

GLOBAL WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY INITIATIVE

PHASE I–II IMPLEMENTATION REPORT
(2024–2025)
UKRAINE, PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE (PAPP), MOLDOVA, CHAD, MONGOLIA, AND BURUNDI

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2024–2025, in partnership with the Government of France, UNDP established and implemented the Global Women, Peace and Security Initiative in **Ukraine, Gaza/PAPP, Moldova, Chad, Mongolia, and Burundi**, investing €2 million to advance women's leadership in peacebuilding, recovery and climate resilience. Guided by the four pillars of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325—participation, protection, prevention, and relief and recovery—**the initiative reached over 25,000 people, 70% women, in fragile and conflict-affected settings.**

The initiative generated tangible results across five priority areas: women's economic empowerment, leadership and participation, social cohesion, climate resilience, and institutional strengthening. Across surveyed countries, the initiative delivered strong and consistent results: **87%** of participants reported improved access to economic and social resources and opportunities; **89.7%** reported stronger capacity, confidence or participation in development, recovery and peacebuilding processes; **89.2%** reported improved safety, security or well-being; **79%** reported improved access to services; and **73%** reported visible shifts in social norms. Together, these results show that investing in women's leadership delivers measurable gains in resilience, recovery, protection, and inclusive local change.

From women-led CSOs sustaining inclusive recovery and peacebuilding in Ukraine and Gaza/PAPP, to women strengthening economic resilience and social cohesion in Burundi and Chad, and advancing greener and more inclusive transitions in Mongolia and Moldova, the initiative showed that women's leadership delivers concrete results across diverse crisis and recovery contexts. It also demonstrated the value of flexible, country-driven models that respond to local priorities while connecting country-level action to global technical support, cross-country learning, communications and advocacy. Together, this strengthened the initiative's visibility, reach and contribution to more inclusive recovery and peacebuilding.

Reflecting two years of implementation, this report captures success stories and lessons learned to inform future programming.








INTRODUCTION



Crises—whether driven by conflict, climate change or displacement—exacerbate gender inequalities and disproportionately affect women and girls. Yet in every crisis, women are also powerful agents of recovery, peacebuilding and resilience when given the tools and opportunities to lead.

UNDP launched the **Global Women, Peace and Security Initiative** in 2024 with support from the **Government of France**, aligned with its feminist foreign policy, through UNDP’s Thematic Funding Window for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment. The programme offered a response to urgent and overlapping crises in Ukraine, Gaza, Moldova, Chad, Mongolia, and Burundi. It sought to deliver tangible peacebuilding results by investing in women’s leadership, economic resilience and climate action.

The **six countries** were selected to invest in and demonstrate the value of women-led WPS solutions across **distinct crisis typologies** and entry points: **Ukraine**, where war has damaged infrastructure and strained governance and social cohesion; **Gaza/PAPP**, where women and CSOs are on the frontlines of crisis response amid conflict and mass displacement; **Moldova**, where women-led economic cooperation can strengthen resilience and trust across divided communities along the Nistru River; **Chad**, where displacement and climate shocks along the Great Green Wall corridor call for women-led livelihoods, peacebuilding and renewable-energy solutions; **Mongolia**, where urban energy poverty and air pollution created a timely platform to advance women’s leadership in just energy transitions (reinforced by high-level feminist foreign policy momentum); and **Burundi**, where fragile border communities required integrated women’s economic empowerment and social norm change, including work with men as allies.

A global component operated alongside country-level action, providing technical assistance, knowledge products, and South–South exchanges. This expanded the reach of the initiative and enhanced the impact of France’s investment across additional crisis-affected countries.

This report documents key achievements and lessons from the six principal countries, drawing from baseline and endline surveys, qualitative interviews, participatory reporting by local partners and close coordination with UNDP country offices. The voices and experiences of women are at the core of the report, reflecting their central role in shaping more peaceful, resilient and gender-equal societies. The report concludes with strategic recommendations for further collaboration and expansion of successful models.

COUNTRY REPORTING

Ukraine



Country Context

Ukraine is the epicentre of one of the world's most complex crises. Ongoing war affects millions, destroying infrastructure and weakening governance and social cohesion. Women have emerged as both responders to the crisis and critical leaders of actions sustaining communities and accelerating recovery.[1]

The **Global Women, Peace and Security Initiative** operates in the oblasts of Chernihiv, Kharkiv and Zakarpattia. Chernihiv and Kharkiv have experienced intense hostilities due to their proximity to the Russian border. Zakarpattia is less affected by direct conflict but hosts a large number of internally displaced people, primarily women, children and persons with disabilities. UNDP's tailored gender-responsive recovery approaches responded to these diverse security and socioeconomic contexts, reinforcing women's leadership in both crisis response and stabilization.

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[1] UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). 2024. Ukraine Country Programme Document (2024–2028). OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs). 2023. Ukraine Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024. IOM (International Organization for Migration). 2023. Ukraine Internal Displacement Report – General Population Survey, Round 15. UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). 2024. Ukraine Situation Flash Update #76.

Ukraine

Activities

In **Ukraine**, the establishment of community centers run by women has provided more than **2,500 women** with access to safe, inclusive spaces that foster social cohesion and reinforce a sense of security. These centres have become hubs for recovery support, solidarity, and collective action.

