



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

UN WOMEN IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

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UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their rights worldwide. UN Women supports United Nations Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards.

[http:// www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org)

UN Women Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA)

is entrusted to operate in twelve countries:

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

Despite recent decade economic growth, the EECA sub-region still faces challenges of regional disintegration, large disparities in economic development and widely varied labour markets. Some countries experience dynamic labour migration flows. Social polarization, weakening social protection, limited access of women to decision-making - all this leads to a diversified social, political and economic development landscape and influences the status of gender equality in the sub-region.

These factors and several globally-accepted indicators, determine the focus of UN Women programming choices for the sub-region. All programme areas are aligned with national development priorities and are geared to enhance national ownership and capacity to implement national gender equality commitments.

In addition, 2012-2013 UN Women EECA Strategic Plan is also based on extensive consultations with national partners in several countries of the sub-region as well as lessons learnt from past programming and evaluations. Thus, UN Women unfolds its activities around the following strategic areas:

- **Increasing women's economic empowerment**
- **Ending violence against women and girls and expanding access to survivor services**
- **Increasing women's leadership in peace, security and humanitarian response**
- **Making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting.**

INCREASING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



Tajikistan. At Khujand market

UN Women promotes rights of women working at city markets, cross-border traders, and refugees.
Photo: Janarbek Amankulov, 2010



Today, women represent **70 per cent** of the **1.3 billion** people who live in absolute poverty - earning less than \$1 a day. The average global gender pay gap for equal work remains important and is around 17%. Globalization is creating new and complex sets of risks and opportunities for EECA countries. The global economic crisis aggravated women's limited access to economic resources, which led to the erosion or loss of livelihoods, labour rights and social benefits. There is a concern over significant gender-driven disparities in access to production assets, including land and capital. Many women in the EECA are denied access to the labor market, and the destruction of welfare systems makes women take on the main responsibility for care duties.

Securing Women's Rights to Land in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan

Over recent years, UN Women has been working on securing women's rights during land reforms implemented in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The efforts were supported by the Government of Norway and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The key objective was to drive and boost positive changes in political, legal and public domains through mainstreaming gender in ongoing agrarian reforms and follow-up monitoring.

As a result, over 2002-2006 the number of women running farms in Tajikistan increased from **2 to 14 per cent**, and more than **15,000** women and men benefited from legal advice at **75** specialized consultancy centers. The data on public requests and computed-based case registration were used to analyze the context and formulate recommendations to improve land-related laws from the perspective of human rights-based approach and gender equality principles.

National parliaments in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan reviewed gender-related amendments to specific laws that were further enacted by the Presidents.

Regular legal advice, trainings, launching of cooperatives and community-based self-help groups helped rural women to significantly expand their self-governance opportunities in order to step up their socio-economic security. The project was conducive to developing women's leadership skills, and gave avenues for their participation in local decision-making processes that had literally been inaccessible for them before.

Drawing on the outcomes, UN Women continues to promote and facilitate mainstreaming gender in laws and policies regulating women's access to economic resources, with a particular focus on inheritance and property rights as well as efficient land management, etc.

Protecting Rights of Women Labour Migrants

With rising unemployment and tougher competition in the labour market, labour migration has become the survival strategy for women and men in Central Asia to support their families. In 2010, the cumulative share of three Central Asia countries (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) exceeded 50 per cent of the overall official labour migration flow to Russia, **having grown threefold** over the last 5-7 years. The 2009 needs assessment of women labour migrants showed that female migration account for **25-30 per cent** of the migrants and they are more often migrating on their own, which makes challenges of their safety, economic and social security increasingly important.

In March 2010, UN Women in partnership with the IOM and the World Bank under the support of UK Government launched the Regional Migration Programme for Central Asia. It is designed to assist states to develop their policies in compliance with international labour migration treaties and human rights commitments and standards. The programme is also geared to provide labour migrants and their families with a wide range of gender-specific services, including counseling, information, and legal advice, at all stages of the migration cycle. It is crucial for bringing down the unregular migration, improving working conditions and stepping up safety and security of labour migrants. Under the programme's umbrella, UN Women seeks to build knowledge and skills essential for upgrading living standards of most disadvantaged labour migrant families left back home. Kyrgyzstan supported **3358** migrant families who are now running their own agricultural businesses, and they also are keen on developing other types of individual and group businesses which are supported by **52** Rural Funds

designed to raise and disburse funds required to start up business. Tajikistan has **1650** migrant families involved in initiatives geared at expanding income-generating activities and opportunities.

