The pandemic will not stop us: The impact of COVID-19 on women’s peace activism in Colombia, the Philippines, South Sudan and Ukraine

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Methodological Statement

The Center for Global Affairs of the School of Professional Studies (CGA) at New York University and the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) have partnered to create a research-based practicum project for NYU students.

During the Fall of 2020, four graduate students from the Master’s in Global Affairs program at CGA under the guidance of Prof. Anne-Marie Goetz, worked to address research questions that emerged from GNWP’s work and research on the impact of COVID-19 on the means of building the effectiveness and influence of women peace-builders in conflict resolution and long-term peacebuilding. The students investigated the impact of COVID-19 on the work of women peacebuilders and peace organizations, with a focus on modalities of women’s peace activism, the shift of activism to online platforms (digital divide), changes in women’s time-use and employment (labor shifts), and violence against women. GNWP recommended four conflict regions for analysis: Colombia, Philippines (the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao), South Sudan, Ukraine.

The students used the following qualitative methods for the research:

- Desk review of available literature in the form of academic analysis and recent media accounts;
- Analysis of peace agreements;
- In-depth interviews with a purposive sample of interviewees

The interviewees were selected through: a list of local partners and contacts provided by GNWP in the four countries; students’ independent identification of prominent women peacebuilders in the countries; and additional contacts introduced through interviewees. Of the 24 interviews, 5 of the interviewees were from Colombia, 4 from the BARMM region of the Philippines, 7 from South Sudan, and 8 from Ukraine. The questions for the interviews were workshopped through pilot interviews and adapted for each interviewee, based on their position and field of expertise. Additionally, the questions were sent to the interviewees before the interviews and translated when necessary.

All interviews were recorded with the consent of the interviewees, ensuring confidentiality. Some interviews were conducted with a translator either provided by the interviewees themselves, GNWP, or the students. Recorded interviews were transcribed either using an online transcription service or manually by the students and/or translators. All interviews that were quoted or cited in the findings were coded to preserve anonymity in the following form: [Interviewee # designated by the students], [month/year of interview], [Occupation of interviewee: women peace activist, academic, journalist, government official, etc.], [Country initial].
After analysis of data from conducted interviews and qualitative desk research, respective country briefing notes were compiled and the findings are presented in this report.

Given the limited number of informants, the case study briefing notes below provide an impressionistic initial analyses of the impact of COVID-19 on women's peace activism in conflict regions – the number of informants was small. Further research will be needed to determine how widely shared are the challenges that were identified are shared.

Risks and Threats

Due to the sensitive nature of conversations, answers from the interviewers may have been self-censored. The participants were tentative and guarded in their statements due to the risk of retributions.
Country: Colombia

Dates of Armed Conflict: 1964-2016 (conflict with the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces; conflict with other armed groups is still ongoing)
Date of Signed Peace Agreement: November 24, 2016
Peace Agreement: Final Agreement to End the Armed Conflict and Build a Stable and Lasting Peace

I. Pre-Pandemic Gender-Specific Peace Priorities

In the months prior to the pandemic, street protests in Colombia were attracting international attention. Thousands of Colombians across the country participated in some of the largest anti-government protests that Colombia has seen in years.¹ Protests that were sparked by proposed cuts to pensions, also expressed popular frustrations about the undelivered promises of the 2016 peace deal between the Colombian Government and with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

"November, December, January, my god this country was insane there was protests, marches, riots, you name it. There was a lot of attention here. But then suddenly it was stopped. And if someone were to do something outdoors and protest, military [would respond], immediately, the strategy was to use the military to deal with a health issue." (Woman peace advocate, Colombia, October 2020)²

Among the list of grievances fueling the demand for government accountability for the implementation of the peace agreement were delays in implementing gender-specific peace priorities. Interviewees mentioned some of these as: land rights, women’s political participation, localizing UN Security Council resolution 1325, ending assassinations of human rights defenders, and reducing gender-based violence (GBV).

² Interviewee 4, 10/2020, Local Activist, C.
II. Impacts of the Pandemic

1. Women’s Peace Activism

"There is a stark difference in terms of women’s ability to participate in the decision-making spaces and opportunities for women to be heard before and after the outbreak of COVID. During COVID men are very much active and at the center, but before COVID women were being pretty active and at the center" (Woman peace advocate, Colombia, November 2020)⁴

a. Shift to Digital Space

The necessity of shifting from in-person to online work as a contagion prevention measure has made it very difficult for women to carry out their activism on women’s political participation, promoting women’s rights, and amplifying the voices of local women peacebuilders. Women interviewed for our research highlighted several new obstacles for women’s participation in the virtual spaces.

The obstacle that was mentioned most often was access to information and communications technologies (ICTs) and the knowledge necessary to use them. The World Wide Web foundation states that 84.1% of Colombians have access to the internet, with a 0.9% gender gap. When

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⁴ Interviewee 1, 11/2020, Local Activist, C.
considering meaningful connectivity – defined as regular internet access, access to an appropriate device, enough data, and a fast connection – the overall access decreases to 50.9% and the gender gap increases to about 16.9%. This leaves over 50% of women, many of them living in rural areas, without meaningful connectivity.

The challenges in accessing virtual spaces have had direct impacts on women’s peace activism. One interviewee from a women’s organization in rural Colombia reported losing 88% of the organization’s members because they either did not have access to ICTs, or they lived in a rural zone where service was interrupted or unavailable because of the mountainous topography of Colombia. For women’s organizations that were able to get access to ICTs, interviewees stated that this would not be enough because their members need knowledge on how to use online tools. This is consistent with a study of internet access that included Colombia, and which found that not having the digital skills was a top barrier to internet use.5

Even with the requisite knowledge, women peacebuilders reported that the shift to the digital world was weaponized by some people to question women’s competency. One informant mentioned that men assume women do not know how to operate digital platforms and therefore exclude them from meetings by enacting the ‘let us/me just handle it’ mentality.

Another obstacle reported was the loss of private spaces for women to communicate and interact. With lockdowns and quarantine measures, women peace activists’ conversations are not secure, with others in the house listening, obliging them to filter their participation.

Changes in donor funding patterns were also identified as an added obstacle for women organizations. A local women’s rights activist in a rural community in Colombia was only able to secure $1,000 U.S. dollars in funding between March and October 2020. This poses another challenge to virtual connectivity – since technology, internet access and digital training are expensive. The funds secured by the interviewee enabled her to retain connection with 10% of her members and resulted in staff cutbacks and a massive work burden for those who remain.

In this context, the interviewees highlighted the need for core funding and waivers on donor financial and other reporting requirements that make it hard for local women’s organizations to compete with big NGOs.

"Technology is a protagonist right now in the pandemic." (Woman peace advocate, Colombia, October 2020)⁶

b. Social Media and Accountability

Despite the new obstacles to women’s peace activism, many women’s organizations and activists in Colombia have reinvented their approaches to peacebuilding to keep their voices from being lost. One of the ways, in which women’s organizations have adapted is through a considerably stepped-up use of social media. Multiple interviewees reported using social media for virtual campaigns, member recruitment, support groups, and forming connections with other women and organizations to which they wouldn’t otherwise have access. The increase of social media use among both women’s organizations and the people of Colombia more broadly, was reported as an opportunity for raising broad-base awareness of the peace agreement and the progress in its implementation. According to the interviewees, prior to the pandemic people relied more on the traditional news media, but since the pandemic began, they have been increasingly using social media as a means of monitoring the government and the human rights violations in the country. Consistent with this, a recent study showed that in 2020, social media accounted for the same share of time that people spent finding news as TV or newspapers.⁷ Our interviewees mentioned that expanded social media usage has aided them in their work as human rights advocates. Women are sharing videos of human rights abuses, including domestic violence, and these posts are igniting demands for action.

"Changes that are happening now are more public. Cases have a lot of coverage, media coverage. Three, four years before, only women’s organizations [were] interested in these issues and advocated for these issues, but now, it has become more public." (Woman peace advocate, Colombia, October 2020)⁸

Women peacebuilders we interviewed unanimously asserted that online protests cannot replace face-to-face ones. However, it was described as a useful addition. Acknowledging that this form of protest is more exclusive, a woman located in a rural community who lost a majority of her members recognized that those women that were able to stay connected, attended meetings more

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⁶ Ibid.
⁸ Interviewee 4, 10/2020, Local Activist, C.
consistently because of less travel time. Many said that expanding digital skills and a transition to technology, though difficult, will be a useful tool for their work after the pandemic.

"People who are in charge of that response is like a very select group and there is no space for women and no women peacebuilders." (Woman peace advocate, Colombia, November 2020)9

c. Women's Inclusion in Formal Spaces

Women's meaningful participation in formal COVID-19 responses and peacebuilding spaces is currently low. Women peacebuilders reported that in spite of the 30% quota for women's inclusion in offices, including the COVID-19 Task Force where women hold 37.5% of the 14 positions,10 women are still relegated to marginal roles. However, one woman leader who has received attention for her strong COVID-19 response is the mayor of Bogotá, Claudia López. López has taken a strict approach to imposing COVID-19 prevention measures, sometimes in contrast to President Iván Duque.11

Gender Provisions of the Peace Deal

- 1.1.7 Land restitution: voluntary return of displaced men and women*
- 1.1.8 Mechanisms to resolve conflicts over possession and use of land, and to strengthen food production, including special training and legal advice for women regarding their rights and access to justice and land*
- 1.3.2.1 Under Comprehensive Rural Reform, healthcare services with an equity- and gender-based approach *
- 1.3.2.2 Special Rural Education Plan, to provide equity-based approach to universal pre-school, primary, and secondary education adapted to the needs of communities and the rural environment, including women’s sexual and reproductive health services*
- 2.3.7 Measures to guarantee balanced representation of men and women in shaping all forums*
- 3.4.1 Special emphasis on the protection of women, children and adolescents and measures to address the toll the conflict has taken on their lives, freedom, integrity and safety*

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9 Interviewee 1, 11/2020, Local Activist, C.
5.2 Government responsibility to promote, protect, respect and guarantee human rights, including economic, social, cultural and environmental rights, with an equity-based and gender-based approach. Must ensure the full realization of the human rights of women, children, adolescents, youths and the elderly, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, rural communities, members of churches, religious faiths, faith-based and religious organizations, the Afro-Colombian, black, palenquero and raizal communities, the LGBTI community, human rights advocates, trade unionists, journalists, farmers, ranchers, traders and businessmen and businesswomen*.

*Peace priorities before the pandemic. The list includes the gender provisions related to the issues raised by the interviewees. For a more extensive look at the gender provisions of the peace agreement please see Annex 2.

III. Women’s Work and Time for Activism

Gender and Women in COVID-19 responses in Colombia

Of 44 COVID-19 response policies, 20 pertained to women: 2 of 6 economic and fiscal policies, 3 of 10 labor market policies, 2 of 15 social protection polices, and all 13 COVID-related violence against women policies.

A collective ‘no’ resonated through all interviews when asked if women are involved in national or local COVID-19 responses. Informally, women are said to be on the frontlines, spearheading community care work. They have been central to ensuring the well-being and health of communities by delivering food, distributing COVID-19 kits, hand sanitizer, feminine hygiene and sexual and reproductive health products, and coordinating with the private sector and NGOs. Moreover, women work in occupations at the forefront of the pandemic such as nurses, doctors, and educators.

Data from October 2020 showed an increase of unemployment: 14.7%, from 9.8% in October 2019.12 Data also shows a widening gender gap in unemployment.13 Between September 2019 and September 2020, for every man that lost his job in Colombia, on average 2.2 women would lose theirs. The gender gap was greater in smaller cities, with 8 women losing their jobs for every man

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Participants in this study also reported that women with children often had to leave work in order to take care of the childcare and homeschooling duties, which increased as a result of COVID-19. The women that continue to work report an increase in unpaid work hours resulting in time poverty that is often compounded for women with husbands, children, and/or for those who are the financial head of the household.

"I don't remember before so many cancelations or postponing meetings, because, oh, you know, I broke down and I am ill… all the time, this wasn't done before. And I think for working women and working moms, it's been a lot, a lot, a lot of higher pressure and distress." (Woman peace advocate, Colombia, October 2020)\textsuperscript{15}


\textsuperscript{15} Interviewee 4, 10/2020, Local Activist, C.
Conflict-related violence since the pandemic outbreak

From March to November 2020 there have been:

- 67 Massacres in Colombia claiming the lives of 267 people.
- 218 Human right leaders killed (91 killed Cauca), 11 relatives or people related to social leaders and human rights leaders killed.
- 46 Former FARC members who signed the Peace Agreement killed.

