



Summary of the E-Discussion on Gender Equality, Justice, Peace- and Statebuilding

1. Introduction

As a preparation for the F2F and in order to use the networks' learning and experiences to support effective SDG implementation in the field of gender equality, justice, peace- and statebuilding **the SDC Gender and CHR networks conducted a joint e-discussion from 25 April to 9 May 2016**. Basis for the e-discussion was an input paper, which was sent to all participants with the launch of the discussion. It highlights the gender dimensions of conflict and fragility, links gender with state- and peacebuilding and contains the most important references. The e-discussion was based on the following questions:

- **What are experiences and good examples with integrating gender across the 5 PSGs to support SDG 5 and 16?** (Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals, Sustainable Development Goals, s. Input Paper)
 - Can you provide us interesting projects and/or initiatives that demonstrate how gender has been integrated across some of the 5 PSGs? Who are your partners and what are the instruments /approaches you work with?
 - How do these projects contribute to the reduction of fragility and the transformation of conflict?
 - How do these projects contribute to implement SDG 5 and 16?
 - From a gender perspective, which PSG is you most relevant for your work / your country cooperation strategy?
- **What are challenges and obstacles do you face in integrating gender across the 5 PSG's?**
 - What are the tensions between normative standards and political realities?
 - What strategies do you use to overcome these challenges and obstacles?
- **How do you integrate a gender lens in your conflict and context analysis?**
 - Do you have good examples from your projects where gender roles and masculinities were analysed in the context of fragility or conflict?
 - How have the results of this analysis been integrated in the programme or project?
- **What is new with Agenda 2030?**
 - Which contribution at country level can be made to Goal 5 and Goal 16 (approach, instruments)?
 - How are SDG 5 and SDG 16 interlinked?
 - What support could be provided to partner's countries in monitoring progress to achieve Goal 5 and Goal 16?

28 SDC entities and partners reflected on the questions and sent their contributions to the e-discussion in English and French. The e-discussion was moderated by the Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies, University of Bern (Flurina Derungs). This report summarises all contributions per question (chapter 2) and synthesises the most important issues that were raised within the e-discussion (chapter 3). It further contains a conclusion and issues to be further discussed at the F2F.

2. Summary of contributions

2.1 Experiences and good examples of SDC to integrate gender across the 5 PSGs

The participants of the e-discussion mention different experiences and good examples how they **integrate gender across the 5 peace- and statebuilding goals (PSGs)** to support sustainable development goal (SDG) 5 and 16 (question 1). They also mention different partners and instruments and approaches they use (sub question 1). The following summarises the contributions to the first question following the five PSGs:¹

PSG 1: Legitimate politics – foster inclusive political settlements and conflict resolution

PSG 1 is about representation, participation and leadership, about institution building, democratisation and governance processes and about decision making – all these are areas with a strong gender perspective. Many **COOF's** (Benin, Haiti, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Somalia, the Regional Psychosocial Programme as well as the COOF Great Lakes, Niger, Bolivia, Tchad, Kyrgyzstan and Lao) and one partner (HEKS / EPER Swiss Reformed Church within their projects in Colombia, the DRC, Senegal and Palestine / Israel) report about projects concerning PSG 1.

The SDC cooperation office in **Cambodia** for example supports the sub-national democratic development reform (SNDD). This reform is meant to promote democracy, local governance and citizens' participation and with this contribute to stability in Cambodia after decades of civil war and genocide. The implementation of SNDD has been committed to promote and support gender equality through an approach of gender mainstreaming as well as mechanisms and procedures for ensuring this mainstreaming and an effective representation of women in the reform.

Also COOF **Burkina Faso** supports a state reform through local governance and capacity building of local authorities. Gender equality also here – as within many other mentioned programmes – is integrated in a transversal manner and the project aims at promoting women in local decision-making, in infrastructure management and in access to resources.

«Comme résultats genre de ces programmes capitalisés pour l'élaboration de la nouvelle stratégie 2017 -2020 on peut citer: L'appui aux communes et aux régions pour l'élaboration de stratégie de prise en compte du genre, développement de la citoyenneté à travers des planifications inclusives et des actions d'interpellation a permis l'implication systématique d'associations féminines dans les activités des collectivités et émergence d'initiatives locales en faveur de la promotion du genre et de groupes vulnérables (Habibou Kouanda, COOF Burkina Faso).»

COOF **Benin** as well puts an emphasis on promoting women's participation in decision-making on a local level. This is done through trainings and coaching of potential candidates for local elections, promotion of political leadership of women, raising awareness among their husbands and men in general and advocacy within political parties for a better positioning of women on elections lists.

