



# UNDP/Japan Women in Development Fund 2003 Annual Report



United Nations Development Programme



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# Overview:

## *Making a Difference in Women's Lives*

### UNDP and Gender

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

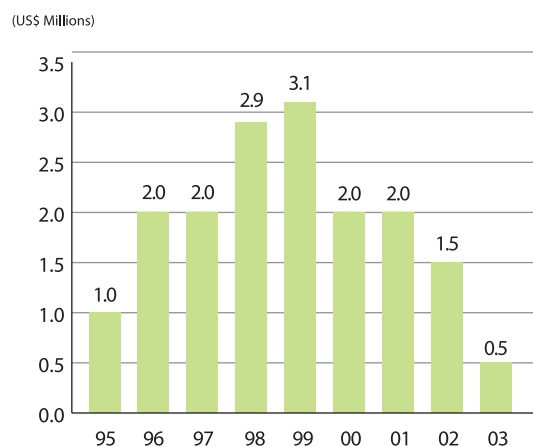
Since the international community vowed to achieve women's equality and empowerment at world summits and global conferences in the 1990s, UNDP has been highly involved in helping countries translate these commitments into practical realities. It is dedicated to the fulfilment of the goals set forth in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through specific policy reforms and operational programmes that make a difference for women, poor women in particular. (Additional information on the UNDP policy on gender can be found at: <http://www.undp.org/gender/policy.htm>).

### UNDP/Japan Women in Development Fund (JWIDF)

Established by the Government of Japan in 1995, JWIDF supports UNDP efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. Its overall purpose is to build women's economic, social and political capacities through catalytic and innovative project initiatives.

JWIDF supports country-based, regional and global initiatives in the core practices of UNDP. These include poverty reduction, democratic governance, energy and

### Contributions from Japan since 1995



environment, HIV/AIDS, and crisis prevention and recovery. JWIDF invests in pilot initiatives that test new ways of mainstreaming gender into development issues such as macroeconomic frameworks, trade, employment and political participation.

Since 1995, JWIDF has supported 60 projects (as of 31 December 2003) around the world and has contributed significantly to the empowerment of women in developing countries. Experiences and knowledge are shared across regions through the UNDP Gender Equality Network. Good practices and lessons learned are also accessible through the UNDP/JWIDF web site ([www.undp.org/gender/jwidf.htm](http://www.undp.org/gender/jwidf.htm)).

### From Agenda-setting to Action

Even with all the successes in empowering women over the last several decades, much remains to be done to achieve gender equality, as the international com-

munity reiterated during the Beijing Plus Five review of June 2000. JWIDF intends to play a critical, catalytic role in efforts towards gender equality, poverty reduction and human development, areas stipulated in the MDGs.

**Empowerment of Women.** A number of JWIDF projects over the years have promoted women's equal access to education, health services, credit and information as a means to further their empowerment. In Cameroon, for example, JWIDF is helping to strengthen capacities of the Association for Support to Women Entrepreneurs (ASAFE), a local women's business organization, in providing ICT training to women entrepreneurs and workers and establishing a way to link the training with actual employment opportunities. In the Republic of the Congo, a JWIDF project established legal clinics to provide services for women to address gender-based violence and protect women's rights. It also established resource centres to provide workshops and training for women voters and leaders to promote women's participation in the electoral processes in the post-conflict Congo.



**Gender Equality.** In 2003, JWIDF promoted the inclusion of gender equality in national strategies and policies in the areas of governance, poverty reduction, employment, and crisis prevention and management. A JWIDF project in Nepal collected sex-disaggregated data on water-induced disasters for rural poverty-vulnerability mapping, analysed the data and developed a methodology to assess women's vulnerability during disasters. In Chile, a JWIDF project, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), is facilitating the inclusion of a gender perspective in the design and implementation of public policies and programmes for poverty alleviation and employment generation. A global programme on gender and MDGs, which is co-funded by the United Kingdom and the UNDP Poverty Trust Fund, is piloting innovative ways to integrate gender into the national MDG reporting and advocacy processes in Cambodia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco and Peru. The key advocacy message of the programme is: gender equality cuts across all MDGs, not just Goal 3.



# Introduction

## *Gender Mainstreaming or Women and Development*

There are no “women’s issues” nor can gender issues be mainstreamed as if women lived on the margins of development. Women are at the centre of all development challenges- as untapped agents of change.

Let me elaborate on these two points. First, there should be no issue labelled a “women’s issue”. Men and women play different but complementary roles in the family and in society. This does not mean, however, that child-rearing, for example, should be left to women alone. There are very few aspects of reproduction that are limited to women; most of them can be transferred to or shared with men: men can take care of children; they can carry heavy loads of water and fuel wood to their homes; they can plant food crops and process them. After all, men’s physical strength could at least enable them to match the free labour presently provided by women. Nevertheless, this simple assertion has eluded most societies, which have not accorded equal importance or equal support to the contributions of women and men. This discrimination has been perpetuated from generation to generation, and today young girls in developing countries are left behind in every aspect of economic, social and political life.

Girl’s education seems to be a rallying point for everyone’s support in the development community as a priority for the empowerment of women. This is not a “women’s issue” but a priority of the world’s leaders set forth in the Millennium Development Goals. The question is: why aren’t girls as well educated as boys? It is not because it is written on school doors that girls are not welcome although under some repressive regimes, girls were not allowed to attend school. Even where the doors are open, there are many reasons why girls are kept behind: they must help their mothers with home-making; they are vulnerable to violence and not

considered a worthy investment since they can learn to be good wives and mothers from their own mothers. Simply put, societies’ prescribed role has impeded the next generation from benefiting from the potential of half of the population’s wealth of knowledge and experience; half of the workforce goes uneducated. It is an issue of economic growth, of social welfare, of personal dignity and, indeed, an issue of democratic governance – not a women’s issue.

Second, why mainstream? Where is the mainstream and where are the women? If the large majority of the poor (up to 70 per cent) are women, why mainstream a gender approach? The entire poverty-reduction programme should focus on the large majority of the poor, who are women. If the large majority of citizens are





deprived of their right to exercise their citizenship rights and vote or be elected, what is a democratic governance programme without women being at the centre of all its interventions? If HIV/AIDS is fuelled by women's lack of power in any relationship, if women cannot even say "no" to unsafe sex and if, as a result, the number of newly infected victims of the pandemic are mainly young girls, where else should our focus be? Aren't women at the centre of the pandemic and therefore shouldn't women be at the centre of all efforts to combat HIV/AIDS?

From a women-and-development approach, where specific but marginal resources were allocated to support women's empowerment, we have moved steadily towards a gender-mainstreaming strategy. Ideally, incorporating a gender perspective into a women's empowerment programme should bring more attention to issues that have been isolated as women's issues. Ideally, decision-makers and managers of considerable development resources would actually invest more in building women's capacities, in providing opportunities for women to bridge the gap that separates them from men in all aspects of life. Ideally, such an approach would also increase men's involvement in ending gender-based discrimination and offer a more inclusive, balanced perspective on development challenges. It suggests that everyone should understand that gender inequalities are an important element in all aspects of development work, that everyone – not just women – should take responsibility for addressing the issue of gender inequality.

In reality, however, gender mainstreaming is used as a strategy to diffuse attention focused on the need to invest more in women. In reality, it shifts the focus and makes room for lip service; mainstreaming gender is becoming the best way simply to add words for the sake of political correctness. This is observed in most mainstream institutions that have mainstreamed gender to total invisibility. In terms of resources, the assumption continues that somehow women will benefit because they are identified as a group that needs support. Mainstreaming as a strategy has not produced more attention or support for gender equality; instead of greater focus, the limited gains have been reversed in the name of integration. In fact, if the large majority of the poor are women and they are not in the mainstream

of development, then how "mainstream" is the mainstream itself? Is gender mainstreaming a dead end?

We may not be ready for a fully-fledged mainstreaming strategy. We may need to continue awareness-raising, advocacy and capacity-building to create a much broader, deeper commitment to the issues of gender equality – as a real concern for all. There may be genuine gaps in skills among development agents, who may not know how to conduct gender analysis and plan with such new instruments. Gender expertise is a field that is now recognized and taught in universities. This expertise needs to penetrate mainstream institutions as a skill that is as critical as any technical or scientific skill.

In order for all this to happen, two streams must converge:

- The first stream comprises dedicated women leaders and experts who continue to collect the evidence and make the case at the highest levels of political, economic and social structures, not for them to sympathize with the plight of women but for them to invest in women's empowerment as the smart thing to do because it generates the highest returns.
- The second stream brings together new men of the new millennium (young men, enlightened husbands, religious and opinion leaders, democratic decision-makers), all those who understand that women's rights are human rights, those who know that in order to end poverty, exclusion, violence and discrimination, that in order to uphold democratic governance, one must focus on the large majority of the poor (women), the large majority of disenfranchised illiterates (women), the large majority of refugees and displaced persons (women), the large majority of HIV/AIDS victims (women), the large majority of citizens (women), to mention but a few.

The light must shine once again on the case made by women in the 1970s and 1980s—women hold up half the sky. If we do not want the other half to fall, we must strengthen the arms of women, who hold it all together.

Aster Zaoude,  
Senior Gender Advisor  
Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP

# Highlights

*from around the World*

## Japan-UNDP Collaboration on the Ground— Supporting Women Entrepreneurs in Cameroon

The Association for Support to Women and Women Entrepreneurs, better known by its French acronym ASAFE, is internationally recognized for its innovative approaches to empowering women entrepreneurs and youths in Cameroon. For the past 10 years, ASAFE has been providing training in entrepreneurship and business management as well as micro-financing services to women entrepreneurs.

