevention and response measures. The United Nations is now working with the Government to develop an action plan for implementation of the Joint Communiqué.

The process of approving new progressive legislation protecting the rights of women has been slow in 2019. A comprehensive Law on the Protection and Prevention of Violence against Women (PoVAW), which includes provisions criminalising marital rape, has yet to be approved. The law is now in Parliament.

At the end of 2019, the national IDP Camp Closure Strategy for the closure of camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) reached its final version after several workshops hosted by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Resettlement. Women leaders and IDPs were able to raise their concerns over the timing and impact of the camp closures through the WPS Forum organised by AGIPP.

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## 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**

Although military tensions continued on the ground and ongoing mistrust and suspicion among the signatory parties are an obstacle to the sustainability of the peace process, women's groups were willing to take ownership of this difficult situation and utilise the resources, networks and personal influence at their disposal to build bridges and navigate the challenging dynamics.

The embassy has built good relations with several WPS actors in parliament, government, civil society and women's organisations. Diplomatic and political dialogue and experience sharing about WPS were facilitated in 2019. During a visit by the WPS Special Envoy from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in November, the embassy arranged a working lunch with key stakeholders from civil society and the UN agencies. Participants shared ideas and experiences on the meaningful participation of women in peace processes and political dialogue.

Since its inception, Norway has supported the **Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Mechanism (JMC)** as the backbone of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). An operational and functioning JMC is key if existing and future ceasefire agreements are to be sustainable and eventually lead to a Peace Accord. Due to suspension of participation in the peace process throughout 2019 by the NCA signatories KNU and RCSS, JMC has not been convened. Norway has not been able to continue to engage JMC on WPS issues. However, representatives from Myanmar did participate in Ceasefire Mediation training in Oslo in April 2019.

Funds for the 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 organisations to work beyond peacebuilding, and across the participation and protection silos of the WPS agenda.

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

With Norwegian funding, the **Alliance for Gender Inclusion in the Peace Process (AGIPP)** engaged with two political parties and one signatory ethnic armed group to ensure that they were committed to implementing gender and WPS recommendations in their organisational policies. By the end of 2019, Mon National Gender Strategic Plan (July 2019 – June 2025) was developed with technical input from AGIPP. Similarly, two gender policies for two political parties – Mon Unity Party and Kachin State People's Party – were developed based on the technical input from AGIPP. The gender policies aim to ensure that the respective political parties and ethnic armed organisations respect UNSCR 1325 pillars and will promote women's participation in peace processes, prevent all forms of violence against women and carry out consultations with communities on relief and resettlement issues. AGIPP had also produced a policy paper on WPS and worked together with the national reconciliation and peace centre to influence the national agenda on WPS.

Through the **Joint Peace Fund**, the efforts, concerns and recommendations of women 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 that minimum 15% of all funds will go to gender-sensitive inclusion.

Through the partnership with the **Center 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 they are women who are linked to the wider Myanmar peace process with Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs), as women and organisations that can potentially influence the peace process.

In 2019, the Programme carried out the first cycle of Transformative Peace Leadership. 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 2019:

- Second-line women leaders – capacity-building training for 24 women leaders in Kachin State and three Gender Policy Workshops for New Mon State Party, Mon Unity Party and Kachin State People Party (Partner: AGIPP)
- Mon National Gender Strategic Plan (July 2019–June 2025) and two Gender Policies for Mon Unity Party and Kachin State People’s Party (Partner: AGIPP).
- First cycle (4 sessions) of Transformative Peace Leadership (TPL) programme held with six key women and the first module of Transformative Peace Leadership held for 10 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)

#### **Challenges:**

Organisations supported by the embassy identified the following obstacles to the peace process

- The slow uptake of meaningful participation and direct negotiations led by women within the formal peace process mechanisms.
- The interplay between gender roles and perceptions of different ethnic identities creates barriers to women being seen as legitimate leaders, both within their communities and as leaders in the peace process
- Collaboration between 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 get and maintain space with key peace process actors in order to move forward a firm agenda in the complexities of the ethnic contexts.
- Getting men engaged in WPS awareness training and forums at state level is one of the many challenges since the WPS agenda has not been prioritised by some peace stakeholders.

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

Norwegian-funded advocacy efforts by **UN Women** have resulted in women, peace and development plans (WPDPs) in three states, promoting the fulfilment of WPS commitments at the state and national level. The official launch of the Women, Peace and Development Plans for the Advancement of Women in the States of Kayin, Kayah and Mon took place in November 2019 in these states.

The process of developing WPDP was characterised by a participatory bottom-up approach.

The women, peace and development plans include comprehensive action points and approaches to enhancing women’s meaningful participation in the areas of peace process, women’s safety, health, education, economic empowerment and natural resources management. The plans will localise implementation of the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW), with a specific focus on WPS.

The women, peace and development plans are based on agreement between union and state governments, state parliaments, women’s committees, civil society organisations and development partners to make concerted efforts to implement CEDAW and Sustainable Development Goals principles and advance NSPAW implementation in order to produce tangible results for women, men and communities in general. The

Department of Social Welfare also integrated some of the project activities into the work plans of the Technical Working Groups on WPS and on ending violence against women, thus making the WPDPs a national pilot for planning and implementing the WPS agenda.

In 2019, the Norwegian Embassy in Yangon supported the following activities:

#### **Outputs:**

A workshop was held on UNSCR 1325 and examples of localisation in South East Myanmar and Reception to promote a deeper understanding of the Women, Peace and Security agenda and to learn from the experience of Mon, Kayin and Kayah states. (Partner: UN Women)

A joint meeting was held of four Technical Working Groups led by the Department of Social Welfare at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Rehabilitation to reflect on the functionality, achievements and challenges, and to identify key working areas for each TWG. (Partner: UN Women)

Training aimed at promoting gender-responsive budgeting in the context of the implementation of the Women, Peace and Development Plans was organised in the states of Kayin, Kayah and Mon. (Partner: UN Women)

Overall, UN Women focuses on strengthening the capacity of social and political actors to include a gender perspective in planning and governance processes (Partner: UN Women).

#### **Challenges:**

Despite the interest and commitment generated by the State Governments and Department of Social Welfare to implement the action points of the Women, Peace and Development Plans in the respective states, the notion of gender-responsive budgets is non-existent at the sub-national level. Public sector institutions generally operate in silos and most gender mechanisms in Myanmar are not fully functioning, and there is no clear strategy to fulfil their mandate. Coordination between the Union Department of Social Welfare and state departments and non-governmental organisations needs continued support to ensure a comprehensive and strategic approach to achieving women's peace and development priorities. Planning, monitoring, and coordination at the inter-ministerial level need to be strengthened to drive the WPS agenda. Technical assistance is required to follow through the WPDP implementation phase. Continued support for UN Women's work with women's organisations is needed to help them to take part in monitoring the implementation of the action plans. This is relevant to Norway.

## HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

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

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 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 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.

#### **Output:**

Through Norwegian funding, UN Women, in collaboration with UNFPA and some key UN agencies, developed and jointly funded a training programme to strengthen the capacity and will of the Police Force to implement the Joint Communiqué on CRSV and WPS priorities. The training process was initiated in the last quarter of 2019 and a minimum of 100 police officers in each of the 15 states and regions were targeted. Strengthening institutional capacity, awareness and willingness of the security sector will help the Police Force to implement the national WPS priorities. Partner: UN Women.

#### **Challenges:**

Despite initial positive steps earlier in 2019, tangible and meaningful progress towards the actual implementation of the Joint Communiqué has been weak. Engagement on the part of security and other relevant departments, including the Attorney General's Department, is limited so far. In July, the Government of Myanmar issued a draft plan on CRSV that it had developed without coordination or consultation with the UN. Norway has advocated working jointly with the UN in this process. We do recognise, however, that parts of the Government need information and capacity building if they are to gain an understanding of what a joint plan is, and that the Government's plan is of value to Myanmar and not something that should be subject to particular control.

The Government of Myanmar has also formally declined the role of Senior Women Protection Advisers in Myanmar, and the Government has unfortunately also consistently rejected the role of Senior Human Rights Advisers in the UN Country Team. This raises concerns about adherence to international standards and norms as well as accountability for implementation and addressing human rights violations. Nonetheless, the signature of the JC remains an important opportunity.

## OTHER RELEVANT RESULTS

Through its facilitation of the Joint Peace Fund, Norway also supported media outlets so that they could cover gender-related activities. Through the fund, the women and peace approach was strengthened at the national level. Partner: **Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB)**.

### **Output:**

DVB's Peace 360 has mainstreamed women's voices in the peace process. A TV series explores the impact of conflict on ordinary families through the lens of particular issues: landmines, education, human trafficking etc.

DVB held a series of TV debates to mark international peace day on 21 September 2019. They featured three panels that explored issues like the economic benefits of peace and the environmental impact of conflict.

The Women's Leader Network, a group of women made up of parliamentarians, policymakers, businesswomen, human rights activists and peace CSO leaders, has worked together to produce a declaration on a common vision for Myanmar based on equality and inclusion.

# NIGERIA

## CONTEXT

Nigeria launched its second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security in 2017. Eleven out of 36 state action plans have been finalised or are under way. There is no official peace process.

Nigeria is grappling with several conflicts, including with Boko Haram in the North, ethnic clashes and fighting over land and oil resources in the Middle Belt and the South, and religious tensions.

Nigerian women face numerous barriers to leadership and decision-making, including cultural and traditional beliefs and practices. This limits women's access to leadership roles in peacebuilding. Nigeria has the fewest number of women in parliament in Africa. The number was further reduced in the 2019 election.

Boko Haram has made attacks on women's rights and security part of its strategy. Many of the suicide bombers continue to be female.

Women perform violent acts or put pressure on others to take part, often motivated by hopes of a better life. Sometimes, women provide early warning of conflict. Other times, women lack information that men have and are left behind while men go into hiding.

Being at higher risk of abuse impedes their ability to escape. One in four women are sexually abused before they turn 18. The first national sexual offender register was launched in 2019.

Many laws and resolutions relevant to WPS are in place, but law enforcement and compliance are weak. Adoption of these laws and resolutions at state level is slow. The Gender and Equal Opportunities Act (not yet passed) and the Violence Against People Prohibition Act are important examples. The security sector continues to be slow to include women and adopt gender-sensitive policies.