PSG 2: Security – establish and strengthen people's security

PSG 2 is about security, security policies and institutions, about gender-specific needs within security sector reforms and about prevention and support services for people experiencing violence – again all highly gendered areas. Many **COOF's and partners** mention projects and programmes within PSG 2 (Honduras, the Regional Psychosocial Programme as well as the COOF Great Lakes, Haiti, Jordan, Mongolia, Benin, Ethiopia, Colombia, Bolivia, Cambodia as well as Caritas Switzerland with a project in Northern Iraq, swisspeace with a project in the Ukraine and Southern Russia, HEKS / EPER Swiss Church Aid with a project in Colombia and HELVETAS with projects in Mali, Sri Lanka and Mozambique).

Swisspeace for example shares a project in the region of Donbass with women from Ukraine and Southern Russia. Civil society representatives from the conflict regions jointly analyse the consequences of the ongoing conflict at local level and jointly develop needs-based solutions.

¹ Unfortunately it is not possible to mention examples from all countries under every PSG even if there are many more good examples how gender is integrated across the five PSGs. A selection was made according to regional criteria and projects and programmes chosen with a possible multiplication effect.

With this approach within this cross-boundary dialogue women and other representatives in the conflict regions formulate their needs as a community, look for collective solutions to their problems (like physical security, health care, livelihood) and take these quests to the level of political decision makers.

«(...) The analysis, as well as the outlined solutions clearly reflect the needs-based perspective of women, as this project was mainly with women, that are directly concerned by the consequences of the conflict (Sidonia Gabriel and Cécile Druey, swisspeace).»

COOF **Honduras** supports an integrated security sector reform and violence prevention, a programme with the objective to prevent and control crime and violence in this country with a high rate of homicide, endemic corruption and impunity. Within this programme gender equality is an integral part and essential for the reform of the security sector (SSR) the program aims for. The program also creates synergies with the new country office of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to create comprehensive gender equality and human rights approaches. And it is now in the process of integrating a psycho-social approach within this SSR – this mainly in the trainings for the police and within integrating the topic in the curriculum of the police academy.

PSG 3: Justice – addresses injustices and increase people’s access to justice

PSG 3 is about the formal and informal justice system and about the barriers people face in accessing justice – again areas with a strong gender dimension. The **COOFs** in Lao, Afghanistan, Gaza and West Bank, Great Lakes, Honduras, Jordan, Nepal, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Haiti and Mongolia as well as HEKS / EPER Swiss Reformed Church within their projects in Zimbabwe and Colombia implement projects and programmes within PSG 3.

In **Nepal** for example SDC supported a small action line project implemented by two partner organisations. This project aimed at strengthening the effectiveness, inclusivity and accountability of traditional, religious and community justice actors to address needs of the most vulnerable populations (in particular in connection with SGBV and other human rights abuses) through orientation and training of traditional justice providers on gender equality, basic laws and principle of justice and interaction with formal justice providers.

«The major achievement of the project was gender friendly strengthening of traditional justice system. (...) The project helped changing the behaviour of the traditional justice providers to deal with victims of gender based violence and refer such cases to formal justice mechanisms (Yamuna Ghale and Rajesh Hamal, COOF Nepal).»

Also **Bolivia** works in the area of equal access to justice and works on alternative methods of dispute resolution through conciliation. According to the contribution of Bolivia, conciliation is an important way for people to access justice and gives effective resolutions of disputes in labour issues. At an institutional level, 60% women could be recruited as conciliators in court. The project also carries out a couple of strategic and affirmative actions for vulnerable groups and it contributes to the development of a gender policy in the judiciary system.

In **Gaza and the West Bank** two SDC-supported activities with a dedicated gender focus aim at promoting equal access to justice. The Palestinian national human rights institution (NHRI) has a special program entitled *Women Access to Justice*. Within this program women lawyers in court rooms assist women in accessing the Palestinian justice system, duty-bearers and institutions of the justice system are trained on women’s rights issues and procedures of the justice system are regularly monitored and documented under this perspective. The NHRI also makes judicial interventions to cases related to women in conflict with law and victims of gender-based violence and it proposes amendments to laws to ensure enhanced protection for children and women. The human rights secretariat, the other SDC-supported activity channels pooled funds to human rights organisations. Women organisations are eligible for core and project funding and there is a clear preference to gender-specific programming and gender mainstreaming work.

