



Guidelines on Localization of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in Lebanon

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Preamble

Increasing the equal participation of women in peace-making, conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts is one of the main priorities of the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UNDPPA). This issue was included for the first time on the Security Council's agenda in 2000 when the Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security (WPS). However, since the issuance of this resolution 22 years ago, the number of women participating in formal peace-making processes remains low. Additionally, many peace agreements continue to be gender-blind and do not adequately address the needs of women in all their diversity.

Localization of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 is a people-based, bottom-up strategy based on the premise that local ownership and participation are what lead to the most effective policymaking. This guide suggests strategies to Localize the WPS agenda within the Lebanese framework. It is based on the Localization of WPS strategy pioneered by the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders,¹ which has been recognized as the best practice nine times by the United Nations Secretary-General in his reports to the Security Council. It also considers the other 9 complementary resolutions on WPS and the role of the parliamentarians and government officials in their implementation, guidance from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on engaging religious leaders in advancing the WPS Agenda² and guidance from the Geneva Center for Security Sector Governance on implementing the WPS Resolutions in Security Sector Reform.³

This guide is addressed to government officials, parliamentarians, representatives of civil society institutions, municipalities, political parties, youth groups, local authorities, religious and traditional leaders, and all other relevant community leaders to urge them to develop local strategies to localize and implement UNSCR 1325. This document serves as a practical tool to assist in this process.

¹ Cabrera-Balleza, M. and Fal Dutra Santos, A. (2018). From Best Practice to Standard Practice: A toolkit on the Localization of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Global Network of Women Peacebuilders. https://gnwp.org/wp-content/uploads/BestPractice_5march2019_NoCropMk-1.pdf

² UN ESCWA (2021). Engaging Religious Leaders in Advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. <https://www.unescwa.org/publications/engaging-religious-leaders-advancing-women-peace-security-agenda>

³ Bastick, M. and de Torres, D. (2010). Implementing the Women, Peace and Security Resolutions in Security Sector Reform (Tool 13). Geneva Center for Security Sector Governance. <https://www.dcaf.ch/implementing-women-peace-and-security-resolutions-security-sector-reform-tool-13>

Introduction

UNSCR 1325 and its 9 subsequent resolutions⁴ are the bedrock of the WPS Agenda, which aims to recognize the disproportionate and differential impact of conflicts and crises on women and girls, ensure gender-sensitive responses to conflicts, and encourage women's participation in all matters related to peace and security. The WPS agenda has roots in international human rights law, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and General Recommendation No. 30 on the status of women in the context of conflict prevention and in conflict and post-conflict situations. Additionally, as stated in Article 25 of the UN Charter, decisions taken by the Security Council are binding upon UN member states.⁵ Thus, members of the UN are obligated to implement the 10 thematic WPS resolutions. The resolutions additionally refer to other relevant international frameworks, including the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations.

The 4 Pillars of the WPS Agenda

UNSCR 1325 and the WPS agenda at large are based on four main pillars: Participation, Protection, Prevention, and Relief and Recovery.

Participation

The participation pillar calls for the inclusion of women and girls and their interests in the decision-making processes, including within the UN system, political processes, conflict-resolution, peacebuilding and the security sector. It is necessary to stress that participation is pivotal at all stages, not only during conflicts (i.e. before and during conflicts and during post-conflict reconstruction) and at all levels (international, national and local). Without women's inclusion in decision-making processes, a gender-sensitive perspective that includes the unique needs of women is often not integrated into policies, peace agreements and other public decisions.

Protection

The protection pillar focuses on ensuring the physical and mental safety of women and girls, especially their freedom from sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), respecting their human rights, ensuring the alignment of local legislation related to the protection of women and girls with international conventions and standards, and providing women and girls with access to justice. The updated United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) strategy on SGBV is one example of a strategy updated following the introduction of the UNSCR 1325. The strategy now includes special actions in three institutional focus areas: collecting, documenting and analyzing data related to sexual and gender-based violence; strengthening the management of related programs through investing in capacity building and expertise; and strengthening partnership and coordination with UN agencies, governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in order to enhance prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in order to deliver effective services.

⁴ The 9 subsequent resolutions on WPS are 1820 (2008), 1888 (2008), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013), 2242 (2015), 2467 (2019), and 2493 (2019).

