

United Nations  
Development Fund for Women



Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

democratic governance. Over the past four years, UNIFEM has helped national machineries for women develop expertise to draft gender equality laws, as in DRC, Liberia and Mauritania. UNIFEM also focuses on efforts to strengthen implementation of existing laws, as in Viet Nam, where we support capacity development for national assembly members and chief justices of provincial courts to implement the gender equality law that came into effect in 2007. In 2007, in addition to assisting efforts at the national level, UNIFEM supported the formulation of a regional gender policy for the Southern African Development Community.

For the past three years, UNIFEM has been supporting countries to develop a systematic approach to mainstream gender equality priorities into national development strategies. This involves facilitating multi-stakeholder technical teams to align national commitments under the Millennium Development Goals, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Beijing Platform for Action into a consolidated set of indicators and priorities; and sharpening advocacy and lobbying skills. The national development strategy of Tajikistan, for example, commits the Government to ensure men and women's equal access to economic resources and to implement the Presidential Decree on a quota for higher education for

rural girls and boys. The Kyrgyzstan national development strategy supports temporary special measures to increase political representation of women, and commits the Government to implement measures to end violence against women; and the Georgia Economic Recovery and Poverty Reduction Paper includes a commitment to improve the gender-responsiveness of labour legislation, reduce family violence and implement a four-year plan to advance gender equality.

## **II. Mainstream institutions show accountability for delivering on gender equality**

The second result area tracks the extent to which mainstream institutions enhance their accountability for gender equality. We support mainstream institutions to generate policies and services needed to strengthen their own capacity to deliver for women and girls. At the heart of effective gender mainstreaming in any institution is the reshaping of incentive systems to support better responses to women's needs; changing performance measures so that services to meet women's needs are recorded and rewarded; incorporating gender-responsive budgeting; and institutionalizing effective leadership to champion gender equality and women's rights.

Council – that have placed gender equality and women’s rights higher on their action agendas. An example is the adoption of Security Council resolution 1820 to end to end sexual violence in

The increasing shift to programme-based approaches within the aid effectiveness agenda provides new mechanisms to support gender equality priorities. In Kenya, UNIFEM manages a

2007. The goal is to transform leadership and governance at all levels in Kenya in order to deliver on poverty reduction, access to basic needs and equality between and among persons. In 2007, it focused on supporting women's political aspirations towards the general elections of December 2007, assisting 35 organizations in strengthening women's leadership and gender balance in governance at different levels in nearly 200 out of the 210 constituencies.

#### **IV. Moving forward**

In the coming months, UNIFEM will continue to support gender equality advocates—in government, civil society and UN partner organizations—to enhance implementation and accountability for gender equality commitments in the context of Financing for Development, building on the outcome of the High Level Forum of Aid Effectiveness, which requests the UNFPA