UN Women collaborates with local authorities, media and civil society to support their efforts to enhance tolerance towards labour migrants and their families and to combat xenophobia and discrimination in countries of destination of migrants. It also fosters development of concepts to integrate labour migrants and their families into their host communities in four pilot regions covered by the programme.

UN Women seeks to assist the EECA countries in improving their policies and laws to promote social and economic empowerment of domestic workers who make up the most invisible and vulnerable group of labour migrants. It is expected to contribute to the ratification of the ILO Convention on Domestic Workers adopted at the General Conference of the International Labour Organization on 16 June 2011 (the Convention is available at: <http://www.ilo.org>).



Photo: Alla Pyatibratova, 2011



Photo: UN Women, 2011

Enhanced Employability of Women in Moldova

In Moldova women, especially from rural areas, have limited opportunities for employment and self-employment. They are poorly aware of available services to better fulfil and exercise their social and economic rights. Access to information and services is critical for them to upgrade their living standards and participate in the national socio-economic development. In this quest, local authorities supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) have deployed localized Joint Information and Services Bureaus (JISBs). These innovative entities provide local population, particularly women, with the coordinated access to information and services from nine providers that operate in such sectors as employment, social security, business and agriculture development, as well as legal and land issues. All these efforts

contribute to enhancing their legal literacy and knowledge, and are conducive to improving economic conditions and status of women.

As of 2010, four pilot JISBs have been functioning in four districts: Singerei, Telenesti, Nisporeni and Cantemir, and rendering relevant assistance and services to over **2,500 beneficiaries**, out of whom almost **80 per cent** were women. In some cases this support has assisted families in securing regular income and upgrading their skills, resulting in improved employability and further education.

The 2012 Resolution of the RoM Government recommends to replicate countrywide the JISBs experience, highlighting cost-effectiveness and innovation of this mechanism both for rural women and local authorities.

Social Protection of Vulnerable Groups in Tajikistan

In the framework of Gender and Democratic Governance in Development, a global UN Women program, launched in summer 2010 with the financial support of the Norwegian Government, Tajikistan is making significant efforts to improve social security of vulnerable groups and the state civil registration system. To this effect, UN Women promotes and furthers integration of gender perspective in social policies and laws on social security in line with international principles and standards. Another area of activities is to raise public awareness and enhance access, particularly of women with disabilities and parents of disabled children, to existing state- and non-state social security services and upgrade their quality through innovative practices and tools.

UN Women has contributed to setting up specific observer groups (with more than **20** persons per group) comprising women-leaders, and monitored the status of **640** most vulnerable families in Gonchi and Isfara Districts. The monitoring has helped **854** persons, out of whom **60%** were women and children, to obtain documents verifying their civil status (passports, birth certificates, marriage certificates, etc.) free of charge. Throughout 2011, over **12,000** persons got legal advice at district information and consultancy centers (DICC)s. Drawing on best practices from Moldova (see p. 9), they put in operation the Joint Information and Services Bureau in Gonchi district, Tajikistan that enjoys a great demand.

UN Women has supported the Bureau of Human Rights and Rule of Law in Tajikistan in monitoring human rights of persons with disabilities and their access to state service providers. The findings were drawn on to formulate and submit for a review by relevant ministries and agencies recommendations on improving social security service delivery to this group. They also facilitated launching of the advocacy campaign for the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by Tajikistan.



Photo: Janarbek Amankulov, 2010

Social Mobilization of Rural Women in Uzbekistan

The “Promotion of Women’s Economic Rights in Uzbekistan” project is aimed at promoting economic independence of vulnerable rural women through their mobilization in self-help groups in order to address together challenges caused by lack of access to financial resources and economic knowledge, such as financial management, business planning and credit system. Throughout 2010-2011 within the Project, UN Women supported the initiative of the Women’s Committee of Uzbekistan (WCU) to employ social mobilization for ensuring rural women’s access to economic assets and capital, and extension services. It was built upon the innovative model piloted successfully earlier in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The WCU facilitated capacity-building of provincial and district centers for women’s social and legal support, and secured favourable terms for micro crediting of rural women on the part of the State.