⁵ United Nations (1945). Charter of the United Nations. 1 UNTS XVI.
<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-5>

Prevention

This pillar covers the obligations of states to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls on the basis of gender, to monitor violations of the rights of women and girls, to hold perpetrators of violence against women accountable in accordance with international standards, and to establish “early warning” systems with the aim of developing prevention mechanisms and procedures to prevent conflicts. This includes supporting local women’s peacebuilding and conflict-resolution initiatives.

Relief and Recovery

Conflict and crises often exacerbate violence against women. Thus, the relief and recovery pillar focuses on addressing the needs of women and girls, especially marginalized groups, within the framework of relief operations, including humanitarian relief, transitional justice processes, and reconciliation and post-conflict reconstruction. This includes an emphasis on gender-sensitive humanitarian aid and relief programs in refugee and IDP camps.

The relationship of Security Council Resolution 1325 to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, CEDAW and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda:

The Beijing Declaration and Platforms for Action and UNSCR 1325:

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was adopted at the Fourth International Conference on Women in Beijing in October 1995. It affirms the basic principle that women’s basic human rights and the rights of the girl child are fixed and fundamental rights that cannot be separated from universal human rights.⁶ This platform also focuses on the fact that women around the world share common concerns and that these needs can be addressed through partnerships with men to reach the main objective of gender equality.⁷

The Beijing Declaration is a tool for gender equality that advocates for a joint plan of action in the context of peace and security. In particular, it addresses the situation of women in armed conflict and the important role they can play in the peace processes. It identified six strategic objectives related to women and conflict, each of which includes a set of actions that national governments and organizations should take. The strategic objectives include:

1. Increasing the participation of women in conflict resolution and decision-making and protecting women who live under conditions of conflict or foreign occupation;
2. Reducing excessive military expenditures and limiting arms proliferation;
3. Encouraging non-violent forms of conflict resolution and reducing human rights violations in conflict situations;
4. Encouraging the active participation of women in spreading the culture of peace in its various forms;
5. Ensuring the protection, assistance and training of refugee and internally displaced women in need of international protection; and

⁶United Nations. (1995). Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China. <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>

⁷ Ibid

6. Protecting, assisting and empowering women in non-self-governing territories.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and UNSCR 1325:

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, adopted in New York in 2015, included seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets on a variety of topics the international community needs to address.⁸ These include eradicating poverty, achieving food security, providing clean water, achieving gender equality and protecting the environment. In particular, SDG 5 on Gender Equality and SDG 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions are central to the WPS agenda. Under the plan, nations agreed that the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women is not only a basic human right, but is a "decisive factor" in accelerating development and achieving peace in the coming years.

The 2030 Development Agenda encourages countries to conduct regular national reviews to measure progress toward achieving their objectives. While the 2030 Agenda is an important step for the international community in cooperation towards achieving many goals that the WPS agenda also outlines, the 2030 Agenda is not internationally binding. Thus, states are not obligated to carry out its implementation. However, countries are still expected to create national frameworks to implement the 17 goals by 2030.

CEDAW and Resolution 1325:

CEDAW was the first international treaty dedicated to the rights of women. In 2013, the CEDAW Committee adopted General Recommendation (GR) No. 30 on the situation of women in conflict prevention contexts and in conflict and post-conflict situations. The Committee emphasized the need to protect the human rights of women at all times, promote substantive gender equality before, during and after conflict, and ensure the full inclusion of women's diverse experiences in all peace-making, peacebuilding and reconstruction processes.⁹ Specifically, GR 30 linked the peace and security agenda to the international obligations and rights ensured under CEDAW and provides guidance for the integration of gender-sensitive measures to peace and conflict systems.¹⁰ The Committee also notes that all areas of concern dealt with by Security Council resolutions on WPS have a direct relationship to the substantive provisions of CEDAW. It recommends that National Action Plans (NAPs) and other strategies to implement UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions are compatible with the Convention and that states should allocate sufficient budgets for the implementation of the resolutions.¹¹ Furthermore, GR 30 obliges state parties to report on the implementation of the WPS resolutions in their required reports to CEDAW.