The embassy increased its WPS efforts in 2019, including through its new partnership with UN Women, a WPS conference and by hosting and participating in WPS-related events. A stronger UN Women and expanded network of stakeholders provide opportunities to contribute to a more effective and unified response to the challenges.

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## 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**

The UN Women programme will lead to trained women mediators in 2020. In the programme's first year, 2019, a foundation was laid for the development of a network of women mediators in five northern states. Security personnel were trained to promote women's rights and participate in the security sector (police, civil defence, army). Furthermore, a gender assessment of the sector was carried out. It showed a low level of awareness of WPS principles. Through joint advocacy visits and sensitisation meetings, the leadership of the security sector in Bauchi and Benue states was sensitised to UNSCR 1325 and their role in mainstreaming its provisions in their respective institutions.

In 2019, support from UNICEF led to a total of 227 women leaders being trained in Gender-Based Violence core concepts, women's rights and peace and conflict resolution. Of the 227 women leaders trained, 209 (92%) conducted at least one dialogue meeting/peer to peer support for families and community members in disputes in their community.

The embassy engaged politically and diplomatically, and participated in and organised events, and engaged with the government on WPS at both the national level and in Benue and Bauchi states in support of broader inclusion and a strengthened gender dimension in peace and reconciliation processes.

Most of the UN Women activities are at the planning stage and have not yet contributed to the outcome. When completed, the activities are expected to contribute to higher representation of women in peace and reconciliation processes through increased participation of women mediators and female security sector personnel, and through improved public perception of the role of women in peacebuilding.

After the training supported by UNICEF, the women demonstrated improved skills and capacity to run community dialogues and engage in mediation, reconciliation and peacebuilding processes.

The embassy has promoted the inclusion and empowerment of women by participating in and organising events, and engaging with government. In the longer run, this may contribute to an enabling environment for broader participation and a stronger gender dimension in peace and reconciliation processes by changing public perceptions and strengthening self-confidence among stakeholders who experience moral support from the international community.

**Challenges:**

The lack of political will to remove barriers to women's participation in politics and society, leadership, and decision-making remains a main challenge. A lack of organisation and a united front between women leaders and organisations to push back these barriers is another. Initial delays in implementation, which were linked to the presidential election in 2019 and shifts in state governments, as well as shortcomings among partners, such as in conducting the baseline analysis, have slowed down the progress of the activities supported by the embassy.

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

**Outputs:**

Linked to the expected outputs described under Outcome 1.1, the UN Women programme will enable women mediators to more effectively integrate the gender perspective in peace and reconciliation processes. The UNICEF programme has trained women (ref above).

It is expected that the UNICEF programme and the UN Women programme will contribute to increased respect for women's and men's rights, needs and priorities by involving the trained women mediators' and security sector personnel in the processes, and through improved public perception of the role of women in peacebuilding. Please see related reporting under Outcome 1.1.

**Challenges:**

Please see related reporting under Outcome 1.1.

## HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

### **Outcome 4.1 Humanitarian efforts facilitate women's involvement**

*Note that the embassy does not provide humanitarian assistance, but manages development funds for crisis-affected regions.*

#### **Outputs:**

The UN Women programme involved affected women as participants in the baseline survey through focus group discussions and interviews, and it consulted the women on the development of programme components such as advocacy messages and radio jingles. The programme is managed by gender experts.

Six survivors participated in a workshop in Maiduguri as part of the UNICEF programme. They contributed to assessing the extent to which the implementation of the key recommendation from the 2017 WPS conference in Abuja had made communities safer for women and girls and increased participation by women and girls in peacebuilding. Five female members of affected communities were recruited to a study on perceptions of women exposed to sexual violence and the impact of Norwegian support. Affected women were involved in developing strategies to improve women's participation in peacebuilding, especially as regards male involvement. Three affected women were involved in monitoring and supervision in deep-field locations. The programme is supported by a gender specialist in Abuja and specialists in GBV and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) in Maiduguri.

FAO programmes relating to women's food security, livelihood and protection previously included a gender specialist in each programme, and FAO is exploring ways of replacing this resource to support more successful implementation.

The embassy advocated giving greater consideration to women's rights, needs and priorities and a stronger gender focus in humanitarian assistance. This was done through our engagement with humanitarian partners and other stakeholders, including a working lunch to follow up the SGBV conference in Oslo, and in our own development programmes carried out together with, e.g., UNICEF and FAO.

Partners' involvement of affected women in programme design and assessments, and support from gender and GBV specialists, are likely to have made the programme more sensitive to the needs of affected populations.

Advocacy by the embassy probably contributed to motivating humanitarian response partners to facilitate women's involvement to a greater extent and to have a stronger focus on gender in programming with regard to the rights, needs and priorities of all those affected by the crisis (Outcomes 4.1 and 4.2).

#### **Challenges:**

The context outlined above is even more difficult in humanitarian settings. It is difficult to keep the focus on women's issues on the agenda. The focus tends to be on short-term humanitarian relief. Access to a gender specialist is important, but is variable and unpredictable. Low education levels, especially among girls and women, and the weak capacity of women's organisations make it difficult for partners to source local female staff.

## OTHER RELEVANT RESULTS

### **Outputs:**

The national WPS stakeholder dialogue, which the embassy organised in October 2019 together with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, the Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution and UN Women in connection with MFA's annual WPS gathering, was an important output in 2019. A joint report was prepared. Knowledge was shared among participating stakeholders from across Nigeria.

The embassy supported girls' education through UNICEF in the North East, and women's political participation through UNDP (although not specifically targeting conflict areas) and UN Women. Norway contributed to ending SGBV through UNICEF and UNFPA, and to increasing access to sexual and reproductive health and rights through UNFPA (support for UNFPA went to relatively less conflict-affected areas). Through UNICEF, psychosocial support was provided to over 5,000 women and girls, and more than 2,500 received training in entrepreneurship to improve their livelihood opportunities.

In 2019, the embassy intensified its efforts to end SGBV in conflicts, including by hosting a lunch with Nobel peace prize laureate Mukwege and a working lunch with stakeholders in Abuja to follow up the SGBV in Conflicts conference in Oslo in May 2019.

In 2019, we also played a more active role in the Development Partners Group on Gender. This group supports WPS and puts the embassy in a better position to influence the agenda and contribute to better coordination among partners.

The development programmes and the embassy's advocacy have probably contributed to the wider long-term efforts to achieve lasting peace and promoting the Sustainable Development Goals by empowering women and giving them the skills and confidence to fulfil their potential and improve their wellbeing, and to take part in peace dialogues.

### **Challenges:**

Weak political will and cultural and traditional beliefs and practices create an environment that is not conducive to gender equality and women's participation in the public sphere.

# PALESTINE

## CONTEXT

There is no official peace process. Key issues remain unresolved pending permanent status negotiations. Formal negotiations between Israel and Palestine broke down in 2014 and the internal political split has lasted since 2007. Years of occupation, blockade and political strife have affected the situation of the Palestinian population as a whole, but with a particularly detrimental effect on Palestinian women. The resulting geographical, political and legal fragmentation has increased women's vulnerability to violence and is an obstacle to them achieving enhanced economic, political and social participation.

Palestine has no functioning elected parliament, making it difficult to bring about much needed legislative reforms. Formal discrimination in national legislation is widespread and the legislation is fragmented and outdated. Various archaic laws, including laws enacted during the Ottoman period, and personal status laws, including the Egyptian Family Rights Law of 1954 and the Jordanian Personal Status Law of 1976, apply in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, respectively, and enable continued violations of women's rights in matters concerning women's legal status, marriage, divorce, child custody and inheritance.

Although the Palestinian Authorities (PA) have taken some steps to institutionalise the WPS agenda, viable systemic change has not been achieved. Progress on the WPS agenda is limited, and the implementation of Palestine's NAP is fragmented and lacks monitoring and evaluation. Policies are not anchored in transformative social norms or accountability mechanisms, and the WPS principles are not institutionalised in law. It is evident that a credible political will to prioritise women on the agenda is lacking. Even though CEDAW was ratified in 2014 without reservations, the legal status of the convention has not been finalised. Publishing the convention in the Official Gazette and incorporating it into national law are prerequisites for making the convention applicable in Palestine, but neither has been done.

Palestinian society is patriarchal and governed by entrenched social norms. Discriminatory stereotypes of the roles and responsibilities of women in the family and in society persist, and perpetuate the subordination of women. Due to political instability, especially in Palestinian areas where clans have a stronghold, extremism and conservatism are on the rise, something that was recently manifested in the form of opposition to women's human rights, and CEDAW in particular. Women in Gaza, in marginalised rural areas and in refugee camps suffer most, since violations against them increase with the instability of the political and security situation. Their unmet humanitarian needs marginalise them further.

Even though 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. Domestic violence including femicide ('honour' killings) remains common. The results of a study by the Norwegian-funded Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 'Violence study in the Palestinian Society 2019', showed that 27% of married or ever-married women experienced violence at their husbands' hands.

Given the above context, our window of opportunity within the WPS agenda in Palestine concerns 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; promoting meaningful increased female participation, and securing women's rights, needs and priorities. This includes strengthening the institutional framework for WPS in Palestine and supporting the WPS agenda set forth in the Palestinian NAP, and working on several levels from the political to the grassroots level. In our conversations with the Palestinian Authorities and other relevant stakeholders in Palestinian society, we

emphasise that gender equality and the inclusion of women are essential for state- and peacebuilding. We will continue to leverage Norway's role as chair of the donor group to Palestine (AHLC), which is mandated 'to mobilize international and technical support behind the negotiations aimed at achieving a two-state solution', to promote the importance of including women in building a democratic Palestinian state.

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## 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 2019, Norway supported partners that achieved 1) higher and meaningful women's participation in public life, 2) an improved public perception of women's roles through inclusive consultations on various levels in Palestine, and 3) a strengthened institutional set-up for the WPS agenda in Palestine.