Additionally, from March to August 2020: there were 243 femicides were reported.

Figure 1: Colombia Areas of Influence
Source: Al Jazeera, AFP, Colombia Report, February 2017

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The qualitative data we collected from the conversations with women peacebuilders suggests that not only has the peace activism of women been diverted or delayed, but peace in Colombia more broadly has been shaken.

"The violence has come back. So, there's a movement that carries the saying that we're about to go to war in Colombia." (Woman peace advocate, Colombia, October 2020)²¹

All interviewees mentioned an increase in incidents of violence perpetrated by armed groups in rural areas. According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), 11 out of Colombia’s 32 states harbor illegal armed groups. Many of these have taken charge of managing COVID-19 mitigation measures, including curfews, closures of roads, prohibitions of public events and meetings, closure of some businesses, and regulating operating hours for businesses and street food vendors.²² HRW reported that 5 of these groups have used violence as means of enforcing the mitigation measures, and 4 have threatened violence. As a result, a total of 9 reported civilians were killed and 11 injured by illegal armed groups in four states.²³ A National Liberation Army (ELN) pamphlet was distributed to a rural community, which declared that the ELN would be "forced to kill people in order to preserve lives" (HRW).²⁴ The women peacebuilders we interviewed also highlighted an increase in forced child recruitment to armed groups as a challenge that increased due to the pandemic. Between January and April 2020, the NGO COALICO registered 128 cases of child recruitment, more than double the number from all of 2019.²⁵ Data from the interviews also suggest that delayed implementation of the peace agreement has driven some former FARC to re-arm.

IV. Violence Against Women

“Don’t Assault Me, Don’t Touch Me, Respect Me” declares a flyer produced by the Collective of Women’s Organizations, produced as part of a virtual campaign against domestic violence and GBV that took place in Colombia in 2020. Violence against women has not been stopped or slowed by the pandemic; threats to women’s security persist and have been exacerbated in the context of lockdown.

²¹ Interviewee 3, 10/2020, Local Activist, C.
²² Interviewee 4, 10/2020, Local Activist, C.
Colombia has seen an increase of femicides, with the Femicide Observatory reporting the killings of 86 women and girls in the month of September 2020. This is an extremely alarming number, as it exceeds all monthly totals since the researchers began tracking killings in 2017. During our interviews, women peacebuilders reported an increase of women and youth being targeted for murder, along with the assassinations of women human rights leaders. Although there is no reliable data on the total number of women killed, the UN documented 95 murders of human rights leaders in the first 4 months of 2020. Most of this violence is reported to have taken place in more remote rural areas of Colombia.

"The rural areas are where all these things are happening because the absence of the government; with COVID happening, they are being even more forgotten." (Woman peace advocate, Colombia, October 2020)

Domestic violence has also been on the rise in Colombia. The volume of calls to “Linea Purpura" domestic violence hotline increased by 200% during the period of March to September 2020. The Instituto Nacional de Medicina Legal reported an increase in reported cases of domestic violence from 1,241 cases the first month to 1,859 cases the next month.

According to anecdotal evidence and the perceptions of women peacebuilders on the ground, barriers to addressing GBV include: limited channels for women to report abuse, including digital applications for women to report – especially in areas where it is difficult to reach the police due to movement restrictions – and lack of political will to bring perpetrators to justice. Movement restrictions have also limited the effectiveness of women-run initiatives to counter GBV. An interviewee from a women’s organization mentioned that pre-COVID, in-person sessions with women to build awareness about domestic violence resources were very well-attended. After the shift to virtual sessions, much fewer women attend; this is likely due to shame, surveillance from their partners, and fear of retribution.

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28 Interviewee 3, 10/2020, Local Activist, C.
30 Navegación. Ir a Instituto Nacional de Medicina Legal y Ciencias Forenses. https://www.medicinalegal.gov.co/
31 Interviewee 2, 10/2020, Local Activist, C.
"Listen, this is something that continues to happen, and the pandemic has worsened it and it’s showing how fragile our structures are for legislation and our structures to provide services for women are." (Woman peace advocate, Colombia, October 2020)\textsuperscript{32}

An interviewee from a women’s organization mentioned that pre-COVID-19 in-person sessions with women to build awareness about domestic violence resources were very active.\textsuperscript{33} After the shift to virtual sessions, rarely do these women attend; this is partly due to shame, surveillance from their partners, and fear of retribution.

\section*{V. Unexpected Findings}

1. Shift to digital spaces affecting food security

The United Nations World Food Programme (UNWFP) estimates that 10 million people could be at risk of food insecurity in Colombia, and 3 million are predicted to be severely insecure following the start of the pandemic.\textsuperscript{34} HRW warned that the COVID-19 measures imposed by armed groups further undermined access to food in communities living in poverty.\textsuperscript{35} The transition to virtual peacebuilding, specifically trainings with women, was said to have added to the food insecurity. One interviewee mentioned that food was always budgeted as part of training sessions, and providing lunch and/or dinner during trainings removed a barrier that women may face to meaningful participation.\textsuperscript{36} However, donors are no longer providing funds for food, putting women activists at a greater risk of food insecurity.

"The [food] priorities are so high that for those women sometimes that was the only food they had in the day or in the week. So now with this phone, [it] doesn’t resolve the issue for them." (Woman peace advocate, Colombia, October 2020)\textsuperscript{37}

2. Mental health impact on women peacebuilders

\textsuperscript{32} Interviewee 3, 10/2020, Local Activist, C.
\textsuperscript{33} Interviewee 2, 10/2020, Local Activist, C.
\textsuperscript{36} Interviewee 4, 10/2020, Local Activist, C.
\textsuperscript{37} Ibid.
Women peacebuilders are reporting an increase of pressure from both their families and the communities they serve. Women are working in communities that are suffering from broken promises, where no tangible progress can be seen, and where violence is returning. Women at the local level have high expectations of women activists and peacebuilders, expecting them to provide leadership in ensuring the implementation of the peace agreement. Almost all the interviewees mentioned fatigue or a need to access mental health services.

“I don’t know what to tell the women in the communities that don’t see these projects, don’t see education, don’t see anything that has been promised to them.” (Woman peace advocate, Colombia, November 2020)38

3. Unexpected opportunities for movement-building and organizing

All the women we interviewed agreed that a shift to virtual platforms provided those with access with a wider reach and an opportunity to connect to women in different regions and the international community. For one organization in rural Colombia, the members had already been discussing starting to use digital platforms prior to the pandemic, but the shift felt impossible.39 After the pandemic hit, the organization was pushed to make this seemingly impossible transition, and it did so swiftly. Another theme was an increase in creativity. An example of this is sharing videos about COVID-19 impact on local communities via WhatsApp, or using online platforms for developing sex education lessons for schools.

“So, it was like a relief to know that, despite what is happening people are still speaking openly. There’s been an increase in the killings of social leaders. But still, they insist.” (Woman peace advocate, Colombia, October 2020)40

38 Interviewee 2, 10/2020, Local Activist, C.
39 Interviewee 3, 10/2020, Local Activist, C.
40 Interviewee 5, 10/2020, Academic, C.
Country: The Philippines – Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)

Dates of Armed Conflict: 1970-2014 (conflict with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front; conflict with other armed groups is still ongoing)
Date of Signed Peace Agreement: March 27, 2014
Peace Agreement: Comprehensive Agreement on Bangsamoro - Bangsamoro Organic Law

I. Pre-Pandemic Gender-Specific Peace Priorities

Prior to COVID-19, two key components of the implementation of the peace agreement in the BARMM were the normalization and decommissioning process. ‘Normalization’ is understood as the process through which Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) ex-combatants were supported with socio-economic assistance to accelerate their return to society. The conversion of the MILF from a fighting force to a political party, and its participation in Bangsamoro Transitional Authority was also one of the essential parts of the peace efforts. Moreover, to enhance the capacity of the BARMM, eight intergovernmental bodies were established which were provided in Article IV of the Bangsamoro Organic Law: Philippine Congress-Bangsamoro Parliament Forum; Intergovernmental Fiscal Policy Board; Joint Body for the Zones of Joint Cooperation; Intergovernmental Infrastructure Development Board; Intergovernmental Energy Board; Bangsamoro Sustainable Board; and Council of Leaders. The Bangsamoro Transitional Authority (BTA) was mandated to set up the new BARMM governance system, and to draft the region’s Administrative, Local Government, Civil Service and Education codes.41 However, due to the delays that were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, so far only the Administrative Code has been finalized.

II. Impacts of the Pandemic

1. Women’s Peace Activism
   a. Changes in Substantive Focus

Most interviewees confirmed that the pandemic has slowed down the peace agreement implementation and transition process. The Administrative Code for the BARMM, which is crucial for its functioning as an effective public provider and regulator, was passed only in late October 2020.43 The Electoral Code for the new semi-autonomous region was still in preparation, as of November 2020. On November 3, 2020, the Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security was launched by the Bangsamoro Women Commission. The plan prioritizes the protection of women from violence and enhancing women’s political participation. However, the interviewees noted that legislation to promote women’s security and participation is significantly delayed.

Prior to the pandemic, advocacy for the legislative development to institutionalize the key provisions of the peace agreement was a key advocacy focus for women's peacebuilding organizations. Since the pandemic, they had to switch their focus to immediate COVID-19 responses. Women peace activists, for instance, are now taking roles in informing women about the prevention of the spread of the virus by disseminating info flyers. Many of them are also preparing gender-sensitive hygiene packages for internally displaced women.

"COVID-19 has hijacked the women's participation in the peace process, and the gender developments that are supposed to be done are delayed." (Woman peace advocate, BARMM, October 2020)

There are relatively few women in regional- and national-level COVID-19 Task Forces. Furthermore, the Bangsamoro Women's Commission was excluded from the regional COVID-19 task force, creating a risk that the lack of women's representation will result in exacerbating pre-existing gender inequalities.

b. Changes in Methods & Membership Outreach

Women's peacebuilding organizations have adopted new ways to continue their peacebuilding efforts during the pandemic. Digital platforms help women to communicate and plan. However, all of the interviewees mentioned technical and infrastructural obstacles that greatly limit online participation. Data reinforces what they said about internet access: only 45% of Filipinos are internet users, and as of September 2020, only 19% of them have their own computer. Overall, the internet use in Mindanao is considerably below other regions. 44 (Figure 2, see next page)

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Despite the challenges, women’s peace organizations continue reaching out to the communities, holding livestreamed events and workshops on women’s rights, and establishing emergency hotlines and mental health services. Social media has become an important advocacy tool, given that statistics show that almost all (98%) of adult internet users in the Philippines have a Facebook account,\(^45\) and most of them use it as their main means of communication as well as access to news. An academic in the Mindanao-based Peace Research Program\(^46\) observed in an interview that since the lockdown, Filipinos have been spending more time on social media. She pointed out that people mobilized quickly on social media to demand more PPEs for health care workers. Another interviewee suggested that heightened social media use has enabled people to be more vocal than before; they criticize the government openly online for its recent Anti-Terrorism Law.\(^47\) Shifting to online actions has provided a safer and lessened the risks and vulnerabilities of women peace activists on the ground. At the same time, interviewees noted that women experienced an increase in cyber threats.