⁸ United Nations General Assembly (2015). Transforming Our World: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. A/RES/70/1. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N15/291/89/PDF/N1529189.pdf?OpenElement>

⁹ Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (October 2013). General recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations. CEDAW/C/GC/30. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/HRBodies/CEDAW/GComments/CEDAW.C.CG.30.pdf>

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Ibid

Chapter 1: WPS in the Lebanese Context

Challenges to Peace and Security in Lebanon

The COVID-19 pandemic and the severe economic meltdown are the two crises most heavily prevailing in Lebanon. Lockdown measures have exacerbated the economic crisis, resulting in a significant increase in unpaid care work for women and incidents of SGBV. Preliminary data from the International Labour Organization indicated that women in Lebanon experienced layoffs and dropouts of the labor market at higher rates than men as a result of the pandemic, and often were forced to move into unpaid care work.¹² The pandemic has also led to the closure of schools in all regions, leading to a loss of educational opportunities for more than one million girls and boys, and an increase in unpaid care work for women.¹³

Addressing these challenges requires exceptional institutional reforms in Lebanon. Lebanon's government has been in a state of paralysis for years thanks to a gridlocked parliament and inability to agree on a cabinet.¹⁴ Then, in October 2022, Lebanon's president Michael Aoun left office with no replacement, resulting in a power vacuum that has worsened the ongoing economic disaster.¹⁵ Comprehensive efforts are required to address issues related to governance, corruption, and inequality. To achieve this objective, the National Action Plan (NAP), discussed in detail in the following section, provides an important framework for action. It prioritizes the gender-related needs of women and girls in times of crises, epidemics, and conflicts. It calls for increased participation of women in response and recovery planning efforts and includes government commitment to ensuring that gender sensitivity is integrated into crisis and recovery plans at the national and local levels.

In light of the dire crises that have raged in Lebanon, all concerned national authorities, government institutions and civil society organizations need to increase support for social stability and peace and security efforts. Women must be equal partners in decision-making processes and in resolving the greatest challenges in the country.

Official WPS Frameworks in Lebanon

The Lebanese Constitution, enacted on 23 May 1926, and its subsequent amendments include provisions defining the rights and duties of Lebanese citizens. Later an introduction was added to the document according to the constitutional amendment issued in 1989, which stipulated in Clause B that "Lebanon is Arab in identity and affiliation, and it is a founding and active member of the League of Arab States and is committed to its charters, just as it is a founding and active member of the United Nations and is committed to its charters and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The state embodies these principles in all fields and areas without exception."¹⁶

¹² International Labour Organization and UNICEF. (2021). Synthesis of the crisis impact on the Lebanese labour market and potential business, employment and training opportunities.

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/publication/wcms_848390.pdf

¹³ Save the Children (2023). One million children left without education in Lebanon after public schools shut their doors. <https://www.savethechildren.net/news/one-million-children-left-without-education-lebanon-after-public-schools-shut-their-doors>

¹⁴ Chehayeb, K. (2021). 'Little hope left': Lebanon's paralysis in a collapsing state. Al Jazeera.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/24/little-hope-left-lebanons-paralysis-and-a-collapsing-state>

¹⁵ Bassem, M. and Sewell, A. (October 2022). Lebanon's president leaves with no replacement amid political, economic crisis. PBS.

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/lebanons-president-leaves-with-no-replacement-amid-political-economic-crisis>

¹⁶ Government of Lebanon. (1926). The Lebanese Constitution: Promulgated May 23 1926 with its Amendments (1995). <http://www.presidency.gov.lb/English/LebaneseSystem/Documents/Lebanese%20Constitution.pdf>

Clause C of the introduction to the constitution stipulates that “Lebanon is a parliamentary democratic republic, based on respect for public rights and freedoms, foremost of which is freedom of opinion and belief, and on social justice and equality in rights and duties among all citizens without any distinction or preference.”¹⁷

In compliance with GR 30 and a specific recommendation issued by the CEDAW Committee to Lebanon in 2015, the government of Lebanon mandated the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW) to develop a WPS NAP. In 2017, the NCLW established a steering committee to draft the plan, which included a number of ministries, UN agencies and civil society organizations.¹⁸ The NAP was developed through a consultative approach and includes a costing and budgeting framework. Its activities aim to carry out the four pillars of the WPS agenda at the national level, as well as an additional fifth pillar added in the NAP on “Normative Frameworks.”