Norway's support for the Palestinian Central Election Committee (CEC), which is responsible for holding elections in Palestine, led to the empowerment of 93 female political activists, who were elected based on an assessment of project proposals designed to overcome the challenges as they see them in their communities. The women were given comprehensive training, enabling them to increase their future electoral and political participation. The Palestinian Negotiation Affairs Department (NAD) increased the proportion of female negotiation advisers to 50% and integrated a gendered perspective in their studies and strategies for the year. Norway's role as chair of the international donor group (AHLC), currently the only formal arena where both the Palestinians and Israelis meet at a high political level, was leveraged to include a message in the Foreign Minister's chair summary, focusing on the importance of women's participation in peace- and state-building. In a November briefing to the Security Council on peace processes in the Middle East, the UN's Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process highlighted Norway's important role in promoting the WPS agenda in Palestine.

MIFTAH's programme 'Supporting Women in public life' led to recommendations for reform of the National Elections system that were adopted by decision-makers, thereby ensuring that at least 30% of candidates are women (quota). By providing leadership training for 100 female council members and nominated candidates, the project ensured that the women increased their readiness to participate as candidates in elections, and as meaningful contributors in the political sphere. In addition, comprehensive consultations were held in the West Bank and in Gaza, This led to greater awareness of women's right to political participation and the importance of civic engagement as a means of achieving desired change.

The joint UN Women and Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA) programme, 'Advancing the WPS-agenda in Palestine', which was signed in 2019 and is currently being implemented, will lead to trained women leaders and support their political participation and engagement in reconciliation efforts and the national dialogue. Extensive consultation and awareness-raising workshops on UNSCR 1325 are one of the project components at the community level, The intention is to give voice to women's needs and priorities to relevant key actors in order to lobby decision-makers to address those needs. In addition, considerable effort will be invested in

supporting the development of Palestine's new NAP, including the development of a monitoring and evaluation system hosted by MOWA.

**Contribution to outcome:** The above outputs are expected to contribute to higher representation of women in politics, as well as in peace and reconciliation dialogues. 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.

### **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 the rights, needs and priorities of women targeted by the programmes are integrated in the programme designs.

In addition, Palestinian women's rights are strongly linked to conflict prevention, in general, and to their security, in particular. 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

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

Two of our partners, MIFTAH and WCLAC, 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 increasing 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. Three of our partners delivered concerted messages to policy and decision-makers on the need to adopt the Family Protection Law, protecting women from gender-based violence, domestic violence and femicide ('honour' killings).

Our partners WCLAC, PCHR and PFPPA dedicated integral parts of their programmes to protecting women suffering discrimination and violence, and empowering them. This ensured that a considerable number of women throughout the West Bank and Gaza were given access to their social, legal and political rights through court representation or mediation. The women were empowered beyond the timeframe of the interventions, through individual sessions of long-term social counselling, and awareness-material was distributed on the rights and support mechanisms they can seek out within their problem areas. In an attempt to overcome the geographical fragmentation of Palestine and associated restrictions on movement, WCLAC also provided consultation through a free helpline and e-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 by 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 emergency- and crisis-affected regions.*

### **Outcome 4.1 Humanitarian efforts facilitate women's involvement**

The UN Women programme (ongoing) involves interventions in which unemployed women participate and voice their needs as input to emergency recovery planning and implementation. To ensure that economic participation is coupled with political/civic participation, young female graduates will be offered job placements in the ICT sector, after participating in a capacity-building programme focusing on WPS, gender, civic participation and conflict resolution. Similar interventions will take place in areas most affected by conflict in the West Bank.

#### **Contribution to outcome:**

UN Women's involvement of women affected by crises as participants in the recovery interventions ensures that the programme's outputs contribute to the outcome.

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

WCLAC's emergency shelter provided protection for women whose lives were under threat due, for instance, to domestic violence and out-of-wedlock pregnancy. The women were provided with the skills and knowledge required to claim their rights and to work with local communities to enable their reintegration. In addition, the programme included capacity building of grassroots organisations on how to provide legal and social counselling to women and raise awareness of women's rights among women. This led to increased social and legal service provision in marginalised areas where such services are scarce, and it increased women's knowledge of where to access such services in their own communities or nearby.

Through its programme 'protecting women's rights in the Gaza Strip', PCHR targeted the most marginalised and crisis-affected region in Palestine. One of the objectives achieved was to provide women with legal aid to secure their rights 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 Center at the Erez crossing, female patients were able to travel for advanced treatment in the West Bank or Israel.

#### **Contribution to outcome:**

The emergency legal assistance that was provided contributed to securing marginalised women their 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 need to be dealt with separately as well, such as Israel's siege of Gaza and entrenched discriminatory social norms and laws in Palestine.

# THE PHILIPPINES

## CONTEXT

The Philippines is highly advanced in terms of gender equality and is ranked 16th in the WEF 2020 Gender Gap report – the most gender-equal country in Asia. However, this is a drop of eight places, two percentage points lower than its 2018 WEF Gender Gap result. The biggest gap is in political empowerment, with the country dropping to 29th place from 13th place in 2018. The country has developed two National Action Plans (NAPs) on Women, Peace and Security, the latest plan covering 2017–2022. Norway supported the first Philippine NAP.

The Philippines has several non-state armed groups and it has experienced decades of armed conflict, primarily in areas in the south. The country signed a peace agreement with the largest armed group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, in 2014, a core element of which was the establishment of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). This milestone generated great optimism and expectations of development and economic progress in Mindanao – a region that has lagged behind the Philippines' impressive overall economic development. The region's three-year transitional authority, the Bangsamoro Transition Authority, has a long list of priorities to address and must work efficiently to deliver peace dividends in accordance with the public's expectations.

Norway is involved in the efforts to decommission the thousands of fighters of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Norway also addresses global security issues through efforts to prevent violent extremism in BARMM by improving social cohesion in the region's most volatile and vulnerable provinces: Basilan – Sulu – Tawi-Tawi.

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.

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## 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:** Women have significant roles in the peace processes in the Philippines – as negotiators, experts, resource speakers and peace facilitators. Norway co-sponsored UN Women's Inaugural Bangsamoro Women's Summit, which sought to improve the inclusion of gender perspectives in the implementation of the Bangsamoro peace agreement. In its efforts, Norway deliberately seeks to ensure that women security experts are assigned to facilitation and decommissioning tasks in Philippine peace processes.

**Contribution to outcome:** Norway requires women's participation at all levels of Norwegian engagement in Philippine peace processes and sets an exemplary precedent by considering and assigning women to important posts in the peace process. Norway has women security experts with a highly developed capacity to support peace and reconciliation commitments in the Philippines.

**Challenges:** Most actors in peace processes are still men, but a growing number of women are represented in significant posts.

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

**Outputs:** The embassy supported the development of knowledge products (e.g. a documentary film, training courses, seminars) that help to provide community women with local peacekeeping skills for use in diverse contexts. The documentary on women as community peacekeepers highlights the roles of women in bringing peace to communities. The embassy has met Bangsamoro women leaders to discuss their needs, rights and priorities. We will incorporate their feedback in WPS-programming for 2020.

**Contribution to outcome:** The embassy advocated complementary roles and rights for men and women in peace processes.

**Challenges:** Women's contributions are recognised, but women's voices are still regarded as minority voices. Women's participation is respected, but men have most of the privileges in the Philippine peace processes.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACE AGREEMENTS

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

**Outputs:** Norway co-sponsored UN Women's Inaugural Bangsamoro Women's Summit, which highlighted the Women's Peace Agenda in the implementation of the Bangsamoro Peace Agreement. The Independent Decommissioning Body has international women security experts. Norway engaged with the Bangsamoro Transitional Authority, the interim leadership of BARMM under the Bangsamoro Peace Agreement, and we are making preparations for collaboration in 2020.

**Contribution to outcome:** The involvement of women in implementation is highlighted and required through Norwegian-led and -supported initiatives. Norway encourages the Philippine government, through multilateral approaches, to improve mechanisms for WPS in peace agreements.

**Challenges:** Some peace architectures relating to the Bangsamoro Peace Agreement – the ceasefire agreement and the Bangsamoro Transitional Authority – have limited participation by women. The autonomous region's leadership has a narrow appreciation of the role of women in sustaining the newly-formed regional government agencies.

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

**Outputs:** Support for social cohesion programmes in communities contributes to community-led approaches to problem-solving. Norway supports efforts to combat and prevent violent extremism in fragile communities through inclusive, yet indirect, social cohesion methodologies that promote ownership among diverse grassroots actors.

**Contribution to outcome:** Dialogue between diverse groups of people and sectors in the communities helps to identify gender and developmental gaps that must be urgently addressed.

**Challenges:** While Norwegian programmes are coherent from an administrative perspective, advocacy and dialogue are needed to ensure that conflict-affected communities buy into the programmes.

## OPERATIONS AND MISSIONS

### **Outcome 3.1 International operations and missions facilitate participation by women**

**Outputs:** A seminar on Women in Peacekeeping was held in collaboration with the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs. Meetings were organised with the first Female Force Commander of the UN (serving United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)), Major General Kristin Lund. Philippine support for UN peacekeeping was encouraged, and the importance of women security peacekeepers in UN operations worldwide was highlighted.

**Contribution to outcome:** Enhanced Philippine peacekeeping skills, especially women peacekeepers' skills, through a seminar and experience sharing between Norway and the Philippines. Highlighted the important contributions of women in various operations and missions.

**Challenges:** The Philippine government's policy of fielding skilled women in international UN operations and missions should be reinforced and followed-up.

## HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

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

**Outputs:** Supported humanitarian monitoring and compliance with CARHRIHL – an agreement on respect for human rights and international humanitarian law between the Philippine government and NDFP – through the primary actors in the conflict and third-party civil society initiatives.

**Contribution to outcome:** The project's human rights/international humanitarian law monitoring tools included gender-disaggregated data.

**Challenges:** Intensified armed conflict between the government and armed communist groups as well as the non-continuation of the peace negotiations led to humanitarian issues remaining unaddressed in 2019. Monitoring of compliance with international humanitarian law is viewed as a counter-productive move by one or both conflict actors.

## OTHER RELEVANT RESULTS – SUSTAINING PEACE

**Outputs:** Provided reproductive health kits and contraceptives based on a rights-based approach to sexual and reproductive health through partnerships with Roots of Health, a Philippine – American NGO.

**Contribution to outcome:** Helped organise young women in remote communities to improve their access to contraceptives. In the process, the organised women helped to improve both women and men's rights through their local public health programmes.

