Overview

▶ **Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative 2020**
▶ Thematic focus
▶ General guidance
▶ **Women leadership, representation and participation**
   ▶ Participation in decision making processes
   ▶ Participation in peace processes
   ▶ Benefits of and barriers to participation
   ▶ Programmatic response
▶ **Youth, leadership, representation and participation**
   ▶ Participation in peace processes
   ▶ Participation in elections and governance processes
   ▶ Participation in informal processes
▶ **Q&A**

Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative 2020

► Two initiatives in one call: **Gender Promotion Initiative (GPI)** and **Youth Promotion Initiative (YPI)**

► Aim to support new and innovative ways to break down the different barriers faced by women and young people to engage in political and peacebuilding processes and to facilitate their meaningful participation in these processes at all levels

► **GPI:**

   ► Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions on Women, Peace and Security

   ► Innovative approaches that promote gender equality and support women in peacebuilding

► **YPI:**

   ► Security Council resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018) on Youth, Peace and Security (2015)

   ► Innovative approaches that support the positive contribution of young women and men to peacebuilding

Thematic focus

1. Supporting **women and youth leadership, representation and participation** in peacebuilding processes and implementation of peace agreements.

2. Promoting **human rights and protection** of women and youth peacebuilders and human rights defenders.

General guidance

► A gender- and age-responsive conflict analysis is the basis for a strong project design and ensuring linkage to peace processes, the implementation of peace agreements, decision-making processes related to peacebuilding.

► Gender does not equate women, and that it is also about power relations between men and women.

► Youth are not only 'young men'

► Different impacts of conflict and peacebuilding on people of different genders and which gender norms or behaviors could be challenged or enhanced to promote peace

► Women should not be viewed as victims with no agency or potential for peacebuilding nor youth as only potential 'trouble makers'

Women leadership, representation and participation

Aim: to enable, facilitate and ensure women's leadership, representation and meaningful participation in peace processes, the implementation of peace agreements, and decision-making processes related to peacebuilding at national and local levels:

- ► political processes
- ► peace processes
- ► constitutional reforms
- ► municipal reforms
- ► elections and prevention of electoral violence
- ► etc...

Women's participation in decision making processes

Guiding frameworks for women's political participation:

► **1995:** *Platform for Action stipulates the aim of '**gender balance'** and having the same proportion of both sexes in public positions*

► **2012: UN General Assembly Resolution 66/130** "Women and Political Participation"

► **2018:** UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes & Consequences: Thematic Report to General Assembly on **Violence Against Women in Politics**

Peace processes

Track I: at the top/national level involving political and military leaders.

Track II: includes *unofficial* dialogue and problem-solving activities and involves different civil society actors with access to Track I officials.

Track III: grassroots level and involves various activities ranging from joint meetings to advocacy for marginalized groups.

Where we stand

► According to the Council on Foreign Relations, in major peace processes between 1992 and 2018, women constituted:

  ► 3 per cent of mediators

  ► 13 per cent of negotiators

  ► 4 per cent of signatories

► In 2018, out of six active UN-led or co-led peace processes, women were included in 14 out of 19 delegations (GID, Macedonia, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Western Sahara).

► A total of 52 agreements were signed in 2018, of which only 4 (or 7.7 per cent) contained gender-related provisions.

► In 2018, none of the three ceasefire or peace agreements reached in UN-led or co-led processes included gender-related or women specific provisions (Libya, Macedonia, Yemen).

► In Colombia, the 2016 peace agreement signed between the government and the FARC contains up to 130 gender provisions. As of June 2018, 51 per cent of these provisions had not yet been initiated. -- Moreover, such provisions are being implemented at a slower pace than others within the accord.

Benefits of women's participation in peace processes

► **One key take-away from the 2015 Global Study on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000):** Women's meaningful participation at all levels is key to the success and the sustainability of peace processes.

► **Women's direct participation** in peace negotiations increases the durability and the quality of peace.

► In cases where women's groups were able to exercise **a strong influence** on the negotiation process, there was a much higher chance that an agreement would be reached than when women's groups exercised weak or no influence.

► A study of 98 peace agreements between 2000 and 2016 found that peace agreements are more likely to have **gender provisions** when women participate in track 1 or 2 processes.

► **Implementation:** Strong influence of women in negotiation processes also positively correlated with a greater likelihood of agreements being implemented.

► Another study of 82 peace agreements between 1989 and 2011 found that peace agreements with **women signatories** are associated with durable peace:

  ► Peace agreements signed by women show a higher number of provisions aimed at political reform.

Barriers to women's participation in peace processes

What are the possible social or political barriers causing their lack of participation?