PSG 4: Economic foundations – generate employment and improve livelihoods

There are plenty of contributions from **COOFs and partners** with experiences and good examples within PSG 4. This goal is about building the economic foundation for just, peaceful and inclusive societies, about creating jobs and other income-generating activities, about rural development and private-sector development. Again all these areas do have a strong gender dimension. Burkina Faso, Tunisia, Cambodia, Niger, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Ethiopia, the Regional Psychosocial Programme as well as the COOF Great Lakes, Jordan, Colombia, Nepal, Horn of Africa Regional Office, Honduras, Somalia and Haiti mention projects and programmes in the area of economic empowerment, skills development, access to ownership and control over land and agricultural training. Some of them are gender-specific, others integrate the gender dimension in a transversal manner. Also HEKS / EPER Swiss Church Aid and Caritas Switzerland report about projects in this domain in Tajikistan, Zimbabwe and the DRC.

Caritas Switzerland for example mentions a project in Tajikistan that aims at promoting income generation and enhancing the socio-economic status of women. The project targets single, divorced and abandoned women with large families. It includes income generating activities such as social enterprises and support spans and puts a strong emphasis on creating new value chains and making existing ones more equitable. It further empowers women to participate in political processes and claim their rights and also includes access to education and health services education.

Also a SDC-supported project in **Kenya** focuses on economic foundations. The project supports skills and livelihoods development in a refugee camp targeting refugees, but also the host community. Particular effort is being made to engage women and many female beneficiaries joined traditionally perceived male-dominated trade occupations.

«The project strives to use a market development approach in a refugee setting, while ensuring that both local and refugee population benefit from the initiative (Catherine Wangechi, Horn of Africa Somalia Office).»

PSG 5: Revenues & services - manage revenue and build capacity for accountable and fair service delivery

PSG 5 is about the access to basic health and education services, about the management of services and resources, about finances, budgets and resource allocation. There is a strong gender dimension in all these issues. Again many **COOFs** mention projects and programmes within this PSG: Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Cambodia, Haiti, Bolivia, Lao, Ethiopia, Tajikistan, Niger, Burkina Faso, Benin, Somalia, Afghanistan as well as Gaza and Westbank.

COOF **Kyrgyzstan** for example implements two projects in the area of governance, which contribute to accountable and fair service delivery. They both involve the whole population in decision-making at the local level in the area of budgetary process and public service delivery, planning and management.

«The involvement of the population is ensured through identifying community priority and needs together with local authorities, joint action plan (or service improvement action plan) elaboration and M&E of these action plans. It means that women have an opportunity to contribute to priority identification of their communities and then engage in monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of community action plans and local budget. One of the criteria for the selection of the applications within the small grants programs of these projects is gender sensitivity and focus on vulnerable groups. Although the percentage of women involvement in such activities is over 40%, there is still room for improvement, for example through gender budgeting (Laurence Strübin, COOF Kyrgyzstan).»

Also a project mentioned from COOF **Lao** introduced participatory planning for the identification of project needs at the local level through separate discussions with women and men. It aims to ensure that women and ethnic minorities are the final beneficiaries of infrastructure projects such as health centres, schools, irrigation projects, drinking water supply or roads and strengthens community participation.

Apart from reporting experiences and good examples with integrating gender across the 5 PSGs, the different COOFs and partners reflect **how these projects contribute to the**

reduction of fragility and the transformation of conflict (sub question 2). Many of them mention it implicitly when reporting about their experiences and good examples, but others explicitly state the following issues:

- The importance of an **economic foundation** for just, peaceful and inclusive societies is emphasised again by Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, COOF Great Lakes, Nepal, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Jordan and Burkina Faso. For peace- and statebuilding processes employment and creating jobs with equal opportunities for the people to generate income is crucial. This needs access to education for women as well as access to ownership and control over land. Also the management of natural resources is mentioned under this topic as well as the special situation of pastoralists in the Sahel area. Further contributions from Afghanistan, Colombia and Kyrgyzstan mentioned **equal participation in decision making** and involvement of all community members within those processes as key factor for the reduction of fragility and the transformation of conflict.
- HEKS / EPER Swiss Reformed Church, Honduras, Afghanistan and Nepal emphasise the improved **access to justice** and increased awareness of women on their rights as well as **strengthened institutions** while Cambodia and the Ukraine highlight the importance of **trust in the state** for the utilisation of public services.

«The present project aims to contribute towards improvement of services for the citizens of two target regions and regaining their trust in local authorities and fellow citizens (Christian Disler and Ludmyla Nestrylay, COOF Ukraine). »
- The elimination of all forms of violence against women (Colombia), the institutionalisation of SGBV and RSH services in the existing primary health system (Somalia), the reduction of gender stereotypes (COOF Great Lakes) as well as the utilisation of a human rights approach and not purely humanitarian assistance (Colombia, HEKS / EPER Swiss Church Aid) were **other factors** mentioned as important for reducing fragility.