**Challenges:** The sexual and reproductive health of young girls largely remains a taboo topic, but has far-reaching political and economic implications in the Philippines.

# 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 later extended until November 2019 and again until 22 February 2020. The provisions of 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 agreement on 35% women's representation in all mechanisms, bodies and institutions under the peace agreement. However, for political and societal reasons, there is still a long way to go before women fill 35% of positions in all such mechanisms and bodies. For instance, women's representation is higher in the monitoring mechanisms of the peace agreement than in the executive bodies. One of the reasons for this is a lack of political will. However, if properly implemented, the R-ARCSS provides 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 moment, some women group leaders live outside the country because of fear for their or their families' lives.

At the same time, the women's movement has become stronger: female representatives and organisations are better organised, also across political affiliations. The issue of women's representation is fairly consistently on the agenda in meetings and forums concerning the peace agreement. This is evident from the fact that the bodies and mechanisms under the peace agreement request more training and support from gender advisers, as well as consultations with women's organisations. Norway has for many years enjoyed a standing as a consistent partner and can play a key role in supporting civil society, including advocating for the WPS agenda.

South Sudan appointed its first female Minister of Foreign Affairs in 2019 (previously the Minister of Gender). At the same time, South Sudan appointed a new female Minister of Gender, who is generally considered to be a positive force in terms of moving the women's agenda forward. She seems to have the necessary political will, but lacks the resources required to be fully efficient. Norway will establish a close relationship with the new Minister of Gender and assess how to best support her work.

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 because of a lack of will to hold the perpetrators responsible. Norway will continue to be an advocate for increased efforts against SGBV at country level, for instance through increased support for organisations working on SGBV.

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## 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 (please see Outcome 2 concerning Norway's support for the implementation phase).

Women are generally not well represented in the negotiations. However, all the signatories to the peace agreement (except one) have at least one female representative in their delegations.

The next phase of the implementation of the peace agreement is scheduled to begin when the new transitional government is formed on 22 February 2020.

Norway's support for organisations such as UN Women and the EVE Organization is important in the current phase, but will be just as vital in the next phase, since the women and organisations that receive training will be well-positioned to take up leadership positions and continue advocating for the facilitation of women's participation.

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

The reconciliation process has not fully begun since implementation of Chapter V of the peace agreement is lagging behind. Chapter V includes a provision on the establishment of a Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing, as well as a Hybrid Court and a Compensation and Reparation Authority. The Commission's task is to investigate, document and report on the circumstances and 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.

The plan is to establish the Commission after the transitional government is formed, which has been delayed for several months. 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.

The embassy has not worked specifically to ensure men's rights in any of Norway's projects. However, Norway continues to advocate for the establishment of a hybrid court in South Sudan, as well as for the formation of a transitional government, which will pave the way for the establishment of the Trust and Reconciliation Commission. That would benefit women and men alike.

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

#### **Challenges:**

- The delayed formation of a transitional government, which, in turn, delays the 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 challenges for monitoring mechanisms.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACE AGREEMENTS

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

#### **Outputs:**

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

- Through UN Women, the National Training Leadership Institute (NTLI) offered a range of courses related to leadership, conflict management, peacebuilding, SRHR and Women's Economic Empowerment in 2019. Among other things, NTLI offered training to organised forces (National organised forces, UNPOL/National Police), people with disabilities, state-level actors (MPs, State Ministers, Civil Society, Faith-Based Organisations and traditional leaders). NTLI also provided mentoring and coaching for women leaders in certain states in South Sudan.
- A workshop was held on transformational leadership training for women members of state parliaments and women politicians (lobbying, advocacy, public engagement, dissemination and implementation of R-ARCSS).
- Review of the South Sudan Political Parties Act 2012 and the National Elections Act 2012: involving women in drafting a submission document containing suggestions for the National Constitution Amendment Committee to include.
- Young Women Leadership Training (EVE Organization): training provided to young women all over South Sudan as preparation for participation in decision-making at all leadership levels.
- The embassy hosted several WPS meetings in 2019.

#### **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. A large proportion of the women leaders in South Sudan have lacked sufficient skills and experience to effectively participate in decision-making and policy-making processes. Strengthening the capacity and leadership skills of women leaders and institutions and promoting their participation in public decision-making processes is necessary in order to ensure women's participation in the peace process, which is key to attaining the overall goal of sustainable peace. The women who have been trained are actively lobbying for their inputs to be included in peace negotiations.

The NTLI and UN Women are also creating a database, which will document information about women leaders' educational and professional backgrounds and qualifications. This will promote open data in South Sudan and transparency and fairness in future political processes, as the database is expected to contribute to women's participation in elections.

The embassy's work in the coordination 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 has continuously raised the importance of women's inclusion and participation in the implementation of the peace agreement in dialogue with the parties to the agreement (SPLM and SPLM-IO) and at board meetings with the various monitoring mechanisms under the peace agreement (CTSAMVM and RJMEC).

#### **Challenges:**

- Delays to the implementation of the R-ARCSS peace process: if women leaders who are trained are to have the intended impact, the R-ARCSS institutions and processes must be functioning.
- Government pushback on advocacy efforts for women's meaningful participation: women need security clearance to hold meetings in South Sudan, and a representative of the country's intelligence services must be present if meetings are held. Feminist initiatives have been affected,

with the result that national level advocacy for women to occupy positions has been reduced and that the overall space for civic engagement is shrinking.

- 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 entry barrier to women becoming members of the political 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.

### **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 leaders of women’s groups live outside the country due to 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 if a sustainable peace is to be achieved. The embassy has continued to address human rights issues at the political level in different forums and meetings with the government and other stakeholders, including raising awareness of specific cases of imprisonment and unlawful detention.

Specific measures to support human rights issues in the peace process include the secondment of a gender adviser to one of the monitoring mechanisms. 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 support to UNICEF. Norway is also a member of the ‘Group of Friends of Children and Armed Conflict’. Work on preventing the recruitment of child soldiers is important, because the recruitment of children is a violation of the Peace Agreement of 2018, as well as the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement from 2017. New recruitment effectively hinders proper implementation of the peace agreement, creates distrust among parties and is a violation of the human rights of the child.

Three female ambassadors (Norway, EU and the Netherlands), and the male ambassadors of Sweden and Canada visited schools and women’s projects in displacement camps as part of the ‘16-days of activism’ campaign. The ambassadors met with girls and women and discussed issues related to GBV. The ambassadors advocated strongly for women’s participation in the camps’ leadership and better living conditions for all. Together with other embassies and partner organisations, Norway also organised an event for Juba-based ambassadors to connect with women, adolescents and men who are victims of SGBV. The event emphasised that women’s rights are a year-round issue and not limited to the 16-day campaign. This event will be held four times a year, with Norway taking the lead.

Norway is in close contact with various human rights organisations on the ground, but did not provide funding for any of them in 2019. One human rights organisation reported that close contact with foreign embassies provided some protection from government interference.

#### **Challenges:**

- Ensuring that the government does not perceive interventions as promoting a political agenda
- Do no harm: Balancing advocacy for human right defenders with considerations of their safety

## 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), are committed to ensuring that gender is a cross-cutting issue integrated into all mission-mandated tasks. UNMISS has established a Gender Affairs Unit that provides the 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 departments of the operation.

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

Representatives from UNMISS participate in the WPS working group meetings, where Norway is chair.

Norway supports UNMISS with 17 people and UNPOL with 19 people. Two of the 19 UNPOL staff work in a Finnish-led Specialised Police Team that works on SGBV and CRSV, in particular. The Norwegian team currently consists of one man and one woman. The group's mandate is to work together with local police to enhance the capability and capacity of the South Sudanese National Police (South Sudanese Authorities) to investigate and prosecute cases of SGBV and CRSV. The team has held meetings with local police leadership, visited local police stations in Juba, held lectures for South Sudanese police on SGBV-related topics, including police work and investigations. The team had a slow start-up in 2019 due to initial uncertainty about its mandate and how to manage the new project.

Of the Norwegian UNPOL staff, seven are women (latest figure, subject to change), while only two out of 17 in the Norwegian UNMISS contingent are women (12%). In the case of UNMISS, Norway is thus not complying with the goal set by the UN for the share of female field officers (15%).

#### **Contribution to outcome:**

UNMISS works to protect civilians, create conditions conducive to aid delivery, and monitor and investigate human rights abuses. The Norwegian contribution to UNMISS (and UNPOL) is important to the outcome because women's participation is dependent on safe and secure environments. The wide range of WPS-related activities carried out by UNMISS contribute to facilitating participation by women.

The Norwegian contribution to UNPOL, and the specialised team working on SGBV in particular, is important because the parties to the conflict use sexual violence as a tactic against the civilian population. CRSV and SGBV remain widespread. Even after the signing of the R-ARCSS, cases of CRSV and SGBV are still committed with impunity. The overall objective of the specialised team is to enhance the capacity of the National Police (and other national justice authorities) to address SGBV and CSRV, for example by increasing the quality of investigations and increasing the number of police officers capable of investigating cases. This work is essential for full implementation of the peace agreement, particularly Chapter 5 on transitional justice, accountability, reconciliation and healing.

#### **Challenges:**

- Mission mandate renewal: resources may be allocated to other assignments and priorities. The Specialised Police Team does not receive specific funding.
- Significant resource and capacity challenges in implementing its mandate.

- Restricted access for the mission and humanitarians continues to hinder its ability to deliver on mandated tasks.
- Protection responsibilities continue to fall disproportionately on UNMISS since the South Sudanese government remains incapable of providing security for its people and protecting them from violence. The mission's Protection of Civilian sites throughout the country remain integral to UNMISS's protection strategy. However, UNMISS spends a significant portion of its annual resources on maintaining and protecting these sites, and therefore has fewer resources available to provide protection for civilians living outside such sites in other areas of the country.

Note that small changes to the Norwegian UNMISS/UNPOL staff could have a significant impact on the proportion of women in the contingent, given the limited number of people involved.

## HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

### Outcome 4.1 Humanitarian efforts facilitate women's involvement

Sexual and gender-based violence is widespread in South Sudan, where six out of ten girls and women report assaults one or several times in their lifetime. Humanitarian organisations, including the UN, have put SGBV high on the agenda, and included preventive measures against SGBV in their humanitarian response. The work aimed at preventing and responding to SGBV is also integrated into the guidelines of the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF) to which Norway is a contributor. In South Sudan's Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP 2020), protection, including against SGBV, is prioritised as a cross-cutting theme in a multi-sector approach.