In nine cities, women from diverse ages and backgrounds were trained and supported to lead local recovery efforts. They participated in planning processes, community forums, and recovery working groups. The training equipped them with skills in project management, advocacy, conflict analysis, and non-violent communication, enabling them to design and implement initiatives responsive to their communities' evolving needs. Women designed and implemented nine local recovery projects—three in each oblast—tailored to community needs and informed by a rapid assessment conducted with **650 women**. These initiatives responded to a range of priorities, including economic empowerment, psychosocial support, cultural preservation, and protection.

Nationally, the project convened the Women Leaders of Change Forum, bringing together **80 stakeholders** to exchange innovations, shape local recovery priorities, and establish a platform for continued collaboration among women leaders in peacebuilding.



Ukraine

Results

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND FINANCIAL RESILIENCE

- **9** community-led recovery projects generated income, provided psychosocial support and increased digital literacy.
- **103** women built their enterprises with support from a women's business hub in Chernihiv.

LEADERSHIP AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

- **96% o**f women participants surveyed reported improved capacities to lead and take part in local and national development, recovery and/or peace processes.
- **90** women gained skills and supported to lead community recovery initiatives in Chernihiv, Kharkiv and Zakarpattia.
- **93%** of women began participating in community planning.
- **25** young women were mentored on advocacy campaigns.
- **$19,000** in local budget allocations resulted from women's advocacy in Zakarpattia.

SOCIAL COHESION AND PEACEBUILDING

- **90%** of women felt safer in their communities.
- **2,534** women and **103** men used safe spaces for social gatherings and support.
- **43** displaced women in Zakarpattia built trust by co-leading activities with host populations.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOCAL RESILIENCE

- **3** solar-powered charging stations were installed in front-line communities in Kharkiv (Zmiiv, Nova Vodolaha, Zlatopillia).

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND POLICY INFLUENCE

- **3** manuals to promote women's leadership were developed for civil society in Zakarpattia.
- **80+** actors attended a regional WPS forum, making a collective commitment to inclusive recovery and co-defined a set of best practices to guide future programming across Ukraine.

Ukraine

REAL VOICES, REAL CHANGE

Horodnia (Chernihiv Oblast)

FINDING SAFETY AND SOLACE AT THE LIBRARY



"Recovery is not only about reconstructing infrastructure but also restoring trust and hope."

– Anna Shcherbakova,
Director of the Horodnia Library System

Anna transformed 24 libraries into safe hubs offering psychosocial support, digital literacy and tools for jobs and livelihoods. More than 100 women engaged through these spaces, strengthening their resilience and confidence to take on leadership in recovery efforts.

Nova Vodolaha (Kharkiv Oblast)

WHEN CULTURE BECOMES RECOVERY



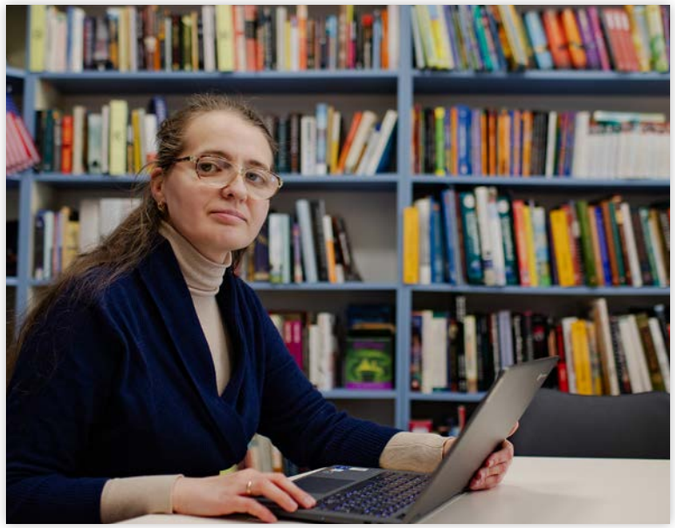
"At first, people said culture wasn't a priority during the war. But we proved it supports healing."

– Aliona Kompaniiets, Director, House of Culture

Aliona established a media centre to preserve Ukrainian cultural heritage and spotlight women's creative leadership. It mobilized 47 women to develop community storytelling and revive folk traditions. They have reached over 2,500 people across Kharkiv, helping to restore identity, foster belonging and position culture as a path to resilience.

Uzhhorod (Zakarpattia Oblast)

CHAMPIONING INCLUSION FOR ALL



"It's essential that everyone has the opportunity to be heard and contribute meaningfully to common goals."

– Maryna Stashina-Neimet, legal advocate

Maryna champions accessibility and equity in Zakarpattia. Drawing from her lived experience as a person who is visually impaired, she has improved access to legal information and support for internally displaced people. Her ongoing efforts support a community where everyone, including persons with disabilities and displaced populations, can fully access the public services they need.

Read more: Women of Ukraine: Shaping the future amid adversities of war

Ukraine

What Leadership Looks Like

Women are leading change across communities. The following is a snapshot of engagement and innovation, led by women supported through this initiative.

‘Harmony’ women’s business hub empowered 103 women to collaborate, exchange experiences and lead small-scale enterprises.
HORODNIA

‘Place of Power’ women’s hub provided 72 participants with mental health and social support.
RIPKY

‘Academy of Women’s Leadership’ provided 25 young women leaders with training, mentorship and equipment.
CHERNIHIV CITY

CHERNIHIV OBLAST

‘Find Yourself’ hub supported 77 women, including internally displaced people, with psychosocial assistance and professional development.
ZMIIV

‘Mommy in the Shelter’ initiative supported mothers and children by transforming a basement into a safe space during air raids.
ZLATOPIL

‘Heritage of Berehyn’ media centre used storytelling to advocate women’s roles in cultural preservation.
NOVA VODOLAHA

KHARKIV OBLAST

‘Artists of Change’ empowered over 230 participants through creative leadership skills and a co-working space.
MUKACHEVO

‘Women’s Power in Unity’ benefited 312 women by creating a physiotherapy centre and running workshops.
SVALIAVA

‘Maternal Health and Safety’ hospital-based initiative upgraded maternal health services for 1,600 women and held gender-based violence awareness sessions.
UZHHOROD

ZAKARPATTIA OBLAST



Ukraine

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS

The following challenges and actions taken, as well as further response measures identified to consider, provide key learning to inform future interventions.