The projects implemented in three pilot areas of Uzbekistan have helped to set up **49** women’s self-help groups whose members were trained in business organization principles. **29** groups were granted microcredits with the interest rate decreased from **14 to 3 per cent**.

Fund for Gender Equality

The Fund for Gender Equality is designed to support efforts of government and non-government organizations that focus on women’s political and economic empowerment at local and national levels. In EECA the Fund’s grants are implemented in Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Ukraine.

*More information is available on:
www.unwomen.org*

As a result, women were able to improve their families’ living standards, upgrade the social status both at household and community levels, and participate in local decision-making.

The Joint-Stock Commercial Microcredit bank and the WCU intend to scale up the project and share this best practice countrywide.

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS AND EXPANDING ACCESS TO SURVIVOR SERVICES

Jalal-Abad. On the way to school

Sending children and especially girls to school was the main post-conflict fear indicated by the local population after June 2010 interethnic conflict in the Southern Kyrgyzstan.

Photo: Janatbek Amankulov, 2010



Worldwide, six out of ten women experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime. It is the leading cause of death and disability among **16-44 year** old women. Therefore, violence against women is increasingly being recognized as a criminal issue which needs to be squarely addressed through adequate policies, legislation, institutional mechanisms and public awareness campaigns. To date **89** countries have enacted laws against domestic violence and **90** states prosecute sexual harassment and marital rape. Along with that, over **100** countries lack the legal framework to counter domestic violence.

Women in the EECA suffer from the same types of violence as women in other parts of the world, be it domestic violence, trafficking or other forms of physical or sexual abuse. In addition, the revival of some cultural and social practices, often mistakenly interpreted as part of religious customs, are placing discriminatory restrictions on women's rights to control their lives and bodies. In such a climate, legal and policy frameworks need to be strengthened with protective and punitive measures, but the realization of this prospect is hindered by the absence of reliable data on violence and discrimination against women.

New Legislation and Law Enforcement to Eliminate Gender-Based Violence in EECA

Since 2001 with the assistance of the UN system, including UN Women, and in partnership with a variety of key stakeholders, six out of twelve EECA countries: *Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Moldova* have adopted domestic violence laws.

In Tajikistan, extensive advocacy for the adoption of the draft domestic violence law is still under way.

UN Women supports developing and/or strengthening mechanisms for effective enforcement of domestic violence laws, implementation of public awareness campaigns and improving service delivery to survivors, including in the frameworks of the UN Secretary General's campaign 'UNiTE to End Violence against Women', and UN Women's 'Say NO to End Violence against Women' initiative.

Improving Prevention and Response to Domestic Violence in Georgia

In Georgia UN Women supports the Government to institutionalize national response to domestic violence. With the financial support of Swedish Sida, UN Women played an active coordination role and provided technical assistance in the development of the 2009-2010 and 2011-2012 national action plans (NAP) on the elimination of domestic violence, including costing of their implementation. The 2009-2010 NAP envisaged the establishment of first state-run shelters for violence survivors, deployment of the nation-wide hotline as well as formulation of national standards for relevant services.

Moreover, it has been decided that as of 2011, services for victims of domestic violence are to be funded from the national budget. As a result, in 2011 only, allocations for the elimination of domestic violence and provision of relevant services **increased by 31%**. The average number of calls to the hotline grew **threefold** in the first six months of its operation from October 2011 which confirms its high demand and relevance.