Norway supported the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF) with NOK 70 million in 2019 and is on its advisory board. In close alignment with the South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), the SSHF channels funding to activities that have been prioritised as the most urgent and strategic in terms of addressing critical humanitarian needs in the country. The Humanitarian Fund primarily funds programming that directly responds to the most significant humanitarian needs in South Sudan. As such, most of the Fund's programming does not directly touch on issues of *peace and security*, except in exceptional cases. Women's involvement in humanitarian service delivery is emphasised in all SSHF allocations, project reviews and implementation. Worthy of note are SSHF's WASH partners, who involve women in traditionally male-dominated professions (e.g. pump mechanics, who are responsible for repairing broken boreholes).

In 2019, SSHF funded several projects aimed at helping survivors of gender-based violence to recover physically and psychologically from the trauma and gain access to emergency and life-saving services. SSHF encourages gender mainstreaming across programmes under all of the various clusters. Implementing partners have put in place strategies to ensure that programming is gender-sensitive and that the humanitarian response is inclusive in relation to women and girls. Through recruitment and training, SSHF has also made efforts to ensure that staffing is gender-balanced.

Norway also supports the UNFPA, which is the leading organisation in the SGBV response in South Sudan. During the period 2018–2019, UNFPA received NOK 39.1 million. The establishment of 'One Stop Centres', which provide medical treatment, the gathering of evidence, free legal assistance and psychosocial support, has set a standard for providing assistance to victims of sexual violence. In addition, UNFPA provided various services, training and mentoring for students.

The embassy continues to raise the issue of gender mainstreaming in our humanitarian cooperation and raises the issue with cooperating partners in order to ensure that our humanitarian assistance is gender-sensitive.

## Challenges:

- Access to evidence-based data and statistics is limited. Sexual assaults are taboo and under-reporting is likely to be a problem, especially among men.
- Access to areas with the greatest humanitarian need.
- Security threats against aid workers, attempts by the government and opposition to influence where aid agencies operate, and looting by government and opposition forces.
- Most partners understand the importance of ensuring women's representation in humanitarian activities. However, challenges partners face include the cultural context and overall gender inequality in South Sudan. Women face significant barriers to accessing education, a livelihood, and capital, among other things.
- Some partners have limited capacity to mainstream gender in their operations. As a result, they may set objectives to mainstream gender in their operations and in their personnel but fail to reach them due to an inadequate understanding of gender programming or gender mainstreaming, or their implementation of gender mainstreaming may be poor (for example, hiring male caseworkers to work with female survivors of gender-based violence).

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

SSHF responds to women's and men's most time-critical and urgent humanitarian needs, including the need for water, sanitation, food, livelihood, child protection, support for victims of gender-based violence or other violations of human dignity etc. Through such service provision, SSHF safeguards women's and men's right to assistance and to a dignified life, and to their priorities for support, as outlined in the Humanitarian Response Plan and as agreed by the humanitarian community. For example, of the approximately 1.2 million people reached through various SSSH activities by the end of the third quarter of 2019, 56% were women and girls.

Women's involvement and the safeguarding of both women and men's rights are also ensured through the available Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) mechanisms, which are emphasised in all SSHF projects.

## OTHER RELEVANT RESULTS

Norad supports two SCR 1325 projects in South Sudan, and reports on them:

- Nobel Women's Initiative
- Legal Action Worldwide

# SYRIA

## CONTEXT

Syrians from all walks of life are facing unprecedented struggles in the security, political, 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 all of their interactions in the social, political, cultural and economic spheres. Terrorist and extremist groups that control territory in Syria have made violation of women's rights part of their strategy. Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) has been a pervasive feature of the conflict that is used as a common tactic of war by all parties. Syria is ranked as country 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, however, there is a lack of political will and financial resources to ensure implementation.

However, the conflict has also enabled some women to learn new skills and to become active in the workforce, as humanitarians, in civil society or in influencing the political process. Women are becoming increasingly influential in the public sphere and in shaping Syria's future. There are now many women-headed households in the most conflict-affected areas of the country and many more women take part in work outside of home.

In support of Syria's political process, UN Women has been bolstering Syrian women's leadership role in peacemaking since 2012. This has included providing gender advisory services to the Office of the Special Envoy (OSE) for Syria, strategic engagement and support for the Syrian Women's Advisory Board (WAB), combined with capacity development and broad coalition-building inside and outside Syria. These efforts are implemented in close collaboration with the Office of the Special Envoy for Syria and the broader Department of Political and Peacekeeping Affairs (DPPA), and with support from the governments of Finland, the Netherlands, and Norway.

The WAB is a council consisting of 17 women, selected to ensure the widest possible representation. They act as a sounding board for the Special Envoy. Their discussions give him an indication of where the problems lie and where possible solutions can be found. They offer the Special envoy concrete and agreed advice in connection with the negotiations. The Civil Society Support Room (CSSR) is another inclusion mechanism. It was set up in Geneva and facilitated by Noref and SwissPeace. It allows Syrian civil society representatives to meet alongside negotiations and offer advice to the Special Envoy. They are provided with technical assistance, in order to promote their views. As opposed to WAB, the CSSR is not required to agree on its recommendations, but rather to present a diverse range of views to the Special Envoy.

On 23 September 2019, after months of negotiations, the UN Secretary-General announced agreement on a Constitutional Committee (CC) facilitated by the UN in Geneva, as a door opener to the political process. The CC brings together three negotiating groups – the Government, the Syrian Negotiations Commission (SNC) and a 'middle third' bloc to negotiate Syria's future constitution. The formation of the CC could potentially prove to be a significant step forward for the political process, and 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 organisations, and to support and increase tolerance of rights – including women's rights and gender equality.

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## 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 peace process from the very start. Likewise, Noref's engagement in the Civil Society Support Room is ongoing and continued in 2019 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. The embassy administers a few peace and reconciliation projects where women, peace and security is focal. Women from these organisations play a key role in the embassy's large network.

The UN Women programme 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), established in 2016, 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 current circumstances, and the perception that the Constitutional Committee (CC) may be a door-opener to the wider process, this work is 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 mobilised 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, 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.

WAB was present in Geneva during the launch of the CC and engaged informally with members of the CC to signal its support for both the process and its substantive aspects. The WAB Chair was present during the opening ceremony, which offered further opportunities for networking with the parties/blocs. During 2019, WAB met with the new UN Special Envoy to Syria and had several constructive meetings.

#### **Challenge:**

All members of the CC continue to face serious pressure due to their participation in the process, and intimidation has been reported ever since its formation.

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

Reference is made to the aforementioned partnership with UN Women.

WAB underwent a rotation in late 2018, 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.

In 2019, UN Women also started preparations for a systematic gender analysis of the conflict for the use of various stakeholders.

New partnerships were formed in 2019 and improved relations were noted between those directly involved in the key peace initiatives and processes and the broader women's movement.

### **Challenge:**

- It is difficult for WAB to engage in outreach activities inside Syria due to 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 organisations and actors together on specific issues and building alliances around them.

## **HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS**

### **Outcome 4.1 Humanitarian efforts facilitate women's involvement**

Practically all programmes, projects and activities in the extensive Norwegian humanitarian Syria response are related to the increasingly challenging situation of Syrian women in large parts of the country. Most UN agencies and INGOs report concrete results with regard to UNSC Resolution 1325 in their Syria work. The embassy regularly visits field activities and can confirm that they work to this end. The embassy and ministry also raise the gender dimension regularly in their dialogue with humanitarian actors, including the importance of including affected populations in decision making. Because many young men have fled Syria, there are many women working in the humanitarian sector. There are also many female-headed households among recipients.

### **Challenge:**

- Syrian women's involvement in humanitarian efforts is sometimes hampered by cultural limitations related to the type of activity. This varies between geographical areas.

#### **Outcome 4.2 Humanitarian efforts facilitate respect for both women's and men's rights, needs and priorities**

The gender dimension is regularly included in both programming and discussions on humanitarian work in Syria. There are more women involved, both among humanitarian workers and recipients, because many men have been recruited as soldiers or have fled to avoid conscription or for other reasons. Work on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and documentation is especially important in relation to protection. SGBV has been used actively in the conflict, and has increased in general in war-torn Syria. UNFPA and others endeavour to include both women and men in their programming.

#### **Challenges:**

- Many Syrians have had to flee their homes and have lost their IDs and documentation for housing, land and property (HLP). In addition, personal events, such as births, marriages, divorces and deaths have in many instances not been registered. Work on providing and facilitating such documentation is important, but it is also demanding and sensitive and can be politicised. It also creates particular challenges for women that need to be addressed.
- Due to the social stigma associated with SGBV, humanitarian partners include SGBV work in programming relating to reproductive health and/or community centres. A lack of qualified personnel, especially within psychosocial work, is a big challenge.

# AFRICAN UNION

## CONTEXT

As the main platform for political cooperation and the development of common policies and programmes on the African continent, the African Union (AU) continues to strengthen its women, peace and security (WPS) work and promote the WPS agenda throughout the continent. In recognition of the importance of women's engagement in peace and stabilisation efforts, the AU has adopted several policies and initiatives that seek to promote women's involvement and protection. These include the Women, Gender, Peace and Security Programme (WGPSP), the establishment of the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWise-Africa) and the appointment of the AU Special Envoy on WPS, Mme. Bineta Diop.

In 2019, the AU launched the *'Strategy for gender equality and women's empowerment (2018-2028)'*, which aims to ensure women's and girls' participation in economic activities, political affairs and social endeavours, as well as the Continental Results Framework (CRF). The CRF provides a policy framework for tracking the progress made in implementing commitments to WPS by the AU Commission and the Member States. It is a strategic tool to bridge the gap between developing and implementing policies on WPS.

Despite increased focus on the WPS agenda in Africa in recent years, more solid efforts are needed to implement continental policies and programmes at all levels – the continental and sub-regional levels, and in AU member states.

Norway has a long-standing strategic partnership with the AU, and WPS is one of the priority areas of our partnership. We actively promote the WPS agenda in initiatives related to peacekeeping, peacebuilding and mediation. We do this through support for the AU Special Envoy for WPS, Bineta Diop, FemWise-Africa, the Training for Peace programme and in our focus on the AU-UN partnership. Several important achievements were made in 2019.

