



VIRTUAL DISCUSSION ON **GENDER AND DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION & REINTEGRATION**

Reintegrating Female Ex-Combatants: Good practices and lessons learned in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of women and girls

Week Three Summary: Measuring impacts and recommendations

UN-INSTRAW would like to thank all participants who have contributed to the virtual discussion on gender and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. It has been a very insightful discussion and we appreciate everyone's participation. We hope that the discussion has created a network of contacts to continue progress on the very important issues raised and that the information provides a useful resource for future work in the area of gender and DDR. Following is a summary of comments, including main points made during the discussions and a full-length review of specific comments made during week three.

Week three of the virtual discussion aimed to address the following questions:

1. What are policy and programme planning recommendations to address the needs of women and girls in reintegration processes? What measures should be taken to implement these recommendations?
2. What measures should be taken to monitor and evaluate gender-aware reintegration?
3. What types of data and indicators are available or feasible for monitoring and evaluating gender-aware reintegration?

Week three: Main points on measuring impacts and recommendations

- The creation of policies, such as those incorporating UNSCR 1325 in DDR activities, are important, but it is the implementation of such policies that is critical.
- Publicity to increase public awareness and involvement in gender and security issues can help increase the effectiveness of implementation efforts.
- While we can learn from more generalized good practices and lessons learned, DDR programmes must be context-specific and the planning of such programmes should include beneficiaries.
- Women should be included in leadership and decision-making positions around DDR, but we should also think critically about whom the women are that are participating and also the institutional structures in which they are participating.

- Qualitative and quantitative indicators should be used to measure the impact of DDR programmes and assessments should be carried out in the long-term.

Week three: Summary of comments made

Recommendations

In reference to the inclusion of UNSCR 1325 in policies, *Jen* (Philippine Action Network to Control Arms-PhilANCA) noted the important relationships between policymaking and public opinion. She suggested that while policies can be created, problems often arise in the implementation of such policies, particularly in transitional societies. In order to improve the implementation of policies, *Jen* recommends that the general public be engaged in issues of gender and security using various modes of communication, including in schools, on television, in essay contests, and writing opinion pieces for major papers. *Uju12345678* (ONUCI) emphasized the need for publicity around DDR processes as well, connecting it with the potential for the increased participation of women.

Helen Basini (University of Limerick) drew on her knowledge of the existing materials on gender and DDR noting that many of the materials make very similar recommendations. Like *Jen*, she emphasized the importance of implementation and how these policies and recommendations are applied. *Helen Basini* also noted that poor coordination and a lack of funds can be obstacles for the implementation of any policy. Similarly, *Ana* noted that it may be fairly simple to verify how laws incorporate women's issues, but the existence of legislation does not give an indication of how it is implemented and how women are able to uphold their rights.

Helen Basini (University of Limerick) also referenced UNSCR 1325, stating that it provides a good basis for programmatic activities, but that such activities need to take context into account and be led by local actors wherever possible. *Uju12345678* (ONUCI) echoed the call for integrating context into the planning and implementation of DDR programmes.

Helen Basini (University of Limerick) recommended that beneficiaries be engaged in programme planning processes, particularly during a gender-specific needs assessment. She also recommended the increased participation of women in leadership and decision-making positions in international organizations that are coordinating and implementing DDR programmes.

Picking up on the discussion about the implementation of policies, *Getaneh Gobezie* (INAFI International, independent rural finance consultant) pointed to the gender inequalities that exist within the institutions implementing policies. He indicated that many institutions and organizations actually contribute to the reproduction of traditional gender roles and often do not take into account women's multiple responsibilities. This can severely impede the reintegration and empowerment of women.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Regarding monitoring and evaluation, *Ana* (Independent Consultant) raised the issue of how indicators may be included in most programmes, but do little to measure the actual effectiveness of reintegration programmes. She noted that many programmes include quantitative indicators (such as the number of people trained) and implied that such indicators need to be complemented by qualitative indicators that measure the usefulness

and applicability of such training. She further emphasized that programmatic assessments need to continue over longer periods of time so that implementers and people interested in DDR can really see the success and long-term impact of the programmes. This can better help to identify good practices and lessons learned.

Indicators

Like *Helen Basini*, *Ana* also brought up the topic of women's participation in political positions, commenting that the number of women in such positions is often considered an indicator on gender and security issues. She continues by stressing that while women's inclusion is very important and that such women can serve as role models, an indicator on the number of women in these positions does not necessarily reflect who the women in these positions are and what positions they may have in society.