Over 2012-2015, under UN Joint Programme with UNDP and UNFPA UN Women will assist the Government in setting up another shelter in West Georgia, where no such establishments have existed so far. UN Women will also support capacity-building of law enforcement, judiciary, and social workers to ensure proper response to incidents of domestic violence and mitigation of its impact on victims. Significant efforts will

UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) is a leading multilateral mechanism that supports local, national, regional, and international initiatives to address violence against women and girls. Established by the UN General Assembly resolution 50/166 in 1996, it is now administered by the UN Women on behalf of the UN system. In EECA the UN Trust Fund supported projects in Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan and Ukraine. More information is available on: <http://www.unwomen.org/how-we-work/un-trust-fund/>

be made towards the popularization of state-run services and promotion of zero tolerance towards violence against women including domes-

tic violence among the public at large, i.e. in the framework of the UN Secretary General's Campaign 'UNiTe to End Violence Against Women'.



Participants of the Regional Expert Meeting on the Enforcement of the Domestic Violence Legislation in EECA, Almaty, Kazakhstan.
Photo: UN Women, 2012

Preventing Violence, Stigmatization and Discrimination of HIV-positive Women in Central Asia

In Tajikistan with the assistance of UNAIDS UN Women makes efforts to mainstream gender in the national HIV prevention programme and counteraction of negative social implications of the pandemic for women and girls. Through its support to the First national network of women living with HIV, UN Women allowed them to articulate their rights, participate in policy-making, programming and resource allocation targeted at HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation, including prevention of discrimination and violence against women.

In Uzbekistan the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan jointly with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Tajikistan and the National AIDS Center supported by UN Women has tailor-made

the Family and HIV/AIDS Training Manual. The Manual that describes gender dimensions of AIDS and the family role in its prevention, has helped to train about **50** trainers represented by employees of Centers for Social and Legal Support to Women operating at the oblast WCUs, and rural healthcare workers. They delivered **70** workshops aimed at enhancing the role of the family in mitigating the HIV implications, attended by over **1,400** persons, including the members of the WCU, advisors at district committees, religious activists, healthcare workers and students.



Photo: UN Women, 2010

UN Secretary-General's campaign 'UNiTE to End Violence against Women'

In February 2008, the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign. Stretching from 2008 to 2015 this multi-year initiative is aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls around the world. UNiTE calls on governments, civil society, women's organizations, young people, the private sector, the media and the entire UN system to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women.

In EECA these initiatives are ongoing in Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Ukraine.

*More information is available on:
www.un.org/women/endviolence
www.saynotoviolence.org*

UN Women's 'Say NO to Violence against Women' campaign



UN Women's Say NO – UNiTE, led by Nicole Kidman, UN Women Goodwill Ambassador, is designed to support the UN Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign. The UN Women initiative aims to demonstrate that there is a global movement of people who demand that ending violence against women be a top national development priority for governments everywhere. It showcases most successful efforts in addressing this scourge.

INCREASING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN PEACE, SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



Central Asian Women Peace Activists deliver the NGO's Appeal to the UN Secretary General during "Open Day on Women, Peace and Security", Astana, Kazakhstan.
Photo: UN, 2010



In the world today 90% of armed conflicts casualties are civilians with a disproportionately high number of women and children among them. Rape is on the rise as well as other crimes that are used as a tactic of war and pressure. Women and children become innocent victims, being physically and emotionally traumatized, suffering from unwanted pregnancies, infamy and disgrace. Yet, women make up only **8 per cent** of peace processes participants, with less than **3 per cent** of signatures under peace treaties . Over the last decade the population of EECA countries had unprecedented changes in their life due to escalated political tensions, armed conflicts and paramount socio-economic challenges. Over **80 per cent** of the refugees and IDPs are women and children which makes it critical to utilize gender-based approaches in addressing their needs. Progress is extremely slow in fulfillment of commitments made by the EECA governments under international treaties, including the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), UN SCR on Women, Peace and Security. Given the importance and relevance of these challenges, UN Women in partnership with other UN agencies collaborates with governments, networks of women and human rights organizations, and promotes active participation of women in politics, at the decision-making level, and furthers the integration of women and children's needs in conflict resolution and post-conflict recovery programmes.