\(^{c}\) Funding cuts for peacebuilding work

\(^{45}\) Ibid.
\(^{46}\) Interviewee 2, 10/2020, Academic, P.
\(^{47}\) Interviewee 4, 10/2020, Academic, P.
Ongoing normalization and decommissioning processes were negatively affected by the pandemic, as the Philippine Government has moved some funds away from the decommissioning process and to immediate COVID-19 response. As a result, the financial support and housing facilities for the ex-fighters are under threat.48 The shift of funds has also aggravated the delays in the normalization and decommissioning processes. The BARMM administration aims to decommission at least 40,000 fighters.49 However, as of March 2020, the decommissioning process was only completed for 12,000 MILF combatants. Of the decommissioned combatants, 98.29% or 11,795 were men, and 1.71% or 205 were women from the Bangsamoro Islamic Women’s’ Auxiliary Brigade (BIWAB).50

At the same time, one interviewee said that despite the critical funding cuts, the Bangsamoro Women Commission was able to receive funding during the pandemic from international donors, including UN Women Asia Foundation and Westminster Foundation for Democracy to support their work in advancing the implementation of the peace agreement.51

Gender Provisions of the Peace Deal

- Article IX, Sec.1, g & Sec 11.: Women’s meaningful participation in politics and governance & establishment of Bangsamoro Women Commission (women representatives for Bangsamoro Council of Leaders, 1 reserved seat for Sectoral Representatives, 1 seat for Bangsamoro Cabinet)
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- Article XIII, Sec.6: At least 5% of local government budgets is set aside for gender-sensitive programs
- Article XI Sec.13: Protection of women from all kinds of violence, exploitation, abuse, or discrimination and women’s engagement in lawful employment as embodied in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- Article XIII Sec.3: Special development programs and laws for women and reduction of vulnerability of women
  *
- Article XI, Sec. 17: At least fifty percent (50%) of the Bangsamoro auxiliary contingent shall be women

*Peace priorities before the pandemic. The list includes the gender provisions related to the issues raised by the interviewees. For a more extensive look at the gender provisions of the peace agreement please see Annex 2.

Gender and Women in COVID-19 responses in BARMM

Out of 18 major national COVID-19 responses, including economic stimulus packages and income support measures, only one of them was gender-sensitive.

BARMM Inter-agency Task Force against COVID-19 does not include the Bangsamoro Women Commission, which had to initiate a separate COVID-19 response program.

III. Work and Income

Across the Philippines, the unemployment rates skyrocketed in April 2020, after the introduction of the lockdown. 7.2 million people lost their jobs, resulting in an unemployment rate of 17.6% - three times the level from 2019. Women constituted the majority of the suddenly unemployed people at 65.8%, compared to men at 34.2%. In July 2020, the unemployment rate went down to 10% with the partial re-opening of the economy.

The BARMM had the highest unemployment rate within the Philippines, at 29.8% (Figure 3). Before the pandemic, women’s labor force participation rate in the BARMM was already low, at 26.6%. According to the interviewees, the majority of women were employed in small businesses (convenience or ‘sari sari’ stores), which were shut down due to the pandemic. The Social Security System mobilized $1.2 billion Philippine peso to cover unemployment benefits for unemployed men and women.

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53 Ibid.

54 Ibid.


workers in the Philippines. This covers unemployment insurance benefits for 30,000 to 60,000 workers projected to lose their jobs as a result of the possible layoffs in, or closures of, private companies hit by the economic crisis. However, many interviewees pointed out that this relief would not reach women employed in the informal economy. They also alleged that corruption in the financial aid system cuts into the amount of financial relief that reaches beneficiaries. Interviewees personally knew several women in the Inter-Agency task Force on COVID-19, but felt that the pandemic response was not gender-responsive.

On top of the massive job losses, repatriated unemployed Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) add another layer to the income crisis for low-income families. Over 40,000 out of the 2 million OFWs are from the BARMEM, and as of July 2020, 5,000 overseas workers returned to the BARM through The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) returning assistance program. Women workers constitute 56% of total OFWs, and most of the women OFWs are domestic.

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59 Philippines Statistic Authority. (June 4, 2020). Total Number of OFWs Estimated at 2.2 Million. Retrieved from: https://psa.gov.ph/content/total-number-ofws-estimated-22-million
61 Philippines Statistic Authority. (June 4, 2020). Total Number of OFWs Estimated at 2.2 Million. Retrieved from: https://psa.gov.ph/content/total-number-ofws-estimated-22-million
workers. Lack of technical skills limits their work options, and thousands of them are now seeking financial support from the government.62

Due to the traditional gender roles in the BARMM culture, women’s unpaid work at home has increased significantly during COVID-19. Interviewees mentioned that mothers are turning into *de facto* teachers because of school closures. Due to the unexpected surge in unpaid care work, women’s peace activism has slowed down, said an academic in the Peace Education & Research Program in Mindanao.

"The culture of silence is still prevailing here in the BARMM. [Women] are already experiencing physical violence. Most of them would not report. Philippine National Police presented the report on Violence Against Women; it doesn’t reflect the realities. Online sexual exploitation, especially of children, is not reflected in the report." (BARMM Government Official, November 2020)

IV. Violence Against Women and Girls

One in 4 married Filipino women aged 15-49 have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their husband or partner.63 All of the interviewees asserted there has been an increase in gender-based violence in the BARMM during the total of 8 weeks of enhanced quarantine from March to December 2020, despite the recent statistics released by the Philippine National Police that show a lower number of reported cases has decreased during the lockdown.64 The interviewees firmly rejected this data, and suggested that there has likely been a significant increase in underreported cases because quarantines, mobility restrictions, and wholesale lockdowns, which confined women with their perpetrators. Interviewees also believed GBV perpetrated by other actors is also likely to increase due to the pandemic. One interviewee mentioned a recent rape incident by a police officer.65

Conflict-related violence since the pandemic outbreak

- On May 4, ISIS-linked shooters killed two soldiers from the Joint Task Force Central (JTFC) at the Maguindanao quarantine checkpoint.66
- On May 26, mortar shelling Maguindanao killed two children. It is unclear who was behind the attack, but authorities suggest it is the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).67
- In North Cotabato, four women were killed with M16 rifles on October 10, 2020.68
- On July 3, 2020, President Duterte signed the Anti-Terrorism Act69, which gives significant surveillance and pre-emptive arrest and detention powers to the government.

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V. Unexpected Findings

1. Child marriage, Online Sexual Exploitation & Pornography

In addition to increasing rates of domestic violence, the pandemic is exposing women, girls, and children to new forms of violence – notably, online sexual exploitation. Interviewees reported isolated cases of children being coerced into paid participation in cyber pornography by their family members, due to COVID-19-related economic pressures. Another area of increased abuse mentioned by some interviewees is child marriage, which some suspect has or will increase owing to financial constraints and school closures.

2. Suicide & Mental Health

Two academics interviewed flagged the increased suicide rates among children and youth due to school closures and depression. The mental health issue was raised by almost all participants, some of whom had concluded that the lockdowns increase women’s unpaid care responsibilities and threatens their well-being.

3. Women in Conflict-affected Contexts

A BARMM government official noted that women in conflict-affected zones appear less worried about the COVID-19, and they refuse to follow prevention measures. They have more immediate and critical problems than the virus. Women in conflict zones demand peace, and the resumption of full implementation of the normalization process urgently.

4. Unexpected Opportunities

According to the interviewees, new approaches to peacebuilding have been adopted through digital communication amid the public health crisis. The lockdown measures in Marawi city, for instance, have significantly slowed the rate of recruitment to jihadist groups. The Communist rebels’ ceasefire across the country brought temporary peace.
Country: South Sudan

Dates of Armed Conflict: December 2013 – ongoing
Date of Signed Peace Agreement: September 12, 2018
Peace Agreement: Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS)

I. Pre-Pandemic Gender-Specific Peace Priorities

The main priorities of women peacebuilders and activists before the COVID-19 pandemic were the implementation of the peace agreement, especially the provisions on the 35% gender quota in government. Additional pre-pandemic priorities of women peacebuilders include preventing and addressing sexual- and gender-based violence. The months prior to the pandemic, women activists were especially mobilizing to conduct grassroots advocacy for gender equality in commemoration of the 25th anniversary for the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995.

COVID-19 Timeline in South Sudan70

March 15, 2020
Flights to affected countries suspended

March 25, 2020
Curfew initiated 8 PM-6 AM

April 28, 2020
Curfew extended to 7 PM-6 AM

May 19, 2020
New COVID-19 task force created

December 2020
Confirmed deaths: 62

March 20, 2020
COVID-19 High-Level Task Force created; schools closed; gatherings banned

April 6, 2020
First confirmed COVID-19 case

May 7, 2020
COVID-19 restriction measures partially lifted; resume regional flights; reopening of bars, markets, tea shops

October 5, 2020
Schools begin to reopen

II. Impacts of the Pandemic

1. Women’s Peace Activism
   a. Substantive Focus

Gender Provisions of the Peace Deal

- Articles 5.1.1: Gender quota of 35% in transitional justice institutions and in the Transitional National Legislative Assembly
- Articles 1.10.1, 2.4.8.4, 2.5.1.7, 5.1.1, 7.2.2: Gender quota for the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanisms, the Strategic Defense and Security Review Board, the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC)
- Articles 5.4.2.2 & 6.14: Effective participation of women civil society in the Compensation and Reparation Authority and National Constitutional Review Commission, respectively
- Articles 2.1.10.2 & 5.2.4.1: Protections for victims of all forms of sexual- and gender-based violence
- Article 4.15.1.5: Establishment of the Women’s Enterprise Fund

All the interview participants asserted that the government has so far denied women the platform and government seats that were included in the R-ARCSS, attributing this foot-dragging to a broader patriarchal culture of gender bias in South Sudan. Most of the interviewees felt that this exclusion of women from public decision-making has only worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is because the government has instrumentalized the urgency of the public health crisis as an excuse to delay implementation of the peace agreement, with particular attention to a worsened lack of political will to operationalize the 35% gender quota. A government official denied that the pandemic contributed to this delay, attributing the failure to implement the 35% gender quota to cultural and gender norms. One academic and woman peace activist spoke to the need to address the systemic barriers women face, such as access to quality, formal education and access to the relevant specialized knowledge and information, both of which she attributed to institutional and societal norms.\(^{71}\) She also stressed the importance of electing women representatives in government and authority positions who are able to “echo the actual needs and issues of the people on the ground.”\(^{72}\)

\(^{71}\) Interviewee 2, 11/2020, Academic and woman peace activist, SS.

\(^{72}\) Ibid.
“There are certain criteria that should be in women to represent all other women. I don’t think these criteria exists with every single woman that now occupies this position… just because they were there during the liberation movement, they’re now appointed ministers. Or women with secondary certificates and because their husbands are generals, they’re now entitled to be ministers.” (Woman peace advocate, South Sudan, November 2020)\textsuperscript{73}

One interviewee highlighted the proposed hybrid court for South Sudan\textsuperscript{74} as a particular priority of her organization as a mechanism for survivors of sexual- and gender-based violence to access justice and for war criminals to be held accountable for the crimes and atrocities committed during the conflict.\textsuperscript{75}

“…women and girls also are treated as second or sub-humans.” (Woman peace advocate, South Sudan, October 2020)\textsuperscript{76}

b. Logistics and Pause of Activities

Most women peace activists mentioned that their pre-pandemic activities, such as… have been put on hold, with operations now diverted to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, such as by providing personal protective equipment to both rural and urban communities. Multiple interviewees pointed to the rapid adaptation to various online social media platforms and radio programs to conduct advocacy and COVID-19 awareness campaigns in response to lockdown measures.

c. Operational Approaches

Women peace activists have shifted to the digital space, using platforms such as Zoom to conduct webinars, and social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook for messaging and outreach. This shift to digital space has had a negative impact on inclusion and diversity in terms of representation in peacebuilding and decision-making spaces. Interviewees noted a lack of digital access in rural areas especially due to extremely poor internet connectivity and cell phone service,

\textsuperscript{73} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{75} Interviewee 6, 10/2020, Woman peace activist, SS.
\textsuperscript{76} Ibid.
as well as lack of electricity in many areas. The consequence, according to one interviewee, is an increasing lack of diversity amongst those who join programming events or webinars.77

d. Organizational Security

Some interviewees noted the reallocation of organizational funding, especially from the government and international donors, to COVID-19-related activities, such as awareness campaigns. This has narrowed the range of activities and campaigns run by local women peace organizations. One interviewee said that funding constraints had undermined local interorganizational cooperation. Unpredictable funding, or cuts to funding, meant increased competition for scare funds – women’s peace groups had been more likely to “chip in” and provide assistance to other organization’s activities prior to the pandemic.78

III. Work and Income

Gender and Women in COVID-19 responses in South Sudan

- Both major national COVID-19 response policies are gender sensitive.
- The South Sudan Safety Net Project (SSSNP) – Cash transfer program aiming to support income security by targeting women and low-income households. Provides direct grants to those unable to work, including people with disabilities, the elderly, pregnant or breastfeeding women. Total budget: $40 million USD.79
- COVID-19 High-Level Task Force – Did not have any women representatives or any health professionals. Disbanded because all members contracted COVID-19 in May.
- National Task Force on COVID-19 – Includes three women officials.80 Established in May to replace the High-Level Task Force.