The Lebanese government adopted the WPS NAP on 12 September 2019. The NAP’s five strategic objectives are as follows:

Women's participation in decision-making at all levels:

One of the priorities of the NAP is to increase women's participation and representation in local and national governance structures, and to take appropriate measures to increase their participation in the security and defense sectors. The plan notes the important role of women in conflict prevention, peace mediation and negotiation processes, as well as overcoming obstacles to their participation in order to create a national environment that consistently allows women’s involvement in achieving sustainable peace. Some of the outputs of this objective include:

- Increasing women's representation and participation in the defense and security sectors by 1% annually;
- Increasing women's participation and leadership in political and public life at the local and national levels, and strengthening institutions that take into account gender considerations;
- Increasing women's participation in the economic sector through policy reform and provision of an enabling environment, such as decent working conditions and protection measures for women in both the public and private sectors; and
- Increasing the participation of women in national dialogues, peace negotiations and peace mediation to promote dialogue and ensure that a gender perspective is taken into account.

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ The steering committee members included: six government bodies (the former Office of the Minister of State for Women’s Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Social Affairs), three civil society organizations (ABAAD, FiftyFifty, and the Arab Institute for Women at the Lebanese American University), and six UN agencies (UN Women as the General Secretariat, UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)).

Prevention of conflict:

This objective highlights the need to work to strengthen the role of women in conflict prevention, in reducing tensions at the national and local levels, in preventing violent extremism and in implementing early warning response systems. Some of the outputs of this objective include:

- Raising awareness and increasing the capacities of relevant stakeholders on the role of women in peacebuilding and conflict resolution
- Increasing the number of female police officers, and increasing trust between law enforcement officials and local communities through coordination and cooperation between the two parties;
- Developing gender-sensitive early warning systems;
- Preventing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons; and
- Developing gender-sensitive human rights and peace education curriculum in universities and schools, including within refugee communities.

Preventing and protecting women and girls from gender-based violence:

The objective focuses on protecting women and children from SGBV, discrimination, abuse and exploitative practices, including human trafficking. This includes the adoption of laws to protect all women and children to ensure access to multisectoral services, including shelters, access to redress and healthcare. Some of the outputs of this objective include:

- Creating an institutionalized protection system for survivors of SGBV and increasing state institutional capacities to protect women and girls from violence, including through the expansion of a SGBV hotline;
- Developing unified national definitions and indicators of violence against women;
- Improving the capacities of the justice, security and health sectors; and
- Increasing national awareness on SGBV through media, community outreach and work with the religious sector.

Relief and recovery:

This objective expresses the government's commitment to better respond to the needs of women and girls in relief and recovery efforts related to natural disasters and conflicts. Some of the outputs of this objective include:

- Increasing the percentage of women participating in the planning and caring out of relief and recovery operations, including humanitarian aid; and
- Protecting the rights of refugee women and enhancing their access to economic opportunities in displaced/host communities.

Normative frameworks:

This objective includes amending laws, legislation and policies that discriminate against women and girls, and providing the necessary means of implementation. The laws noted to amend or create include:

- Amending the law to protect women and other family members from domestic violence (Law No. 293 of 2014);
- Amending the law on human trafficking (Law No. 164 of 2011);

- Amending the Labour Law to provide better protection for working women;
- Amending the Social Security Law to provide better protection for women;
- Amending the Nationality Law that grants Lebanese women equal rights to grant citizenship to their children;
- Issuing and implementing the decision on compulsory education for young men and women up to the age of 16;
- Amending the provisions of the law related to unregistered individuals;
- Adopting a law on sexual harassment in the workplace and in the public sphere;
- Adopting a law to protect minors from early marriage; and
- Adopting electoral laws to increase women's representation in national and local government.

On 30 December 2020, the parliament adopted law NB 204, amending articles in the law to better protect women and other family members from domestic violence. Additionally, the parliament adopted Law 205 to criminalize sexual harassment and provide for the rehabilitation of victims and survivors.

Chapter 2: Implementation through localization of Resolution 1325 and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

Objectives of implementation through localization

The overall objective of the Implementation of the Localization of UNSCR 1325 is to improve the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda at the local level. Localization is a people-based strategy, operating on the basis that local ownership and participation drive policy-making and ensure policies' effective implementation.

The Localization of UNSCR 1325 also responds to a key question: how UNSCR 1325 can be implemented in local communities affected by conflict, directly or indirectly, and also among societies that have not witnessed armed conflict.