Women for Peace and Security in the Southern Caucasus and in Central Asia

Under the global initiative Open Days on Women, Peace and Security during the cross-regional meeting in Dushanbe (25-26 June 2010, Tajikistan) participants from Central Asia, Russia and Southern Caucasus adopted the Appeal to the UN Secretary-General and the Security Council. It calls, amongst other measures to increase women's participation in peace-building, 'to establishing regional, and when possible, international Women Peace Corps to include women activists in rapid conflict response teams and their deployment in conflict-affected countries to disseminate best practices for gender-responsive conflict resolution'. This suggestion was incorporated in the UN SG Report on Women's Participation in Peacebuilding that stresses the importance of timely and adequate

response to stability and security threats in the region. The document highlights the need to train and get on board in peace-making missions women-mediators and women who are able to render emergency assistance to the conflict-affected population, e.g. psychologists, legal advisors, social workers, etc.

UN Women supports women peace activists in Central Asia and the Northern Caucasus as agents and advocates for change, through ensuring their meaningful participation in conflict prevention and resolution, achieving peace and stability regionwide, as well as reinforcing partnership of women peace activists from post-conflict areas.



Building Capacity and Empowerment of Internally Displaced Persons in Georgia

In Georgia, with financial support of Government of Norway, UN Women supports the efforts of internally displaced and conflict-affected women (IDPs), as well as other partners from civil society and government to advance gender equality and women's human rights. This facilitated the endorsement of the National Action Plan (NAP) by the Parliament on December 27, 2011 to ensure implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889 and 1960 on Women, Peace and Security, that was the first of the kind in the EECA.

To date, five legal clinics set up in 2010 have provided valuable support to over **6,600** IDPs,

out of whom **66%** are women. Meetings of the IDPs and local authorities facilitated by UN Women to discuss immediate priority needs of IDPs helped to positively address about **60%** of all applications (women's cases accounted for **84%**). In particular, women got decent housing, and were able to obtain passports and the IDP status; single mothers had access to social and healthcare services. Over **350** families from 12 communities in Tbilisi, Eastern and Western Georgia, were provided with **28** small grants to ensure their decent living conditions and social security.

Women for Peace and Trust in Kyrgyzstan

As a wave of deadly interethnic violence swept down the south of Kyrgyzstan in June 2010, UN Women actively participated in the UN joint response to ensure women's post-conflict needs are properly addressed. UN Women in partnership with UNFPA has implemented the project on rendering integrated services to women – survivors of sexual and gender violence, and children affected by the conflict. **Over 2,000 victims** got urgent medical and, psychological and legal assistance through hot lines and two shelters.

With the financial support from the UN Peacebuilding Fund, UN Women provides technical assistance to the Network of Women Peace Activists of Kyrgyzstan that brings together **20 Women Peace Committees** from **3 Southern provinces**. The Network activists monitor regularly the situation to identify risks of conflicts, and prepare information and analytical papers for local authorities and NGOs to formulate and implement early warning measures. The network also delivers public advocacy campaigns for tolerance and interethnic dialogue. It facilitated the launching of the Joint Committee to monitor equal distribution of irrigation water which helped to significantly bring down local tensions.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on 8 December 1979. This historical document calls to achieve gender equality in civil and political as well as social, economic and cultural fields. The states that ratify the Convention are legally obliged to take all necessary measures to eliminate discrimination against women at the decision-making level. Full text of the Convention and its Optional Protocol are available on:

<http://www.unwomen-eeca.org> (in Russian)
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm> (in English)

UN Women also focuses efforts on capacity-building of partners to effectively utilize gender perspective in mediation for conflict resolution,

by pinpointing specific needs of women and men in conflict. Over **100 civil servants and NGO activists** were trained in gender and mediation.



A member of the Women's Peace Network at work, the town of Osh.

These women were the first to bake bread and deliver it to the victims of the interethnic conflict in the Southern Kyrgystan in June 2010.

Photo: Janarbek Amankulov, 2010

Women Connect Across Conflicts: Building Accountability for Implementation of the UN SC Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889

Ten years after the adoption of the UNSCR 1325 on Women Peace and Security (WPS), UN Women with the support of the European Union has launched a cross-regional programme as a response to the needs for concerted actions and close cooperation of women activists and duty bearers for setting up national mechanisms to successfully implement the commitments stated in the UNSC Resolutions on WPS. The Programme covers eight countries: Pakistan and Afghanistan, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Fergana Valley (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan). Building on the activities implemented in pilot countries, UN Women started to document best practices and lessons learned in formulating the NAPs to enforce UNSCRs that can be replicated among the countries of the programme.