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## 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**

#### **Outputs:**

- The launch of the Continental Results Framework (CRF) for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the WPS agenda by AU member states and the sub-regional organisations.
- Strengthening of the AU's capacity to develop normative frameworks, raise awareness and advocate for women in conflict prevention, management and resolution, as well as putting an end to impunity for sexual and gender-based violence.

**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. Norway supported the development of the CRF, which was launched in February 2019. The CRF is a tool that helps to remove obstacles to women's full involvement in peace efforts Africa. It serves as both a means to

women's empowerment and a tool for strengthening the overall realisation of the peace and security goals by the AU, with a strengthened gender component in all policies and strategies. Moreover, the Special Envoy on WPS has visited a number of African countries to promote and support women's participation in and influence on peace processes at all levels. She participated in several workshops and panels, such as the workshop on *'The role of women in peacebuilding and peacemaking'*, which provided a platform for disseminating the CRF. Diop participated in the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, where she organised and co-organised several events, such as 1) the High Level Panel on 'Scaling up the WPS Agenda in Africa: A Framework for delivery on commitments', co-organised with UN Women, 2) AWLN Group of Friends meeting, 3) AWLN Young Women Caucus meeting, 4) the High Level Panel on 'Making Social Protection, Public Services and Infrastructure Inclusive and Meaningful for Women and Girls in Africa', co-organised with the UN Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (OSAA), and 5) a meeting with the AU ministers of gender on the AU Gender Strategy.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACE AGREEMENTS

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

#### **Outputs:**

- FemWise-accredited members now have two permanent seats in each election observer mission.
- FemWise has deployed accredited members in South Sudan (1), Sudan (2) and Ethiopia (1).
- The capacity of the FemWise secretariat has been strengthened by three positions.
- Two women mediators deployed to assist in the peace process in the Central African Republic (CAR)
- Training for Peace has conducted training to enhance the capacity of women to be involved in peace processes

#### **Contribution to outcome:**

- Norway has supported FemWise-Africa since its establishment in 2017. In 2019, this included three positions in the FemWise secretariat and the deployment of four FemWise members in South Sudan, Sudan and Ethiopia. Norwegian support has also contributed to the involvement of two women mediators to assist in the peace process in CAR.
- Through Norwegian support for Training for Peace, training has also been conducted to enhance the capacity of women in peace processes.

## OPERATIONS AND MISSIONS

### **Outcome 3.1 International operations and missions facilitate participation by women**

#### **Outputs:**

- The Training for Peace programme helped to train civilians for AU operations and missions, and the gender perspective in AU peace operations has been strengthened.
- Increased call for support for women groups in South Sudan to enhance their voice and participation in the revitalised peace process.

**Contribution to outcome:**

- Norwegian support for Training for Peace has strengthened the gender perspective in AU peace operations through the development of a manual on gender mainstreaming for use in the training of headquarters and field staff.
- The Special Envoy for WPS served as a panellist at a workshop organised by the UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, which took place in Addis Ababa, thereby raising awareness and strengthening the call for support for women groups in South Sudan and their participation in the revitalised peace process.

**HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS****Outcome 4.1 Humanitarian efforts facilitate women's involvement****Outputs:**

- Advanced awareness of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) on conditions for refugees and displaced persons, particularly women in Africa, and informed the refugees about AU policies

**Contribution to outcome:**

- The Special Envoy on WPS partnered with UNHCR to involve representatives of refugees from Gambella and Kakuma at the AU PSC open session on 'The Role of Women in Conflict Prevention and Post-Conflict Peace Building: Contribution of Refugees and Displaced Women in Africa'.

**OTHER RELEVANT RESULTS****Outputs:**

- The AU Special Envoy led the preparations for the launch of the African Women's Leadership Network (AWLN).
- Increased awareness of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict situations
- Increased awareness of women's role in building and sustaining peace

**Contribution to outcome:**

- Norwegian support for the Office of the Special Envoy on WPS helped the Envoy to facilitate and prepare for the launch of the AWLN.
- Together with the Nobel Peace Centre and the AU, 'Women, Development and Gender Directorate' (WGDD), Norway exhibited the Nobel Peace Prize exhibition 'The Body As A Battlefield' at the AU headquarters during the AU 'Sixteen Days of Activism Against Sexual Violence' campaign in December 2019.
- Norwegian support facilitated the production and launch of the joint AU-UN book 'She Stands for Peace', in commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UN resolution 1325, which highlights the role of women in building and sustaining peace.

# 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

*Sustaining Peace* is an additional priority area. Women's rights and gender equality are key to building lasting peace. Norway's efforts in support of women's rights and gender equality are outlined in the Action Plan for Women's Rights and Gender Equality (2016-2020), which focuses on five areas: girls' right to education; women's political rights and participation; women's economic rights and participation; a life free from violence and harmful customs; and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Norad's civil society WPS portfolio focuses on the first two priority areas of the NAP on WPS, as well as on Sustaining Peace:

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: Afghanistan, Colombia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Palestine, the Philippines, Syria, and the MENA region.

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: Colombia, Mali, the Philippines and South Sudan.

3) **Sustaining Peace** refers to priority areas in the action plan for Women's Rights and Gender Equality, as described above, focusing on results in WPS priority countries.

Note that the ongoing WPS programmes supported under this funding scheme run from 2018 to 2020/2021. The report therefore covers some activities and results from 2018, as well as 2019.

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## KEY RESULTS

In the following, we present result highlights in line with the priorities in the Norwegian National Action Plan on WPS – across WPS priority countries and at the global level. The result highlights are based on reporting from the following organisations: AfghanAid, Berghof Foundation, CARE, Casa de la Mujer (Casa), 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), Marie Stopes International (MSI), Nobel Women's Initiative (NWI), the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), TOSTAN, West Africa Network for Peacebuilders (WANEP), Women's League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and World Federalist Movement (WFM).

## 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 Afghanistan, Colombia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Nigeria.*

#### Outputs/ Contribution to outcome:

In **Afghanistan**, women in the Daikundi community peace structures received support from **Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)** to participate in the resolution of more than 500 local conflicts. The Provincial Peace Council in Daikundi was a male-only body until 2018, when two women became members after pressure from civil society.

In Country 1<sup>6</sup>, the Berghof Foundation has provided support for the formation of a Women's Committee within organisation 1.3. This support helped to strengthen their mission to ensure participation of these women in the peace process, and to ensure that women's needs are high on the peace negotiation agenda.

In **Nigeria**, the **Women's League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)** [launched the Nigerian Women Mediators Collaborative Initiative \(NWMCI\)](#), which aims to identify, train, and help women mediators to prevent and mediate in conflicts in the country, including election-related conflicts and violence. The mediation network succeeded in quickly intervening to peacefully resolve clashes related to the presidential elections in 2019 in Lagos, FCT, Enugu and Anambra states. WILPF-Nigeria also jointly organised and led [the training of 17 mediators in the network together with the International Civil Society Action Network \(ICAN\) on gendered and inclusive mediation](#).

**The Global Network for Women Peacebuilders (GNWP)** reports on capacity-building training on Tracks 1.5 and 2, and on negotiations conducted in the **Philippines** and **Colombia** for local women, including civil society representatives, government officials, indigenous persons, IDPs, security sector representatives, and youth. The training increased their capacity to raise public awareness about the root causes of the conflict between the government of the Philippines and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) and the government of Colombia and the ELN. The governments were called on to address them.

### **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, Nigeria, the Philippines, Syria and internationally.*

#### Outputs/ Contribution to outcome:

**Nobel Women's Initiative (NWI)** launched an online platform called '*InterviewHer*' to connect media with women conflict, peace and security experts. InterviewHer is a contribution to increasing the number of women experts interviewed by the media and improving the quality of media coverage of conflicts. The platform currently features 71 women peace and security experts with expertise in 54 countries. The 'Contact an Expert' page has

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<sup>6</sup> Due to the sensitivity of their interventions, Berghof Foundation has requested that cooperating countries and partners are not published. The countries and organisations are therefore coded.

been viewed over 32 000 thousand times, and journalists have reached out to experts through InterviewHer 120 times since the platform was launched in 2019.

**NWI** also launched a pilot for a new podcast called *'When Feminists Rule the World'*, which features diverse and visionary voices of women changemakers from both the Global South and North. The podcast has been downloaded over 2 000 times. Annually, during 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, **NWI** publishes daily in-depth profiles, and 65 women human rights defenders from 32 countries have been profiled since 2016. Four of the profiled women were subsequently interviewed by an Italian author for a book on Middle Eastern women peace activists, and the profiles are regularly republished by other organisations.

In **Myanmar**, **NWI's** delegation to Bangladesh in 2018 to meet with Rohingya women received unprecedented social media coverage, with a significant reach of 425 319, including wide dissemination of the film, *'Standing with Rohingya Women'*. Based on the delegation's visit, **NWI** created a photo exhibition, *'We are Not Afraid: We Want Our Stories Told'* that was featured at the first-ever gathering of women foreign ministers held in Montreal in 2018.

**GNWP**, **IMS** and **Internews** have provided training for media representatives in Women, Peace and Security and gender-sensitive reporting on peace processes in **Colombia, the Philippines, Myanmar and Syria**.

In Nigeria, **West Africa Network for Peacebuilders (WANEP)** reports that its radio programme 'Women's Voices for Peace' has been actively broadcast by seven media houses across seven states in **Nigeria**. In **Nigeria**, **NCA** supported the Ministry of Women Affairs' engagement with 150 GBV survivors from Borno state to voice their concerns to the entire community during the 16 Days of Activism and International Women's Day through TV and radio programmes on local media.

The **Syria Female Journalist Network (SFJN)** received support from **WILPF** to hold a [regional meeting with 11 women feminist journalists](#) to strengthen local and regional advocacy for gender-sensitive media reporting, thereby providing a safe space that allowed female journalists to discuss the challenges they face and long-term regional collaboration between female journalists. A [solidarity statement with women journalists and human rights defenders in MENA was](#) published during the 16 Days of Activism campaign. A media contacts database was created that contains contact details for women journalists and women human rights defenders from MENA.