National Action Plans are important for the national-level implementation of UNSCR 1325. The Localization process, however, makes the WPS agenda (and peacebuilding broadly) more real and concrete. As of March 2023, 104 NAPs have been developed at the national level. Not all of these plans are actually implemented in ways that address the needs of local communities or involve them in their implementation. In many cases, actors at the local level are unfamiliar with, or unaware of the presence of NAPs. This is why local-level implementation tools, including local action plans (LAPs) matter. Local action plans address the priorities and needs of local communities, and in some cases, include goals from the national-level plan, tailoring them to the local area. Concrete actions for the local implementation of UNSCR 1325 can also be included in local legislation, or integrated into local-level development plans.

The outputs of the Localization Strategy are:

- (1) Local action plans, or an equivalent;
- (2) Development of laws or local ordinances on gender and conflict sensitivity; and
- (3) Integration of gender provisions and conflict-sensitivity in local development plans.

Some country contexts and local areas have taken a mixed approach by opting for several of the three outputs.

The main specific objectives of the Localization Strategy include:

- Enhancing the understanding of, and raising awareness about UNSCR 1325 and the following WPS resolutions, among local authorities, traditional leaders, local women leaders, youth leaders, the local community, and cultural leaders;
- Helping to identify and respond to local priorities and concerns with regard to WPS;
- Developing clear mechanisms and policies to allow for, and enhance, the implementation of the WPS agenda at the local level;
- Strengthening local leadership and ownership, as well as commitment to implementing the WPS agenda by strengthening and building local capacities to hold the government, the United Nations, regional organizations, donors, development partners and local leaders accountable to their commitments to implementing the WPS agenda; and
- Improving coordination and cooperation among the various national and local sectors, civil society, local leaders, the United Nations, regional organizations, donors, development partners and others responsible for the implementation of the WPS agenda.

The theory of change and components of implementation through Localization

Implementation through Localization of UNSCR 1325 adopts a theory of change based on three components.

I. Attracting and integrating local actors

If local authorities, local civil society organisations and women-led organisations, and other relevant local stakeholders coordinate, cooperate and partner with one another, in order to analyse WPS-related decisions and if available, the NAP, in order to identify and discuss WPS issues affecting their communities,

Then,

- Local stakeholders will gain greater awareness and understanding of WPS decisions;
- Local stakeholders will be committed to the implementation process;
- Local stakeholders will increase their ability to hold local and national officials accountable; and
- Local stakeholders will work together to implement decisions related to the WPS agenda.

II. Developing local laws and policies for implementation

If local action plans and other local implementation documents are drafted, or WPS provisions are included in local development plans,

Then,

- Local stakeholders will have powerful legal and political tools to guide their efforts, including the efforts of their organisations, to implement WPS decisions; and
- Civil society will have tools to hold accountable those committed to the local implementation of WPS.

III. Ensuring sustainability (which necessitates the presence of the first and second components)

If an implementation through Localization guide is developed for the local context, and experts are recruited and trained, so that they can train others and monitor the implementation of local action plans and other commitments,

Then,

- Local ownership of the initiative and local leadership will be established; and
- Regular coordination between the various sectors will be ensured.

Issue areas in the Localization of the Security Council Resolution 1325

A. Security sector reform

Security sector reform in the context of WPS considers how decisions related to WPS can be integrated into border security sector reform considerations, and how security sector considerations can be included in efforts to implement UNSCR 1325, including LAPs and other relevant documents. Steps to achieve this objective include:

- Integrating women in local-level security sector bodies and committees responsible for decisions related to WPS, including decisions related to security sector reform;
- Determining clear roles and responsibilities for women in the security sector in the implementation of LAPs or other relevant plans, and the oversight of the implementation process;
- Ensuring the effective and equal representation of women in the security sector, including in local-level conflict prevention and resolution efforts;
- Providing awareness, training and capacity building programs to local-level security sector bodies on WPS agenda and its implementation, including existing national and local implementation plans;
- Increasing the participation and representation of women in the security sector, especially in leadership and decision-making positions;
- Reviewing local level legislation and policies to ensure increased quantitative and qualitative representation and participation of women in the security sector;
- Enhancing the protection of women in the security sector from violence, especially sexual and gender-based violence, and ensuring that there is no impunity, and
- Strengthening local-level systems for handling complaints related to the security sector in a gender-responsive manner.