The programme also initiated an important work to improve the referral system and prevention of sexual violence during conflicts and post-conflict recovery, and it supports the integration of a gender perspective into the security sector policy via national consultations and capacity building of officials in security sector institutions. Likewise, it focuses on strengthening the cooperation among decision-makers and women activists to monitor the status of women and security and bring emerging issues into relevant policy processes in the Fergana Valley.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security

The UN SCR 1325 is adopted to address the impact of war on women, and increase women's participation in conflict resolution and building sustainable peace. Further, SCRs 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009) and 1960 (2010) call for an increase in the participation of women at decision-making levels in peace processes, their protection from sexual violence during and after conflicts, and engagement in post conflict recovery.

*More information is available on:
http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/unsr_resolutions.html*

MAKING GENDER EQUALITY CENTRAL TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND BUDGETING



A participant of the workshop on women's organizations empowerment for the efficient participation in the processes of national planning, Georgia.
Photo: Janarbek Amankulov, 2010

Gender budgeting is an essential component of all UN Women programmes on national planning, employment, social security, labour migration, water and power supply, elimination of violence against women, and combating HIV/AIDS. Gender analysis of national and sector strategies, plans and budgets showcases the equitable and effective allocation of resources, thus enhancing accountability of governments and generating more public attention to the issue.

Macro-economic Frameworks and Budgets

UN Women supports partners in *Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Georgia* in the process of national development strategic planning through incorporation of gender equality commitments in the sectors of agriculture, labor migration and social security.

Ongoing programmes increase 'gender-related literacy' of policy-makers and capacity of midlevel civil servants to apply gender analysis to national planning, budgeting and monitoring at the national, regional and/or local levels, as well as strengthening the capacity of women's organizations for their active and informed participation in national planning and budgeting processes.

These efforts are implemented in partnership with regional training institutions, including

an ongoing multi-year cooperation with the Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration under the President of the Russian Federation (RANEPA) which serves the entire EECA region and integrated courses on gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) into its curriculum. The Academy also hosted a pilot project on establishment of the Regional GRB Center of Excellence for EECA. The Center is to serve to generate, collect and disseminate comprehensive knowledge and practices in gender-responsive budgeting, train educators to increase capacity of civil servants to apply GRB in their specific sectors in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Moldova and Russia. GRB Help Desk was launched to facilitate the achievement of these purposes.

Gender Equality and Aid Effectiveness Agenda

Through a joint European Commission/ITC ILO/UN initiative, UN Women has been commissioning its work in Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan to elaborate the mechanisms of gender equality and women's rights integration in new aid modalities in accordance with **the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness**. This work supports the international and national partners' efforts to fulfill their obligations on gender equality and to match their commitments with adequate financial allocations in national development agenda, budgets and aid programmes.

2008-2009 work helped to identify some gaps in the current approaches and assess the potential impact of new aid modalities on women's empow-

erment. Women's organizations and gender advocates articulated their needs and concerns at the High Level forum in Accra (September 2008) and in Busan (November 2011) to increase accountability of governments and donors at global level. Though 2012-2015 UN Women intends to assist EECA countries with implementing the forums recommendations at country level. Technical assistance will be provided to prepare national development strategies and ensure their compliance with gender equality strategies. UN Women will also contribute to building capacity of civil society organizations, governments and donors to apply gender-responsive budgeting, planning and monitoring.

Mainstreaming Needs of Vulnerable Women's Groups in Decentralization Reform in Moldova

In Moldova UN Women supports the government in implementing the Decentralization Reform through Joint UNDP-UN Women Integrated Local Development Programme (JILDLP) funded by the government of Sweden. The efforts focus on ensuring that the reform is carried out in compliance with the CEDAW and other global women's rights treaties as well as contributing to addressing the particular needs of the most vulnerable groups of women, including those facing multiple forms of discrimination: ethnic and religious minorities (i.a. Roma), single mothers, women with disabilities, older women etc.

Involving vulnerable women in Decentralization Strategy formulation through their empowerment is another key element of the programme.