Some COOFs and partners mention the **strong overlap of the 5 PSGs with the SDG's** (sub question 3) and that their projects contribute to both of them. Conflict-sensitive programme management as a cross-cutting issue together with gender mainstreaming (Cambodia); inclusion (Somalia, Kenya); effective, accountable and transparent institutions and good governance (Horn of Africa Regional Office, Kyrgyzstan, Colombia, Ethiopia and COOF Great Lakes) and equal access to services are issues mentioned explicitly with a **link to SDG16**. Participation and decision making (Horn of Africa Regional Office, Lao and Colombia), economic empowerment (Kyrgyzstan, COOF Great Lakes), access to health services (Cambodia), access to ownership and control over land (Burkina Faso and COOF Great Lakes) as well as gender capacity building (Lao) are issues mentioned with a **link to SDG5**.

From a gender perspective, **all PSGs are relevant for the work** of the COOFs and partners and for the country's cooperation strategy with many examples mentioned within all PSGs (sub question 4). The relevance differs with the focal areas, topics and contexts the COOFs and partners are working in.

2.2 Challenges and obstacles in integrating gender across the 5 PSG's

The participants of the e-discussion mention different **challenges and obstacles** in integrating gender across the 5 PSG's (question 2). Tunisia, COOF Great Lakes as well as HELVETAS and swisspeace emphasise the aspect of **meaningful participation and equal decision making**. Local authorities, media, CSO's etc. are all male-dominated, women lack opportunities to articulate their needs and interests and gender stereotypes prevail. For legitimate politics (PSG 1) to become possible, female voices need to be strengthened and participation needs to be meaningful and not just quantitative.

«Sur le plan de la participation sociale et politique, le défi principal lié à l'inclusion des femmes dans les cadres de discussions est d'aller au-delà du nombre : même si on peut encourager un

système de quota dans la participation aux différentes rencontres publiques, la qualité de la participation de femmes aux débats reste faible (Caroline Tissot, COOF Great Lakes).»

Further **impunity and lack of access to justice** are mentioned by Tunisia and Bolivia and also a lack of women in justice institutions. This goes together with **weak government institutions and a lack of political will** (Cambodia) and widespread **corruption** (Afghanistan). Different countries – Bolivia, Afghanistan, Lao as well as the Regional Psychosocial Programme and COOF Great Lakes – mention **violence against women** as being one of the biggest challenges to integrate gender across the 5 PSG's. They bring up issues such as domestic violence, harmful traditional practices (e.g. early and forced marriage or female genital mutilation) or violence against children.

Different COOF's (Tunisia, Lao and the Regional Psychosocial Programme Great Lakes) also refer to **economic conditions** that pose challenges – unemployment, lack of access to finances and education are the issues mentioned. Somalia, Tunisia and the Regional Psychosocial Programme Great Lakes further mention the **absence of statistics and lack of data** and Somalia the **lack of a proper gender analysis** being made.

Ethiopia reports about a **legislation** which strictly forbids aid agencies to work in domains of governance, human rights or conflict resolution. This strictly limits the possibilities international NGO's have to address gender equality issues and makes them mainly work on the immediate gender needs instead of addressing the root causes. **Conflict-affected countries** such as Somalia, Gaza and Westbank, Afghanistan as well as the Regional Psychosocial Programme Great Lakes report about their struggles how to promote gender equality in an overall deteriorating (socio-political) security situation.

«The oPt is governed by three legal regimes: that of the Palestinian Authority in Areas A and B of the West Bank, that of the de facto authorities/Hamas in the Gaza Strip (Area A), and the Israeli civil and military law in East Jerusalem and Area C. These different frameworks pose huge challenges to the CSOs' ability to operate and to achieve sustainable results in the fulfilment of human rights and in particular in achieving gender equality (Terry Boulata, COOF Gaza and Westbank).»

An issue that is highlighted by Caritas Switzerland is **human trafficking** (not just for sex work, but also forced labour) in disaster-affected areas. Caritas Switzerland would like to gain a understanding of the complexity of the gender dimension for the prevention of human trafficking and specific challenges in fragile contexts.

There are different **tensions between normative standards and political realities** in the different countries (sub question 1). Bolivia, Cambodia, Somalia, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, Colombia, Jordan, Nepal, Honduras as well as HELVETAS report about good legislation and ratification of relevant human rights standards, but their lacking implementation. Cambodia further highlights the gap between gender action plans and their implementation.

«In Honduras, there are several national laws related to promoting gender equality. However, the problem lies in the implementation of these laws (Inanna Göbel-Bösch & Geneviève Federspiel, COOF Honduras).»

COOFs (Jordan, Tunisia, Cambodia) further mention the **lack of capacities of local authorities** and the **lack of resources** to implement the laws which poses a lot of barriers for women in political, economic and public life and makes them suffer from gender-based violence.