SECURITY DISRUPTIONS

Frequent air raids and power outages interrupted activities and limited safe access to public spaces for project participants and partners. Project teams adapted by introducing flexible scheduling, using alternative energy sources and applying context-specific safety protocols.

INITIAL COMMUNITY HESITANCY

In times of war, discussions around women's leadership are de-prioritized and community dialogues are met with skepticism, which initially hindered women's participation. Engagement increased through tailored outreach, partnerships with civil society organisations, and consistent communication. Expanding women's engagement to national level recovery discussions can sustain and leverage this momentum.

LIMITED AWARENESS ON GENDER EQUALITY

Many women had little exposure to gender equality concepts or participatory mechanisms. Capacity development sessions, peer mentorship and opportunities to act in leadership roles helped bridge this gap and instill confidence.

SUSTAINABILITY RISKS

Maintaining outcomes after project closure was a core challenge. The project built local ownership, invested in women's leadership, strengthened women-led civil society organisations and integrated gender equality in local institutions. Sustaining gains—especially in high-risk contexts like Ukraine—requires longer term investment in systems, skills and institutions so women can continue leading recovery.

COUNTRY REPORTING

Gaza / Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP)

Country Context

In **Gaza**, protracted conflict, repeated displacement, collapsing livelihoods and severe access constraints have created an acute protection and survival crisis. Continued insecurity, shortages and overcrowded shelters have disrupted services and referral pathways, heightened protection risks, and deepened psychosocial stress for women, girls and families.

Women and local women-led organisations have become indispensable to frontline response—sustaining care, protection and community support in displacement settings—even as they operate with limited resources and little influence over formal crisis planning. In this context, strengthening women's leadership and the capacity of local women-led organisations is essential not only to sustain life-saving response, but also to preserve community functioning and the foundations for inclusive recovery.

The **Global Women, Peace and Security Initiative** supported women-led CSOs and community networks to sustain response and early recovery in an extremely volatile environment. It combined women-led community action with mediation capacity and institutional support, helping women serve as first responders, community anchors and contributors to more inclusive crisis planning.



Gaza / Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP)

Activities

Given the highly insecure and fast-changing environment in **Gaza**, the initiative adopted a practical, women-led approach that linked crisis response with early recovery. Women-led networks implemented **six** community initiatives—including safe spaces, clay ovens and small-scale home agriculture—to ease daily survival pressures and strengthen coping in displacement settings. The initiative also trained women in displacement camps in first aid and equipped them to provide immediate support in shelters and other high-risk settings.

Additionally, the initiative strengthened women's leadership in local crisis response. Two women-led networks were established and trained in leadership, risk management and crisis planning, while women-led CSOs were supported to sustain community outreach, safety measures and women's participation in local response despite severe operational constraints.

In parallel, the initiative reinforced prevention, protection and local conflict management. It facilitated GBV/PSEA awareness sessions and community dialogues, trained women in mediation and alternative dispute resolution, and strengthened CSO capacity in GBV, case management and referral pathways. A gender-responsive conflict analysis further helped integrate gender equality into crisis response and early recovery planning.



Gaza / Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP)

Results

COMMUNITY RESPONSE AND EARLY RECOVERY

- Women-led networks designed and implemented **six** community initiatives that supported household coping and self-sufficiency in displacement settings, including safe spaces, clay ovens and small-scale home gardening.

LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

- Two women-led networks were established, engaging **116** active members who completed capacity-building in leadership, risk management and recovery planning.
- Partnerships with women-led CSOs strengthened their leadership and role in crisis response and recovery.

SOCIAL COHESION AND PEACEBUILDING

- **1,008** individuals—including women, men, girls, boys and persons with disabilities—participated in GBV/PSEA awareness sessions and community dialogues, creating safer spaces for exchange and improving knowledge of support and referral options.
- **320** women were trained in mediation and alternative dispute resolution, strengthening conflict management within displacement communities.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND ACCESS TO SERVICES

- **203** CSO staff were trained in GBV, PSEA, case management and referral pathways, strengthening the quality and coordination of safe referral pathways and essential services.
- **1,562** individuals—including **1,309** women and **253** men—were referred to essential services, including psychosocial, legal, humanitarian and mediation support. Of these, **928** received one service and **634** accessed multiple services.
- A Gender-Responsive Conflict Analysis (GRCA) helped integrate gender equality perspectives into crisis response, early recovery planning and sectoral assessments.

Gaza / Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP)

REAL VOICES, REAL CHANGE

Gaza City

FROM SILENCE TO SOLUTIONS

"Before, I watched tensions grow in the shelters.
Now I step in—with skills—and help turn conflict into solutions."

– Areej, trainee

As displacement and uncertainty strained relationships in shelters and host communities, Areej gained the skills and confidence to support dialogue and promote safer, non-violent ways of resolving disputes. Her story shows how women's mediation skills can help reduce tensions and strengthen community coping under extreme pressure.