Convinced by the strategic efforts of ASAFE that were making an impact in Cameroon, the Embassy of Japan in the capitol, Yaounde, agreed to provide bilateral assistance. In 2000, an ASAFE resource centre, built with the Japanese grants, was opened in the heart of Douala. In the nine-story building, the resource centre

has a big hall that seats 70 people and a community Internet centre with 35 computers and three ICT training rooms. It is fully equipped with state-of-the art ICT facilities that can accommodate all kinds of training, from web design to programming, to data processing, and so on. This facility not only helped ASAFE to reduce operational costs and increase efficiency but it also broadened dramatically the potential scope of ASAFE services to its women clients.

UNDP/JWIDF joined in this partnership when ASAFE aimed to strengthen the firm linkage between its ICT training programmes and employment/business opportunities, taking advantage of the fully-equipped centre built by Japan. "We saw a strong need to ensure that the skills we teach in our ICT training match what are required by the job market," says Gisele Yitamben, President of ASAFE. UNDP/JWIDF therefore invested \$289,000 in support of developing a model to link ICT training and the employment/business market. The project takes a two-fold approach: developing and providing a tailor-made ICT-training package, using the C-Tech equipment, and establishing a job placement centre for the graduates of the ICT training. Those who have been trained in ASAFE ICT training programmes are fully equipped with up-to-date skills in demand by the market. After they graduate from the



Above: ICT Training, Kigali, Rwanda





Above: ICT Training, Kigali, Rwanda

training, those who are interested in finding a job will be able to take advantage of job-placement services; those who want to start their own business will have access to micro-financing services at the job placement centre, which has a comprehensive job-matching database.

Within twelve months of the opening of the job placement centre in July 2003, 120 of the 150 training graduates have been employed by local businesses; the rest are self-employed. ASAFE also developed a training programme on quality control for enterprises to help women entrepreneurs respond to outsourcing services. This has led to a contract with a company in India that specializes in outsourcing services in data entry. The JWIDF project will support ASAFE to travel to India to explore further collaboration opportunities and also to share experiences with other women business organizations to promote mutual learning. ASAFE is now becoming a regional centre of excellence for developing and testing new ways of using ICTs for women's economic empowerment.

This project is a very good example of how the Japan-UNDP partnership can create strong synergies to make a meaningful difference in women's lives.

### African Digital Diaspora—UNDP-UNIFEM Collaboration in Rwanda

Sustained political instability and the 1994 genocide left deep scars on the women of Rwanda. Despite an enabling policy environment and an unprecedented almost 50 per cent representation in Parliament, Rwandese women continue to be affected by poverty, lack of access to resources, and gender inequities that exclude them from opportunities to improve their livelihoods and their rights.

Information and communications technology (ICT) is a field that is becoming increasingly accepted and relied upon in Rwanda, and indeed in Africa as a whole, as a crucial means towards social and economic development. However, this is an area where women and girls are at particular risk of exclusion from potential opportunities because of poverty, illiteracy, insufficient access to education and training, and insufficient time as a result of their multiple roles in families and communities. In addition, in many cultures, women are considered less capable of understanding and operating technologies or of successfully engaging in science, math and technology.

UNDP and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) have begun working together in Rwanda to open up access to ICTs for women and girls and to empower them through the use of ICTs to improve their social and economic rights and build a



Above: ICT Training, Kigali, Rwanda

more secure economic future for themselves and their families. With funding from the Japan Women in Development Fund, the two organizations are collaborating to build on the strong political commitment of the Government of Rwanda to use ICTs as a tool for development and the promotion of gender equality.

The Rwanda project is part of the UNIFEM initiative, "Bridging the Gender Digital Divide in Africa through Strategic Partnerships", which leverages the knowl-

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**"If there is a digital divide, then we, gathered here, are the bridge and together can and will propel Africa to the forefront of the digital economy."**

Ms. Rebecca Enonchong  
CEO, AppsTech  
Member, Global Advisory Committee  
Africa Launch of Digital Diaspora initiative  
May 2003

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edge, expertise and resources of the African "Digital Diaspora" to contribute to the eradication of feminized poverty in Africa through ICT. The initiative, which is guided by a Global Advisory Committee comprised mainly of African ICT entrepreneurs and ICT experts from the Diaspora, is developing a roster of African Diaspora ICT experts who are willing to participate in projects in Africa aimed at women's empowerment through ICT. The Committee provides overall guidance to the initiative and advice on the development of innovative funding arrangements and resource mobilization. In addition, it participates and invests in country initiatives designed to empower African women through ICT.

As the first pilot project of the Digital Diaspora initiative, the Rwanda project is using the technical and market knowledge of Africans in the Diaspora to build the capacity of women's business-oriented organizations to use ICTs to promote business linkages and influence policy-making in order to situate women's issues and concerns at the centre of efforts to reduce poverty.

Implemented by the Kigali Institute of Science, Technology and Management (KIST) in collaboration with experts from the Diaspora, project activities for women's associations have ranged from basic information-technology training to building more complex skills such as web design, e-commerce and management information systems, and other technical knowledge beneficial to developing entrepreneurship among Rwandan women. The project also supports the building of networks between NGOs, local private-sector firms, African Diaspora entrepreneurs and experts, and the international ICT sector.

Members of women's business-related associations and local women entrepreneurs received their first advanced training from Pity Wachuka Warungu, a United States-based Kenyan web design expert; Lamine Sano, an e-commerce expert from Ivory Coast based in the United States; and Brian Thompson, a Rwandan expert in management information systems who is also based in

the United States. Training, which included classroom activities as well as on-the-job work, showed women how to design their web sites, register the domains and host their associations on their web sites. Participants also acquired skills on how to sponsor links and network with other women's groups and commercial web sites.

Designing their own web sites, especially with e-commerce features, was particularly popular with the women. They were excited by the prospect of being able to create web sites that could display products and services and were eager to learn how to market such sites to reach clients and buyers beyond Rwanda's borders.

Domitille Mukasonga, from the Duterimbere association, a local centre for women's entrepreneurship, was one of the participants of the training session on web design. "By its completion, I was ready to work on our association's web site. Judging from what the web site design and Internet programme entailed, we can now find out what other women's associations are doing in

the field of women's empowerment and build partnerships to best market women's products through the Internet," she said.

Another participant, Odette Uwambaye, a member of Ndabaga, an association of female ex-combatants, described the training as "a channel to more advanced business". "The programme is just what I needed. Now I can seek partners from all over the world. We are also interested in developing partnerships with Kenyan women because they are far ahead of us in the field of ICT for economic empowerment."

In the context of the project, UNDP and UNIFEM have also organized awareness-raising activities aimed at educating different sectors on the ICT issues facing local women entrepreneurs and sharing knowledge on ICT strategies to boost women's economic security. This has led to a dynamic environment of cooperation and has created opportunities for partnerships between women's organizations, local ICT companies and public institutions working on ICT in the country, such as KIST, the Rwanda Information Technology Authority (RITA) and the Ministry of Communication.

Some unexpected outcomes have also resulted from the implementation of the project, which could play an important role in ensuring the longer-term impact and sustainability of the initiative. For example, KIST, UNDP and UNIFEM are currently exploring concrete opportunities to create ICT training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities for women by linking the beneficiary women's groups to the local private sector, which has grown interested in investing in the ICT activities under the project. "Supporting women in ICT is doing business," said Mr. Eugene Nyagahene, chief executive officer of TELE-10, referring to the economic contribution that female ICT users make to the development of the national ICT sector, including as mobile phone subscribers, as owners of newly established ICT kiosks, and potentially as ICT-enabled commercial businesses.

In creating business linkages to benefit women entrepreneurs, the project is looking, as planned, far beyond Rwanda to the international business expertise of Africans in the Diaspora and to the international private sector. An International Business Mentoring Committee is being set up to support innovative initiatives linking women's associations with foreign

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## **"ICT further enables the bridging of the North/South divide as well as the gender divide and encourages foreign direct investment in Rwanda."**

Mr. Juma Okech, Director  
Rwanda Information Technology Authority (RITA)

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markets and investors. An example is a partnership between KIST, RITA, RwandaTel, the Ministry of Gender and the Ministry of Communications to scale up the activities of the Association of Genocide Widows (AVEGA) through ICTs. AVEGA is already acting as focal point for many Rwandan women producers of local crafts, some of which have been sold on the international market through intermediary organizations ([http://www.bpeace.com/projprog\\_rwanda.php](http://www.bpeace.com/projprog_rwanda.php)).

The export activities of AVEGA and other similar associations can be scaled up through ICT and e-commerce to reach the United States and European markets in partnership with local artisan cooperatives, African Diaspora associations, foreign businesses and fair-trade networks. The ultimate vision of the project is to create a model of successful e-commerce and online marketing for local women, which can serve as a case study to boost the policy changes and investments needed on Rwanda's own path towards an ICT-enabled economy for poverty reduction. In so doing, the project will put women at the forefront of ICT for development in Rwanda and strengthen their contribution to the economic future of the country.



### Mongolia Gears Up for Gender-sensitive Budgeting

Mongolia's economic transition has brought increasing gender inequality in the past decade, but the country is now gearing up to include gender issues in budgeting. "Gender-sensitive budgeting is a new concept for Mongolia, but a very important concept," said Oyun, newly elected Vice Speaker of the Parliament. "This year, for the first time, the new Parliament will be demanding a gender-sensitive budget from the government," she said. Oyun, one of five women in the 76-seat State Great Hural (Parliament), stated that the country's leaders would now start to study gender issues to incorporate them in decision-making. "Because it is a very important concept for Mongolia's development, we will be paying more and more attention to this issue in the future," she said.

Isolated Mongolia began its transition to a market economy and democracy in 1990. However, the collapse of the old socialist system put enormous pressure on the population, where new social and economic structures had not yet been created to help the unemployed and the poor.