«In Colombia we have good public policies and normative standards on gender issues, (...). However, especially on rural areas or in areas affected by the conflict, the capacities of the local authorities to implement the policies are limited, both in human resources, knowledge and also in financial resources (Claudia Catalina Sierra Gama, COOF Colombia).»

HELVETAS and Niger further mention the different sources of law and the need to **link traditional mechanisms with modern state institutions**.

«Conflict resolution at the same time needs capable and legitimate institutions, here we need to explore linking traditional mechanisms with modern state institutions (Esther Marthaler and Jane Carter, HELVETAS).»

«La protection des personnes vulnérables reste un défi majeur, car la juridiction civile en vigueur repose sur la coexistence et l'application de trois sources de droit (droit islamique, droit moderne et droit coutumier (Soufiyane Amadou, COOF Niger).»

Gender stereotypes and customs that limit women's participation, to say it in the words of Benin and the Regional Psychosocial Programme Great Lakes, have a hard skin and are very hard to change.

«Les us et coutumes ont la peau dure et la perception du genre, des violences basées sur le genre dans la communauté résistent au changement positif (Blandine Agossoucodjia, COOF Benin).»

COOF's mention different **strategies** how they try to overcome these challenges and obstacles (sub question 2). **Training and capacity building** is an issue shared by Lao, COOF Great Lakes, Tchad and HELVETAS. They report about their activities how they build the capacities of local authorities, religious leaders, CSO's, community activists and mediators on women's human rights, gender sensitivity, leadership, legal issues, legal aid, citizen's obligations, violence against women and harmful practices.

«Within the project, MA (Medica Afghanistan) also works with religious leaders (mullahs) to sensitize them on women's rights, many of the harmful cultural practices being performed under the mullahs' authority. For instance, early marriages are commonly performed by local mullahs (Mélanie Büsch, COOF Afghanistan).»

Collaboration with different partners and coordination of the work is also an issue shared by different COOF's. Benin, Gaza and Westbank, Nepal, Colombia and Ethiopia report about their cooperation and coordination with CSO partners, with UN agencies, national entities and local governments and the need for maintaining dialogue and long term relationships. This sometimes also goes together with **financial cooperation**. Colombia mentions the need for budget aid to governments where international cooperation resources are made available to supplement the efforts of local authorities. Gaza and Westbank as well as Jordan and Benin further highlight the coordination of donor agencies and the importance of building alliances with like-minded donors to enhance leverage, improve common messaging and increase policy-influencing towards duty bearers and rights holders – often though without gender-responsive budgeting.

COOF Great Lakes further highlights the issue of **legal reforms** where the laws still discriminate one gender (e.g. in terms of land titles). Cambodia and the Ukraine emphasises the importance of building **trust among citizens and the local government** after decades of conflict. Lao mentions the need of a proper **integration of gender aspects in project guidelines** as well as monitoring and reporting templates and the need for quantitative as well as qualitative methods of monitoring (see also 2.4). As **further strategies** to address these obstacles, COOF's mention affirmative action (Lao) or database and policy debate on diversity (Lao). COOF Great Lakes further highlights the importance of creating safe spaces where women can articulate their key questions and needs without fear (COOF Great Lakes). And swisspeace talks about their positive experiences in focusing on concrete problems and practical cooperation issue in addressing questions of gender stereotypes and masculinity.

2.3 Experiences to integrate a gender lens in conflict and context analysis

The participants of the e-discussion mention **different experiences how they integrate a gender lens in conflict and context analysis** (question 3). Jordan, Burkina Faso, Honduras, Lao, Colombia and Somalia as well as HELVETAS report about their experiences with gender analysis and identification of different gender-specific needs, with (in some places a lack of) baseline data as well as the gender-specific indicators they use for monitoring.

«Promotion and respect of women's rights is at the centre of Domain Protection/Rule of Law. Gender disaggregated baselines and data are progressively integrated into the monitoring tool of the Cooperation Strategy as well as regular analysis of the gender situation per Domain of intervention (Terry Boulata, COOF Gaza and Westbank).»

They mention different **good examples** of projects where gender roles and masculinities were analysed in the context of fragility or conflict (sub question 1). **Burkina Faso** for instance shares a project of girls' education in which men are sensitised in order to make them taking over the responsibility for the education of their daughters. This project is based on a context analysis that examined questions of masculinity and how men's participation and responsibility are associated with the reduction of violence and girls' education.

Another good example is mentioned by **HELVETAS** about the work of their Kabul office on education. A participatory planning exercise showed that illiteracy for women and men and (linked with it) violence is a big problem in this part of **Afghanistan**. Based on the initial experience that only men came to the organised literacy classes, a combination of religious and conventional education for girls was introduced as well as privacy and safety of schools increased.