Photo: Janarbek Amankulov, 2010

The efforts resulted in the inclusion of human rights and gender equality principles as the guiding for the whole reform. Among activities called to effectively implement HRBA and to mainstream gender in the reform there are:

- collection of local statistical data disaggregated by gender and vulnerability criteria (age, disability, language, ethnic identity, religious affiliation, etc),
- gender and human rights impact analysis of local development policies and plans,
- human rights based and gender-sensitive budgeting,
- women and vulnerable groups empowerment,
- special affirmative measures for increased participation and representation of women and men representing vulnerable groups etc.

It is expected that human rights based approach and gender mainstreaming of the decentralization reform results in institutionalized participation of women's groups and women facing multiple forms of discrimination in policy planning, budgeting and monitoring of sectoral and local strategies; increased responsiveness of the local strategies and budgets to the needs of women; empowerment of the women at the local level, in particular enabled women's voice and increased access to public services by these women at the local level.

Millennium Development Goals and Women's Human Rights

In September 2000, governments of 189 countries signed the Millennium Declaration, thus committing to focus efforts on the achievement of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, i.e.:

1. *Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger*
2. *Achieve universal primary education*
3. *Promote gender equality and empower women*
4. *Reduce child mortality*
5. *Improve maternal health*
6. *Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases*
7. *Ensure environmental sustainability*
8. *Develop a global partnership for development*

Achieving MDG 3 underpins the fulfillment of all other MDGs. Poverty and armed conflicts have a dramatic effect on the life and status of women, whereas their poor participation in the MDGs achievement and monitoring jeopardize progress on all these goals.

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS AND INTERNET RESOURCES

UN Women Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia develops and disseminates a wide range of knowledge products featuring its core lessons learnt and results. These include – thematic studies, evaluation and monitoring reports, educational curricula and training manuals, normative, communication and advocacy materials, etc. The Office also ensures translation of the UN Women flagship reports and publications into the Russian language. Some of them are presented below.

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL PUBLICATIONS

PROGRESS OF THE WORLD'S WOMEN

Progress of the World's Women is UN Women's biennial investigation of progress made towards a world where women live free from violence, poverty and inequality. Provocative and insightful, this series is the product of multi-year processes that bring together leading practitioners and academics to undertake thorough research and in-depth analyses. ***Progress of the World's Women 2011/2012:***

In Pursuit of Justice, the latest in the series, focuses on women's access to justice and offers fresh perspectives and approaches to ensuring women globally can access justice whether in the home, the workplace or in public life.

The Russian version was developed and published by UN Women Sub-Regional Office for EECA in 2011, 164 pp.



LAND IN THE RIGHT HANDS. PROMOTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO LAND



The publication describes experience in implementing a number of UN Women SRO EECA projects covering the period of 2004 – 2011 aimed at creating and improving observance of women rights during land and agrarian reforms in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The authors have made an attempt to provide insight into the internal implementation mechanisms of UN Women programme activity, including UN Women working strategies, approaches and methodologies, as well as to demonstrate specific examples of their successful application in practice. The publication is supplemented by the testimonies from real life which makes it up-to-date and interesting for the public at large. Available in two languages: Russian and English, 2012, 88pp.

WOMEN COUNT FOR PEACE IN CENTRAL ASIA



This publication is a review of *Open Days on Women, Peace and Security* held in conflict zones to stimulate direct discussion among women's peace organizations, women-activists of local communities and top UN leaders at the country level. The discussions were held in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan and were devoted to the issue of more efficient implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The publication includes full texts of the recommendations made by the event participants. Russian and English versions were prepared by UN Women Sub-regional office in the countries of EECA in 2011, 24 pp.

ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY USING CEDAW AND UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325



Training module for gender equality advocates

This manual is aimed at building capacity and awareness of gender equality advocates in government and civil society in the Southern Caucasus prepared in 2006 and published in English, Russian, Georgian, Armenian, Azeri languages. The updated versions will be published in Georgian (118 pp.), English (88 pp.) and Russian in 2012.

