

Local Women at the Center: Perspectives on the implementation of the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus in Conflict- and Crisis-Affected Communities

Panel discussion prior to the 23rd Anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security

4 October 2023 | 1:15–2:45 PM EDT (New York Time)

Convened in a hybrid format

In-person location: Conference Room 7, United Nations Headquarters

Online: Zoom link shared through RSVP

RSVP: <http://bit.ly/48r5HhZ>

Organized by the

Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations in New York, Global Compact on WPS and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA) and the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF).

Concept Note

During conflict and crisis, women are crucial in driving humanitarian, peacebuilding and development responses in local contexts. However, in too many cases, they remain marginalized in the design and implementation across these sectors.¹ A Triple Nexus (humanitarian-development-peace) approach aims to synergize the comparative advantages of humanitarian, peace and development actors to achieve collective outcomes toward inclusive and sustainable peace. Many women's civil society organizations (CSOs) operating locally have long utilized innovative cross-sectoral methods to respond to the urgent needs of their communities. Given local CSOs' closeness to their communities and lack of complex bureaucratic structures, they can quickly identify and respond to their communities' evolving needs amid crises. The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) recognizes that the triple nexus can bridge the gap between short-term relief efforts and long-term development goals to achieve sustainable peace and stability if local women can participate in a meaningful way in all three sectors. Yet, to date, women are largely excluded from triple nexus strategies and programming. To address these gaps, GNWP infuses the approach with gender-transformative and conflict-sensitive practices by promoting women and youth peacebuilders as decision-makers in humanitarian action, building local women's and communities' resilience to threats and violence, and advocating for gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive humanitarian action and crisis recovery² and reconstruction.

¹ Cabrera-Balleza, M., Iyer, M., & Salamat, N. (2021). Local Women's Full and Equal Participation in Humanitarian Action, Development Work, and Peacebuilding: the Key to the Triple Nexus' Successful Implementation. gnwp.org. https://gnwp.org/wp-content/uploads/Triple-Nexus_BDDRC_Oct-2021.pdf

²Global Network of Women Peacebuilders. (2020). Empowering Local Women and Youth to Participate in Decision-Making in Humanitarian Action and Crisis Recovery to Build More Peaceful and Resilient Communities. gnwp.org. https://gnwp.org/wp-content/uploads/Edited-GNWP-Humanitarian-Brochure_Nov-2020.pdf

With the longstanding support of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), GNWP's intersectional and Localization approach to conflict prevention and peacebuilding empowers national and local partners to co-design, implement and monitor activities across the triple nexus in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kenya, Georgia, Moldova, South Sudan, Uganda and Ukraine. For example, in its initiatives with South Sudanese women refugees in Northern Uganda, GNWP raises women's awareness of National Action Plans (NAP) on WPS in both South Sudan and Uganda. It provides advocacy to governments, UN entities and regional organizations in these countries to integrate responses to the refugee situations as part of the NAP WPS. In Ukraine, GNWP supports local humanitarian responses of women peacebuilders, while also creating channels for the women to share their expertise in recovery and reconstruction.

During the twenty-third anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations in New York and the Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA) Compact, the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) are holding a panel discussion to amplify the voices and expertise of local women humanitarian, peace and development actors from Kenya, Moldova and Ukraine to share best practices and actionable recommendations for gender-responsive triple nexus programming at different phases of conflict, crisis, recovery and reconstruction.

The panel will also be an opportunity to examine the use of the Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action as a global movement and the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund as a mechanism for the acceleration of effective implementation of the WPS agenda and gender-responsive humanitarian action.

Objectives

1. Amplify the voices and expertise of humanitarian, peacebuilding and development actors to inform policy and practice in each of these sectors and together as they adopt the Triple Nexus approach.
2. Advocate for gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive humanitarian action, crisis recovery and reconstruction in synergy with local peacebuilding and development initiatives that focus on empowering women.

Format, speakers and audience

The hybrid moderated panel discussion will feature women peacebuilders from conflict and crisis-affected situations who implement the Triple Nexus strategy. The target audience for this event includes policymakers, practitioners and representatives of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations. The event will be in English with simultaneous interpretation in International Sign Language (ISL) and Ukrainian.

A provisional agenda will follow.