***Women's organisations contributed to ensuring that gender issues are addressed in peace negotiations in Afghanistan, Colombia, the Philippines, Myanmar, Nigeria and Syria.***

Outputs/ Contribution to outcome:

In **Afghanistan**, **NCA** reports that the Afghan Women Network (AWN) advocated throughout 2019 for women's participation and respect for women's rights in the **Afghan** peace process.

**GNWP** held National Peace Forums in Manila, **Philippines** (March 2019) and Bogota, **Colombia** (June 2019), with representatives of the government, civil society, the security sector, academia, local government, youth organisations, and faith-based organisations. The forums served as platforms for strategic discussions on the prospects of re-initiating the peace negotiations with ELN in Colombia and the CPP-NPA-NDF in the Philippines, as well as the possibility of informal peace processes. **GNWP** has also provided support for local women in the two countries to draft local legislation to support the peace process between the governments and the CPP-NPA-NDF and ELN, as well as local mediation efforts.

In **Syria**, **WILPF** supported the voices of women leaders working on enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention. They produced [a short video](#) highlighting the work of Families for Freedom, a collective of Syrian families demanding freedom for all political prisoners and forcibly disappeared persons in Syria. [They also](#)

[supported Families for Freedom's presence](#) on the fringe of the Annual Open Debate on Women Peace and Security in 2019. **NWI** supported the establishment of the **Syrian Women's Political Movement (SWPM)**, which was launched in 2017. SWPM has gone on to develop policy recommendations that have been presented to various international bodies on what needs to be done to achieve sustainable peace. SWPM has been recognised by institutional funders and provided with resources to further build its capacity to advance women's solutions for peace in Syria.

**In Myanmar, Norwegian people's Aid (NPA)**, together with its partners Mon Women's Organization (MWO) and Karenni National Women's Organization (KNWO), organised community consultations in Mon and Kayah states highlighting the need for gender inclusion in the peace process. Representatives from Ethnic Political Parties, ceasefire groups (the Karenni National Progressive Party and the New Mon State Party), and civil society organisations participated in the consultations. The consultations contributed input on policies to protect women's participation in peace and security processes, and on sharing women's perspective on the five thematic areas of the formal peace process. **CARE** provided training and access to government contacts for a network of grassroots women's organisations in Kayah state representing a cross-section of ethnic, political and religious groups on both sides of the local ethnic conflict. CARE helped the organisations to put GBV on the agenda.

**In Nigeria**, the Federation of Muslim Women Association in Nigeria (FOMWAN), supported by **NCA**, engaged in advocacy for the inclusion of gender issues and women's voices in peace talks in Borno state. **NCA** also engaged with women leaders and informal women's groups in local communities to ensure that issues relating to gender and gender-based violence are addressed in peace and development talks. **WANEP** supported the setting up of the United Women Peacebuilders Network in **Nigeria** to strengthen women's peacebuilding capacity, and strengthened 97 women's networks' peacebuilding capacity in three states in the Niger Delta. For instance, the Coalition of Ogoni Women Development Initiative was inaugurated to engage in peace and security issues at the local level. **WANEP** and the Kebetkache Women Development and Resource Centre (KWDRC) issued a communique calling for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Ogoniland, Rivers State. Commitments have been secured from stakeholders to the development of one state-level and three local-level Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security in the Niger Delta.

***Women's organisations contributed to reducing violence and tension in target communities in Colombia, the Philippines and Nigeria.***

Outputs/ Contribution to outcome:

**In Colombia and the Philippines, GNWP** and its local partners helped local women and other key actors to develop Track 2 peace initiatives to reduce tensions and violence and bolster conflict resilience in their communities. Examples of initiatives include running women-friendly spaces in evacuation centres and economic empowerment programmes; leadership schools for women; women-led economic initiatives, and sustained awareness-raising, and campaigns for the implementation of peace agreements.

**In Nigeria, WILPF** supported the efforts of women peacebuilders from over 40 women's organisations to strengthen the resilience of communities and the state through the Women Situation Room **Nigeria**. In 2019, a physical national observatory for the general elections was set up in Abuja, to ensure a gender assessment of the election processes across the 13 hotspot states of Nigeria, namely Borno, Bauchi, Gombe, Plateau, Benue, Kaduna, Katsina, Osun, Lagos, Imo, Enugu, and Delta. **NCA** has established 14 Women and Girls Safe Spaces in nine communities across Borno state in North East **Nigeria**. A total of 13 430 women and girls accessed the safe spaces during 2018 alone. The convergence of women and girls from various ethnic, religious and other social backgrounds helped to build social cohesion within the communities and sometimes between conflicting parties. One example is Dikwa, a community where there is tension between two ethnic groups. Through regular

interaction in safe spaces, women from these rival ethnic groups decided to set aside their differences and they have jointly carried out campaigns against GBV.

**NCA** has also continued to raise awareness and provide capacity building for government security forces on SGBV in conflicts. In Pulka community, for example, after the training, the military engaged with camp leaders and other key stakeholders to establish a protection committee to report any related violence and abuse that might be perpetrated by security personnel and to report it for immediate action.

### ***Increased awareness among peace negotiators/local mediators of conflict-related SGBV in Nigeria and internationally***

**WILPF** has engaged with relevant actors and raised concerns about aspects of UN Security Council resolution 2467 on sexual violence in conflict, which was adopted in 2019. It has endeavoured to ensure that the resolution will be a powerful new instrument for eradicating conflict-related sexual crimes, preventing such violence through justice and accountability and affirming that a survivor-centred approach must guide every aspect of the response of affected countries and the international community. WILPF reports that the final version of the resolution reflects WILPF's longstanding instrumental role in shifting the global debate towards the root causes of conflict. They state that the resolution can be used to support strategic action, particularly through legal frameworks, something that WILPF has also long advocated. In partnership with the LSE Centre for Women, Peace and Security, [WILPF has launched a commentary](#) on the text of the resolution. This resolution is intended to increase awareness of conflict-related sexual violence among peace negotiators, particularly in UN-led peace processes.

In Nigeria, community and religious leaders often serve as mediators in disputes, including family disputes and conflict-related SGBV, where traditional justice systems are the only means of resolving issues. **NCA** has provided courses of training for communities and religious leaders on GBV issues that has improved their understanding of referral pathways for GBV services and mediation in GBV cases. Many of the individuals trained took concrete actions to address GBV in their communities.

## **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 Colombia, Mali, the Philippines and South Sudan.***

#### Outputs/ Contribution to outcome:

In **Mali**, **NCA** and partners have succeeded in ensuring that all local peacebuilding committees they have supported have at least 30% women members. In the past, women were not represented in the higher echelons of peace structures. Now there are 10 female presidents of structures, and 185 women members participate as mediators, facilitators and trusted go-betweens. Seventy-eight per cent of women members of local peace structures reported having an influence on decisions concerning the management and prevention of conflicts. A hundred and three local action plans have been developed by women and young people to contribute to peace processes and the development of their communities, and 60% of those action plans have been implemented.

In **Colombia**, **Casa de la Mujer** drafted and submitted a document to the National Participation Council (CNP) on the progress of and obstacles to women's participation in the implementation of the Peace Agreement. The CNP presented the report to the Congress.

In Country 3<sup>7</sup>, one of the conflict parties successfully transitioned into a post-war political party following the peace agreement. The **Berghof Foundation** has supported the women's brigade organisation 3.1, and in 2019 it legally transformed into a regional association for women, with the aim of carrying out self-led, collective capacity-building for political participation by women ex-combatants and for the inclusion of women's development in the implementation of the peace agreement and post-war politics.

In **South Sudan**, a graduate of the **Nobel Women's Initiative (NWI)** Sister-to-Sister training programme provided technical support for civil society and women delegations to the High-Level Revitalization Forum peace talks, and helped to form South Sudan Women's Coalition. This led to women's participation in the peace talks increasing from 25% to 35%. In 2019, **NPA** supported the coalition having a central role in the revitalised peace process. A retreat was organised to finalise a framework and governance structure for the coalition that will guide them during the implementation phase of the R-ARCSS. Milestones have been reached as a result of the coalition's engagement, such as the inclusion of integrated gender-specific clauses in the revitalised Peace Agreement, having a female leader in one of the Vice President positions, 35% representation of women on the Executive and other key independent institutions, and demanding the establishment of mechanisms that are instrumental to the monitoring of implementation of the Peace Agreement.

**Legal Action Worldwide (LAW)** and **FOKUS** have both provided training for female civil society representatives and legal practitioners to enhance their roles in transitional justice processes and as advocates for the setting up of effective transitional justice mechanisms. **FOKUS's** local partner, the Women's International Peace Centre (WIPC), is producing a research report on the implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement (R-ARCSS) from a gender perspective to support women's engagement with decision-makers to ensure their inclusion and that their concerns are addressed. The report will be finalised in 2020.

**NCA's** partner, the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC), held 15 peace and reconciliation workshops that provided a safe space for women to discuss conflict issues affecting their communities, including GBV, boundary disputes, water and grazing land disputes.

### ***Increased participation of women in transitional justice processes in Colombia and Mali.***

#### Outputs/ Contribution to outcome:

In **Colombia**, **NPA** reports that attorney Patricia Tobón Yagarí, a young woman and a member of the Embera people, and of the partner organisation ONIC, was selected to represent the indigenous peoples on the Truth Commission. She will endeavour to seek the truth and testimony from indigenous communities and organisations affected by violence, especially its effect on indigenous women. **FOKUS** supported the participation of 180 women victims of forced displacement and dispossession of land in transitional justice processes and achieved five favourable decisions for the restitution of land to 31 peasant women and 46 women leaders. The women have also opened a space for complaints concerning forced displacement, and they have established a link between dispossession of land and disappearances, a link that was not previously recognised.

In **Mali**, **WFM** reports supporting a training workshop for the Commissioners of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (CVJR) on gender and quota law 052. This will hopefully contribute to improving the inclusion of women in transitional justice mechanisms and respect for gender equality.

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

***Women's organisations have more influence on peacebuilding processes at the national level in Colombia, Mali, the Philippines, and at the international level.***

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<sup>7</sup> Due to the sensitivity of their interventions, Berghof Foundation has requested that cooperating countries and partners are not published. The countries and organisations are therefore coded.