In order to get best practices how to integrate gender equality approaches in their water and sanitation projects, **Honduras** organised workshops with all actors involved in the project implementation. In the workshops they reflected on gender roles and masculinity and agreed on a minimum gender agenda (affirmative action) that each one would implement. On top of that a competition was organised between implementing partners who is most successful in integrating gender equality.

Another (planned) good example is mentioned by **Kyrgyzstan**:

«Such analysis is planned within the frame of the Mainstreaming Migration Programme in Kyrgyzstan. This analysis would focus on the returnees (labour migrants coming back from Russia to Kirghizstan or from internal migration) and focuses on the role of man in the family and the consequences of migration. Recommendations on aspects of masculinities should be addressed to decrease level of tensions following the reintegration of men into their families (Laurence Strübin, COOF Kyrgyzstan).»

Different COOF's also name examples how they **integrate men in their work to promote gender equality** – mainly in the area of gender-based violence. Based on analyses of the context and roles of women and men Colombia and the Regional Psychosocial Programme Great Lakes work with men using violence or modify their methodology and schedule according to the results of the analysis.

«Travailler avec des groupes spécifiques notamment les hommes violents, ou les femmes violées est devenu incontournable grâce aux analyses de contexte régulières faites tous les six mois par nos partenaires (Aziza Aziz-Suleyman, Regional Psychosocial Programme Great Lakes).»

Jordan further mentions the issue of female headed households in conflict-affected areas which are taking on **new roles** in the absence of the breadwinner because of killing or detention. They design projects in a way that respond to these new roles.

COOFS (Burkina Faso, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao, Gaza and Westbank, Honduras as well as HELVETAS also report about how the **results of this analysis have been integrated in the programme or project** (sub question 2), though not systematically in all cases.

«We used recommendations and fact findings from the gender impact assessment, midterm reviews, and baseline surveys to integrate gender issues in the project activities in order to improve the gender mainstreaming capacity of the project partners. We also used key findings as an evidence base for policy debates during the national roundtable meetings, project steering committee meetings, and working group discussion. We also used gender data from the study to improve the monitoring system of the project (Phothong Liliphong, COOF Lao). »

2.4 Importance of the Agenda 2030

Within question 4 COOF's and partners reflected on **opportunities of the new agenda 2030** and which **contribution at country level** can be made to SDG5 and SDG16 (sub question 1). Mongolia, Burkina Faso, Benin, Somalia, Lao, Gaza and Westbank, Haiti, Tunisia and Tchad highlight the **importance of evidence** through reliable statistics. They mention the need for sex-disaggregated data collection, an evidence-based context analysis based on gender, the need for evidence-based planning and implementation and highlight the importance of gender sensitive indicators for monitoring and evaluation (see also 2.2)

«Through its longstanding partnership with the Palestinian Central Bureau for Statistics, the SCO will strive to ensure that gender baselines and disaggregated data are strengthened in national plans, programs and strategies (Terry Boulata, COOF Gaza and Westbank).»

Colombia, COOF Great Lakes, Jordan, Tunisia and Tchad further highlight the need for greater **cooperation** in order to implement SDG5 and 16. Jordan stresses the need to engage different actors for implementation and Tunisia proposes a mapping of these different stakeholders in order to identify the key actors for implementation. Colombia for instance has a gender panel of international cooperation, COOF Great Lakes highlights how important the collaboration with government, CSO's and the media is and Tunisia again stresses the need for a search of synergies and the clarification of the roles of the different stakeholders. Furthermore Tchad highlights the crucial role of women's organisations.

«Les associations féminines jouent un rôle crucial dans l'autonomisation des femmes et leur participation aux processus de planification et budgétisation nationales sera essentielle à la mise en œuvre des ODD (Béguy Ramadji and Rémadji Mani, COOF Tchad).»

The importance of **national action plans** to implement the SDG's and/or their linking with existing national instrument (such as poverty reduction strategy papers or national action plans to the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325) are mentioned by Kyrgyzstan, the COOF Great Lakes and Jordan. Burkina Faso, Kyrgyzstan, Lao, Haiti and Tchad highlight the importance of a **transversal integration of gender** (and other factors). Further tools such as **gender-responsive budgeting** (Regional Psychosocial Programme Great Lakes, Benin, Haiti, Tunisia) or **affirmative action** (Colombia, Haiti, Tchad) are highlighted. According to Burkina Faso, a combination of different tools is necessary.