Southern Rimal

REDEFINING VIOLENCE

"I thought violence was only physical. Now I understand GBV takes many forms—and I see my role differently."

– Nimer, displaced father

In displacement settings, stress and insecurity can reinforce harmful norms and normalize violence. After joining awareness sessions, Nimer began to recognize the different forms of GBV and the role men can play in prevention, helping shift attitudes within families and communities under strain.

Beit Lahya

REJECTING EARLY MARRIAGE

"Early marriage was normal where I live. Now I know it is a form of violence—and I reject it."

– Doaa, displaced girl

Displacement and poverty can intensify pressures that drive harmful practices, including early marriage. Through safe spaces and awareness sessions, Doaa reframed what she had once accepted as normal and asserted her right to safety and dignity—an important step toward prevention and protection in crisis.



Gaza / Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP)

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS

The following challenges and actions taken, as well as further response measures identified to consider, provide key learning to inform future interventions.

BREAKDOWN OF CEASEFIRE AND INSECURITY

Ongoing conflict repeatedly restricted access and disrupted activities. Flexible delivery, daily coordination and low-contact modalities helped sustain implementation, but future programming will need stronger scenario planning and pre-agreed contingency measures.

STRAINED HUMANITARIAN CONDITIONS AND HEIGHTENED SAFETY RISKS

Mass displacement, shortages and overcrowded shelters increased psychosocial distress and GBV risks while reducing privacy and safety. Safe spaces, awareness sessions and referral pathways remained critical, highlighting the need for integrated protection, psychosocial support and case management in crisis settings.

OVERBURDENED WOMEN-LED CSOs

Women-led CSOs faced damaged facilities, staff displacement and heavy caseloads, putting continuity of services at risk. Closer coordination and one-stop approaches helped sustain delivery. Continued support should include simpler partnerships, flexible funding and practical operational support during acute crises.

STIGMA AND SAFE DISCLOSURE CONSTRAINTS

Many survivors were reluctant to seek help or disclose violence due to stigma, fear and lack of privacy in overcrowded shelters. Confidential, survivor-centred engagement and discreet referral pathways helped create safer entry points, but trusted community channels need continued strengthening.

COUNTRY REPORTING

Moldova

Country Context

Along both banks of the **Nistru River**, communities continue to navigate fragile post-conflict dynamics, limited market access, energy insecurity and persistent gender inequalities. Low trust across the river and unequal access to business ecosystems constrain women's economic opportunities and limit incentives for cooperation across divided communities.

Women entrepreneurs play an important role in sustaining households and local economies, yet face disproportionate barriers to cross-river trade, business support and local decision-making. In this context, expanding women's economic participation is not only an inclusion issue, but a practical entry point for building trust, strengthening livelihoods and advancing more inclusive cross-river cooperation.

The **Global Women, Peace and Security Initiative** supported women through the AdTrade initiative to expand entrepreneurship, social enterprise and green economy pathways across both banks of the Nistru River. By engaging business associations, local authorities and youth, it helped strengthen women's economic agency while creating practical spaces for cooperation across divided communities.



Moldova

Activities

Given fragile trust, market barriers and gender inequalities along the Nistru River, the initiative strengthened women's economic opportunities while fostering cooperation across divided communities. It supported women entrepreneurs and MSMEs with export planning, market analysis, and compliance to improve access to EU and UK markets.

The initiative also strengthened women's role in business networks across the river. Women-led business associations from both sides of the river formed a partnership to advance gender-responsive entrepreneurship and amplify women's influence in local economic decision-making. Survivors of GBV were supported through dedicated capacity-building, mentorship and tailored livelihood pathways to strengthen their autonomy.

To promote greener and more resilient local economies, the project supported women-led MSMEs with renewable energy and energy-efficiency coaching and equipment, alongside green procurement for solar panels and related solutions. It also expanded women's entry into the digital and green economy through peer learning and training on AI in business, modern marketing and personal development, as well as dialogue cafés on women and the green economy.



Moldova

Results

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND FINANCIAL RESILIENCE

- **696** women **(81.9%)** reported improved access to skills, financial support, jobs, markets and income.
- **60** women entrepreneurs strengthened export planning, market analysis and readiness for EU and UK markets.
- **22** MSMEs and social enterprises received business consultations, solar panels and energy-efficient equipment.
- Project investments generated **40** jobs, including **16** jobs for women and **8** green jobs.
- Survivors of GBV received business mentoring, skills training and livelihood support to strengthen economic autonomy.

LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

- **613** women **(72.2%)** reported increased leadership roles and decision-making power at household, community and institutional levels.
- **802** women **(94.4%)** reported greater confidence and capacity to shape recovery and peacebuilding efforts.
- Women-led business associations from both banks formed a cross-river partnership to advance gender-responsive entrepreneurship.

SOCIAL COHESION AND PEACEBUILDING

- **87.5%** of the targeted population reported improved security and well-being, with fewer tensions and incidents of violence.
- **56.2%** reported visible shifts in social norms, including reduced harmful gender stereotypes and greater engagement of men in gender-equitable behaviours.
- **448** women **(52.8%)** reported reduced violence and safer environments at household, community and workplace levels.
- Dialogue cafés on women and the green economy promoted trust-building and cross-river collaboration.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND INNOVATION

- **779** women **(91.7%)** reported increased access to economic resources through green and energy-efficiency support.
- **7** women-led **MSMEs** received renewable energy and energy-efficiency coaching and equipment.
- Green procurement for solar panels and other equipment advanced more sustainable, climate-resilient business models.
- **80** women from the left bank gained skills in digital marketing, graphic design and IT project management and are planning careers in the technology sector.
- A Tech Women Community was established on the left bank of the Nistru River.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND MARKET LINKAGES

- **572** women **(67.4%)** reported increased access to services, including legal and business support.
- Partnerships were established with business support organisations on both banks to strengthen women's engagement in IT and entrepreneurship..