► Frequent setbacks, incremental progress, lack of implementation of TSMs, limited political will
► Institutional, legal, structural constraints – electoral systems, political parties, parliament environment
► Cultural, attitudinal barriers – gender roles, media
► Socio-economic inequalities - finance
► Violence against women in politics
► Access to places of negotiations and meetings and logistics
► Power politics and the focus of peace negotiations on power-sharing among armed groups and political elite
► Gender biases:
  ► gender issues is still not viewed as an essential component of the negotiation and implementation of peace agreements
  ► claimed lack of evidence about the positive impact of women's participation
  ► performance of mediators is not based on inclusiveness, but on effectiveness

Programmatic response

"Strengthening women's role and participation in peacebuilding - Towards just, fair and inclusive Somalia": The project worked with federal and regional governments as well as civil society organizations and women leaders to advance the political empowerment of women and support the integration of gender equality and women's rights in policy and legal frameworks.

"Improving Women's Participation in Political Processes as Peacebuilding Ambassadors- Sierra Leone": The project contributes to peaceful electoral processes in the lead-up to 2018 elections through women's inclusion in national policies and action plans for peace, broad participation of women as political actors and peacebuilding ambassadors at national and local levels, and engagement of traditional leaders and media to support peace and gender equality messages ahead elections.

Youth leadership, representation and participation

► Resolution 2250 has helped put an emphasis on the importance of young people, but meaningful participation of youth in maintenance of peace and security remains limited (see recent SG report on YPS)

► The Missing Peace documented that young people throughout the world have lost faith and trust in their governments, the international community and systems of governance that they feel excluded from, contributing to a strong and ongoing sense of injustice.

► The mistrust is often reciprocal - from governments/decision-makers to youth, seen as troublemakers

► GYPI this year is an opportunity to support young people's inclusion in a variety of political and policy decision-making processes and forums, related to peace and security, so that they can directly engage in the formulation, design, implementation and evaluation of the policies and approaches that affect them.

Youth leadership, representation and participation

► Always consider the situation of <u>young women</u> and the multiple / intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalization that affect them, including when they want to engage in public life.

► Some of the core goals that can be considered for projects aiming at the political inclusion and participation of young people
  ► restoring young people's trust in state institutions, multilateralism and the <u>social contract</u> between state and society;
  ► restoring trust in young people by politicians, elders, societal elites.

► Often youth empowerment initiatives focus on providing access to knowledge or skills building, but need to also enhance <u>opportunities</u> and <u>the willingness of others</u> to engage youth - otherwise project might lead to frustration / alienation.

► Always consider that <u>diverse groups of youth</u> have <u>varying degrees of challenge, opportunity, resources and capacities</u>.

Youth participation in peace processes

► Young people continue to be excluded from peace processes, including negotiation and implementation of peace agreements

► Young people contribute to peace processes in multiple ways: monitoring ceasefires, resolving local-level disputes, building relationships across social divisions and shaping peace agreements

► They have a role to play *in the room* (youth as signatories in formal negotiations), *around the room* (support to the process) and *outside the room* (activism to promote youth issues through peaceful demonstrations or online campaigns)

► See Policy Paper: <u>We are here: an integrated approach to youth-inclusive peace processes</u>

<u>Past GYPI projects examples:</u>

● <u>South Sudan, SFCG, "Strengthening Young Women's Participation in Local and National Peace Processes in South Sudan"</u>
● <u>Central African Republic, Accord, "Towards Youth Inclusive implementation of the Peace Agreements in the Central African Republic"</u>

Youth participation in elections and governance processes

▶ Young people largely underrepresented in institutions: only 2.2% of the world parliamentarians are under 30 - only 0.9% are women under 30 years old.

▶ Consider: elections (youth as voters, candidates, monitors), constitutional process, national dialogue process, other political and governance processes directly related to building peace

▶ Think about engagement of young people through various platforms: youth council, cross-party platforms, consultation fora, political parties, etc.

▶ Think about engaging diverse groups of young people - age, gender, ethnic background, urban/rural etc. but also: student unions, young journalists, young lawyers, young leaders from CSOs, etc.

Past GYPI projects examples:

● Burundi, NIMD, "Youth Lab: Supporting Youth Participation in Political Parties"
● Guinea, UNFPA, UNICEF & UNESCO, "Supporting youth participation in governance structure in 20 conflict-affected municipalities in Guinea"

Youth participation in informal processes

► Young people often active in informal spaces of participation: grassroots peacebuilding activities, online engagement, protests.

► Youth-led peacebuilding organizations/initiatives often small, informal, based on volunteers, low annual budget (and low absorption capacity) - think about ways to strengthen them, facilitate their access to key actors and processes

► Digital initiatives: crisis mapping, crowdsourcing platforms, peace gaming, etc.

► COVID-19, in relation to its impact on social cohesion, inter-group trust and dialogue, civic space etc. (do not propose humanitarian interventions)

Past GYPI projects examples:

► Colombia, Fundación Mi Sangre, "Participation of young women to build peace in Uraba"

► Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNFPA, UNESCO, FAO, "Strengthening young Twa and Bantou's participation in local peace committees"

Q&A