Lao, Benin, the Regional Psychosocial Programme and COOF Great Lakes and Tunisia highlight the importance of **capacity building** (e.g. of government and CSO's) (see also 2.2). Burkina Faso, Benin, Jordan and Tchad further mention how important **technical and financial resources** are for the implementation of SDG5 and 16. According to Tchad a shift from the MDG-related gender issues such as education and health is needed to the SDG-related ones such as violence, economic empowerment as well as sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Tunisia, Tchad and Lao highlight the importance of working with the **most vulnerable** (not just women, but also i.a. ethnic minorities). Contributions from **conflict-affected areas** such as Somalia and the Great Lakes report about the status of the SDG's in their countries where authorities struggle with the provision of services in fragile contexts and concerns for the SDG's are secondary.

«Mais tout ceci ne peut passer que par une **stabilisation politique et sécuritaire de la région**. Là se trouve le défi, dans la région des grands lacs (Aziza Aziz-Suleyman, Regional Psychosocial Programme Great Lakes).»

Different COOF's (Great Lakes, Jordan, Tunisia, Burkina Faso) mention how **SDG5 and 16 are interlinked** as all goals of the Agenda 2030 are interlinked (sub question 2). If gender equality is not achieved, also SDG16 cannot be achieved and the other way round.

«Both are interlinked. If SDG 5 is not achieved we can't achieved SDG 16 and the opposite way around (Raeda Nimrat, COOF Jordan).»

In terms of support SDC could provide to its partner countries in **monitoring progress** to achieve SDG5 and 16 (sub question 3), COOF's mention how important it is to hold governments accountable on the progress of the agenda (Tunisia). Burkina Faso, Benin, Haiti as

well as Gaza and Westbank highlight the importance of the CEDAW reporting system through regular state reports and shadow reports of civil society organisations.

«Haïti a soumis son dernier rapport combiné de la CEDEF, cette année, les recommandations du comité peuvent servir de référentiel pour les actions futures sur les différents axes d'intervention de la DDC (Kenise Phanord, PROOF Haiti).»

Haiti further highlights the importance of the **capitalisation of best practices**. Benin proposes to bring the two goals in **synergy** in order to produce better results and Jordan adds the importance of national action plans to UNSCR 1325.

3. Synthesis of most important issues

Rigid **traditional norms and gender stereotypes** as well as the existing social and cultural barriers that hinder women from participating in the economy and in having access to resources are mentioned as one important common issue by Tajikistan, Mongolia, Lao, Tunisia, Afghanistan, the Great Lakes, Honduras, Nepal, Jordan, Burkina Faso, Tajikistan and the Horn of Africa Somalia Office as well as the Horn of Africa Regional Office. These gender stereotypes and power imbalances between women and men are among the root causes of gender inequalities and of gender-based violence.

«The Key findings (*of a qualitative gender study to analyse gender equality issues, note editor*) and recommendations: (...). The local communities do little to change the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, as well as strengthening women's roles; Traditional norms of behaviour preclude inclusion of women in public and political processes (...). In all components of the integrated project priority has been given to improving gender roles and more actively involving women and youth in community life and decision making processes thus responding to the needs of the most vulnerable groups in the region (Djabborov Shodiboy, COOF Tajikistan).»

«The problem of femicides can not only be seen as a result of the constructs of the machismo culture which accepts and normalizes violence against women, but also as an exercise in power relations. (Inanna Göbel-Bösch & Geneviève Federspiel, COOF Honduras).»

The **engagement of men and boys in achieving gender equality** is mentioned by COOF Great Lakes, Tunisia, Colombia and Burkina Faso.

«Il est important de faire savoir à nos différentes partenaires et agences d'exécutions qu'intégrer le genre c'est aussi impliquer les hommes dans le changement et dans la construction de relation plus égalitaire entre les deux sexes (Said Zekri and Nejla Ghachem, PROOF Tunisie).»

The issue of **care and domestic work** respectively the gendered differences in the use of time and the provision of care as a highly critical domain and root cause of gender inequality is highlighted by the COOFs from Ethiopia, Colombia, Honduras as well as from swisspeace.

«On the other hand, the water rehabilitation intervention of this project has significantly saved the time elapsed while fetching water for domestic purposes, an entirely women role in the pastoralist settings of Ethiopia (...). This provided them an opportunity to more engage in other economic activities other than their daily chore (Lemma Belay, COOF Ethiopia).»

Different good examples from Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Jordan, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Tunisia, Lao and the Great Lakes Region have been mentioned to **promote women's access to productive resources, education and vocational training and their economic empowerment** (see also 2.1 under PSG4). Many countries, projects and programmes (Afghanistan, Colombia, Tunisia, Haiti, Tchad, COOF Great Lakes as well as Helvetas and swisspeace) highlight the importance of **affirmative action and quota** to promote effective and meaningful participation of women in decision-making, to allocate resources to projects promoting gender equality, in projects of local governance, access to land, political participation or rural development (Lao, Kyrgyzstan, Somalia, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Bolivia, Horn of Africa Regional Office, Tchad, Haiti, Cambodia, the Great Lakes as well as HEKS / EPER Swiss Reformed Church in Senegal).