None of the interviewees mentioned the SSSNP when speaking about government remedies for women who had lost jobs and incomes. Indeed, some interviewees stated that no stimulus packages or government policies had been implemented to respond to the growing rate of women’s unemployment during the pandemic. One peacebuilder mentioned specific programs being

77 Interviewee 3, 10/2020, Woman peace activist, SS.
78 Interviewee 1, 10/2020, Woman peace activist, SS.
implemented by her organization in order to address income security, such as creating jobs by making personal protective equipment, including the targeting of women-owned businesses.

“Women, women-led groups, and also youth really took up the role of creating awareness, making sure that there are water washing points in different locations.” (Woman peace advocate, South Sudan, October 2020)\(^{81}\)

According to the women peace activists interviewed, the lack of a gender-sensitive lens in the COVID-19 response, in addition to the public’s lack of confidence about the COVID-19 task forces, has put the burden of COVID-19 awareness campaigns and response on local civil society leaders and organizations. The general consensus amongst those interviewed was that the COVID-19 response task forces, especially the High-Level Task Force assembled at the beginning of the pandemic, in March 2020, did not have adequate representation of women’s perspectives, and lacked awareness of the gendered impacts of the pandemic.

Most interviewees noted that the only woman official on the National Task Force on COVID-19 was the Minister of Health; yet, a government official noted that the Minister of Gender was also on the task force. A majority of the interviewees also expressed a lack of confidence in the COVID-19 task forces, especially because the High-Level Task Force members all contracted COVID-19 from the task force meetings.\(^{82}\) While most acknowledged that the second task force shifted in composition to include health professionals and experts, some still saw the task forces as being politicized and heavily male-dominated.

IV. Violence Against Women

All interviewees noted an increase in violence against women and girls, specifically cyber violence and domestic violence. The interviewees attributed this increase to lockdown measures and the shift to the digital space. They stated that women are forced to stay at home with their abusers, noting that in-person violence against women and children is typically committed by family members.

\(^{81}\) Ibid.

A rise in women’s unemployment was connected by interviewees to increased physical and mental abuse by husbands and male family members, as the ability to contribute to household income had been a form of protection for some women from abuse. Despite the rise in domestic violence, there is a lack of adequate recording of cases as interviewees expressed skepticism about the value of reporting to the police, leading to underreporting. As a result, activists rely on anecdotal evidence of increasing levels of violence to document and assess the situation.

Conflict-related violence since the pandemic outbreak

- 582 instances of violence since the first COVID-19 restriction measures were put in place March 15, 2020.  

- Most of the instances of recorded violence were clashes between ethnic groups, mainly the Nuer and Dinka.  

- Sexual violence – very few cases reported or recorded in official databases or media news outlets.

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84 Ibid.
85 Ibid.
"I think there’s a sense of perpetrators being emboldened because lack of accountability, lack of action…” (Woman peace advocate, South Sudan, October 2020)\textsuperscript{86}

According to several interviewees, South Sudanese activists continue to face threats and intimidation for speaking up regarding human rights violations during the pandemic. Interviewees feel that this issue is not being addressed by authorities.\textsuperscript{87} Many of the women peace activists noted an increase in cyber violence against women, especially against women peacebuilders, on social media platforms, such as Twitter and Facebook, where perpetrators use direct messages to threaten and harass women peacebuilders online.

Exacerbating the increased violence against women and girls during the pandemic are lockdown measures and resource constraints that limit the ways in which women’s rights organizations can provide supports to victims. Neither the central government nor local authorities had provided adequate support prior to the pandemic; services were described as now being nonexistent in the context of COVID-19. Although the government officially launched gender-based violence national hotlines, linking callers to service providers such as Family Protection Centers, only one of the seven interviewees mentioned these hotlines were a useful resources for women facing gender-based violence.

V. Unexpected Findings

1. Violence Against Children

Unsolicited observations from interviewees raised the alarm about an increase in violence against children due to the school closures and lockdown measures. A woman peace builder mentioned an increase in child abductions and revenge killings.\textsuperscript{88} Many have the impression there has been an increase in child marriages due to the growing economic insecurity, and possibly an increase in adolescent pregnancies during the pandemic.\textsuperscript{89} The interviewee also suggested that girls are subject to forced marriages in exchange for financial security for the parents.\textsuperscript{90}

\textsuperscript{86} Interviewee 1, 10/2020, Woman peace activist, SS.
\textsuperscript{87} Interviewee 7, 11/2020, Woman peace activist and legal professional, SS.
\textsuperscript{88} Interview 5, 11/2020, Woman peace activist, SS.
\textsuperscript{89} Ibid.
“Most times the culprits or the perpetrators are close family members…sometimes the schools become a social center or become an escape zone for young girls who escape violence.” (Woman peace advocate, South Sudan, November 2020)\(^9^1\)

A government official raised concerns about increases in adolescent pregnancy and child marriage, attributing this phenomenon to the fact that children, especially girls, are not attending school.\(^9^2\)

Almost all of those who commented on this issue expressed concerns over the national and local governments’ failure to properly address this gendered phenomenon during the pandemic.

2. Food Insecurity

Some of the interviewees have revealed a growing crisis of food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic, mainly due to lockdown measures. One interviewee stated that in households with female breadwinners, women do not have the luxury to stay inside and comply with the COVID-19 restrictive measures.\(^9^3\) These women depend on the ongoing operation their small businesses, such as tea shops, restaurants, market stalls, etc., for their daily income. According to interviewees, lockdown measures have narrowed household livelihood options while multiplying mouths to feed.

“…you’re forcing us to be poor, you’re forcing us to die hungry, especially our children. And we rather die of COVID-19 instead of hunger.” (Woman peace advocate, South Sudan, November 2020)\(^9^4\)

Some interviewees expressed frustration at the government’s delay to implement social protection policies, such as the SSSNP and the Women’s Enterprise Fund. The Women’s Enterprise Fund was planned to be established, according to the R-ARCSS, to empower women financially and economically.\(^9^5\) The government’s failure so far to adequately fund the Women’s Enterprise Fund and other social protection policies was questioned by interviewees who challenged national spending priorities, given that the four-year National Dialogue Conference on Peace, which concluded with a 500-person gathering on November 17, 2020 in Juba, was proof that funds were available within in the national budget.\(^9^6\)

\(^9^1\) Interview 5, 11/2020, Woman peace activist, SS.
\(^9^2\) Interview 4, 11/2020, Government official, SS.
\(^9^3\) Interview 5, 11/2020, Woman peace activist, SS
\(^9^4\) Ibid.
\(^9^5\) Interview 2, 11/2020, Academic and woman peace activist, SS.
\(^9^6\) Ibid.
3. Unexpected Opportunities

“It’s just creating this amazing digital space where you could talk gender issues, women issues…” (Woman peace advocate, South Sudan, October 2020)\textsuperscript{97}

One positive unexpected finding was there is an increase in participation and engagement of South Sudanese individuals not physically in the country (i.e., in the diaspora), especially youth, due to the shift to the digital space. Additionally, one interviewee mentioned that the shift to the digital space has intensified local women peace builders’ engagement with international partners.\textsuperscript{98}

\textsuperscript{97} Interviewee 3, 10/2020, Woman peace activist, SS.
\textsuperscript{98} Interviewee 2, 10/2020, Woman peace activist, SS.
Country: Ukraine

Dates of Armed Conflict: March 2014 - present

I. Pre-Pandemic Gender-Specific Peace Priorities

Before COVID-19, women peace activists were mainly addressing sex work, domestic violence, and political participation. Many have pushed for the Nordic Model to tackle demand by criminalizing the purchase of transactional sex. Various activists, politicians, and legal professionals (including the Prosecutor General of Ukraine) support the Nordic model and view it as a measure to protect the rights of sex workers, combat corruption in law enforcement, and better position Ukraine to join NATO.99 Domestic violence has remained a prominent issue in Ukraine and continued to stay at the forefront of women’s priorities during the pandemic, including in the occupied territories.

In collaboration with the Ukrainian Women’s Fund, the EU funded a project to promote women’s contributions to peacebuilding that focused on women as agents of change, peacebuilding, and conflict prevention in March 2018.100 This collaboration also allowed them to begin to implement regional and National Action Plan (NAP) surrounding UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Ukraine’s first NAP to establish a framework and strategies for coordinated implementation of UNSCR1325 was for 2016-2020.101

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99 Any NATO party member’s armed forces are prohibited from purchasing sex as there is no thorough and indisputable way to prove the supplier of transactional sex was doing it out of their own volition and not trafficked. NATO is against trafficking. Zhuravel, Dmytro, “Prostitution in Ukraine: legalization, decriminalization or Swedish model?” Opinion Ukraine, February 1, 2019, https://opinionua.com/en/2019/02/01/prostitution-in-ukraine-2/


II. Impacts of the Pandemic

1. Women’s Peace Activism

In Ukraine, women hold nearly 21% of parliamentary seats.\textsuperscript{102} At the beginning of the conflict in 2014, women’s representation in Parliament was 11%.\textsuperscript{103} Within local government, female participation has been higher, and the most recent local elections held in October saw the application of the first mandatory gender-quota of 40%.\textsuperscript{104} In the most recent local elections on October 25, 2020, 43% of candidates were women, compared to 30% for 2015.\textsuperscript{105}

In July 2020, Parliament hosted a webinar for both women and men titled “Preventing and Combating Sexism at the Local Level” that aimed to address and alleviate the barriers that hinder women’s participation in politics.\textsuperscript{106} Despite this, women in politics are usually still excluded from most major decision-making processes and limited to the spheres of traditionally female affairs like

\textsuperscript{104} The most recent Electoral Code of Ukraine (enacted in 2019) requires parties to adhere to an order of candidate lists that ensures a 40% gender quota (at least 40% must be of the opposite sex). Statement by Ukrainian Women’s Fund, Statement No.3 on the Interim Results of Gender Monitoring in the Local Elections in Ukraine on October 25, 2020, November 2020, https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&prev=_t&sl=auto&tl=en&u=https://www.uwf.org.ua/news/11940?fbclid=IwAR0ASYojocqra-8PBAm9yZUaG7g7eOx_mEwgpF3WjRoE2oNZZA8q1wF8I
\textsuperscript{105} However, 43% of women in electoral lists did not lead to this level of representation among elected candidates. Sokolova, Hanna, “How Ukraine’s Gender Quotas Work in Practice,” Open Democracy, November 25, 2020, https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/odr/ukraine-gender-quotas/
education, family matters, and social policy. According to interviewees, more men are represented and hold influential roles in governance sectors that involve significant public budgets.

"Unfortunately, Ukraine Is still a man’s country" (Woman peace advocate, Ukraine, October 2020)\textsuperscript{107}

Ukraine is a signatory of the 2011 Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence ("Istanbul Convention") but has not ratified it into law. Numerous efforts to begin the ratification process have been unsuccessful. During COVID-19, more than 25,000 women signed a petition to begin implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Ukraine.\textsuperscript{108}

During the pandemic, digital access proved vital for almost all of the participants, even though many of the interviewees believed that congregation in virtual spaces is not as impactful as in-person meetings. Generally, a dire lack of digital access poses challenges for inclusivity as much of the Ukrainian population lacks reliable internet and/or technical skills to comfortably use the digital space daily for a wide array of activities, according to interviewees. Digital access is commonly more feasible in urban areas than in rural settings.

"We all know the talks that matter don't happen in official settings, they happen over coffee breaks and you don't get those on Zoom" (Woman peace advocate, Ukraine, October 2020)\textsuperscript{109}

\textsuperscript{107} Interviewee 4, 10/2020, Peace Activist, Ukraine

\textsuperscript{108} Proposals for ratification of international treaties on behalf of Ukraine are submitted to the President by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 150,000 Ukrainian women suffer from domestic violence annually. European Parliament passed a Resolution on November 28, 2019, calling on all signatory states to ratify the Istanbul Convention. Ukraine was one of the first countries to sign the Convention but has failed to deliver its promises to ratify. To begin implementation, 25,000 signatures was required and 26,416 women signed the petition, thus surpassing the minimum requirement. On June 5, 2020, the office of the President responded to the petition claiming, the President will submit a draft Law of Ukraine "On Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence" to the Verkhovna Rada, once the Ministry of Foreign Affairs submits the appropriate proposals. They conclude by inviting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social Policy to "promptly" address the issue. Zinchuk, Victoria Alexandrovna, "We Call for Ratification of the Istanbul Convention (Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence)," February 24, 2020, https://petition.president.gov.ua/petition/87528

\textsuperscript{109} Interviewee 2, 10/2020, Peace Activist, Ukraine
Conflict-related violence since the pandemic outbreak

- Ukraine does not legally distinguish between gender-based violence and domestic violence\textsuperscript{10,11}
- There is insufficient data on the status of women in the occupied territories and Crimea, even before the pandemic; data on violence against women remains largely absent\textsuperscript{12}
- In the first half of 2020, there was an increase in shellings that resulted in child casualties in the occupied territories and damaged schools\textsuperscript{13}

\textsuperscript{10} Violence against women subsumed under domestic violence is a violation of the Istanbul Convention, of which Ukraine is a signatory. The lack of shelters, treatment centers, effective police protocols nearly all interviewees reported on also violate the Convention.