PROJECT KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

1. **Post-Conflict Women's Needs Assessment in the Southern Kyrgyzstan, 2010**
2. **Guide on the Gender Equality Law of the Republic of Georgia, 2010**
3. **Gender Analysis of the National Policy for HIV/AIDS Prevention in Tajikistan, 2010**
4. **Women's Needs Assessment. Guide on the CEDAW reporting, 2010**
5. **Women Migrants from CIS in Russia, 2011**
6. **Social Integration of Labour migrants from Central Asia in Russia: Opportunities and Challenges, 2011**
7. **Frequently Asked Questions by Internally Displaced Persons, Georgia, 2011**
8. **"Who is Missing from local Development?" brochure, Moldova, 2011**
9. **Vulnerability Study: "Taxonomy and Possible Decentralization Policy Implications for Vulnerable Groups in Moldova", Moldova, 2011**
10. **Mapping of Services in the field of Employment, Social Protection, Business Development, Agriculture, Land and Cadastre, Moldova, 2011**

11. **Study on Economic Opportunities for Rural Women in the Republic of Moldova, 2011**

12. **Property and Inheritance Disputes. Manual for Elderly Courts, Kyrgyzstan, 2011**

13. **Introduction of Gender Approaches into Sectoral Policies, Strategies and Programs. Training guide, Kyrgyzstan, 2011**

14. **Introduction of Gender Approaches Into Sectoral Policies of the Kyrgyz Republic, Methodological guide, Kyrgyzstan, 2011**

15. **Gender Budget. Guide for local self-governance bodies, Kyrgyzstan, 2011**

16. **Gender Approaches in the Local Planning, Kyrgyzstan, 2011**

17. **Implementation of Rights of People with Disabilities in Sogd Oblast of the Republic of Tajikistan. Report on monitoring outcomes, Tajikistan, 2011**

18. **Labour Migration Without Risks, 2011**

19. **Multimedia disk “Enhancing the Economic Security of Rural Women in Kyrgyzstan: Project Realization, Documents and Resource Materials”, 2012**

*The electronic versions of these materials are available on the website of the
UN Women Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia
<http://www.unwomen-eeca.org>*

WEB PORTALS AND ONLINE RESOURCES

iKNOW Politics

<http://www.iknowpolitics.org/>

Co-sponsored by UN Women, the International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics is an extensive online workspace and advocacy platform where everyone from elected officials to students can access resources, use tools, participate in forums and get expert advice on women in political life.

Gender & HIV/AIDS Web Portal

<http://www.genderandaids.org/>

GenderandAIDS.org aims to promote understanding, knowledge sharing and action on HIV and AIDS as a gender and human rights issue. This comprehensive web portal offers up-to-date information on the epidemic from a gender perspective, a full range of resources, personal stories and commentaries, and multimedia advocacy tools.

Gender-Responsive Budgeting

<http://www.gender-budgets.org/>

The Gender-Responsive Budgeting web portal aims to facilitate the exchange of information between academics, practitioners, researchers and activists working on gender budget initiatives. It features articles, research papers and training tools, and offers resources in Arabic, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

Say NO – UNiTE to End Violence against Women

<http://saynotoviolence.org/>

UN Women's Say NO initiative is a global platform for advocacy and action, engaging participants from all walks of life to prevent and address violence against women and girls. It contributes towards the objectives of the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's campaign, UNiTE to End Violence against Women, through social mobilization.

UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict

<http://www.stoprapenow.org/>

UN Action unites the work of 13 UN entities with the goal of ending sexual violence in conflict. It is a concerted effort by the UN system to improve coordination and accountability, amplify programming and advocacy, and support national efforts to prevent sexual violence and respond effectively to the needs of survivors.

Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls

<http://www.endvawnow.org/>

A one-stop online centre that encourages and supports evidence-based programming to more efficiently and effectively design, implement, monitor and evaluate initiatives to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls. The website offers leading tools and evidence on what works, drawing on expert recommendations, policy and programme evaluations and assessments, and practitioners' experiences from around the world.

WomenWatch

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/>

WomenWatch is a central gateway to information and resources on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women throughout the UN system. The website also provides information on the outcomes of, as well as efforts to incorporate gender perspectives into follow-up to global conferences.

For more info please visit
<http://www.unwomen.org/resources/>

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