Moldova

REAL VOICES, REAL CHANGE

Tiraspol

INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP



"For me, this is more than just a business: it is an opportunity to create jobs for women in difficult circumstances and to bring joy for children."

– Svetlana Kirilova, social entrepreneur

On the left bank, where markets, networks and opportunities are more limited, Svetlana used the programme to strengthen her social enterprise and expand its impact. Her work is creating jobs for women facing hardship and shows how women-led social entrepreneurship can support livelihoods and community well-being across divided contexts.

CARE AND ENTERPRISE



"I transformed my therapy center into a safe place for children and adults. This helps rebuild trust and contribute to safer, more supportive community spaces."

– Galina Fedotova, woman entrepreneur

In a context marked by social stress, exclusion and the legacy of division, Galina turned her therapy centre into a safe space for children and adults. Her story shows how women-led services can support healing, rebuild trust and strengthen protective environments in fragile communities.

SUSTAINABLE STYLE



"New tools improved my eco-bags and gave me confidence. My brand now shows that beauty can be sustainable for future generations."

– Tatiana Baranova, eco-business owner

With practical support and new tools, Tatiana improved the quality of her products and strengthened her market position while keeping sustainability at the centre of her business. Her journey shows how women entrepreneurs can lead greener business models and help drive more resilient local economies.

Moldova

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS

The following challenges and actions taken, as well as further response measures identified to consider, provide key learning to inform future interventions.

LIMITED AWARENESS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY-EFFICIENT SOLUTIONS

Many entrepreneurs—especially on the left bank—had limited opportunities to build the knowledge and confidence needed to adopt renewable energy and energy-efficient solutions. Awareness sessions, demonstrations, coaching and equipment support helped build practical understanding, highlighting the importance of pairing technology with hands-on support and clear business cases.

FRAGILE TRUST ACROSS THE NISTRU RIVER

Political and social divisions continued to constrain collaboration and market linkages across both banks. Joint trainings, dialogue cafés and business support created practical entry points for cooperation, showing that low-risk, economically grounded platforms can help build trust across divided communities.

SUPPORTING GBV SURVIVORS' ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Survivors faced stigma, exclusion and limited access to safe economic networks. Tailored capacity-building, mentorship and partnerships helped support safer reintegration, underscoring the importance of survivor-centred safeguards, confidential pathways and links to psychosocial support.

COUNTRY REPORTING

Chad



Country Context

Mandelia, a commune in the Chari-Baguirmi region of south-western Chad, faces converging crises: environmental degradation,[2] population displacement[3] and deep-rooted gender inequalities.[4] Its population of Indigenous communities and displaced people lives with recurrent flooding, cross-border insecurity, and persistent poverty and food insecurity. Years of constraints on clean energy, education and livelihoods have eroded community resilience and social cohesion. Further, in a strongly patriarchal society, sociocultural practices hinder women's economic opportunities and decision-making.[5]

The **Global Women, Peace and Security Initiative** supported both displaced and host communities in Mandelia. It provided locally anchored, gender-responsive recovery strategies that helped rebuild trust and peace among fragmented communities. The project positioned women as leaders in agro-ecological transformation, clean energy adoption and local governance, all of which are foundations for inclusive peace, development and climate resilience.

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[2] OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs). 2023. Chad: Flooding Situation in N'Djamena—Situation Report No. 09. 20 January.
[3] UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). 2023. Displacement in Chad.
[4] UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). 2023. Gender Inequality Index.
[5] UN Women (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women). 2024. Chad country factsheet.

Chad

Activities

Given the intersecting challenges of conflict, displacement, poverty and climate shocks in Mandelia, the project applied a holistic model to promote women's economic empowerment and strengthen peace. This combined leadership training, agroecological innovation and access to renewable energy for both displaced and host community women.

A pillar of the initiative was women's leadership. Hundreds of women joined tailored training on civic engagement, inclusive decision-making, gender equality and communications, equipping them to effectively participate in local governance and shape peacebuilding. The project also facilitated large-scale community dialogues on gender-based violence and women's rights, creating safe spaces for healing, reflection and collective action. These gatherings built solidarity among women from diverse backgrounds.

To address low literacy levels and strengthen women's roles in public life and the economy, the project offered functional literacy classes. It supported women-led cooperatives with training on agroecology and renewable energy, which improved farming, especially moringa cultivation, processing and marketing. A solar-powered agroecological site provided solar irrigation and processing units, increasing productivity and climate resilience. Cooperatives received business training and made connections to value chains, including women-owned enterprises.

By helping to create local management committees, the project strengthened ownership to sustain changes. A cross-country learning exchange with women's cooperatives in Senegal helped women leaders from Mandélia strengthen their knowledge of cooperative management and climate-resilient livelihoods.

Overall, the initiative's integrated approach, linking economic empowerment, clean energy and inclusive leadership, contributed to women's greater agency and community cohesion more broadly, laying a foundation for sustained recovery and peace.



Chad

Results

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND FINANCIAL RESILIENCE

- **5,000+** women gained training and equipment to increase economic independence.
- **300+** women developed business plans and skills in agroecology, moringa cultivation and the use of microcredit.
- **150** women entrepreneurs and cooperatives increased income-generating activities using renewable energy.
- Childcare services helped more women to participate in economic activities and leadership roles.
- Local officials called for replicating women-led business models based on their demonstrated success.