\textsuperscript{12} Ibid

Additionally, in the first half of 2020, there were 65 civilian casualties in the occupied territories, compared to 48 in the first half of 2019.\(^{114}\)

III. Work and Income

Gender and Women in COVID-19 responses in Ukraine

- Of 20 COVID-19 response policies, 3 pertain to women (specifically domestic violence)\(^{115}\)
- According to interviewees, women were not active in the COVID-19 task force. Participants claimed women’s issues were not on the agenda. It is unclear if there were any women on the actual COVID-19 response team.
- Ukraine has a highly feminized healthcare sector (82% compared to the global average of 70%), making women the majority of first responders and volunteers during the pandemic\(^{116}\)

Nearly 84% of households lost some or all forms of income during the pandemic.\(^{117}\) The most affected areas for women, according to interviews were small businesses, beauty services, and childcare. Ukraine's unemployment rate for the first half of 2020 was 8.9%, and more than half of the unemployed comprised of women.\(^{118,119}\) This is significantly higher than its bordering neighbors: Poland (3%), Belarus (4.6%), Moldova (5.4%), Romania (3.9%), Slovakia (5.1%), and Russia (4.4%).\(^{120}\)

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\(^{115}\) The government of Ukraine launched a 24-hour hotline for survivors of domestic violence, providing legal aid, and psychological support; National Police conducted a series of trainings for police officers on preventing and combatting domestic violence, Ministry of Interior and National Police launched @Police_Helpbot on Telegram Messenger to inform people about domestic violence and help survivors find aid as part of the #ActAgainstViolence campaign. Prepared by UNDP Socio-Economic Recovery Data Insight Platform, “COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker Ukraine,” September 21, 2020, https://data.undp.org/gendertracker/?country=ukraine

\(^{116}\) A plethora of women’s organizations and volunteers led efforts to support IDPs flooding into Kyiv when the war began and similarly at the start of the pandemic to provide medical aid and services. "UN study documents devastating impact of COVID-19 in Ukraine," UNDP, September 28, 2020, https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/news-centre/news/2020/UN_study_documents_impact_COVID19_in_Ukraine.html

\(^{117}\) Prepared by UNDP, "UN Study Documents Devastating impact of COVID-19 in Ukraine," https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FoPO8b0jQzToNtS2s4UvOnAA21jY5F3IB2UaIRGZKS0/edit


\(^{120}\) Ibid
Women are expected to manage household duties, childcare, and other familial and care responsibilities. For women who maintained remote jobs, at minimum, their caregiving burdens doubled. Many women lost their jobs entirely – in both the formal and informal sector – and were increasingly vulnerable to exploitation by traffickers who sought ways to deceive and manipulate women into webcamming, prostitution, and escort services through misleading job advertisements, according to interviewees.

IV. Violence Against Women

UNDP concluded Ukraine saw a 30% increase in domestic violence during COVID-19.\(^\text{121}\) Within the first two weeks of quarantine, the National Hotline on Combatting Domestic Violence saw a 26% increase in calls compared to the prior two weeks.\(^\text{122}\) From March to April, the number of clients seeking urgent mental or psychosocial help at crisis centers increased by 113%.\(^\text{123}\)

"…as people have more time to sit on the internet and comment on everything women do" (Woman peace advocate, Ukraine, October 2020)\(^\text{124}\)

Cyberbullying, harassment, and threats toward women politicians and activists are a longstanding issue that was minimally affected by the pandemic. According to NGO La Strada, Ukraine’s National Toll-Free Hotline for domestic violence, there were 12,725 calls and messages between January and June 2020 with the majority falling between April and June, a 30% increase compared to 2019.\(^\text{125,126}\) Ukraine lacks the infrastructure and institutions to provide support for victims of gender-based violence: there are minimal shelters, professionals and experts, and a prevailing mistrust of authorities. Coinciding with a lack of distinctions between domestic violence, sexual violence, and violence against women, law enforcement and government officials lack knowledge to assess and handle such situations adequately.

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\(^\text{121}\) Prepared by UNDP, "UN Study Documents Devastating impact of COVID-19 in Ukraine," https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FoPO8b0jQxtT0NhSs2x4UvOnAA2JjY5F3IB2UaRGZK5o/edit
\(^\text{123}\) Ibid
\(^\text{124}\) Interviewee 4, 10/2020, Peace Activist, U
\(^\text{125}\) Prepared by La Strada Ukraine, "National Toll-Free Hotline January-June 2020," 2020
\(^\text{126}\) La Strada is a public European human rights organization working to ensure gender equality, peace-building, prevention of gender-based violence, combat trafficking operating on local, national, and international levels. La Strada provides direct and indirect social support for trafficked persons and risk groups through psychosocial, medical, and legal support. "Mission," La Strada, https://la-strada.org.ua/
V. Unexpected Findings

1. Demographic changes

Ukraine’s 2020 fertility rate is 1.4. Amidst lockdown, President Zelenskiy has urged young people to procreate.\(^{127}\)\(^{128}\) He encouraged people to "stay at home, read books, watch movies," but as for the younger population, he insisted "no one has canceled the demographic crisis in Ukraine. I think the time has come to fight this problem too."\(^{129}\) Ukraine has a declining population and is projected to lose nearly one-fifth of its population by 2050.\(^{130}\) Although unlike some other eastern European countries, Ukraine has not adopted pro-natalist policies that constrain women’s rights and reproductive freedoms, the encouragement of conception at this time, if it leads to a baby boom, could result in some constraints on women’s sexual and reproductive rights, mobility and economic participation, in the immediate future.

Many families in Ukraine survive on labor migration remittances. The Ukrainian migrant labor force is the largest in Europe, primarily concentrated in Poland, Italy, and the Czech Republic.\(^{131}\) Nearly three million Ukrainians were working abroad when the pandemic hit. Remittances for 2019 in Ukraine made up 10% of Ukraine’s GDP, significantly higher than the EU average of 0.8%.\(^{132}\) Before the border shutdown in March, 37,000 migrants rushed home; an additional 145,000 received help returning home from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.\(^{133}\) Labor laws in Ukraine have not been seriously reformed in the post-Soviet era. Legislators have begun the reform process during the pandemic, which has potential to ensure improved social protections for workers.\(^{134}\)

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\(^{129}\) Ibid

\(^{130}\) The top 10 countries ranked according to projected population decline over the next three decades are in post-socialist Eastern Europe. Edwards, Maxim, "Ukraine’s Quiet Depopulation Crisis," The Atlantic, March 21, 2020, https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2020/03/ukraine-eastern-europe-depopulation-immigration-crisis/608464/

\(^{131}\) Ukraine’s neighboring countries had significantly lower percentages of GDP composed of remittances in 2019. For example, Slovakia (2%), Russia (0.6%), Romania (3.1%), Poland (1.1%), Belarus (2.2%). Only Moldova had a higher percentage (16%) of GDP consisting of remittances. Prepared by World Bank Data, "Personal Remittances, received ($ of GDP)," 2019, https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.TRF.PWKR.DT.GD.ZS


COVID-19 response measures directly addressed migrants nor offered unemployment benefits for returning migrant workers.135

2. Reproductive and sexual rights issues

In 2015, much of Asia began closing its surrogacy industries due to reports of exploitation, resulting in prospective parents around the world turned to Ukraine where surrogacy costs 50-70% less than other Western countries.136 The demand has increased tremendously in the past few years; rough estimates project several thousand children are born to surrogates annually in Ukraine.137 2019 estimates indicate about 3,000 Ukrainian women traveled abroad to perform surrogacy births.138 There are measures in place in Ukraine to protect biological parents, sometimes at the surrogate's expense.139 Under Ukrainian law, a surrogate must have a child of her own before carrying someone else’s; so they are less likely to become attached and attempt to keep the baby.140 Many legislators and activists within Ukraine demand an end to the practice as they view it as exploitative and a form of child-trafficking. Most agencies do not recruit surrogates from the occupied territories for fear of physical harm due to conflict-related violence. Surrogacy is almost exclusively for foreign parents hiring Ukrainian women. It is only an option for Ukrainian couples if they are in a heterosexual partnership and can demonstrate their inability to bear children.141

During COVID-19, the border shutdowns posed an issue for the surrogacy business. Since the borders have been closed, nearly 100 babies have been born. As many as 1,000 may be born before the travel restrictions are lifted.142 One agency, BioTexCom has housed babies with doctors

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139 For example, under the Family Code of Ukraine “if an ovum conceived by the spouses is implanted to another woman, the spouses shall be the parents of the child,” and “whenever an ovum conceived by the husband with another woman is implanted to his wife, the child is considered to be affiliated to the spouses,” (Article 123(2) and Article 123(3), respectively. Prepared by BioTexCom, “Family Code of Ukraine: As Amended by the Law #407-IV of December 26, 2002,” Verkhovna Rada, 2002, https://biotexcom.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Family-Code-of-Ukraine.pdf
141 Ibid
and caregivers in a company-owned hotel in Kyiv, for the foreseeable future. The parents of these babies receive a 50% discount on daily fees until travel becomes possible again.

3. Political

One interviewee claimed eleven women who won seats in the recent local elections ceded them to the men they beat, making the new gender quota appear merely window-dressing. In exchange for money, some women politicians were bribed and intimidated into ceding their elected seats. A few weeks before the elections, some parties fronted women candidates to fulfill the quota, who had been briefed to say they changed their minds or refuse their mandates once elected. One candidate refused to accept bribes and was told to “take the money and buy [her]self a dress.”

4. Economic/income

Corruption is endemic in Ukraine. From January to June 2020, there were 342 investigations started on the grounds of corruption, predominantly in the capital, south, and east of the country. As of June 30, 2020, the economic damage caused by corruption totaled UAH 80 billion. More than half of the accused were lawyers and senior officials. The Ukrainian judiciary is largely unofficially controlled by oligarchs in which bribery is routine. Anti-corruption establishments were created in 2014 as a result of the Euromaidan Revolution. In the latter half of 2020, the Constitutional Court has effectively undone all anti-corruption legislation. The court has allowed officials to legalize bribes for years. Judicial reform is needed to mitigate this widespread practice.

143 Ibid
144 Ibid
146 Ibid
148 Ibid
149 Ibid
150 Ibid
Even prior to the pandemic, women’s bodies are sometimes used as a form of currency of corruption, particularly with law enforcement. Sex workers are especially vulnerable to this abuse of power, as sexual favors or services may be demanded in exchange for a tolerant attitude. While there are no statistics for the status of this phenomena during COVID-19 in Ukraine, interviewees expressed this is a common occurrence (globally and in Ukraine).  

5. Unexpected Opportunities

All interviewees found that the shift to online communications because of COVID-19 brought more interconnectedness among women activists within Ukraine and internationally. Women who had reliable internet access were able to attend and participate in a greater number of virtual events than they might otherwise have been able to do. Two participants specified they felt more women now possess technical skills to be active and informed members of society and contribute more towards peace.