State collective farms and factories failed, and migration to urban areas rapidly increased, especially after disastrous winters and droughts that killed millions of animals and left many nomadic families without a livelihood. Many people seeking a better life ended up joining the ranks of the unemployed in towns where job opportunities were already sparse.

In the new economic situation and ongoing transition, the Government of Mongolia and international donors have sought to reduce poverty. Nonetheless, after numerous projects carried out in the last decade, one in three of the total 2.5 million people still live below the poverty line. The transition from a centrally planned economy that paid special attention to gender equality to a free market economy has been especially hard for women, who comprise the majority of the poor. In rural areas, there is a high drop-out rate for young boys of nomadic herder families, who leave school to tend herds. New initiatives were needed to tackle poverty that in essence had not been reduced in spite of donor aid and government programmes.



### *From New Initiatives to New Thinking*

As the awareness of increased gender inequality grew, it became clear that the government revenues and expenditures needed to be analysed in terms of their real impact on women and girls as compared with men and boys and that gender issues needed to be included in policy-making.

For the first time in Mongolia, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government introduced the concept of gender-sensitive budgeting. In 2002, a workshop on the topic was held for government officials, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and researchers. A year later, the Government and UNDP initiated a project to build national capacity to prepare and monitor budgets from a gender perspective. The programme, known as "Capacity-building for Gender-sensitive Budgeting" funded by the UNDP/ Japan Women in Development Fund, also aimed to carry out gender budget analysis and formulate gender-responsive macroeconomic policies. Gender budget analysis helps the Government to decide how policies need to be adjusted to achieve gender equality and proper economic and human development.

In 2003 and 2004, specialists from the Government, UNDP and NGOs trained local budget officials and NGOs in Ulaanbaatar and other regions on gender-sensitive budgeting concepts and gender-related issues, including linkages between poverty and gender, and the role of NGOs in monitoring budgets. "The training has resulted in a clearer understanding of why it is important to consider gender differences when budgeting," said Erdenechimeg, president of the Mongolian Women's Federation and a consultant for the project. "We have changed the earlier concept that people used to have that the budget is made, carried out and assessed only by economists, State administrators and top authorities," she explained. "In the whole process, it is important to have wide public participation and openness, and this is what we have communicated to the public."

### *New Research Raises Awareness of the Need for Gender-disaggregated Data*

NGOs were also involved in research and were trained to use new methods that are valid especially in gender-related studies. Three local NGOs were selected to



conduct research in the areas of social welfare, labour and donor aid, including how gender issues were reflected in budgets. "The most surprising thing was to discover that the national statistics until then had not included the gender issues in most data," said Urantsetseg, executive director of the Mongolian Statistical Association (MSA), which carried out research on gender and employment. "The fact that we started to include the gender aspect in the data in our research – such as gender in relation to budget expenditure on labour – has become an example to others," she noted. "I believe this will be of great help to the Government."

Researchers said data collection was also difficult because of a lack of transparency in ministries and a tradition of keeping information secret. The report on donor aid and loans prepared by the Mongolian Alumni Association of Baikal State University of Economics and Law stated: "There should be transparency regarding the relevant information." Gender issues were reflected in the projects of only a few donors and the Government of Mongolia had largely ignored the gender aspects at the grass-roots level. In poverty alleviation projects, different needs of men and women and different livelihood levels were "generally ignored", according to the survey.



Above: Food preservation and storage in her kitchen.

Among the discoveries resulting from the surveys was the fact that women represented about 80 per cent of the workers with temporary contracts and the lowest salaries in the private sector, which accounts for approximately 70 per cent of the gross domestic product. On average, women's salaries were more than 10 per cent lower than men's, which also results in lower pensions. Discrimination in job recruitment was also observed. About 70 per cent of laws and policy documents relating to social welfare reflected gender issues poorly or insufficiently, according to the survey on the social welfare sector conducted by the Research and Training Centre for Regional Development.

While new information emerged, the researchers also made a wide spectrum of recommendations for future policies. At present, the recommendations from the three studies are being prepared for publication in the autumn. "One of the most significant outcomes was to see the gap between the men and women. It was important to see how the Government spent the money in different sectors of the economy and how the money was distributed to men and women," said Batmonkh, researcher and head of the MSA. "One of our recommendations now is to pay more attention to young men and boys' education. Another important issue is how to increase the involvement of women in

paid work because they do most of the unpaid work and carry the main burden in housework," he noted. "These are important issues to be included in the government policy, and many problems need to be addressed by new legislation."

#### *How to Turn What Is Learned into Policies*

The next question for the government, researchers and the public will be how to incorporate gender issues into economic and government policies, based on the research, and how to influence the lives of men and women in Mongolia.

In addition to the surveys, a comprehensive manual on gender-sensitive budgeting was produced during the programme and will be distributed to budget planners, but a great deal of public discussion, media exposure, education and further studies are needed, researchers and gender specialists said. "For the public to gain the necessary understanding of the gender issues, they need to be included in public education programmes from secondary schools to universities," Batmonkh stated.

The last part of the project, dissemination and advocacy, will continue until later in the autumn of this year, during which national policy-makers and local budget





## The Reality behind the Statistics

In Nalaikh, 45 km east of the capital, Ulaanbaatar, Battsoochin, 22, a single mother of two, dreams of vocational education and a job to support her family. She lives with her children, unemployed sisters and retired mother in the outskirts of the poor town where very few jobs are available for men and women. The household of nine lives in extreme poverty, surviving on the small pension of the elderly mother. "Comparing the men and women, men usually can find some income easier than we do, partly because they can do heavier work. They earn more than we do because they earn a few togrogs from here and there," Battsoochin said. Battsoochin spends most of her time taking care of children, carrying water and doing housework at home. She and her sisters have no money for studies. "A job and a profession would be important. Professional people can earn their salaries, support themselves and improve their lives," she said.

While poverty and unemployment are the leading problems everywhere in Mongolia, conditions could not become much worse for 16-year-old Enkhtor in the Gobi Desert. Enkhtor cannot read or write because he dropped out of school at a young age to take care of the family's herds, and now to look after his old father, who is very ill. Recently, the poor family's last animals died in a harsh winter following a drought in the summer, and Enkhtor and his father were left without a livelihood. "We will have to move to the county centre to find some work, but I cannot become even a driver because I cannot read," he said in a sad and broken voice. "If I do not find work, life will be totally meaningless."

officials will be trained and plans for the printing and distribution of publications will be carried out. "The main job from now on is to provide the information to the new parliament and the government, including publications that will be distributed," said Ganchimeg, an economist in the Ministry of Finance and Economy. "The Ministry of Finance and Economy and line ministries are also working on including the gender issues in the draft of next year's budget, so we expect the gender issues to start being reflected already to some extent in the new budget," she noted.

While it may take years for an average Mongolian woman and man to experience changes that result from a new gender-sensitive approach to budgeting, NGOs were optimistic of a brighter future for many Mongolians. "Before anything else, it is very important to include individuals, women, in decision-making in drafting budgets, starting from their own family budget to regional and State budgets, and for that they need to be well informed," said Altantsetseg, head of the National Centre Against Violence, an NGO whose workers participated in the training provided by the programme. "It is true for both women and men: all big things start small, and therefore it is very important to train people now and distribute this information widely," she added.



Above: Young girl assisting in household activities.

## **Global: Gender-responsive Budgets – Investing in Poor Women to Reach the Millennium Development Goals**

A budget is a powerful policy instrument. More than a summary of allocations, it shows what is valued and prioritized in a country, whose work counts and is considered to be important. What is not included in a budget, what does not receive funding simply does not receive attention. Gender-sensitive budgeting offers a way to see how the needs and interests of individuals from different social groups are being addressed. It is a means of incorporating gender awareness into policies and budgets and it will provide an entry point for the analysis and discussion of macroeconomic frameworks from a gender perspective.

A budget is a means of translating a government's political commitments and goals into real action since without funding, there would be no action. Gender-sensitive budgeting therefore provides a mechanism by which to track how governments, donors, and United Nations organizations are allocating their resources in the process of reaching goals set forth in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), MDGs and other international commitments. How are they translating the international commitments into actions on the ground to make a difference in the lives of women, who constitute the large majority of the poor? Investing in women and gender equality is not only the right thing to do; it is also a smart thing to do. It is an efficient, effective way to reach all the MDGs.

Gender-sensitive budget initiatives have many entry points, ranging from research, awareness-raising and policy advocacy to technical budgetary exercises, and they involve many actors, including governments, United Nations organizations, women's organizations, and academic and research institutions. The UNDP project entitled "Gender-responsive Budgets: Investing in Poor Women to Reach the Millennium Development Goals", which is funded by the UNDP/Japan Women in Development Fund, has very specific and strategic aims. These aims are: to produce practical, user-friendly tools that bring together existing knowledge and

experiences and to train a core group of trainers in all regions to respond to the increasing demand from countries for gender-sensitive budgeting expertise.

The first in a series of UNDP regional training-of-trainers workshops was held in Moscow from 17-21 May 2004 at the Academy of Civil Service under the President of the Russian Federation. Experts in macroeconomics, public finance and gender issues, specialists in labour market policies, professors of economics, and development practitioners from 17 countries from the Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States region were trained to train others in gender-sensitive budgeting. Countries represented included Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The second workshop was held at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) in Manila, Philippines, from 12-15 July 2004. Practitioners from ministries of finance, planning and gender equality, experts on macroeconomics and gender issues, and development practitioners from 14 countries of the Asia and the Pacific region were trained. Countries represented included: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.

Debbie Budlender, the world's leading expert on gender-sensitive budgeting and the author of many publications on this topic, was the principal trainer for both workshops. The participants learned how to analyse budgets from a gender perspective, how to prepare a budget statement, and how to design a training workshop for different audiences such as the Ministry of Finance, parliamentarians, and civil-society organizations (CSOs). They strengthened their advocacy skills, which are necessary to build strong alliances with various actors, and their training skills.