«La Coopération suisse a appuyer l'exercice d'évaluation des performances des communes qui induit un système de bonus du financement national basé sur la note obtenue. Parmi les critères, elle a fait inscrire une cotation spécifique aux projets spécifiques aux femmes (par exemple les maternités, l'entretien des fontaines publiques, les aménagements des sanitaires dans les centres de santé, etc.). L'objectif est de s'assurer que l'affectation des ressources communales tient compte des besoins de toutes les couches de la population (Caroline Tissot, COOF Great Lakes).»

Again most of the countries raise the issue of **access to justice** and of **strengthening institutions and building the capacities** of staff e.g. in the judiciary, police, health, research etc. (Lao, Afghanistan, Tunisia, Cambodia, Tchad, Gaza and West Bank, Great Lakes, Honduras, Jordan, Nepal, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Mongolia as well as HEKS / EPER Swiss Reformed Church within their projects in Zimbabwe and Colombia and HELVETAS) (see also 2.1 for PSG 3). **Building evidence and having data** that are crucial for policy development and monitoring of progress is another important issue that has been mentioned by Mongolia, Somalia, Burkina Faso, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Kyrgyzstan, the Great Lakes, Ukraine and Lao.

«SDC Mongolia's newly approved project (...) creates evidence, increases knowledge on the root causes, raises awareness among the public and the decision makers, and improves the responses for the victims to this unacceptable phenomenon. A national survey on GBV/DV as proposed with the project will increase the availability of that data and in the meantime build capacities within the national partners such as the National Statistical Office and the Police Departments. This is fully in line with the new post 2015 agenda in which gender data collection is considered to be crucial for policy development and monitoring (Nyamjav Erdenesaikhan and Daniel Valengi, COOF Mongolia).»

Different COOFs such as the Great Lakes, Cambodia and in the Horn of Africa also highlight the difficulty and what it means doing gender-responsive **work in a fragile context**. They emphasise what conflict transformation, stabilisation and the delivery of services means within this context and how those issues interrelate with each other.

«The normative standards of the SDGs look at a long term perspective while the reality on the ground remains that Somalia is struggling to set up its own systems to deal with its current challenges. The country has a long list of priorities to deal with and they have to think local first before going global (Catherine Wangechi Muriithi, Horn of Africa Somalia Office).»

The importance of **conflict-sensitive programme management as a cross-cutting issue** (together with gender mainstreaming) is further explicitly highlighted by Cambodia and Tunisia and implicitly by many other COOFs and partners.

«En ce qui concerne les conflits c'est d'autant plus importants d'impliquer les femmes car les différentes formes de conflits n'ont pas les mêmes effets sur les hommes et les femmes, ni sur les relations de genre (Said Zekri and Nejla Chachem, PROOF Tunisia).»

Annex : (not to translate)

Contributions from cooperation (COOF), programme (PROOF) and regional offices came from COOF Bolivia (Mila Reynolds Brun), COOF Tajikistan (Djabborov Shodiboy), COOF Mongolia (Nyamjav Erdenesaikhan and Daniel Valengi), COOF Burkina Faso (Habibou Kouanda), COOF Cambodia (Channisai Muong), Horn of Africa Somalia Office (Catherine Wangechi Muriithi), Horn of Africa Regional Office (i.e. Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia) (Abdullahi Khalif), COOF Kyrgyzstan (Laurence Strübin), Regional Psychosocial Programme Great Lakes (Aziza Aziz-Suleyman), COOF Lao (Phothong Siliphong), COOF Benin (Blandine Agossoucodjia), COOF Ukraine (Christian Disler and Ludmyla Nestrlyay), PROOF Haiti (Kenise Phanord), COOF Afghanistan (Mélanie Büsch), COOF Niger (Soufiyane Amadou), COOF Ethiopia (Lemma Belay), COOF Gaza and Westbank (Terry Boulata), COOF Great Lakes (Caroline Tissot), COOF Colombia (Sierra Gama Claudia Catalina), COOF Honduras (Inanna Göbel-Bösch & Geneviève Federspiel), PROOF Tunisia (Said Zekri and Nejla Ghachem), COOF Tchad (Béguy Ramadji et Rémadji Mani), COOF Nepal (Yamuna Ghale and Rajesh Hamal) and COOF Jordan (Raeda Nimrat).

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