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Annex I

Interview Questionnaire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of interviewee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location and date of interview</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name and location of organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purpose/function of the organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Size of the organization (staff numbers and members) and ‘reach’ i.e. what communities does it serve beyond its immediate membership (request any web links and reading materials on structure and purpose)</td>
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<tr>
<td>How long has the organization existed?</td>
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<tr>
<td>How has it been part of the peace process? OR: How has the interviewee been part of the peace process?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Any specific functional focus on the implementation of the peace agreement?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What communities does your organization serve, and has this shifted or changed since COVID-19?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What did a typical day in your organization look like before COVID-19, and what does it look like now?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Digital Divide
1. In what ways has digital access been important for you during the pandemic?
2. To what extent does the lack of digital access limit the activities of the organization, members, and the community?
3. What kind of resources do you need to ensure effective communication between the organization and the members?
4. How has COVID-19 changed your internet/digital habits?
5. What do you think about the role of technology in peace activism? What kind of technology has the biggest impact?
6. How has this transition to technology impacted messaging, protest action, and/or exposure to violence?
7. How has this transition to technology impacted the engagement of younger people?
8. Please provide examples of how women have been using online platforms for peacebuilding work?

Modalities of Women’s Peace Activism During COVID-19
1. In what roles have women (peacebuilders) participated in the COVID-19 task force/committee?

2. Are there roles that include women more than others? If so, who made these decisions?

3. Have there been shifts in the ways women have been involved in decision-making at the local or national levels at different stages of the health crisis?

4. Have women been a part of the decision making through informal channels, examples?

5. How are the voices of women heard at this time either in the management of the COVID-19 response or the implementation of the peace agreement?

6. Is your organization trying to make authorities aware of women’s concerns about COVID-19? Is your organization trying to make authorities aware of women’s concerns about the peace process? How?

7. Do you feel like the COVID-19 response has impacted peace? If so, how have you seen the COVID-19 response hurt or help peace? (*Note could apply to overall peace or/and women’s peace).

**Labor Shifts**

1. Have you noticed an increase in unemployment within communities?
   a. If so, what jobs have been most vulnerable?
   b. What space have women moved to for employment?

2. In addition to your regular tasks/roles, does your workday end at a fixed time? If no, please explain.

3. Have there been significant labor shifts because of COVID-19 measures/lockdowns?

4. How has COVID-19 affected women’s roles in the household?

5. Has there been an increase in unpaid labor for women?
   a. If so, is your organization enacting any programs/services to address or offset this shift?

6. How is your organization funded and roughly what is the annual budget? How has your work been affected by COVID-19 in terms of funding etc., and how have you adapted to the pandemic?

7. Have there been any government policies or efforts (national or local) that aim to address these shifts? Particularly by way of childcare, women entrepreneurial assistance/aid, or other forms of stimulus packages?

**Violence Against Women**

1. Has there been an increase in violence against women and girls since the pandemic?

2. In the communities you serve, has there been any indication/instances of an increase in violence against women-peacebuilders since the pandemic/COVID-19 lockdown?
   a. If yes, who are typically the main perpetrators?
b. Have any government policies (national or local) inflated or encouraged violence against women-peacebuilders?

c. Have any government policies (national or local) been passed to mitigate violence against women-peacebuilders?

3. Has there been any increase of domestic violence since COVID-19?
   a. If yes, who are typically the main perpetrators?
   b. Have any government policies (national or local) inflated or encouraged domestic violence?
   c. Have any government policies (national or local) been passed to mitigate domestic violence?

4. Has there been any increase in cyber-violence against women and girls since COVID-19?

5. Has there been any increase in violence against women and girls by armed forces?
   a. If so, what regions?

6. (If applicable) What are some of the measures/services your organization has taken in addressing the following:
   a. violence against women peacebuilders?
   b. cyber violence?
   c. domestic violence?
   d. armed violence?

**Closing Questions**
1. Is there anything that you feel should be discussed that we have not asked?
2. Are there other ways that you feel like COVID-19 has affected women or women’s peace that we haven’t discussed?
3. Are there any women or women politicians that have received more attention in the news lately?
4. What are some other ways, if any, have you seen women accommodate to the changes brought by COVID-19?
Interview Questionnaire – Spanish

Digital Divide
Brecha digital
1. In what ways has digital access been important for you during the pandemic?
   ¿De qué manera ha sido importante para usted el acceso digital durante la pandemia?
2. To what extent does the lack of digital access limit the activities of the organization, members, and the community?
   ¿Hasta qué punto la falta de acceso digital limita las actividades de la organización, los miembros, y la comunidad?
3. What kind of resources do you need to ensure effective communication between the organization and the members?
   ¿Qué tipo de recursos necesita para asegurar una comunicación eficaz entre la organización y los miembros?
4. How has COVID-19 changed your internet/digital habits?
   ¿Cómo han cambiado sus hábitos digitales/uso del internet debido al COVID-19?
5. What do you think about the role of technology in peace activism? What kind of technology has the biggest impact?
   ¿Qué opina del papel de la tecnología en el activismo por la paz? ¿Qué clase de tecnología ha tenido el mayor impacto?
6. How has this transition to technology impacted messaging, protest action, and/or exposure to violence?
   ¿Cómo ha impactado el envío de mensajes, acción de protesta, y/o la exposición a la violencia esa transición hacia la tecnología?
7. How has this transition to technology impacted the engagement of younger people?
   ¿Cómo ha impactado el compromiso de los jóvenes esa transición hacia la tecnología?
8. Please provide examples of how women have been using online platforms for peacebuilding work.
   Sirváanse proporcionar ejemplos de cómo las mujeres han usado las plataformas virtuales para la construcción de paz.

Modalities of Women’s Peace Activism During COVID-19
Modalidades de Activismo de la Paz Femenina Durante COVID-19
1. In what roles have women (peacebuilders) participated in the COVID-19 task force/committee?
   ¿En qué papel han participado mujeres (constructores de la paz) en el cuerpo especial de COVID-19 o los comités relacionados al COVID-19?
2. Are there roles that include women more than others? If so, who made these decisions?
¿Hay ciertas formas de participar que incluyen a las mujeres más que otras formas? ¿Si es así, quién toma estas decisiones?

3. Have there been shifts in the way’s women have been involved in decision-making at the local or national levels at different stages of the health crisis?
¿Han habido cambios en cómo las mujeres han sido involucradas en el proceso de tomar decisiones a nivel local o nacional en distintas etapas de la crisis de salud?

4. Have women been a part of the decision making through informal channels, examples?
¿Han sido las mujeres una parte del proceso de tomar decisiones a través de medios informales? Sirvanse dar ejemplos.

5. How are the voices of women heard at this time either in the management of the COVID-19 response or the implementation of the peace agreement?
¿Cómo son las voces femeninas escuchadas en este momento en cómo se maneja la respuesta al COVID-19 o la implementación del acuerdo de paz?

6. Is your organization trying to make authorities aware of women’s concerns about COVID-19? Is your organization trying to make authorities aware of women’s concerns about the peace process? How?
¿Está tratando su organización de informar a las autoridades sobre las preocupaciones femeninas acerca el COVID-19? ¿Está tratando su organización informar a las autoridades sobre el proceso de paz? ¿Cómo?

7. Do you feel like the COVID-19 response has impacted peace? If so, how have you seen the COVID-19 response hurt or help peace? (*Note could apply to overall peace or/and women’s peace).
¿Se siente usted que la respuesta acerca el COVID-19 ha impactado la paz? ¿Si es así, como ha visto la respuesta al COVID-19 lastimar o ayudar traer paz? (*Nota: Esto se puede aplicar a la paz generalmente o/ y a la paz femenina.)

Labor Shifts
Cambios laborales

1. Have you noticed an increase in unemployment within communities?
¿Ha notado un aumento en el desempleo en ciertas comunidades?
   a. If so, what jobs have been most vulnerable?
      ¿Si la respuesta es sí, cuáles son los empleos que han sido más vulnerables?
   b. What space have women moved to for employment?
      ¿A qué espacio se han mudado las mujeres para empleo?

2. In addition to your regular tasks/roles, does your workday end at a fixed time? If no, please explain.
   ¿Encima de sus deberes y rol regular, es que su día laboral se termina a una hora fija? Si no, sírvanse explicar.
3. Have there been significant labor shifts because of COVID-19 measures/lockdowns?
   ¿Han habido cambios laborales significativos por causa del confinamiento por COVID-19 o otras medidas de COVID-19?
4. How has COVID-19 affected women’s roles in the household?
   ¿Cómo ha COVID-19 afectado los papeles de mujeres en el hogar?
5. Has there been an increase in unpaid labor for women?
   ¿Ha habido un aumento en la labor sin pago para las mujeres?
   a. If so, is your organization enacting any programs/services to address or offset this shift?
      Si la respuesta es sí, es que su organización está desarrollando algún programa/servicio para enfrentar o disminuir este cambio?
6. How is your organization funded and roughly what is the annual budget? How has your work been affected by COVID-19 in terms of funding etc., and how have you adapted to the pandemic?
   ¿Cómo ha COVID-19 afectado su trabajo en términos de financiamiento, etc., y cómo se ha adaptado a la pandemia?
7. Have there been any government policies or efforts (national or local) that aim to address these shifts? Particularly by way of childcare, women entrepreneurial assistance/aid, or other forms of stimulus packages?
   ¿Ha habido alguna política gubernamental (nacional o local) que se ha puesto en efecto para enfrentar estos cambios? Particularmente en lo que involucra el cuidado de niños, asistencia a emprendedoras, u otras formas de ayuda incentiva?

Violence Against Women
Violencia contra las mujeres
1. Has there been an increase in violence against women and girls since the pandemic?
   ¿Ha aumentado la violencia contra las mujeres y niñas desde que empezó la pandemia?
2. In the communities you serve, has there been any indication/instances of an increase in violence against women-peacebuilders since the pandemic/COVID-19 lockdown?
   En las comunidades donde usted sirve, ¿ha habido alguna indicación / ocasión de aumento en violencia contra las mujeres constructores de la paz desde la pandemia/cuando que empezó el confinamiento por COVID-19?
   a. If yes, who are typically the main perpetrators?
      Si la respuesta es sí, quiénes son los perpetradores principales típicamente?
   b. Have any government policies (national or local) inflated or encouraged violence against women-peacebuilders?
      ¿Hay alguna políticas gubernamentales (nacional o local) que han inflado o motivado la violencia contra mujeres que son constructores de la paz?
c. Have any government policies (national or local) been passed to mitigate violence against women-peacebuilders?
   ¿Hay alguna política gubernamental (nacional o local) que se han puesto en efecto para reducir la violencia contra mujeres que son constructores de la paz?

3. Has there been any increase of domestic violence since COVID-19?
   ¿Ha habido un aumento de la violencia doméstica desde el COVID-19?
   a. If yes, who are typically the main perpetrators?
      ¿Si la respuesta es sí, quiénes son los perpetradores principales típicamente?
   b. Have any government policies (national or local) inflated or encouraged domestic violence?
      ¿Hay alguna política gubernamental (nacional o local) que han inflado o motivado la violencia doméstica?
   c. Have any government policies (national or local) been passed to mitigate domestic violence?
      ¿Hay alguna política gubernamental (nacional o local) que se han puesto en efecto para mitigar la violencia doméstica?

4. Has there been any increase in cyber-violence against women and girls since COVID-19?
   ¿Ha habido un aumento de la ciber-violencia contra las mujeres y niñas desde el COVID-19?

5. Has there been any increase in violence against women and girls by armed forces?
   ¿Ha habido un aumento de la violencia contra las mujeres y niñas por las fuerzas armadas?
   a. If so, what regions?
      Sí es así, ¿en cuáles regiones?

6. (If applicable) What are some of the measures/services your organization has taken in addressing the following:
   (Si aplicable) ¿Cuáles son algunas de las medidas/servicios que ha tomado su organización para abordar los siguientes:
   a. violence against women peacebuilders?
      la violencia contra las mujeres activistas de paz?
   b. cyber violence?
      ciber-violencia?
   c. domestic violence?
      la violencia doméstica?
   d. armed violence?
      la violencia armada?