**Knowledge Products.** Participants at both workshops were provided with a handy virtual library/tool box for designing their own training courses. The Cutting Edge Pack on Gender-sensitive Budgeting, compiled on CD-ROM by UNDP in collaboration with BRIDGE, Institute of Development Studies of the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom, was presented and distributed to the participants. The CD-ROM contains practical tools, guidelines, training materials, popular education materials, and web-resource and networking contacts. The participants were also provided with a step-by-step training manual developed by Debbie Budlender. The manual contains practical tools and useful tips on how to train different audiences in key concepts and entry points of gender-sensitive budgeting.

**Partnerships.** Strong alliances are critical for gender-sensitive budgeting. The opening sessions in both Moscow and Manila were a vivid illustration of strategic partnerships built around this initiative. In Moscow, the President-Rector of the Academy of Civil Service under the President of the Russian Federation, a Deputy of the State Duma (national assembly), the Minister at the Embassy of Japan and UNDP were represented. The Presidential Academy was chosen as the partner of UNDP for this workshop for a strategic reason: by linking with a mainstream institution, the training will be sustained, the module will be institutionalized and gender-sensitive budgeting will be mainstreamed into

existing training courses for public servants. Presidential Academy trainers and staff in charge of curriculum development actively participated in the workshop, sharing knowledge and experiences.

In Manila, the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), the Center for Asia-Pacific Women in Politics (CAPWIP), the Embassy of Japan, the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) and UNDP were represented at the opening session. Strong alliances were built among the partnering institutions and participants. In particular, AIM hosted the workshop at its training site and the partnering agencies in the Philippines will develop a joint hub to carry on the network of trainers for further work on gender-sensitive budgeting in the Asia-Pacific region.

All of these initiatives are supported by the UNDP/Japan Women in Development Fund. At the Manila workshop, there were four full-time participants from Japan, representing the academic community, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the UNDP Liaison Office in Tokyo. They not only contributed to the workshop as participants by sharing experiences and challenges in Japan and ideas for ways forward, but they also witnessed how the UNDP/Japan Women in Development Fund was making a strategic difference in regional capacity-building for the critical area of gender-sensitive budgeting.



Above: Gender budgeting Training Workshop, Moscow 2004

# Summary

## of 2003 Activities

### Initiatives Approved for Funding in 2003

AFRICA	
<b>Cameroon</b>	<p><i>"Develop E-competence among African Women for Local and International Markets" . . . . . \$ 289,900</i></p> <p>A two-year project for building capacities of ASAFE to serve as a regional hub of ICT training for women and women entrepreneurs. The project will develop ICT training modules for women who seek ICT-related jobs and for women entrepreneurs who want to improve their management and marketing capacities. Training courses are provided at the state-of-the-art ASAFE ICT Centre, which was built with the assistance from the Government of Japan. The project also establishes a job placement cell to link the trained graduates and potential employers and business clients within and beyond Cameroon. It will also support a study tour to Asia to promote mutual learning between women entrepreneur organizations on the effective use of ICTs for women's businesses.</p>
<b>Rwanda</b>	<p><i>"Bridging the Digital Divide in Africa through Strategic Partnerships" . . . . \$ 236,500</i></p> <p>A two-year initiative that intends to pilot an innovative approach for using information and communications technologies (ICTs) for the economic empowerment of women. This is one of the country-level pilot projects of the global African Digital Diaspora initiative of UNIFEM, which is designed to promote African women's economic security and rights in the context of globalization and the feminization of poverty by linking African women and ICT entrepreneurs in the African Diaspora. Specific objectives of the pilot project in Rwanda are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To build the capacity of Rwandese women's business-oriented organizations in the use of ICT in the context of economic empowerment. The project will provide training to the management and staff of the selected partner organizations in the use of ICT;</li> <li>• To generate ICT-related training, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for Rwandese women through the creation of business linkages between women ICT workers and entrepreneurs in Rwanda and African ICT entrepreneurs in the Diaspora;</li> <li>• To enhance Rwandese women's participation in, and influence on, ICT policy formulation and implementation at the national level.</li> </ul>
<b>Uganda</b>	<p><i>"District Development Programme 2: Gender Component" . . . . . \$300,000</i></p> <p>The gender mainstreaming component under District Development Programme 2 was developed to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in the areas of planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and that there is increased capacity of key government entities in gender analysis and gender mainstreaming. In addition, the project seeks to build capacity for the establishment of an institutional mechanism to support gender mainstreaming</p>



**ASIA AND THE PACIFIC****India**

*"Building the Capacity of Women Microentrepreneurs in the Informal Sector through Information and Communications Technologies" . . . . . \$ 315,000*

A three-year initiative designed to assist in the development of a comprehensive empowerment and capacity development programme approach to assist self-employed women to use ICTs to improve the quality of their lives. This project is implemented in partnership with a very successful, well-known trade union in Gujarat: the Self-employed Women's Association (SEWA).

This project envisages the deployment of ICTs at the village level. Community learning centres (CLCs) for use by women producer groups have been created, enabling them to be in the mainstream and bridging the digital divide. The project creates an environment for marketing and knowledge exchange for the women producers through the Internet.

**EUROPE AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (CIS)****Bosnia and Herzegovina**

*"Development of Capacity and Partnerships between Governments and Civil Society for Gender Equality Law Implementation" . . . . . \$ 275,000*

A two-year project promoting the partnership between the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and civil society and the building of their capacity to implement jointly the Gender Equality Law in the country. An integral part of this project is the provision of technical support to the establishment of the first-ever State-level gender agency in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This institution is important in a post-conflict context because it enhances the capacity-building component at the State level as the country faces fragmented, uncoordinated governance structures at all levels.

In addition, there will be an opportunity to foster coordination mechanisms between the State entity and local governments as well as to increase the participation of local CSOs on gender issues. The activities are also designed to promote policy dialogue with the governments as well as NGOs and donor communities.

**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN****Chile**

*"Gender Equality in Employment Creation and the Labour Market" . . . . . \$100,000*

A one-year project aimed at facilitating the inclusion of a gender perspective in the design and implementation of public policies and programmes for poverty alleviation and employment generation in Chile. This will be achieved through institutional capacity-building of the Government and of the social actors in order to enhance their knowledge of the interrelationship between gender, poverty and employment. In addition, this will enable them to develop actions that lead to the promotion of equal economic and social opportunities among women and men. This project is partnering up with International Labor Organization.

Project activities include extensive research on the linkage between gender and poverty and the core role of employment. This study is intended as a guideline for discussions with constituents and for policy proposals.

**Jamaica**

*"Gender Training Research" . . . . . \$ 189,223*

A two-year initiative aimed at expanding regional research and thinking on critical issues facing Caribbean women, such as gender-based violence. A key component of the project is the institutionalization of gender training by incorporating gender into the curriculum of the region's premier tertiary training institution. This will ensure the sustainability of the programme and have a great impact on many generations of Caribbean students.

One important activity is the establishment of a database on the web site of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies to facilitate the dissemination of data on issues relevant to Caribbean women.

GLOBAL	
	<p><i>"Gender-responsive Budgets: Investing in Poor Women to Reach the MDGs" . . . . . \$495,000</i></p> <p>A two-year project aimed at codifying existing knowledge and experiences for country offices to build on and training a core group of experts in all regions to respond to the increasing demand from countries for expertise in gender-sensitive budgeting. The main activities include: (a) production of a handy, virtual library for gender-sensitive budgeting by compiling the "BRIDGE Gender and Budgets Cutting Edge Pack" on CD-ROM; (b) production of a step-by-step training manual; (c) organization of regional training-of-trainers workshops in all regions to train a core group of trainers in gender-sensitive budgeting, who will respond to the increasing demands for training in this area from the countries in the region; and (d) organization of an international symposium in Japan to raise awareness of the value of gender-sensitive budgeting for human development, accountability and the achievement of MDGs.</p>
	<p><i>"Gender and the Millennium Development Goals (MGDs)" . . . . . \$ 286,667</i></p> <p>A two-year project to pilot innovative approaches to the development of national capacities to include gender-equality concerns, existing and new data, and gender analysis in the preparation of MDG progress reports and national campaign strategies. Pilot initiatives have been launched in Cambodia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco and Peru to focus on two objectives: (a) advocacy, with policy-makers and programme planners, regarding the importance of mainstreaming gender equality into the MDGs for national development; and (b) the strengthening of approaches for gender-sensitive monitoring and reporting on progress towards the achievement of the MDGs.</p>

### Ongoing Projects

AFRICA	
<p><b>Cameroon</b></p>	<p><i>Developing E-competencies for Local and International Markets . . . . . \$289,900, Implemented by the Association for Support to Women Entrepreneurs (ASAFE)</i></p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IT training package developed from generic training modules adapted to the needs of ASAFE constituencies and demand of employment market. Trainers were trained.</li> <li>• Focused training workshop organized to train trainers in the use of a business management system. Training programme and modules were developed for management and business skills development for small and medium-sized enterprises.</li> <li>• Establishment of a Job Placement Centre to link the training and employment. The Centre assists in matching training graduates with job or self-employment opportunities that require the skills acquired.</li> <li>• Organization of a national workshop entitled "Employment in the ICTs: Policies and Practices for Decision-makers" in partnership with the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications to raise awareness and facilitate discussions among government decision-makers, business organizations, NGOs, students and community-based organizations.</li> <li>• Establishment of the Socio-economic Development Creativity Prize for women's organizations that promoted innovative initiatives. The prize was presented by the representative of the Ambassador of Japan to 14 organizations.</li> <li>• The project and ASAFE awarded the Social Innovation Prize by Digital Partners, which consists of 150 business organizations worldwide.</li> </ul>