B. Participation of religious and traditional leaders

Traditional and religious leaders are a critical actor to engage for the effective implementation of the WPS agenda at all levels. Lebanon's NAP on WPS recognizes the role of these leaders, and includes several interventions to directly engage them. The inclusion and active participation of religious and traditional leaders is also critical for the Localization of UNSCR 1325. Steps to achieve this objective include:

- Raising the awareness of traditional and religious leaders about the benefits of the implementation of WPS policies in the society, with the aims of encouraging modifications to their religious discourse, and advocating for protection, prevention, participation, relief and recovery efforts.
- **Prevention:** Encouraging religious leaders to use their platforms to ease tensions between communities and use their messages as a strategic communication tool to prevent violence against women, or build bridges between communities.
- **Protection:** Supporting traditional and religious leaders in playing a positive role in addressing harmful social norms and in denouncing the stigma surrounding sexual and gender-based violence in families, communities, and institutions through their roles at the local level.
- **Participation:** Supporting traditional and religious leaders to create spaces for marginalised voices, and support the advancement of women in religious institutions as informal religious leaders.
- **Relief and Recovery:** Collaborating with traditional and religious leaders to develop early warning systems, direct sustainable relief and recovery efforts, and provide relief and recovery aid. Religious leaders are deeply integrated into their communities and religious groups, which gives them important insight into early warning indicators of conflict and how their communities, particularly women, are affected by trauma and conflict.

C. Women's political participation

Women's political empowerment with the aim of improving women's political participation is another key component in the implementation of the WPS agenda. Efforts to improve women's political participation can also be implemented at the local level, including through local-level governments and councils. Steps to achieve this objective include:

- Creating initiatives for women's political empowerment through removing obstacles that prevent women from exercising their political rights, including a lack of economic resources, conservative and traditional social forces, difficulties of obtaining information and accessing the media, and the existence of complex legal frameworks that restrict the active political participation of women;
- Encouraging and supporting the adoption of gender mainstreaming strategies that effectively contribute to the implementation and supervision of legislation and policies that address the needs and interests of both women and men; and
- Adopting quotas or other temporary mechanisms or procedures aimed at allocating seats for women's representation in elected councils in order to address historical inequality and discrimination against women in political life.
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Chapter 3: Localization Mechanisms

Organizing workshops on the Localization of UNSCR 1325 and the WPS agenda

Localization workshops are a critical step in ensuring local ownership and implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the NAP WPS. These two- to three-day workshops involve roundtable discussions and presentations on the WPS agenda, the Localization of WPS strategy and its relevance to the local context. Engagement with key stakeholders and local actors involved in the implementation of the WPS resolutions is an integral component of Localization workshops. Mayors, council members, community leaders, local leaders, religious and traditional leaders,

women leaders, youth leaders, teachers, members of the security sector and representatives of marginalized groups are often invited to participate in the workshops.

This aspect of the Localization process involves the following phases:

First, workshops should be hosted that utilize interactive sessions to address local challenges.

These workshops should:

- Explain core concepts, such as gender justice; women, peace and security; human security; and the relationship between good governance, sustainable development, peace and security (called the “good governance cycle”).
- Present UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its supporting resolutions and the National Action Plan. This also involves conducting a conflict analysis to identify aspects of the NAP that are most relevant to the local context and making specific commitments to implement UNSCR 1325 locally.
- Establish a Local Steering Committee in each region or local area where these sessions are held. The Local Steering Committees are made up of local government and civil society representatives with the aim of collaborating on the continued implementation of Localization of WPS efforts. This may include collective advocacy efforts and the drafting of local policies or resolutions, local action plans (LAPs) and local development plans (LDPs).

Second, a writing workshop (“writeshop”) should be held to develop a Local Action Plan on the Localization of WPS resolutions.

Localization “writeshops” are typically held after Localization workshops. These writeshops convene 10-12 key actors from the Localization workshops and involve reviewing existing local policies, discussing the integration of the WPS agenda in these policies and drafting Local Action Plans (LAPs) or SMART (Specific, Measurable, Actionable, Relevant and Time-bound) policies that consider a gender and conflict perspective. LAPs are locally owned and developed plans for implementation of the WPS agenda that are specific to the context on the ground. In the Lebanese context, another outcome of Localization writeshops may be the integration of gender-sensitive language into existing local development plans. The writeshops and overall drafting processes should be co-facilitated by experts with experience in local government, local development planning and budgeting, and local legislative processes.