Closing Questions
Preguntas finales
1. Is there anything that you feel should be discussed that we have not asked?
   a. ¿Hay algo que piensa que se debe mencionar que no hemos preguntado?
2. Are there other ways that you feel like COVID-19 has affected women or women’s peace that we haven’t discussed?
   a. ¿Hay otras maneras en que usted piensa que el COVID-19 ha impactado a la mujer o a la paz de las mujeres que no fue mencionado?
3. Are there any women or women politicians that have received more attention in the news lately?
   a. ¿Últimamente, hay alguna mujer o mujeres políticos que han recibido más atención en los medios de comunicación?
4. What are some other ways, if any, have you seen women accommodate to the changes brought by COVID-19?
   a. ¿Cuáles son algunas maneras, si las hay, ha visto a las mujeres adaptarse a los cambios traídos por el COVID-19?
Interview Questionnaire – Government Officials

Modalities of Women’s Peace Activism During COVID-19
1. What were women’s priorities (or agenda) for building peace (or implementing the peace agreement) BEFORE the COVID-19 crisis? (e.g. law reform priorities, implementation of quotas, women’s participation in the DDR process, in transitional justice measures, in efforts to rehabilitate conflict-affected areas, in efforts to support IDPs to return, etc).
2. Has the response to the COVID-19 crisis delayed the implementation of the peace agreement or of women’s priorities for peace in your region?
3. Please can you describe the COVID-19 task force or leadership in responding to COVID-19 and in what roles have women (peacebuilders) participated in the COVID-19 task force/committee?
4. How are the voices of women heard at this time either in the management of the COVID-19 response or the implementation of the peace agreement?
5. Have there been shifts in the ways women have been involved in decision-making (formal or informal) at the local or national levels at different stages of the health crisis?
6. Do you feel like the COVID-19 response has affected the peace process? If so, how have you seen the COVID-19 response hurt or help peace? (*Note could apply to overall peace or/and women’s engagement in the peace process).

Digital Divide
1. In what ways has digital access been important for your work during the pandemic?
2. How has the transition to digital communications impacted messaging, protest action, and/or exposure to violence?
3. How has this transition to technology impacted the engagement of younger people?
4. Please provide examples of how your institution has been using online platforms for peacebuilding work?

Changes in women’s work
1. Have you noticed an increase in unemployment within communities because of COVID-19 lockdowns?
   a. If so, what jobs have been most vulnerable?
   b. Where are women finding work if they have been made unemployed?
   c. Is your institution addressing the issue of women’s unemployment?
2. Has there been an increase in unpaid labor for women?
   a. If so, is your organization (or other parts of the government) enacting any programs/services to address or offset this shift?
3. Have funds for your own institution been reduced or diverted because of COVID-19? Do you have concerns about the amount and the incoming flow of government and donor funding available to support gender equality – has this been affected by the COVID pandemic response?

4. Does your institution have any policies in place to help women cope with the effects of COVID lockdowns? E.g.: childcare, women entrepreneurial assistance/aid, or other forms of stimulus packages?

**Violence Against Women**

1. Is there any evidence of an increase in violence against women and girls since the pandemic (please distinguish between domestic violence and other forms of violence)?
   a. If yes, who are typically the main perpetrators, and what are the reasons for the violence?
   b. Have any government policies (national or local) been passed since the pandemic began to mitigate domestic violence or other types of violence against women?

2. In the communities you serve, has there been any indication/instances of an increase in violence against womenpeacebuilders, human rights defenders or journalists since the pandemic/COVID-19 lockdown?
   a. If yes, who are typically the main perpetrators, and why are these attacks happening?
   b. Have any government policies (national or local) been passed to mitigate violence against women peacebuilders, human rights defenders or journalists?

3. Has there been any increase in cyber-violence against women and girls since COVID-19?

4. Has there been any increase in violence against women and girls by organized armed actors e.g. non-state armed groups?
   a. If so, where is this happening and are authorities doing anything to stop this?
# Annex II

## Comprehensive List of Gender Provisions in Peace Agreements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Gender Provision</th>
<th>Colombia</th>
<th>The Philippines</th>
<th>South Sudan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Participation</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender Quotas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Article 7 Section 6 pg 25</td>
<td>One reserved seats for women shall be given in the Bangsamoro Parliament</td>
<td></td>
<td>Four (4) Vice Presidents in South Sudan will be nominated to the transitional government and at least one (1) must be a woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 9 Section 11 pg 41</td>
<td>Aside from the reserved seat for women in the Parliament, there shall be at least one (1) qualified woman to be appointed to the Bangsamoro Cabinet.</td>
<td>1.10.1, pg 14</td>
<td>The Speaker of the TNLA (Transitional National Legislative Assembly) shall be nominated by the President. One (1) Deputy Speaker is to be nominated and must be a woman, also nominated by the President</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.4.8.4, pg 35</td>
<td>Per the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanisms (CTSAMM), there must be at least one (1) women’s bloc and other women’s groups</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.5.1.7, pg 36</td>
<td>Per the Strategic Defense and Security Review Board (SDFSRB) there must be at least one (1) women’s bloc and other women’s organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5.1.1, pg 58</td>
<td>upon establishment of the Transitional Government, a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Article</td>
<td>Version</td>
<td>Language</td>
<td>Paragraph</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1.10</td>
<td>pg 2</td>
<td>EN</td>
<td>Effective Participation</td>
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<td>1.2.4</td>
<td>pg 2</td>
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<td>1.3.1.1</td>
<td>pg 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Section 1</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Section 8</td>
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<td>Effective Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.2.2</td>
<td>pg 70</td>
<td>EN</td>
<td>Legislative entity is to be set up, women should represent 35% of transitional justice institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section</td>
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<td>Article</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.3.2, pg 51-52</td>
<td></td>
<td>Promotion of electoral participation, with special emphasis on women and other vulnerable populations</td>
<td>Article 9 Section 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.7, pg 55</td>
<td></td>
<td>The strengthening of women's political and citizen participation on an equal footing includes the adoption of measures that will guarantee balanced representation of men and women in shaping all the forums</td>
<td>Article 6 Section 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.3.2, pg 190</td>
<td></td>
<td>The participation of women in collective reparation plans with a territorial-based focus</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.1.3.3, pg 191</td>
<td></td>
<td>The national collective reparation plans will be gender-based and will be aimed at communities consisting, inter alia, of groups and organisations such as women's organisations</td>
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**Citizenship**

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**Other**

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| 3.4.1, pg 81 | | gender-based approach to the agreement with special emphasis on the protections of women, children and adolescents and the toll the conflict has taken on their lives, freedom, integrity and safety | | | |

**Equality**

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**Equality (General)**

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| 5.2, pg 58 | | It is the duty of the Colombian state to promote, protect, respect and guarantee human rights, including economic, social, cultural and environmental rights, with an equity-based and gender-based approach. It ensures the full realisation of the human rights of all, including those of women, children, adolescents, youths and the elderly, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, rural communities, members of churches, religious faiths, faith-based and religious organisations, the | Article 9 Section 8 | pg.37 | the Bangsamoro Government shall guarantee right to equal opportunity and non-discrimination in social and economic activity and the public. |
| | | when selecting nominees for the transitional government, Parties are to consider diversity, gender and regional representation | 1.4.6, pg 5 | | |
Afro-Colombian, black, palenquero and rastafarian communities, the LGBTI community, human rights advocates, trade unionists, journalists, farmers, ranchers, traders and businessmen and businesswomen;

service, regardless of class, creed, disability, gender and ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Equality</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE MVM DURING BDCCH-LA: Respect gender equality, both within and outside the MVM</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.2.2, pg 67: In interpreting and implementing all the components of the Final Agreement to End the Armed Conflict and Build a Stable and Lasting Peace in Colombia with an ethnic-based approach, account is taken of the principles enshrined in legislation at the international and constitutional levels, the principles and rights recognised in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women – CEDAW</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particular Groups of Women</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous/ Nomadic Women</td>
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<tr>
<th>Article 7 Section 7 (pg 26)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Election for Reserved Seats for Non-Moro Indigenous Peoples shall be based on gender equity</td>
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<tr>
<th>Rural Women</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1.1, pg 14-15: Comprehensive Rural Reform Land Fund: included to benefit farmer communities, including rural women</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article 7 Section 7 (pg 26)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Election for Reserved Seats for Non-Moro Indigenous Peoples shall be based on gender equity</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Other mechanisms for promoting access to land, grant comprehensive land subsidy and include specific measures to facilitate access of women to subsidy; open long-term, subsidized, special credit line for purchase of land with special measures for rural women

Beneficiary persons: female farmers; rural women, female heads of households and displaced persons; female agricultural workers

Comprehensive access: support programs for housing, technical assistance, training, land production and soil recovery; provisions of public goods and services must be available and provided to rural men and women

Certain mechanisms to resolve conflicts concerning possession and use of land and the strengthening of food production, including providing special training and legal advice for women regarding their rights and access to justice and land

Implementation of a nationwide mass ID-issuance campaign, prioritising marginalised and rural zones, particularly those most affected by the conflict and
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Page/Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Refugee/ Displaced Women</td>
<td>4.1.1, pg 109</td>
<td>Principles for the substitution of crops for illicit drugs: equity-based approach according to the conditions in each territory, economic/social/cultural issues relating to rural women and organizations; strengthening participation and capabilities of small-scale farmers' organizations, including rural women organizations; involving women as active subjects in agreements processes to play an active role in rural development; promoting and strengthening projects for investigation, reflection, analysis of reality for women in relation to crops used for illicit drug purposes to tackle the issue from an equity-based perspective.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.1.3.6, pg 118</td>
<td>Mechanisms must be put in place to provide information to facilitate access to job opportunities with special measures for rural women.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.1.7, pg 18</td>
<td>Land restitution: promote voluntary return of displaced men and women. Article 14 Section 1 pg 97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy/ Maternity</td>
<td>1.3.3.5, pg 31-32</td>
<td>Promoting services for protection during pregnancy, childbirth, breast-feeding and health services for newborns, by progressively extending the coverage and enhancing the quality of family health and subsidy systems, with particular focus on rural working women. Health: During the BDCCH &amp; LA process basic medical care will be available to meet immediate needs including care will be provided to expectant and breastfeeding mothers and, in general, maternal-infant care.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>p.280</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>International Law</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>General IHRL, IHL, and IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Human Rights Law</td>
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### References to UNSC 1325

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<tr>
<th>Other</th>
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<tr>
<td>6.4.2, pg 227</td>
<td>The FARC-EP and the National Government have agreed that the international accompaniment of the following countries and international organisations shall be sought for the implementation of the Agreements: UN Women United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict Women’s International Democratic Federation (WIDF) Sweden</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Violence Against Women

| New Institutions | 4.1.3, pg 112 | National comprehensive program for substitution of crops for illicit drugs that ensures women are involved in planning/implementing/monitoring/evaluating plans for the substitution and ensure women receive training to prevent gender-based violence associated with drugs |

### Institutions for Women

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<th>Institutions for Women</th>
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### Infrastructure (General)

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<tr>
<th>Reconciliation and Peace</th>
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### Sexual Violence