LEADERSHIP AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

- **80%** of women participants surveyed reported improved capacities to lead and take part in local and national development, recovery and/or peace processes.
- **150+** women deepened knowledge of civic engagement, gender equality and political participation.
- Women reported greater confidence in public speaking and leadership.
- Women ran community dialogues on legal rights and gender-based violence, raising their profiles as credible leaders.
- Some women prepared to run in local elections and regularly spoke in public forums.

SOCIAL COHESION AND PEACEBUILDING

- **300+** displaced and host community members took part in dialogues on gender-based violence, hygiene and social cohesion.
- Inclusive healing spaces fostered trust and unity across communities.
- Women's platforms bridged ethnic, religious and displacement divides, creating a new spirit of solidarity.
- Engagement with religious leaders, men, and youth initiated long-term social norm change.
- Dialogue with provincial authorities resulted in integrating women's priorities in peacebuilding strategies.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND ACCESS TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

- **500** women adopted climate-smart agricultural practices such as composting and vertical gardening.
- Solar energy investments enhanced food production, improved safety as women no longer had to travel long distances to collect fuel, and reduced environmental burdens.
- Women-led infrastructure projects acted as stabilizers during climate shocks, contributing to early recovery.
- Women gained new roles in early warning and crisis response, contributing to community resilience.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND MARKET LINKAGES

- Women's cooperatives gained skills related to governance, financial management and sustainability.
- Tricycles and transport equipment supported market access and commercialization.
- A solar-powered agroecological site began powering irrigation and processing units, boosting productivity and climate resilience.

Chad

Real Voices, Real Change

Mandelia

LEARNING TO LEAD



"After receiving the training, I feel empowered to run in upcoming legislative elections and to take a more active role in public decision-making."

– Mme Rémadji Tobaye Anasthasie, community leader

Rémadji once turned down a chance to run for office, held back by fear and social pressure. Through project-supported civic engagement workshops, she gained confidence and practical leadership tools. Today, she is preparing to run as a candidate—part of a growing wave of women stepping into political leadership in Chad.

FROM THE BACK TO THE FRONT



"In the past, we thought that only literate women had the right to speak and sit among men, so we always stood back, but from now on we'll be out in front, fearless, to speak on behalf of women."

– Ms. Aché Tom, women's group member

Marginalized by literacy barriers and gender norms, Aché once remained silent during community debates. Today, after gaining a chance to take part in dialogues on civil rights and leadership, she has found her voice. She speaks confidently in public, challenges stereotypes and encourages other women to step forward as leaders in their communities.

A TRANSFORMATION IN GENDER NORMS



"I didn't grow up thinking boys and girls should be raised the same. But something shifted. I started treating my three children equally."

– Mme Elisabeth Mbaïdene, mother and widow

After joining community trainings on equality and social cohesion, Elisabeth changed how she raised her children. Stepping outside traditional gender norms, she now teaches her son to share household duties and values equal education for girls and boys. She both challenges gender norms at home—and sets a new example in her community.

THE CONFIDENCE TO SPEAK



"Before, we didn't have a voice. Today, we are listened to and can act for the good of our community."

– Amina Adoum, community member and programme participant

Like many women in Mandelia, Amina was once largely excluded from public life. By joining leadership workshops and community dialogues, she strengthened her confidence and voice. Today, she actively participates in local meetings, advocates for women's rights and supports women's income-generating initiatives. Her transformation is one of many quiet revolutions reshaping gender roles and rebuilding trust in a fractured community.

Chad

Challenges and Lessons

The following challenges and actions taken, as well as further response measures identified to consider, provide key learning to inform future interventions.

CONSTRAINED CIVIC SPACE AND GENDER NORMS

Cultural norms and entrenched gender roles limited women's participation in public and decision-making spaces. Many lacked leadership experience and the confidence to speak publicly. The project successfully identified emerging women leaders and cultivated awareness of their rights and capacities for leadership and civic engagement. Deeper attention is needed to address intersectional barriers—such as age, literacy and religious or ethnic differences—that continue to restrict participation.

LITERACY AND LANGUAGE BARRIERS

Low education levels and linguistic diversity made it difficult for women to fully grasp training content, particularly on financial literacy and political engagement. Oral facilitation, storytelling and visual tools proved to be essential adaptations. Future programming should prioritize locally tailored content and invest in foundational literacy and numeracy as critical enablers of empowerment.

ECONOMIC INSECURITY AND LIMITED LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS

Participants emphasized that empowerment is unsustainable without income opportunities. The project introduced climate-resilient agriculture (e.g., moringa), microcredit and business planning. This enhanced incomes and social cohesion between displaced and host community women. Yet long-term resilience depends on deeper economic diversification and greater market access.

SUSTAINABILITY RISKS FOR WOMEN'S GROUPS AND COMMUNITY STRUCTURES

While women's enthusiasm was strong, concerns emerged around the longevity of women's groups given leadership turnover, informal structures and weak institutional links. The project began forging connections with municipal actors and other UNDP initiatives to anchor women's networks in local systems. Future efforts should include mentorship, stronger institutional integration and formal recognition of women's cooperatives.

A VOLATILE SECURITY CONTEXT AND CLIMATE SHOCKS

Insecurity and exposure to floods and pests delayed implementation and affected community stability. Flexibility and local anchoring sustained project continuity, with women leaders playing key stabilizing roles. To enhance resilience, future phases should support community-based disaster preparedness, agricultural diversification and the embedding of WPS approaches within broader crisis response systems.