<b>Cameroon (cont.)</b>	<p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study tour to India and Bangladesh to promote mutual learning on the use of ICTs for women's entrepreneurship development.</li> <li>• Development of a database with information on business opportunities in the ICT sector and job seekers with ICT skills to facilitate the job matching exercise.</li> <li>• Exploration of new markets and potential business partnerships in Asia.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of articles in national and international newspapers, such as the <i>Herald</i>, <i>La Nouvelle Expression</i>, <i>Le Front</i>, <i>Cameroon Tribune</i>, <i>Le Messager</i> and the <i>Washington Post</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Ethiopia</b>	<p><i>HIV/AIDS and Gender and Development</i>..... \$348,434</p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field study conducted in two regions on societal and cultural factors contributing to unequal spread of HIV/AIDS.</li> <li>• Study outcomes analysed and compiled and policy recommendations presented in a draft report.</li> </ul> <p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultative meetings to review the draft report and consolidate policy recommendations.</li> <li>• Launching and dissemination of the report.</li> <li>• Policy advocacy and awareness-raising campaign to promote research findings.</li> </ul>
<b>Republic of the Congo</b>	<p><i>Promoting Equity between Women and Men: Phase II</i>: ..... \$298,874</p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of two clinics in Brazzaville providing women with information about their rights and assisting them in all legal processes.</li> <li>• Five resource centres established to provide information and resources on democracy to encourage women's political participation;</li> <li>• Training workshops organized throughout the country targeting women, including those in decision-making positions, and NGOs and focusing on different issues, such as the Constitution and local governance, electoral processes, legal rights of women and children, HIV/AIDS prevention and leadership skills.</li> </ul> <p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project completed in 2003. The Centre is now operated by <i>Centre de Promotion de la Femme en Politique</i> (Centre for the Promotion of Women in Politics), a local NGO.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local newspapers and national TV and radio: features on the legal clinics and resource centres as well as proceedings of the workshop on parliamentary and budgetary processes.</li> <li>• <a href="http://mirror.undp.org/congo/Gouvernance.htm">http://mirror.undp.org/congo/Gouvernance.htm</a></li> </ul>

<p><b>Rwanda</b></p>	<p><i>Bridging the Gender Digital Divide in Africa through Strategic Partnership</i> . . . . . \$236,500</p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participatory needs assessment conducted on women's business organizations to identify strategic entry points for introducing ICTs, in collaboration with women's organizations, the Center for Gender Studies and KIST.</li> <li>• Women's business organizations trained by KIST and African Digital Diaspora initiative professionals in basic and advanced ICT skills, including web design and e-commerce. The training aimed to provide women's organizations with wider access to information, resources and external markets as well as to increase their outreach.</li> <li>• Training sessions were also conducted by the Diaspora professionals for the implementing partner (KIST), further enhancing its technical capacity and paving the way for the sustainability of the initiative.</li> <li>• A workshop held on ICT for Information and Entrepreneurship, in collaboration with Diaspora experts and members of the UNIFEM Global Advisory Committee of the African Digital Diaspora initiative, to build awareness of, and share experiences in, the potential of ICTs for women's economic empowerment. Representatives from women's organizations, training institutions, government and the local private sector were briefed on e-commerce, online marketing and outsourcing as potential tools for women's economic empowerment through ICTs.</li> <li>• Partnership with the local private-sector community developed and discussion started on how the private sector can help to create an enabling environment for women's ICT-related businesses. National Advisory Committee of the African Digital Diaspora was established.</li> </ul> <p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negotiations to obtain concrete support from the local private sector to respond to the challenges of the women's business organizations identified in the needs assessment, such as poor connectivity, high cost of Internet connection and lack of computers.</li> <li>• Mapping of potential ICT-related business linkages between women's organizations and businesses in Rwanda and businesses in North America through the constitution of an International Business Mentorship Committee (IBMC) for the project, composed of Diaspora entrepreneurs and members of business organizations, and the identification of business activities that are ICT based and that can generate employment/ entrepreneurship opportunities for members of participating business-oriented women NGOs in Rwanda. The mapping is undertaken in partnership with women NGOs and local and international private-sector partners and facilitated by IBMC. This process is intended to lead to the establishment of sustainable business linkages that are strongly rooted in local realities but that benefit from international exposure.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local radio, TV, magazines, and <i>UN Newsletter</i> on project activities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Uganda</b></p>	<p><i>District Development Project: Gender-mainstreaming Component</i> . . . . . \$300,000</p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 480 women councilors in six districts sensitized on their roles and trained in gender analysis, lobbying and advocacy skills to promote gender-sensitive planning and resource allocation.</li> <li>• Gender Forum and Women Leaders Forum established. The Forums reviewed and validated key national papers, including a draft country report on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP). They also developed gender-mainstreaming guidelines for sector-specific investment plans under PEAP.</li> </ul>

<b>Uganda (cont)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalization of the audit on the implementation of the Uganda National Action Plan on Women (1999-2004) and development of a framework for monitoring and evaluation of the Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Printing and dissemination of the monitoring and evaluation framework to local governments.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media coverage on local radio stations and Uganda television.</li> <li>• Preparation of a documentary on the project activities is under way.</li> </ul>
<b>ARAB STATES</b>	
<b>Egypt</b>	<p><i>Integrated Women's Health</i> ..... \$352,673</p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two model health units and women's clubs in rural areas were set up under the administration of the Ministry of Health. They provide reproductive health services as well as vocational and literacy classes and introduce ICT facilities on a pilot basis.</li> <li>• ICT training for physicians, nurses and social workers to improve their operational/management capacities, to increase access to and dissemination of health-related information, and to enhance networking/communication among local, regional and national health administrations.</li> <li>• Awareness-raising seminars organized at the health units for local religious leaders on family planning and female genital mutilation (FGM).</li> </ul> <p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration of a pilot model of ICT-equipped facilities into the Ministry's plans for renovation and upgrading of health units and women's clubs.</li> <li>• Development of software for advocacy and awareness-raising with respect to reproductive health issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Jordan</b>	<p><i>Enhancing Vocational Training and Employment Opportunities for Women</i> . . \$245,000</p> <p><b>Achievement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of innovative curricula and training programmes for pilot community colleges in the areas identified by employment market research: textiles and ICT.</li> <li>• Creation and launch in November 2002 of a web-based roster for employment, matching students and potential employers.</li> <li>• Development of employment referral services.</li> <li>• Strategic advocacy and media campaign to raise awareness among employers, especially in the private sector, to promote greater participation of women in the labour market and in non-traditional fields of work.</li> <li>• Training of students in modern technology, in advanced computer-assisted design (CAD) systems and other ICT skills.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local media.</li> <li>• UN Radio, discussing how the project intends to enhance employment of women community college graduates by developing educational curricula responsive to the needs of the labour market.</li> </ul>

<b>Jordan (cont.)</b>	<p><b>Project Status</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project officially ended in August 2004 with the completion of all planned activities.</li> <li>• UNDP and national project counterparts are interested in extending the project beyond the pilot phase and building on successes achieved. The first wave of community college students graduated this summer (2004) and results of the project, indicated by the success of entry into the labor market, are being tracked. An extension of the project will enable the monitoring of results as well as the further strengthening of the training programmes to increase employment opportunities for female community college graduates in the country. UNDP would be interested in exploring the possibility of further funding from JWIDF for the continuation of the project.</li> </ul>
<b>Occupied Palestinian territory</b>	<p><i>Establishment of Women's Design Center in Bethlehem . . . . . \$260,000</i></p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of Turath Center for Palestinian Arts, Crafts and Design in Bethlehem, which also serves Gaza, to help women handicraft producers upscale their designs and match international market demand (2002).</li> <li>• Export sales of the handicrafts through the Turath Center totaled \$120,000. Products were sold mainly in the United States and Europe through community-based organizations in the export countries. The Center is serving as the only venue for Palestinian women handicrafts producers to enter new markets.</li> <li>• Training in the making of olive oil soap was provided to 59 women, all of whom are currently producing and selling in local markets with a brand called Zitouna Soap.</li> </ul> <p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansion of the sales of Zitouna Soap to international markets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- negotiation with online shops in Europe;</li> <li>- exploration of export opportunities in Japan in collaboration with the Ministry of National Economy and the Palestine Trade Centre by producing a brochure on the product in Japanese and showcasing in trade exhibitions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Development of online marketing schemes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Web site of the Turath Center: <a href="http://www.turathcenter.org">www.turathcenter.org</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>	
<b>Bhutan</b>	<p><i>E-commerce for Women Entrepreneurs and Handicraft Producers in Bhutan . . . . . \$212,180</i></p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training needs assessment conducted, which identified three key areas: (a) enhancement of product development and diversification; (b) wider access to markets for handcrafted textile products; and (c) entrepreneurship and business skills of women producers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support from product development specialist to enhance product development process, including branding and packaging skills.</li> <li>• Development of marketing strategies, using the media and web-based technologies to enhance market outreach.</li> </ul>