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<tr>
<th>Gender-based Violence/VAW (General)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>p.245</td>
<td>OBSERVATION AND RECORDING BY THE (MVM): The local unit has specially trained monitors among its staff for receiving and analysing information relating to violence against women or against LGBTI individuals and, in particular, sexual violence</td>
<td>2.1.10.2, pg 30 acts and forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation/harassment prohibited</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protection (General)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5.2.4.1, pg 61 the CTRH (see 5.1.1.1) must implement measures to protect victims and witnesses but particularly youth, women, children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>p.252</td>
<td>CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE MVM DURING BDCCH-LA: Condemn all acts or threats of sexual exploitation, violence and abuse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p.252</td>
<td>CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE MVM DURING BDCCH-LA: Commit acts of gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation or abuse, or have sexual relations with those under 18 years of age, or offer money, employment, goods or services in exchange for sexual relations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 9 Section 13 pg 41</td>
<td>The Bangsamoro Government shall uphold and protect the fundamental rights of women including lawful employment and protection from exploitation, abuse, or discrimination.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>p. 307</td>
<td>AMNESTIES OR PARDONS GRANTED BY THE JUDICIAL PANEL FOR AMNESTY AND PARDON: In no case will the following conduct be subject, under any circumstances, to amnesty or pardon... rape and other forms of sexual violence</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>p. 311</td>
<td>Assessment criteria of the Judicial Panel for Determination of Legal Situation: crimes committed in the context of and due to the armed conflict provided that they do not constitute... rape and other forms of sexual violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>45, p.317</td>
<td>The waiver of criminal prosecution, This mechanism is not appropriate in the case of... rape and other forms of sexual violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>50, p.319</td>
<td>The beneficiaries of temporary, conditional, early release: The acts in question must not constitute rape and other forms of sexual violence.</td>
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<tr>
<td>55, p. 321</td>
<td>Beneficiaries of Imprisonment in a Military or Police Unit for members of the Military of the Police Forces The acts in question must not constitute rape and other forms of sexual violence</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional Justice Past and Gender Reparations</td>
<td>The design and execution of the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparations and Non-Recurrence will promote an educational and communication</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6.23, pg 218</td>
<td>5.4.2.2.2 pg 65 Compensation and Reparation Authority must include representatives of women's groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Page/Reference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategy for the Dissemination of the Principles of Non-Racial and Ethnic Discrimination</td>
<td>A strategy for the dissemination of the principles of non-racial and ethnic discrimination against women, youngsters and girls demobilised from the conflict.</td>
<td>3.4.2, pg 82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prisons, Prisoner Release</td>
<td>Reconciliation needed for women's and LGBTI group cooperation</td>
<td>(not specified number of representatives)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>The National Government will introduce specific collective territorial- and gender-based programmes to return and relocate displaced persons on the one hand, and accompanied and assisted return plans for victims abroad.</td>
<td>5.1.3.5., pg 193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regarding the victims of the conflict, an equity/gender-based approach should be taken with special attention to the victimization suffered by women.</td>
<td>5.1.1.1.1, pg 141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Reform</td>
<td>Comprehensive security system for the exercise of politics in which a new model guarantees the rights and protections for citizens that include women organizations.</td>
<td>3.4.7, pg 90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitution-Making/Reform</td>
<td>The National Constitutional Review Commission must consist of representatives from women’s groups (not specified number of representatives).</td>
<td>6.14, pg 68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Law/Corruption Reform</td>
<td>The Tribunal for Peace: All these individuals will need to be highly qualified and they must include experts in different areas of law, with a focus on knowledge of international humanitarian law, human rights or conflict resolution. The Tribunal will need to be formed according to criteria of equal participation by men and women.</td>
<td>p.177</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Investigation and Prosecution Unit will be formed of a sufficient number of legal professionals who are highly qualified in investigation and prosecution. It will be formed according to criteria of equal participation by men and women.</td>
<td>p. 179</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Per 5.1.1 a Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH - 5.1.1.3) and it shall be composed of seven (7) commissioners, five (5) of which should be South Sudanese and two (2) of those should be women. The remaining three (3) commissioners can come from other African nations and at least one (1) must be a woman.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>3.4.4, pg 85-87</td>
<td>Special investigative unit for criminal organizations and actions: mandate shall involve homicides, mass human rights atrocities particularly against women; special jurisdiction for peace which requires the effective participation of women; deploy investigations with territorial/equity/gender-based approach; multidimensional approach that deals with the entire criminal chain and includes actions that particularly affect women, children and adolescents; specialized investigative methods in retaliation to the most serious acts of victimization against women, children, adolescents, and LGBTI.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4.2.1.1, pg 124</td>
<td>National policy program for intervention into illicit drug use: equity/gender-based approach to the role drug use plays in the relationship between illicit drugs and violence against women (both domestic and sexual); take evidence-based actions to reduce harm such as in the case of female drug users; take actions to raise awareness and guide communities/institutions to prevent the stigma surrounding drug users, particularly the impact on women and LGBTQI; take actions to expand/promote access to care/assistance and ensure affirmative action for women and LGBTQI; in regard to the female prison population, special measures to prevent HIV/AIDS.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DDR, Army, Parastatal or Rebel Forces</td>
<td>3.4.8, pg 97</td>
<td>Comprehensive security and protection program for communities and organizations across the territory that includes women’s organizations.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Bangsamoro Government formulate and implement a program for rehabilitation and development that will address the needs of Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)/Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Force (BIAF) members and its decommissioned women auxiliary force, Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF)/Bangsamoro Armed Forces (BAF) members.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Article 14 Section 1 pg 57</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Article 11 Section 17 pg 64</td>
<td>A Bangsamoro auxiliary contingent attached to the</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>Bangsamoro Military Command shall be organized and deployed or stationed in the Bangsamoro. At least fifty percent (50%) of the auxiliary contingent shall be women.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>General</td>
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<tr>
<td>Article 13 Section 5 pg 83</td>
<td>At least five percent (5%) of the total budget appropriation of each ministry, office, and constituent local government unit of the Bangsamoro shall be set aside for gender-responsive programs, in accordance with a gender and development (GAD) plan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.15.1.5, pg 56</td>
<td>The Transitional Government shall establish a women enterprise fund for provisions of subsidized credit for women-based enterprise development and capacity building of women entrepreneurs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation and Reconstruction</td>
<td>The recognition and promotion of community organisations, including organisations of rural women, enabling them to become protagonists in the structural transformation of the countryside</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2.1, pg 22</td>
<td>The National Government undertakes to increase the coverage and raise the quality of community rehabilitation strategies to rebuild the social fabric. The strategies will be equity- and gender-based.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.1.3.4.2, pg 192</td>
<td>The National Government will undertake to broaden the public coverage and regional scope and improve the quality of psychosocial care to ensure the emotional recovery of victims in accordance with the specific harm or injury they have suffered, including the particular impact of sexual violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>The National Government will create and implement the Special Rural Education Plan, which would provide universal pre-school, primary, and secondary education adapted to the needs of communities and the rural environment, with an equity-based approach</td>
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<td>1.3.2.2, pg 26-27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health (General)</td>
<td>Reproductive Rights</td>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>1.3.2.1. pg 26</td>
<td>Under the national plans for the Comprehensive Rural Reform, healthcare services with an equity- and gender-based approach will be adopted, including women's sexual and reproductive health services</td>
<td>The Bangsamoro Government shall develop a comprehensive framework for sustainable development that includes the reduction of vulnerability of women and marginalized groups to climate change and variability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.4. pg 197</td>
<td>By means of the recognition of what has occurred in the context of the conflict and of the clarification and rejection of the serious violations of human rights and serious breaches of international humanitarian law, including those that have been historically less visible such as those committed against women, in order for it to be a shared aim of society that this will never happen again.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>Women's Role and Consideration in Implementation of the Agreement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women's Role and Consideration in Implementation of the Agreement</td>
<td>STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MONITORING AND VERIFICATION MECHANISM (MVM): These products (3 types of communication products) must have an appropriate gender-based approach, both in the information they contain and in their dissemination.</td>
<td>The Bangsamoro Government shall establish a mechanism for consultation with women and local communities to further ensure the allocation and proper utilization of funds. It shall identify and implement special development programs and laws for women.</td>
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<tr>
<td>p. 243</td>
<td>Article 8 Section 3 pg 82</td>
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<tr>
<td>p. 244</td>
<td>Article 8 Section 6 pg 84</td>
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<tr>
<td>p. 244</td>
<td>5.4.2.2.2., pg 65</td>
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Compensation and Reparation Authority must include representatives of women's groups.

The Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission will constitute of 1 representative from the Women’s Bloc; 1 representative from the Women’s Coalition; Business groups - two (2) representatives (one male, one female); youth – two (2) representatives (one male, one female).
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>p.251</td>
<td><strong>CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE MVM DURING (BDCCH-LA):</strong> Respect other members of the MVM, regardless of their status, rank, ethnicity or nationality, gender or creed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p.258</td>
<td><strong>Composition of the MVM:</strong> The mechanism is made up of men and women from the National Government, the FARC-EP and the International Component (IC-MVM).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p.269</td>
<td><strong>SECURITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE MVM DURING THE BDCCH &amp; LA:</strong> The specific needs of women who require medical attention or evacuation will be addressed, as will the particular risks they face because of their gender.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p.270</td>
<td><strong>SECURITY FOR DELEGATES AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS DURING THE BDCCH &amp; LA:</strong> The specific needs of women who require medical attention or evacuation will be addressed, as will the particular risks they face because of their gender.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p.271</td>
<td><strong>SECURITY FOR FARC-EP MEMBERS DURING THE BDCCH &amp; LA:</strong> The specific needs of women who require medical attention or evacuation will be addressed, as well as the particular risks they face because of their gender.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p.294</td>
<td><strong>Special Implementation Agreement to select the Executive Secretary of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace and ensure its due operation.</strong> The Executive Secretary may be male or female and must preferably have experience in the administration of justice.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 6, pg 204 | The implementation of this Agreement shall respect equality in all its aspects and equality of opportunity for everyone regardless of their gender, age, religious beliefs, opinions, ethnic identity, on account of their membership of the LGBTI community. In this Agreement, the approach to gender means recognition of equal rights for men and women. In particular, it implies the need to guarantee affirmative measures to promote that equality, active participation by women and their organisations in peacebuilding and recognition of the victimisation of women as a result of the conflict. To guarantee true equality, it is necessary to put forward affirmative measures which respond to the disproportionate impact which the armed conflict has had on women, in particular sexual violence. With regard to the rights of victims, their protection includes differential treatment which recognises the causes and the disproportionate effects which the armed conflict has had on women. Moreover, differential action must be taken to enable women to access the plans and programmes contained in this Agreement on equal terms. Participation by women and their organisations and the equitable representation of women in the different areas of participation must be guaranteed. The gender-
6.1., pg 207

In order to assist with monitoring the approach and guaranteeing the rights of women in the implementation of the Final Agreement, a special forum (Instancia Especial) shall be set up.

6.1.9., pg 214

Amnesty Law and Legislative Act will include differentiated treatment under criminal law for women in a situation of poverty, with family responsibilities, convicted of drug-related crimes not connected with violent crimes and who do not form part of the leadership structures of criminal organisations, in accordance with the recommendations made by the Organisation of American States.

6.2.3., pg 218

A cross-cutting approach will be incorporated, encompassing ethnicity, gender, women, family and generation for the interpretation and implementation of the Final Agreement to End the Armed Conflict and Build a Stable and Lasting Peace in Colombia.

6.3.1., pg 222

The National Government and the FARC-EP agree the follow equity-based and gender-based approach: this approach shall be verified in the implementation of each of the agreements.

Other

3.4.3, pg 85

ensu
re the application of territorial/equity/gender-based approaches in planning/implementing/monitoring of policies and strategies that are subject of this community

3.4.3, pg 85

ensu
re the application of territorial/equity/gender-based approaches in planning/implementing/monitoring of policies and strategies that are subject of this community

Signing or Witnessing Agreement

p. 240

The National Government and the FARC-EP have agreed the procedures for how information flows within the mechanism. Internal reports include a description of the incident, the information gathered about it, an analysis of it, information broken down by gender and a recommendation of how the incident should be handled.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Type of Conflict</th>
<th>Colombia</th>
<th>Philippines</th>
<th>South Sudan</th>
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<tr>
<td>Civil War</td>
<td>check all that apply</td>
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<td>Ethnic Conflict</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signing or Witnessing Agreement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women's Inclusion in the Peace Process</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>The Philippines</td>
<td>South Sudan</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Modalities of Inclusion</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Direct Representation</td>
<td>Women comprised 20 percent of the government negotiating team and 43 percent of FARC delegates</td>
<td>Women served as 33 percent of negotiators and women represented 25 percent of the total signatories to the final agreement. Miriam Coronel-Ferrer first woman chief negotiator to sign a major peace accord.</td>
<td>Women comprised of 25 percent of negotiators and 1 percent of mediators.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observer Status</td>
<td>2/3 women witnesses among 17 signatories in Cuba</td>
<td>Women’s civil society groups observed the formal negotiations to ensure that the needs of groups previously excluded were advocated for.</td>
<td>Members of the Women’s Coalition, a network of civil society leaders based in South Sudan and surrounding refugee camp, acted as official observers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultations</td>
<td>Women advisors in the negotiation process for the five substantive agenda items</td>
<td>Members of the Women’s civil society groups ran grassroots campaigns that gathered input that they recommended to the track one process.</td>
<td>Women advisors held consultations throughout the peace process to include provisions addressing gender quotas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive Commissions</td>
<td>Women are playing roles at the table include the Technical Subcommission on Ending the Conflict and the Gender Subcommissions. Women are twenty-five percent of its members; three of 10 members on the FARC side are women, and two of the 10 government subcommission members are women.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>High Level Problem-Solving Workshops</td>
<td>Women on the peace delegations on both sides are engaged in researching, analyzing and crafting proposals.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Four of the 22 participants of a two-day high-level problem-solving workshop hosted by IGAD were women, in which they made recommendations for the peace agreement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Decision Making</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mass Action</td>
<td></td>
<td>During the 2012 Framework Agreement, there was three weeks of violence that threatened the agreement, women protested to bring both sides back to the table.</td>
<td>In 2017, the women of South Sudan women marched in silence through South Sudan’s capital, to call for an end to the conflict.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>