#### Outputs/ Contribution to outcome:

In **Colombia**, the Special Instance of Gender for Peace, a network of civil society organisations that monitor the implementation of the gender provisions in the Peace Agreement, has been strengthened, with the assistance of **FOKUS**. In 2019, the network convened meetings for women leaders and ex-combatants in six of the most violent and prioritised areas in the Peace Agreement. It also [published a report based on a gender perspective on the implementation of the Peace Agreement three years after its adoption](#). **GNWP** supported steering committees for the implementation of the peace agreement in both Cauca and Tolima. The committees consisted of local women. In Cauca, local women also met with the newly elected mayors to present concrete proposals for local development plans. **Casa de la Mujer** has participated in advocacy meetings at the national level and shared issues voiced by women survivors at the local level. These efforts have, among other things, led to strengthened mechanisms for the protection of leaders and ex-combatants, and to the development of a tool for monitoring the situation of women in the implementation of the Peace Agreement. **Casa** also submitted a proposal to the National Development Plan that was successfully included. In Loricá, one of the supported CBO leaders was chosen as a member of the Bureau for Missing Persons.

In **Mali**, **NCA** contributed to improving the conflict management skills of 924 women and youth members of civil society organisations between 2016 and 2019. **WFM's** partner MUSONET organised capacity-building sessions for women leaders on the National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, and brought women leaders as participants to high-level meetings at the United Nations and with other European and African countries.

In the **Philippines**, **GNWP** supported workshops with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to increase its understanding and ownership of the Peace Agreement), as subsequently enshrined in the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL). The participants were empowered to develop and advocate for concrete actions, gender-sensitive legislation and policies necessary for the peaceful transition to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) after four decades of armed conflict. Village officials, predominantly from Christian and Lumad villages, expressed support for the Bangsamoro Organic Law, and committed to organising village meetings to raise awareness and generate broad-based support for BOL among their constituents.

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

#### Outputs/ Contribution to outcome:

**IMS** reports that a study has been carried out of the current practice of gender- and conflict-sensitive journalism and the involvement of women journalists in conflict reporting in **Colombia, Myanmar** and **Syria**. Furthermore, meetings and workshops have been held between women's rights organisations and media training organisations to identify the challenges and opportunities for gender- and conflict-sensitive journalism. The study and the ensuing meetings led to increased understanding of both the positive and negative experiences of conflict-related GBV survivors' encounters with journalists, the obstacles to cooperation between women's organisations and the media, and the visibility of women in the media as experts and survivors.

In **Colombia**, **Casa de la Mujer** helped women of Meta and Córdoba to air radio spots in two municipalities on how to get women to vote in the framework of promoting women's and peace agendas. **Casa** also produced at least 40 communication pieces, including press releases, and media web designs, to pressure the national government into implementing the Peace Agreement.

In **South Sudan**, **NPA** have collaborated with the Catholic Radio Network to establish a Network of Female Journalists (FJN) to push for visibility and participation of women in the media. The number of registered female journalists increased from 60 in 2018 to 75 at the end of 2019. At the local level, **NPA** supported Community Media Network South Sudan's (CoMNeTss) engagement with community radio stations across the country to get them to cover local peace conferences and to widely disseminate peace messages through their stations. Fifty-five citizen or community reporters were trained and assigned to community radio stations to collect peace and reconciliatory news articles, which were later aired through community radio stations. **Y-global** partner YWCA-SS produced three radio talk shows on the peace process in Juba to discuss the opportunities offered by the peace agreement to tackle issues of conflict-related SGBV.

**LAW** co-organised a side event on Justice for Survivors of South Sudan's Conflict with Amnesty International at the annual Assembly of State Parties to the Rome Statute in The Hague, Netherlands. The event contributed to raising awareness of the human rights situation and the need for international support for holding perpetrators to account for the serious crimes they have committed. While South Sudan is not a state party to the Rome Statute, the assembly is an important convergence point for many international justice supporters, and it was an opportunity to build support for more action to advance accountability in South Sudan.

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

Outputs/ Contribution to outcome:

In **Mali** advocacy initiatives by **NCA**, among others, led to the drafting of a preliminary draft law against GBV and an implementation plan.

In **Colombia**, **WFM** reports that it has supported judicial representation in five cases of conflict-related sexual violence in Tumaco, Santander and Putumayo before the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP). It has also supported the presentation of 98 cases of sexual violence to the Truth Commission. **Casa de la Mujer** has developed a psychosocial and legal management guide for documentation of cases of violence against women, and, testimonies of women, leaders, and local actors have been compiled based on it. The testimonies will be presented in a report to be submitted to the Truth Commission in 2020. **FOKUS** reports that its partners have developed a technical legal document for cases related to violence and prejudice against Lesbian, Bisexual and Transwomen (LBT) for presentation to the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-repetition in Colombia. In total, five cases of LBT women victims of sexual violence in the department of Tolima were presented to the Special Jurisdiction for peace (JEP). Furthermore, 14 cases of sexual violence against women were submitted to the Truth Commission.

In **South Sudan**, **NPA** partner Stewardwomen hosted two mobile court sessions in Nimule and Magwi, resulting in 20 cases being successfully prosecuted in the two locations. Seven of the cases concerned conflict-related sexual violence against women and one was a property rights case. There was high attendance at the open court sessions. This was the first time the mobile court was held in Magwi and the second time in Nimule. The presence of the mobile court led to an increase in the number of cases reported and in access to justice for the victims.

**LAW** held bilateral dialogues with the National Commission on Human Rights on how to use its mandate to address SGBV. The Commission was urged to improve its capacity as regards the use of techniques to address conflict-related SGBV, and to monitor, document, collect and analyse evidence of conflict-related SGBV. **LAW** also facilitated meetings of the South Sudanese survivors who had filed a complaint with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to update them on the status of the case, but also to play football as part of their healing and wellness regime.

## OTHER RELEVANT RESULTS – SUSTAINING PEACE

### Women's Political Rights and Participation

In **Afghanistan**, three women participating in peacebuilding activities supported by **NCA** participated in the 2018 parliamentary elections, and two of them were elected. The new parliament was inaugurated in April 2019.

In **Mali**, **CARE**-trained women participate in political leadership through village savings and loans associations (VSLA) and there has been a sharp increase in the number of women who are members of political parties and who choose to stand for election. This has gone hand in hand with efforts to sensitise political parties to ensure that they welcome women as members and candidates.

In **Palestine**, **NPA** partners have worked to increase the participation of women in political processes at the local and national level. Youth Councils established in coordination with the municipalities in Gaza are an example. They work to influence the priorities of the Municipal Councils in favour of gender equality and the interests of young people, and often have equal participation by men and women.

### Women's Economic Rights and Participation

**CARE** has ensured that over a million women in **Afghanistan**, **Mali** and **Myanmar** have gained access to informal financial services through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) since 2016.

In **Afghanistan**, **AfghanAid** reports that 500 women have started their vocational training and are receiving enterprise development training, and that 50 savings groups have been established in Samangan province.

In **Nigeria**, economic tensions in the household are a notable driver of conflict and other related violence, including violence against women. **NCA** supported partner FOMWAN's engagement in a series of empowerment activities with women and girls at community level, including livelihood training, skill building and village savings and loan associations.

By the end of 2018, more than 30,000 women in **Mali** had been trained by **CARE** in how to start their own business. **NCA** provided 565 women and youth with life skills training (literacy, numeracy, human rights, conflict transformation) between 2016 and 2019.

### A life free from violence and harmful customs

**CARE** has set up referral systems to ensure that women subjected to violence have access to counselling, health services and justice in **Afghanistan** and **Myanmar**.

In **Mali**, **CARE** has established six community centres (Centres d'écoute communautaires) to provide psychosocial support for victims of GBV. However, there is still a lack of equipment and a lack of expertise among staff working at these centres. With the support of **TOSTAN**, 141 communities publicly declared their commitment to promoting human rights and abandoning harmful practices in the Koulikoro region.

In **Myanmar**, **CARE** has ensured that grassroots women's organisations have been heard in the drafting process for a new law aimed at protecting women against violence. The law is expected to be voted on in 2020. **CARE** has also supported the construction of safehouses for GBV survivors and has provided training for government staff and assisted in the running of the centres and in the reintegration of survivors who are often left isolated and destitute.

In **South Sudan**, **Y-global** has provided psychosocial support for survivors and referrals to relevant institutions. Survivors of SGBV, rape, forced and child marriages have been able to receive the required support, thus enabling them to heal and reintegrate back into the community. **NPA** partner Crown the Woman (CREW) installed landlines in six secondary schools in Juba that increased students' awareness of services to protect them from violence and respond to threats and incidences of violence. The establishment of hotline systems and the referral

pathway created a safe space for students to report all forms of gender-based violence in schools and communities.

#### **Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights**

In **Mali**, **NCA** has supported advocacy capacity-building for leaders of girls' and boys' associations and women's organisations to enable them to lobby for coverage of the cost of treatment of fistula or treatment for survivors of gender-based violence. Following this local advocacy, five elected representatives at the local level have inserted budget lines covering a percentage of the cost of treatment in annual municipal development plans (PDSEC) and seven other elected representatives have pledged to do so. **Marie Stopes Mali** increased the capacity of 14 civil society organisations to influence policies relating to women's and girls' rights and to advocate for the continued provision of safe abortions, including collecting evidence of unsafe abortions and providing information about existing laws and guidance on how to work with religious leaders.

#### **Girls' rights to education:**

In **Myanmar**, **NPA** partner Mon National Education Committee (MNEC) supports basic education in areas that are not fully controlled by the government (Mon, Kayin, Thanintharyi). NPA supports training for teachers and teacher salaries. NPA also supports the development of the regional education policy, as well as advocacy to the National Policy Education Committee (NEPC) on the need for ethnic mother tongue-based education. During the MNEC project, 25 418 children (13 039 girls) have had access to good quality and ethnically based basic education, partly due to the support of NPA.

In **South Sudan**, **NPA** partner Stewardwomen contributed to developing and implementing a Strategic National Action Plan to End Child Marriage in South Sudan and trained 66 Parent Teachers Associations and School Management Committees in children's rights and GBV prevention in Juba and Nimule. This has resulted in increased enrolment and retention among adolescent girls in Rei primary school in Nimule, in particular.