<b>Bhutan (cont.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training of a core group of rural women handicraft producers in entrepreneurship development, financial management and ICT skills. The trained women will form an advisory group for textile business development at the project sites and replicate training for other women producers.</li> <li>• Dialogue with concerned government entities to develop a strategy for creating an enabling environment for e-business for handicraft producers in rural areas. This includes providing market information and access to ICT facilities and a review of existing regulatory frameworks.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United Nations Radio <a href="http://www.un.org/av/radio/news/latenews.htm">http://www.un.org/av/radio/news/latenews.htm</a>.</li> <li>• UNDP Newsfront, English version. <a href="http://www.undp.org/dpa/frontpagearchive/2003/october/27oct03/index.html">http://www.undp.org/dpa/frontpagearchive/2003/october/27oct03/index.html</a>; Japanese version <a href="http://www.undp.or.jp/">www.undp.or.jp/</a>.</li> <li>• Web site of the UNDP country office in Bhutan.</li> <li>• Bhutanese national newspaper <i>Kuensel</i> <a href="http://www.kuenselonline.com/article.php?sid=3185">http://www.kuenselonline.com/article.php?sid=3185</a>.</li> <li>• Bhutan Broadcasting Service (only one national TV channel) TV news broadcasting the signing ceremony of the project).</li> </ul>
<b>China</b>	<p><i>China's Accession to WTO: A Challenge for Women. . . . . \$315,000</i></p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment reports produced on the socio-economic impact of China's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on poor working women and men in industry and agriculture. Specific policy recommendations were drawn from the research findings.</li> <li>• The assessment on "China's Accession to WTO: Challenges for Women in Agriculture and Industry" was published and jointly launched successfully by UNDP/UNIFEM, the National Development Reform Commission and the China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchanges of the Ministry of Commerce in Beijing in September 2003. Line ministries, research institutes, women's organizations, media, international development agencies and donors participated in the launch. It is worth mentioning that the Ministerial Counselor of the Embassy of Japan delivered a keynote speech.</li> <li>• Policy advocacy campaigns launched through workshops with government ministries and agencies, research institutes, women's organizations and international agencies to enhance national capacity-building and recognize possible ways to adjust laws and policies complying with WTO rules and opportunities for women.</li> <li>• Follow-up programme proposals developed based on assessment of subsectors in order to build women's capacity to cope with difficulties posed by the WTO membership and embark on alternative strategies.</li> <li>• Materials for media broadcasting and public education prepared to influence policy-making and values, particularly to advocate training for women and social protection for those who are negatively affected by the accession to WTO.</li> <li>• Contributions to international discussions and initiatives as the assessment provided one of the first case studies on the differential impact of WTO on women and men. The national research team shared its findings and policy recommendations at an international workshop in Hong Kong on trade liberalization and women, November 2003.</li> <li>• Built capacity of the Chinese research team through workshops, literature reviews, field survey, overseas study tours and joint study with international consultants.</li> </ul>

<p><b>China (cont.)</b></p>	<p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a follow-up of the project, a systematic review of gender mainstreaming review was conducted by the China Agricultural University from February to May 2004. Its purpose was to assess UNDP country programme policies and strategies, successes as well as challenges and weaknesses in gender mainstreaming and implementation, including pilot projects, capacity-building activities, policy studies and advocacy and thus to recommend improvements in the future.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "WTO Entry Poses Challenges to Women", <i>China Daily</i> (English), 22 September 2003.</li> <li>• "The First Women-focused WTO Study Report Concludes 'Accession to WTO Brings Serious Challenges for Women'", <i>Chinese Women Daily</i> (Chinese), September 2003.</li> <li>• "A Marginalization of Women's Employment", <i>Workers' Daily</i> (Chinese), 8 October 2004.</li> <li>• "Who Needs WTO? Not China's Women", <i>Singapore's Straits Times</i> (English), September 2003.</li> <li>• "Authoritative Research Points out that China Should Help Women in Meeting Challenges Imposed by Accession to WTO", <i>China News</i> (Chinese), 17 September 2003. <a href="http://www.chinanews.com.cn">http://www.chinanews.com.cn</a>.</li> <li>• UNDP country office in China press release, "WTO Accession and Challenges for Women", UNDP country office web site, 16 September 2003.</li> </ul> <p>The report is available online at:  <a href="http://www.unchina.org/undp/modules.php?op=modload&amp;name=Downloads&amp;file=index&amp;req=viewdownload&amp;cid=14">http://www.unchina.org/undp/modules.php?op=modload&amp;name=Downloads&amp;file=index&amp;req=viewdownload&amp;cid=14</a>.</p>
<p><b>India</b></p>	<p><i>Building Capacity of Women Microentrepreneurs in the Informal Sector through Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) . . . . . \$315,000</i></p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Half of the Community Learning Centres (CLCs) established in four districts and managed by women IT team leaders.</li> <li>• Central ICT Centre equipped with multi-location video conferencing, enabling the training and the capacity-building process of women members living in remote inaccessible areas.</li> <li>• User-friendly training materials prepared on the use of computer technology for illiterate and semi-literate women and training of several hundred grass-roots women in computer literacy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of CLC set-up in all identified districts to make them functional.</li> <li>• Ensuring content dissemination, database creation, community-based capacity-building, and customization of computer literacy programmes for the women in collaboration with government polytechnics and other private institutions.</li> <li>• Preparation of models/pedagogy styles to assist producer groups in use of decision-making tools and information for bettering their prospects and taking strategic decisions.</li> <li>• Development of linkages with local government bodies for facilitation at the local level and with technology networking institutes to make e-governance-enabled service delivery possible.</li> <li>• Models of public-private partnership being determined.</li> </ul>



<b>India (cont.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned research by premier institute (Indian Institute of Management) on the use of ICTs for women in enhancing their trades or incomes.</li> <li>• Study of the current micro-credit system and the need for re-engineering to develop software applications for ensuring transparency and control by the women. Linking of producer groups' software to other parts in the supply chain. Study and analysis of existing software packages with a view to customization in order to facilitate artisans' access to markets.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Conferences/meetings:</b> Initiative shared at the World Summit on the Information Society held in Geneva, December 2003; International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Electronic Networking for Rural Asia/Pacific meeting in Bangkok for Southeast Asian participants; Global Trade Network meeting and a United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) meeting in Geneva.</li> <li>• Video film prepared and screened at several national and international forums.</li> </ul>
<b>Islamic Republic of Iran</b>	<p><i>Awareness of Women's Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran . . . . . \$134,000</i></p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organization of a series of consultative workshops discussing Iranian women's challenges and opportunities. Workshop participants included the Adviser to the President on Women's Issues, the Head of the Centre for Women's Participation, parliamentarians, experts on gender and legal issues, academics, journalists and members of women's organizations.</li> <li>• Incorporation of workshop outcomes into a needs assessment process that would identify the functions of a proposed Women's Information Dissemination Centre. The terms of reference for the Centre will be based on the needs assessment results.</li> <li>• Compilation of women's rights provisions – specifically those dealing with protection of women and girls – as stated in the Iranian constitution, civil code and Islamic jurisprudence. The compiled provisions will be consolidated in a source book.</li> </ul> <p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidation of the terms of reference for the Women's Information Dissemination Centre.</li> <li>• Publication and dissemination of a source book.</li> </ul>
<b>Mongolia</b>	<p><i>Capacity-building for Gender-sensitive Budgeting . . . . . \$113,700</i></p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness-raising among Ministry of Finance and Economy and CSOs on gender-sensitive budgeting concepts and their roles through training workshops and a national consultative meeting.</li> <li>• Regional training of trainers conducted.</li> <li>• Capacity-building of national research institutes to carry out research and analysis of gender-specific impact of donor assistance, employment, and social security and welfare. Research papers prepared.</li> <li>• Development of a manual on gender-sensitive budgeting in the context of transition economies for the general public and decision-makers.</li> </ul>

<b>Mongolia (cont.)</b>	<p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dissemination of the research papers and manual.</li> <li>• Replication of training workshops by those who were trained in the regional training workshop.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional training workshops and national consultative meeting broadcast on local TV.</li> </ul>
<b>Nepal</b>	<p><i>Participatory Disaster Management Phase II: ..... \$200,000</i></p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A methodology developed to assess women's vulnerability during disasters in Nepal.</li> <li>• Collection of gender-disaggregated data on water-induced disasters for rural poverty-vulnerability mapping completed.</li> <li>• Software entitled "Disaster Management Information System", which includes sex-disaggregated disaster database.</li> </ul> <p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project completed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Links to methodology and vulnerability mapping to be inserted.</li> </ul>
<b>Philippines</b>	<p><i>Advancement of Filipino Women through Strategic Support Mechanism for Economic Empowerment ..... \$319,580</i></p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch of electronic market matching for women entrepreneurs. The project conducted the Forum on e-MMW (electronic market matching for women) attended by 167 participants from NGOs and government agencies, including women entrepreneurs. It featured two web sites enabling women entrepreneurs to register their business online and access a larger market: <a href="http://www.b2bpricenow.com">www.b2bpricenow.com</a> and <a href="http://www.winner-tips.org">www.winner-tips.org</a>.</li> <li>• Labeling and packaging training and one-on-one consultation services provided by technical experts to women entrepreneurs to help them to improve marketability of their products and respond to intensifying competition in the face of globalization.</li> <li>• Development of policy papers to promote policy advocacy for an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs, including: (a) assessment of existing laws and policies on entrepreneurship and enterprise development; (b) technology as a driver of entrepreneurship; and (c) user-friendly government licensing and registration.</li> <li>• Organization of training workshops and gender training manual and resources to mainstream gender into government-assisted technical vocational education training.</li> <li>• Establishment and operation of four one-stop-shops at four pilot sites.</li> <li>• Organization of a product consultation workshop to promote networking between women entrepreneurs and different providers of support services as well as to provide access to vital information such as that on new materials and technologies, available credit facilities, and market trends.</li> <li>• Facilitation of consultation with JICA experts on marketing and packaging.</li> </ul>

