

A. Implementing WPS mandated tasks in the context of COVID- 19:

During 2018-19, WPS language in peacekeeping mission mandates became more progressive. WPS tasks became more nuanced and strongly articulated through the use of concrete language and reinforcing WPS as a priority task. This shift was informed by data-driven, context-specific analysis and increased political engagement anchored in Action for Peacekeeping's (A4P) shared commitments. WPS tasks in missions range from leveraging good offices to accelerating women's leadership in advancing peace processes and political solutions to conducting transparent and inclusive electoral processes. They include improved gender analysis, identification of emerging protection threats, including gender-based violence, and strengthened partnerships with women networks and women peacebuilders in conflict prevention. Finally, they include ensuring the full and effective participation of women, including through greater representation in the monitoring and implementing mechanisms of peace agreements and in gender-responsive DDR and SSR processes.

Peacekeeping missions remain committed to the implementation of WPS mandates, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Missions are adjusting priorities to respond to the immediate crisis through a range of prevention and mitigation measures. Missions are leveraging their current partnerships with national authorities and women's organizations, leaders and networks as they are peace and security partners who are critical in responding to the global ceasefire call and COVID-19 mitigation.

Examples of current areas of action include¹:

- **Gender expertise in COVID-19 related planning and programming:** Across all peacekeeping missions, gender units and gender advisers continue to provide strategic gender analysis to mission leadership. They are working to ensure that COVID-19 related re-orienting of mandate implementation, including contingency planning and programme criticality mapping, as well as support to national authorities and collaboration with UN Country Teams and AFP's, is gender responsive. They are also increasing their advocacy to ensure that women's participation in decision-making and efforts to mitigate the gendered impacts of COVID-19 are prioritized.
- **Advocacy and communications:** All peacekeeping missions, through collaborative efforts between the strategic communications and gender units, have increased gender-responsive advocacy and communication to not only raise awareness of COVID-19, but also to disseminate key messages, enhance trust building and mitigate any misinformation on COVID-19. This is being done through different platforms including mission radio stations, which have wide national coverage, such as those in DRC, CAR, South Sudan and Mali. In Kosovo, key messages, statements and programs raising awareness on domestic violence and its link to property rights have been broadcasted through television.

¹ Updates will be provided monthly.
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- **Political processes:** MINUSMA, MONUSCO and UNMISS continue to **prioritize women's participation and engagement in national peace and political processes.** In Mali and CAR, the missions are focused on their ongoing and upcoming elections, while in South Sudan, the mission, together with the IGAD, UN AFPs and other partners, continues to support for the formation of the local governance structures and continued political diplomacy with political parties to ensure women's participation in the Transition Assembly. In Mali, the mission supported women candidates and voters in the recently concluded legislative elections, in which 29.44% of the candidates running for the National Assembly were women, as compared to the 13.67% in 2013. Despite the halting of the Juba peace talks, UNAMID continues to support the Darfuri women who have been participating. UNAMID has been sharing information on a collective platform established by the women, which resulted in a position paper that further galvanized and raised the profile of their efforts.
- **Women's participation:** MONUSCO, MINUSCA, UNISFA, UNIFIL, UNMIK, UNAMID and UNFCYIP have prioritized targeted community engagement approaches and outreach to women's networks and organizations, despite the limitations of face to face engagement. Women in CAR and DRC mobilized to develop statements and communiques to advance the UN Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire and reached out to the missions for support. In Abyei and DRC, mission outreach plans and key messages aim to raise awareness with local women's groups and have been translated into local languages. UNIFIL has increased its interaction and support to women's organizations in its area of operation. In Cyprus, women's organizations are being supported to keep bicomunal lines open and advance trust-building dialogues. In Kosovo, the mission continues to engage on women's empowerment initiatives.
- **Protection and GBV:** Given the already increasing levels of violence against women, especially domestic violence, all missions have expanded mitigation and prevention measures through awareness raising, collaboration with GBV sub-clusters and tracking and monitoring of GBV incidence. In Cyprus, the mission is supporting awareness raising on GBV, while in Darfur, UNAMID is supporting women's protection networks to disseminate protection and GBV related information to IDP settings as well as the community at large. UNIFIL has increased awareness on GBV, including dissemination of referral guidelines. UNMIK with other partners has increased GBV awareness and issued statements, and key messages including in women's correction facilities. In DRC, the mission is raising awareness on GBV and access to referral services.
- **Gender-Responsive DDR and CVR:** Missions are developing gender-responsive frameworks to inform CVR programming and incorporate emerging threats to security related to COVID-19. UNMISS, MINUSCA, UNAMID are mapping gender specific CVR priorities, including as a component of DDR/CVR programming. For example, MINUSCA is designing actions to expand women's economic options through innovative income generation activities. UNMISS and UNISFA are focusing on gender inclusive PoC responses.