COUNTRY REPORTING

Mongolia

Country Context

While politically stable, **Mongolia** faces growing risks from urban fragility, climate pressures, and widening socio-economic inequalities that disproportionately affect women. In ger areas of Ulaanbaatar and Erdenet, women experience harsh winter energy shocks, hazardous air pollution, energy poverty, and limited access to decision-making spaces. Coal-based heating systems heighten health risks, reinforce time poverty and unpaid care work, and restrict women's ability to participate in public life or influence local governance—undermining community stability.[6]

Mongolia's national transition to renewable energy and climate resilience presents a timely opportunity to advance women's leadership, voice and agency along with the many benefits from sustainable and inclusive development. Clean energy solutions—such as solar heating and energy-efficient housing—open opportunities to reduce household health risks, improve time use and increase women's roles in local energy planning.[7] .

The **Global Women, Peace and Security Initiative** reached women in marginalized urban communities of Ulaanbaatar and Erdenet—areas hard hit by climate impacts, high pollution, and winter energy shocks—and helped position them as active changemakers in Mongolia's inclusive energy transition.



[6] UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). 2023. UNDP Spotlights Gender Equality as a Vehicle for a Just Energy Transition in Mongolia.
[7] Ibid.

Mongolia

Activities

The project deployed clean energy solutions and strengthened women's leadership in the energy transition and local governance. Training on solar energy use, climate risks and leadership skills built women's confidence and practical knowledge. They used new knowledge to engage with local decision-makers and advocate for inclusive, climate-resilient investments—especially through the Local Development Fund, the main mechanism to finance local development projects.

To meet urgent winter needs, the initiative installed solar photovoltaic systems and electric heaters. It also introduced real-time monitoring to demonstrate cost savings. Awareness campaigns and peer learning, conducted in partnership with two newly formed women-led advocacy networks, promoted the rapid adoption and use of these and other clean energy options.

In tandem, UNDP worked with the Ministry of Energy to implement its Gender Equality Strategy. A collaboration with the National Committee on Gender Equality provided training for engineers in the Ministry's Gender Technical Working Group. This helped to embed gender-responsive practices in energy governance, such as tools for gender analysis in energy planning, sex-disaggregated data and gender-responsive budgeting.

UNDP also assisted in bringing women's perspectives into climate policies, including Mongolia's carbon market framework and Just Energy Transition initiative. Both include provisions for gender-equal access to benefits, safeguards against social risks and inclusive decision-making processes.



Mongolia

Results

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND FINANCIAL RESILIENCE

- **68** households (40 women-headed) shifted from coal to clean energy.
- **67%** of households reported energy cost savings; **46%** described savings as significant.
- **64%** of households indicated they are saving **90** to **240** minutes daily, time redirected to childcare, domestic responsibilities and income-generating activities.

LEADERSHIP AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

- **84%** of women participants surveyed reported greater capacities to lead and take part in local and national development, recovery and/or peace processes.
- **24** women submitted community proposals to the Local Development Fund.
- **230** participants completed training on gender, governance and advocacy.
- **2** newly formed women's advocacy networks mobilized behind community uptake of clean energy.
- **65%** of participants reported significant improvements in women's decision-making at home.
- Women community energy advisers began guiding their neighbours on leasing and using solar systems.

SOCIAL COHESION AND PEACEBUILDING

- Women's peer learning groups strengthened trust and collaboration across neighbourhoods, using clean energy discussions as a platform for collective problem-solving and community support.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND ACCESS TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

- **80%** of households shifting to solar-powered electric heating reported better indoor air quality.
- **52%** of such households reported fewer respiratory illnesses.
- Clean energy access improved indoor air quality and health—especially for children.
- Clean energy systems that continued to function during blackouts enhanced energy security and household resilience.
- Many families removed traditional coal stoves, demonstrating a significant behavioural shift and growing trust in clean energy.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND POLICY INFLUENCE

- **15** engineers (14 women) completed Mongolia's first training on gender in energy, leading to the application of gender-responsive practices in energy governance.
- Project learning influenced Mongolia's carbon market roadmap and Just Energy Transition initiative.
- The Governor of Chingeltei District pledged **$300,000** to scale up the project model.
- Strong results drew visits from the Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar, boosting political support to integrate gender-responsive clean energy solutions into municipal and national planning.

Mongolia

Real Voices, Real Change

Ulaanbaatar

FROM COAL SMOKE TO COUNCIL MEETINGS



"Now I know how the Local Development Fund works—and how to speak up for what our community really needs."

– Ms. Tsetsgee Tsend-Ayush, project participant and advocate

From tending a coal stove to speaking at national fora, Tsetsgee's journey exemplifies grass-roots transformation. Living in a quiet ger district of Ulaanbaatar, she gained access to clean energy and training on gender and governance through UNDP support. Equipped with new leadership skills, she began organizing women in her neighbourhood and advocating directly with local officials. Her voice carried all the way to the National Committee on Energy Reform, where she represented clean energy users at the policy table.

A SAFER HOME, A HEALTHIER FUTURE



"Since we installed the new system, my daughter's asthma is gone. I finally sleep without fear."