<b>Philippines (cont.)</b>	<p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project completed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender-sensitive entrepreneurial training manual is available online.</li> </ul>
<b>Viet Nam</b>	<p><i>Entrepreneurship Development Programme for Women in Rural Areas . . . \$380,000</i></p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and dissemination of training modules and handbooks on entrepreneurship skills (including financial management and marketing) and production technologies for common products (such as fish sauce, rice paper, dried fish and processed meat). Training of trainers (ToT) was conducted. A total of 45 workshops were organized for women entrepreneurs.</li> <li>• Self-help groups organized among women entrepreneurs and trained in leadership development and marketing (product labeling and packaging).</li> <li>• Facilitation of women entrepreneurs' access to credit institutions through Women's Union.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Hue Village Finds Strengths of Tradition", <i>Vietnam Investment Review</i>, April 5-11 2004.</li> <li>• Rice paper story, UNIDOScope, 29 February-6 March 2004 <a href="http://www.unido.org/doc/21444#story2">http://www.unido.org/doc/21444#story2</a>.</li> <li>• Da Nang story, UNIDOScope, 21-27 September 2003. <a href="http://www.unido.org/doc/17023/#story2">http://www.unido.org/doc/17023/#story2</a>.</li> </ul>

#### EUROPE AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

<b>Belarus</b>	<p><i>Support to Expanding Public Space for Women . . . . . \$320,000</i></p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concept of the Law on Equal Opportunities produced on the basis of the project's research on and analysis of Belarusian legislation.</li> <li>• Organization of workshops and training to support women in leadership roles and enhance their ability to participate in decision-making in political and public life.</li> <li>• Establishment of a lobbying group in parliament to promote gender-based policies.</li> <li>• Publication of gender manual for journalists. The manual includes an introduction to gender concepts, focusing on women's leadership roles, as well as analysis of gender stereotypes in the Belarusian media.</li> <li>• Production and publication of a manual for lawyers entitled "Sex and Gender", which includes findings of the gender analysis of the national legislation as well as articles on various issues such as effective ways to prevent gender discrimination.</li> </ul> <p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production and broadcast of a TV series, "The Owner of Her Own Destiny"; on successful women in decision-making positions.</li> <li>• Airing of the four 13-minute video interviews with women leaders continues on regional TV stations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local and regional satellite TV stations, magazines, public service announcements and UN newsletters highlighting the project activities.</li> </ul>
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<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	<p><i>Development of Capacity and Partnerships between Governments and Civil Society for Gender Equality Law Implementation . . . . . \$275,000</i></p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development of regional network (CSO-Governments) initiated through the Regional Conference on Lessons Learned and Good Practices.</li><li>• Adoption by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Council of Ministries of a decision on the establishment of the State-level Gender Agency pursuant to Article 23 of the Gender Equality Law.</li><li>• Communication between NGOs and government counterparts increased through the first NGO Consultation Meeting as well as an NGO-Government workshop on MDG 3 (gender equality).</li><li>• Establishment of substantive cooperation between the entity-level Gender Centres, the Government and the statistic institutes.</li></ul> <p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support to the operationalization of the Gender Agency.</li><li>• Policy dialogue with the media representatives to support Gender Law implementation.</li><li>• Development of the regional cooperation and transfer of knowledge in the implementation of the Gender Law.</li></ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Bosnia Daily</i> and <i>Oslobodjenje Daily Newsletter</i>, September 2003, articles about presentation on Gender Law implementation.</li><li>• Federal Radio specialized show dedicated to the Gender Law and UNDP activities, September 2003.</li><li>• Web site of UNDP country office in Bosnia and Herzegovina <a href="http://www.undp.ba/onevs.asp?articles=all">http://www.undp.ba/onevs.asp?articles=all</a>.</li></ul>
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	<p><i>Expanded Micro-credit Support for Women in Semipalatinsk Region . . . . . \$500,000</i></p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establishment of the Kazakhstan Micro-lending Organization “Bereke” and its formal registration with the Ministry of Justice.</li><li>• Development of new loan products for both individual and consumer loans for the poor in rural areas has been very well received and outreach doubled at the end of the year.</li><li>• Money generated through the consumer loans is used for education, health care, house repairs and repayment of recurrent loans.</li></ul> <p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expansion of micro-finance activities outside Semipalatinsk City to target poor rural communities.</li><li>• Development and implementation of new credit products.</li></ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participation in a live TV show on UN Day.</li><li>• Brochure with full coverage of the project translated into English and Russian.</li><li>• Highlights of the project presented at the Sixth and Seventh Annual Conferences of Microfinance Institutions in Moscow and Warsaw, respectively.</li></ul>

<b>Lithuania</b>	<p><i>Capacity-building of Lithuanian Women through ICT and Networking . . . \$272,930</i></p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection of five women NGOs to serve as Regional Support Centres and provision of logistical support, including computer work stations.</li> <li>• Needs assessment of five selected NGOs to ensure the training seminars met the demands.</li> </ul> <p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICT training for women leaders on the topics of ICT networking and building partnerships with like-minded organizations.</li> <li>• Facilitation of the women's portal to provide a space for information-sharing and networking. The portal features a wide variety of information, including profiles of the participating NGOs, learning tools, a database of women's NGOs and upcoming events.</li> <li>• Partnership-building with the Lithuanian Labour Exchange to promote ICT training and employment creation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNDP <i>Choices</i> magazine, December 2003.</li> <li>• Project showcased as a successful ICT initiative at the World summit on the Information Society, Geneva, December 2003.</li> </ul>
<b>Romania</b>	<p><i>Economic Empowerment of Rural Women . . . . . \$250,000</i></p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of two additional self-sustainable industrial units, a bakery and a food processing factory.</li> <li>• Partnerships with other small-scale income-generating programmes, such as a project funded by the World Bank to develop a model institutional framework for women's economic empowerment.</li> <li>• Sound decision-making and efficient management of the company by all the women entrepreneurs, who are equal partners in the company.</li> </ul> <p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of the project achievements and gaps with a view to replicating the model on a larger countrywide scale.</li> <li>• A study tour by the women to other counties with similar ongoing programmes to share best practices.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coverage in the UNDP annual media Kit, including a synopsis entitled "Economic Employment of Rural Women in Romania".</li> <li>• Featured in the second issue of the Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS <i>Gender &amp; Change Newsletter</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Tajikistan</b>	<p><i>Strengthening of Women's Access to Credit to Reduce Rural Poverty . . . . . \$200,000</i></p> <p><b>Achievement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addition of regions covered by the micro-credit scheme of the NGO Gender and Development (GAD). Training seminars on micro-credit operations were conducted for the <i>Shahrinai</i> project office staff and borrowers. Repayment process implemented and lending operations monitored.</li> </ul>



<b>Tajikistan (cont.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training of borrowers in Kofarnihon, Shahrinai and Tursunzade regions on micro-credit mechanisms and small businesses. GAD involvement in the NGO Coalition to advise on the laws governing microfinance institutions (MFIs) to be developed for Tajikistan. Recommendations on the new law developed and submitted to the Working Group established by the Government, National Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB).</li> <li>• Strengthening of training component for the GAD staff to ensure sufficient knowledge of micro-credit scheme under the new laws governing MFIs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular training for borrowers from all regions where GAD has micro-credit activities.</li> <li>• Staff training: GAD Project Coordinator, in support to small and medium-sized enterprise activities; and project coordinators of partner NGOs, in the management of an MFI.</li> <li>• Monitoring of credit activities in the regions.</li> <li>• Learning best practices in MFI management.</li> <li>• Regular participation in the ADB Working Group meetings as an NGO representative to ensure the incorporation of gender concerns into the rural financial regulatory framework.</li> <li>• Consultations with Ministries of Finance and Justice on procedures and regulations regarding the establishment of MFIs in Tajikistan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sabo</i> magazine, December 2002.</li> <li>• Web site of the UNDP country office in Tajikistan (<a href="http://www.undp.tj/programmes/gender.html">http://www.undp.tj/programmes/gender.html</a>).</li> <li>• Several donor visits to micro-credit centre in Kofarnihon, including those by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Roving Ambassador of Finland for Central Asia.</li> </ul>
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## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

<b>Guatemala</b>	<p><i>Support to Programme on Girls' Education</i> ..... \$310,000</p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National strategic plan for girls' education for 2003-2007 approved by Ministry of Education and shared with governmental and non-governmental institutions. The strategy focuses on five main areas: enrolment rate of girls, gender-sensitive curriculum development, training for teachers, gender sensitization activities, and coordination of projects and programmes relating to girls' education.</li> <li>• Support material for elementary school teachers and staff designed and approved by the Ministry of Education for wide distribution.</li> <li>• Fourth National Seminar on Girls' Education organized in August 2003 to share experiences accumulated through seven pilot initiatives for developing and testing gender-sensitive teaching methodologies. It was attended by national, regional, and local education administrators under the Ministry of Education and school teachers.</li> <li>• Training workshops organized for educational administrators who are involved in the development of school curricula and educational materials.</li> </ul> <p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project completed.</li> </ul>
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<b>Guatemala (cont.)</b>	<p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radio Forum to celebrate the International Day for Violence against Women, November 2002.</li> <li>• Local radio and TV news on the launch of the Strategic Plan for Girls' Education 2003-2007.</li> <li>• Web site on girls' education: <a href="http://www.mineduc.gob.gt/proyectos/prognina/Ingles/EducNinaIng1.htm">http://www.mineduc.gob.gt/proyectos/prognina/Ingles/EducNinaIng1.htm</a>.</li> <li>• <i>Adelate Nina</i>, a quarterly bulletin on girls' education.</li> <li>• "Girls' Education in Guatemala", a video clip produced in 2000.</li> </ul>
<b>Jamaica</b>	<p><i>Gender, Training and Research</i> ..... \$100,000</p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organization of a Summer Institute on Gender and Development to train a group of practitioners in the Caribbean on gender analysis in development issues.</li> <li>• A distance learning programme on gender studies developed by the Centre for Gender and Development Studies in Jamaica and launched for students in the Caribbean.</li> </ul> <p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desk review of available regional research materials on gender-based violence to identify research gaps.</li> <li>• Development of online research database on gender and development accessible through the web site of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive coverage in local newspapers and on TV on the project signing ceremony held on 27 February 2003 in the presence of the Ambassador of Japan to Jamaica, a representative from the Government of Jamaica, the UNDP Resident Representative, and a representative from the Centre for Gender and Development Studies.</li> <li>• "Jamaican \$10.2 million for Gender, Training and Research", <i>Weekend Observer</i>, 7 March 2003.</li> <li>• "Gender, Training and Research project gets Japanese Funding", <i>The Gleaner</i>, 4 March 2003.</li> </ul>
<b>Uruguay</b>	<p><i>Economic and Social Integration of Rural Women in the "Colonias"</i> ..... \$398,425</p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitation of wider market access by rural women producers of handicrafts and food products through participation in national and international trade fairs to sell their goods. Such trade fairs include the World Ethnic and Specialty Food Show held in France as well as Expo Prado 2003 and La Mesa Criolla held in Uruguay.</li> <li>• Training for rural women producers of handicrafts and food products in efficient production and information management, including use of ICTs.</li> <li>• Improvement of product quality as a result of package design (logos and labels), marketing and public relations activities.</li> <li>• Increased participation and decision-making in market committees.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production of a promotional video on the project. It was launched on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8 March 2003 in the presence of the First Lady of Uruguay; the First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan, representing the Ambassador; and the UNDP Resident Representative. The video was also shown on local TV stations.</li> </ul>

