

The N-PEACE Network in Nepal

Background

October 2010 marked the ten-year anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security (WPS). Reflecting on successes and existing challenges, UNDP developed an Engagement Strategy to work with and for civil society organizations in strengthening the role of women in building and restoring peace. UNDP's Regional Crisis Prevention and Recovery team and Country Offices have worked in partnership to gather representatives from civil society, government and UNDP/UN offices from Nepal, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste, with the aim to implement the Engagement Strategy through the establishment of a multi-country network. The network, called **N-PEACE (Engage for Peace, Equality, Access, Community and Empowerment)** supports strengthening of the role of women in leading community recovery and peace building. It provides organizations and women leaders with support through training and by giving them a space to network and voice their priorities and contributions, both in their own country as well as across the four countries.

The members of the network identified a number of challenges and collectively discussed strategies that can be employed to bridge these gaps. In Nepal, based on an analysis of national priorities, achievement of women's rights movements and UNDP's country programme, the members of the network promoted the agenda of "Break the Silence against the Violence" as part of the needs on WPS. At the same time, Nepal adopted the National Plan of Action against Gender-Based Violence by its Office of Prime Minister and Council of Ministers in 2010, with the Prime Minister declaring the year 2010 as the Year Free of Violence. In the same year, UNDP Nepal started its high-level engagement with Nepal Police, coinciding with the above national priority.

Subsequently, a consultation and dialogue meeting was organized in Kathmandu in May 2011 to initiate a local chapter of the N-PEACE network, with existing

and new members. The consultation provided an opportunity for civil society organizations, ranging from human rights defenders to journalists and UNDP BCPR project staff working in Jaleswor, Pokhara and Nepalgunj to interact with members from Nepal Police on how to enhance collaboration on women's safety and security in addressing SGBV. In addition, the consultation allowed for participants from these varied backgrounds to collectively discuss and agree upon a set of priorities which they could work on through the N-PEACE network in Nepal.

Emerging Priorities for the N-PEACE network in Nepal:



Addressing SGBV and enhancing state-civil society collaboration and cooperation through the N-PEACE platform;



Using and influencing the media for advocating new role models for women's leadership;



Supporting women's leadership and empowerment through specific capacity development initiatives; and



Improving social services and social protection for women.

The network members also helped to develop messaging and define target audiences for creating advocacy on these priority issues. These messages will be used by N-PEACE partner organization, Search for Common Ground (SFCG) to create advocacy and outreach pieces on WPS issues in Nepal.

N-PEACE

Next Steps

The strength of the N-PEACE initiative has been the process of defining and implementing activities with and through regional and local partners and members. The organic nature of the process has helped create the necessary ownership, both over the process and priorities identified. Hence the next steps for the network in Nepal will be in phases, in order to provide the necessary flexibility for network members to continuously engage and define future activities and interventions.

1 Creating strategic partnerships and space for dialogue: UNDP and SFCG will continue to organize regular face-to-face interactions between the network members to continue expanding the network and allow for coordination and dialogue space between the Nepal Police, civil society organizations, and potentially government stakeholders on WPS issues. The next N-PEACE network meeting will be organized in July-August 2011 in Nepal.

2 Supporting women's leadership roles: While women are often the frontline of building peace and diffusing conflicts, their contribution is rarely recognized. Consequently, the avenues/platforms where women's roles as peace builders are recognized and advocated for also remain limited. The issue of the lack of recognition accorded to women's leadership has been re-iterated by members in Nepal and other countries. In order to build on the concept of creating role models and enhancing the emerging leadership of women in post-conflict settings, two specific initiatives are planned.

- ***N-PEACE awards***

In response to the issues identified by N-PEACE network members, UNDP and SFCG have developed a concept by which they can identify, document and profile the work of women leaders at the grassroots level. The purpose of this is to 'award', recognize and provide visibility to those women who are actively working and demonstrating leadership in the areas of conflict resolution, mediation, peace building and recovery at the grassroots level. This will also capture and showcase their efforts, as well as the unique indigenous mediation and peace building techniques that they may apply in their own individual contexts. The nomination and voting process for the N-PEACE awards will be carried out through an open e-platform and one winner from each country will be chosen whose work and profile will be documented using different media forms.

- ***Nepal N-PEACE Champions Summit***

Since the nominations from across the country will be several and the winner only one, an N-PEACE Champions Summit is envisaged to allow for providing the space to recognize a large number of women leaders from the community and grassroots level. A Summit of this nature will provide the needed space to advocate for the emerging role of women as leaders in peace building, while also providing a common space for them to exchange their experiences, challenges and strategies .

3

Creating advocacy and outreach on women, peace and security:

Based on the four priorities and messages developed by the network members (above) and to reach the broadest possible audience with information having the greatest possible impact, UNDP and SFCG will develop a longer term advocacy campaign containing some of the following elements:

- Public Outreach Service Announcements (POSAs)
- TV and Radio Drama Series; TV and Radio Talk Shows; TV and Radio Mini- Features
- Visual Presence (Billboards, Banners, Posters, etc.)
- Print Media (Editorials, Magazine and Newspaper Articles), and Comics
- New Media (Social Media)

4

Knowledge Sharing and Capacity development:

The Nepal N-PEACE network will also maintain its connection with the larger multi-country N -PEACE initiative and network. The members will continue to interact, exchange experiences with members from the other three countries- namely Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Timor Leste. To this end, specifically two regional events are planned for:

- **Regional N-PEACE network meeting** in October 2011 will serve as the annual face-to-face interaction for representatives of the N-PEACE local chapters from all four countries.

- **N-PEACE Training of Trainers program**

which aims to build two tiers of capacity: (i) greater capacity among key civil society organizations and training institutes to serve as a regional pool of trainers across the four participating countries; and (ii) through localization of the same, support greater capacity among grassroots organizations and women leaders such that they are equipped with stronger leadership, advocacy, negotiation and mediation skills for conflict prevention, recovery and peace building.

5

Addressing Gender Based Violence:

Since SGBV was one of the key themes that N-PEACE members from Nepal had identified from the onset, and since the Nepal Police are one of the members and partners of the network, it is proposed to complete rolling out the SGBV Crime Investigation Module under Nepal Police Gender Equality Initiative. The final element of this will be completed by Metropolitan Police which is in charge with maintenance of the capital city's security and has been actively adopted community policing as an approach to citizens' safety. Participation of women's rights groups has featured prominently in its approach from the interactions at Metro Pol to community-based policing activities at the decentralized level of city administration unit, which will continue in this phase and also involve women parliamentarians from across political parties.

Member organizations in Nepal

SAATHI, Sancharika Samuha, Nepal Police, Federation of Nepal's Journalist, CWIN, Samanta, Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC), Forum for Women Law and Development (FWLD), Women for Human Rights, Didi Bahini, Nepal Bar Association, Women Security Pressure Group, National Women Security Watch Group

To join N-PEACE :

Send an email to: N-PEACE@groups.undp.org

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