This phase also includes holding additional stakeholder engagement meetings, such as with municipal councils and media practitioners. Involvement of the media is a key component of successful Localization and implementation of UNSCR 1325. Media workshops enhance the ability of journalists to offer gender- and conflict-sensitive reporting, ensure broader political participation and generate more support and commitment to gender equality and the WPS agenda. Individual or small meetings with key actors and authorities prior to the workshop are also encouraged to provide background information about the WPS agenda and Localization of WPS strategy, mobilize support and secure attendance at future workshops.

Third, measures to ensure sustainability should be implemented, in collaboration with local actors.

- Developing a context-specific Local Action Plan strategy to serve as a reference for Localization efforts throughout the country:
The Local Action Plan strategy is designed to assist local authorities in effectively incorporating WPS provisions into local development plans and other relevant local policies. LAPs are documents that can be drafted by non-government actors and then utilized for advocacy to local government officials. Additionally, civil society and other local actors can implement the LAP while continuing advocacy efforts for official adoption by local authorities.

In Lebanon, the municipalities of Alay and Shouf are working to implement Localization of WPS by developing two LAPs. To advance this process, the Local Steering Committee for the area has held several meetings and workshops to analyze the needs of each region through a gender- and conflict-sensitive lens. The LAPs, which were finalized at the end of January 2023, focus on SGBV, women's political participation, care for elderly populations, food security, education, environment and climate change. The Local Steering Committee has also prioritized collaboration with local civil society organizations to develop and implement monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the plans. Key lessons that have emerged include the importance of building trust, particularly between local civil society, governance, religious leaders and the security sector, and ensuring local ownership of the LAP through a bottom-up drafting process.

- Conducting Training of Trainers (ToT) to build the capacity of Localization experts and advance implementation:
This two- to three-day ToT workshop convenes local implementers from different regions, municipalities, districts and villages. The aim of the training is to enhance the expertise of key civil society actors, local authorities and other local leaders involved in decision-making on WPS issues. After the ToT, participants form a national team of experts who will utilize their knowledge to conduct follow-up Localization workshops throughout the country. They also provide technical support in formulating concrete strategies to ensure the implementation of LAPs, local development plans, and other local laws and policies.

In December 2022, Justice Without Frontiers, in partnership with GNWP, held a ToT on the Localization of WPS. This activity included presentations on UNSCR 1325 and complementary resolutions, the NAP WPS, the role of media in implementation, as well as the phases and processes of the Localization of WPS strategy. Representatives of the Internal Security Forces, General Security, the Lebanese army, lawyers, political party members, gender focal points of ministries, media practitioners, women's and youth organizations, as well as representatives of several municipalities participated in the training.

This training followed a two-day Localization workshop organized by Justice Without Frontiers. During this workshop, participants developed a road map detailing goals and activities, timelines, target groups, role distributions, and financing and evaluation plans for the proposed Localization strategy.

Fourth, implementation of the WPS agenda must have adequate and sustained financing.

One of the main challenges local and national actors face in implementing the WPS agenda, including through Localization efforts, is the lack of adequate, long-term and predictable funding. Financing for WPS implementation often focuses primarily on the development and adoption of National Action Plans, failing to allocate sufficient resources for effective and continued implementation. Recommended options to address this barrier include:

- Ensure the NAP is accurately costed and budgeted by experts with gender budgeting experience, and that adequate resources for implementation through Localization are included.
- Local strategies for the implementation and Localization should effectively incorporate realistic timelines, funding requirements, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. These factors should also be taken into consideration during budget development.
- Identify resources available at the local level, national and international level. When possible, seek funding from external sources, such as international donors and the private sector.

Fifth, Localization implementation should be documented through strong monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

Monitoring and evaluation is a critical process for measuring outputs of implementation and assessing the effectiveness of activities and approaches. It also helps ensure documentation of successes and lessons learned, helps to generate funding and guides implementers in the development of programming, strategies and policies. Donors, as well as national and local governments, are keen to promote and replicate tangible results backed by evidence to demonstrate the impact of Localization.