<b>Uruguay (cont.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numerous articles in local media, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Paula Magazine</i>, monthly Sunday supplement of the <i>El País</i> daily newspaper, 11 June 2004: Interview with the Project Coordinator;</li> <li>- "Japan and UNDP together with the Land Settlement Institute – More Aid for Women," <i>El País</i>, 3 January 2001;</li> <li>- "Settlement Women Involved in Productive Projects with Japanese Financial Support," <i>El Telégrafo</i> newspaper, 21 November 2003;</li> <li>- "Internacional Support to Promote Rural Women," <i>Los Principios</i> newspaper, 23 October 2001;</li> <li>- "Rural Handicraft in Productive Expansion," <i>La Mañana</i> daily newspaper, 8 March 1997;</li> <li>- "Land Settlement Institute: Support and Stimulus for the Rural Communities," <i>Ultimas Noticias</i> daily newspaper, 10 October 1999;</li> <li>- "Forty-five Rural Workers Are Trained in Computers and Computer Applications with Support by UNDP and the Land Settlement Institute," <i>Los Principios</i>, 27 April 2002.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>GLOBAL</b>	
<b>Global</b>	<p><i>Gender Responsive Budgets: Investing in Poor Women to Reach the Millennium Development Goals</i> ..... \$495,000</p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production and dissemination of a CD-ROM, "BRIDGE Gender and Budgets: Cutting Edge Pack".</li> <li>• Organization of two regional training-of-trainers workshops on gender-sensitive budgeting for the Europe and the CIS and the Asia and the Pacific regions in partnership with key institutions in each region. A core group of trainers trained to respond to requests for expertise in gender-sensitive budgeting.</li> <li>• Development of a training manual.</li> </ul> <p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organization of training of trainers for other regions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on the CD-ROM available at <a href="http://www.undp.org/gender">www.undp.org/gender</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Global</b>	<p><i>Gender and the Millennium Development Goals</i> ..... \$286,667</p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launching of pilot projects in five countries - Cambodia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Peru and Morocco - to develop innovative approaches to mainstreaming gender into national MDG advocacy and reporting processes.</li> <li>• Mapping of local initiatives on MDGs, identification of strategic entry points to integrate gender into the national MDG processes, and development of implementation plans in each pilot country.</li> <li>• Organization of a project launching workshop in Morocco in July 2004 to finalize country-level implementation plans, taking into account inputs and suggestions from global resource persons from the MDG reporting, campaign, and research teams.</li> </ul> <p><b>Present Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of pilot initiatives in five countries. The following summarizes the substantive focus and approach identified by each pilot country.</li> </ul>

### *Cambodia*

The Cambodia pilot will focus on feminized poverty and HIV/AIDS (under the rubric of globalization, looking at poverty and women's work issues), targeting duty bearers, claim holders, and allies. Media campaigns, workshops and training will be organized, focusing on key government ministries, the United Nations system and donors, women's networks, and women at the grass-roots level. These activities will strengthen institutional mechanisms and build the capacity of a variety of stakeholders for engendering the MDGs. Strategic entry points identified include:

- existing analysis to be used for advocacy and capacity-building in the project (e.g., the UNDP/UNIFEM/World Bank/ADB assessment, "A Fair Share for Women: MDG Actions Needed to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Men - Cambodia Gender Assessment");
- women's leadership for advocacy and monitoring of national development plans and MDGs to be supported and built.

### *Kenya*

Building on ongoing work, the pilot project will focus on changing the policy-making processes in Kenya to include the voices of women in a continuous and sustainable way. In the context of the MDGs, gender-sensitive advocacy and responsive planning will be pursued through, inter alia, the development of gender-aware sectoral guidelines, the institutionalization of women's perspectives in policy processes, capacity-building for multi-stakeholder groups, and training of technocrats. Strategic entry points identified include the following:

- support and contribute to the national needs assessment study of MDGs that is being undertaken as part of Millennium Project activities in Kenya;
- use Sector Working Groups to see how gender can be mainstreamed into the MDGs and use the MDGs to create links to government (e.g., Gender Working Group under the Governance and Rights Theme Group, a Gender Theme Group convened under the PRSP process, and an MDG Monitoring and Evaluation Thematic Group).

### *Kyrgyzstan*

The initiative in Kyrgyzstan will feed into ongoing MDG processes, activities and partnerships in the country, with a particular emphasis on violence against women, women's access to land and women in the informal sector. With a focus on building capacity (CSOs, government, media, etc.), engendering MDG monitoring and reporting, and improving statistics for monitoring, pilot activities will include training and workshops, a media campaign, and the publication of advocacy materials on sex-disaggregated MDG data. Strategic entry points identified include:

- strong United Nations and government MDG processes, ongoing and planned. Gender equality and women's empowerment to be linked and integrated into the planned actions of different stakeholders (e.g., the United Nations Country Team and the Government will have an MDG campaign provincially the activities of which will complement the work of this project);
- major documents supporting the analysis of urgent gender and development issues that require mainstreaming into the MDGs (e.g., MDG Reports (MDGRs), PRSPs, national human development reports, National Action Plan on the Status of Women, etc.).

### *Morocco*

Promoting equality in education for women and girls through MDG 3 is the primary focus of the pilot in Morocco. This is particularly timely given education reforms currently taking place and interest of many stakeholders in this process. Key activities include mobilization, capacity-building and workshop activities with a broad range of stakeholders, including NGOs, the media, government and the private sector. The pilot will work towards incorporating a study of women's perspectives/voices into an engendered national MDGR. Strategic entry points identified include:

- the modernization of the parliament, changes to the family code, and reform of the education system to move forward a women's rights agenda.

### *Peru*

Using the agenda of the MDGs, the Peru pilot will work towards strengthening commitments to women's rights, specifically through linking the issues of women's poverty, discrimination, and sexual and reproductive rights. In focusing on capacity-building, raising awareness and advocacy for engendering the MDGs, the project will engage in a range of activities, including training workshops, conferences, media campaigns and the development of advocacy materials. Strategic entry points identified include:

- new indicators on gender violence and sexual and reproductive rights introduced into the national MDGR, and several development plans for women (e.g., on quotas and violence against women), which have been promoted;
- strong women's movement and networks and involved/enthusiastic Gender Theme Group.





# Outreach



## 1. Japan Women in Development Fund Brochure (English and Japanese)



## 2. UNDP/Japan Women in Development Fund 2001 Annual Report (English and Japanese)



## 3. UNDP/Japan Women in Development Fund 2002 Annual Report (English and Japanese)



## 4. Video: "Girls' Education in Guatemala" (English, 26 minutes; also available in Japanese)

This documentary introduces the UNDP project entitled "Girls' Education Programme" in Guatemala. The Peace Accords, which was signed in 1996 after 36 years of internal armed conflict, express the urgent need to reform the educational system of the country and improve equal educational opportunity regardless of ethnicity, gender and geography, in order to build a sustainable culture of peace. This documentary shows UNDP-Japan collaboration in supporting Guatemalan education system to promote gender equality in primary education. Tomoko Nagano, TV Asahi anchor person, visits project sites in Mayan communities.



## 5. Video: "Economic Empowerment of Women in Post-Conflict Cambodia"

(English, 26 minutes; also available in Japanese)  
This documentary introduces the UNDP project entitled "Women's Participation in Economic Development" in Cambodia. It illustrates how local women have been able to actively participate in the reconstruction of their war-torn community with the support of the ACLEDA microfinance institution. It also shows how multi-lateral support through UNDP and bilateral assistance through the Government of Japan created a compound effect on post-conflict reconstruction. The video features Ms. Misako Konno, UNDP Global Goodwill Ambassador. Ms. Konno is an actress and author in Japan.

## 6. Website [www.undp.org/gender/japan/](http://www.undp.org/gender/japan/)



# List of

## *Abbreviations and Acronyms*

ADB	Asian Development Bank	JWIDF	Japan Women in Development Fund
AIM	Asian Institute of Management	KIST	Kigali Institute of Science, Technology and Management
ASAFE	Association for Support to Women Entrepreneurs	MDG	Millennium Development Goal
AVEGA	Association of Genocide Widows	MDGR	Millennium Development Goals Report
CAD	computer-assisted design	MFI	microfinance institution
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	MSA	Mongolian Statistical Association
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States	NGO	non-governmental organization
CSO	civil-society organization	PEAP	Poverty Eradication Action Plan
GAD	Gender and Development	PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
ICT	information and communications technology	RITA	Rwanda Information Technology Authority
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
ILO	International Labour Organization	UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	WTO	World Trade Organization







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