– Ms. Gantuya Nyamdovdon, mother of three children

For at least one mother, the UNDP project was a turning point. Gantuya's family had unknowingly suffered from coal stove emissions that triggered her daughter's asthma. After the project helped install an electric heating system, her child's health improved, and her own anxiety lifted. She now describes her home as a place of safety, comfort and dignity. Equipped with new financial literacy and leadership skills, she has become a trusted resource in her neighbourhood. She mentors others, shares her knowledge and advocates for clean energy as a path to better lives for all.

Sources: UNDP Post-implementation Assessment Report 2025; UNDP Mongolia, 2025, "From Coal to Clean"; National Committee on Energy Reform event minutes (January 2025).

Mongolia

Challenges and Lessons

The following challenges and actions taken, as well as further response measures identified to consider, provide key learning to inform future interventions.

DATA VERIFICATION DELAYS

Preliminary estimates indicated that the project reduced 567 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent during the winter months. But a lack of third-party verification delayed confirmation of these results. Fine particulate matter (PM2.5) data were not finalized in time for reporting. The project relied on household surveys and qualitative assessments to demonstrate impacts. Future initiatives should engage external evaluators earlier for timely and rigorous data validation.

SHORTAGE OF GENDER AND ENERGY EXPERTS

Delays in recruiting key consultants resulted from a national gap in professionals with combined gender and energy expertise. Investment in local capacity, including through mentorship and academic partnerships, would help develop a new generation of gender and energy practitioners.

ELECTRICITY TARIFF INCREASES AND SYSTEM MISUSE

Unexpected tariff hikes, combined with the improper use of solar systems (e.g., switching them off during daylight hours), led to higher-than-expected energy costs in some households. The project provided targeted coaching and technical support. Future phases should prioritize financial literacy training and behaviour change communication to optimize system use and cost efficiency.

RESULTS MAY NOT OUTLIVE THE PROJECT

While short-term interventions introduced new technologies and approaches, there was a risk that without systemic integration, these gains might not be sustained. The project pointed to the need to pair clean energy investments with strong user support, localized expertise and financial preparedness and strong institutional capacity positioning women as energy users, leaders and decision makers. By integrating gender equality into Mongolia's broader energy and climate programming, the project laid a foundation for lasting benefits but requires continued investment to sustain them.

COUNTRY REPORTING

Burundi

Country Context

In **Burundi**, border communities such as Gihanga and Buganda face overlapping pressures from insecurity, migration flows, climate-related shocks and entrenched gender inequalities. In provinces bordering the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, pressure on land, livelihoods, services and natural resources heighten vulnerability, weakens resilience and increases the risk of local tensions.

Women are central to household survival, informal cross-border trade and community-level conflict prevention in these areas, yet their contribution is constrained by limited access to productive assets, finance, decision-making and safe mobility, alongside exposure to gender-based violence. In these fragile border settings, strengthening women's economic agency and leadership is therefore not only a matter of inclusion, but a pathway to social cohesion, stability and more resilient recovery.

The **Global Women, Peace and Security Initiative** supported women in Gihanga and Buganda to strengthen entrepreneurship and financial inclusion, expand their leadership in community life, and promote social cohesion and norm change through engagement with men, local authorities and youth.



COUNTRY REPORTING

Burundi

Activities

Given insecurity, displacement pressures and gender inequalities in Burundi's border areas, the initiative linked women's economic empowerment with leadership, social cohesion and prevention. It supported women's entrepreneurship through business development and financial literacy training, while expanding access to finance through Village Community Banking groups that strengthened savings, credit and solidarity networks.

It also strengthened women's participation and agency by supporting women's associations—including women with disabilities—to take on leadership roles in agribusiness and gain recognition from local authorities. In parallel, community workshops on positive masculinity and sensitization on gender stereotypes promoted reflection, behaviour change and trust between women, men and community leaders.

To support more resilient livelihoods, the initiative backed women-led enterprises in sustainable agriculture, services, agro-processing and crafts, including support to pitch green business ideas to financing institutions. A complementary digital component strengthened women's digital and agroecological skills, improved market access and supported business digitization. Partnerships with local authorities and women-led CSOs helped anchor the activities locally, while a socio-anthropological study informed awareness efforts on barriers to women's economic participation.



Burundi

Results

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND FINANCIAL RESILIENCE

- **336** surveyed women **(91%)** reported increased access to economic and social resources, including skills, financial support, jobs, markets and opportunities.
- **610** women trained in entrepreneurship, business development and financial literacy.
- Village Community Banking groups were established, strengthening savings, credit access and solidarity networks.
- **41** women-led businesses reported increased revenue after four months.

LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

- **167** women **(45%)** reported increased access to leadership and decision-making roles at community and institutional levels.
- **348** women **(94%)** reported greater confidence to shape crisis response, recovery and peacebuilding.
- Women with disabilities took leadership roles in agribusiness initiatives.
- Women's associations gained recognition from local authorities, strengthening civic engagement.

SOCIAL COHESION AND PEACEBUILDING

- **90%** of the targeted population reported improved security and well-being, with fewer tensions and incidents of violence.
- **90%** reported visible shifts in social norms, including reduced harmful gender stereotypes and stronger engagement of men in gender-equitable behaviours.
- **226** men, including Indigenous participants and traders, were trained through positive masculinity workshops.
- 1**96** men were sensitized on gender stereotypes.
- Healing spaces and awareness sessions helped strengthen trust between women, men and community leaders.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND INNOVATION

- **296** women **(80%)** reported increased access to economic resources through green and energy-efficiency support.
- Women-led enterprises in agriculture and services were supported through green and sustainable business approaches.
- Agro-processing and crafts aligned with local market opportunities helped expand eco-friendly livelihoods.
- **20** green enterprise projects were pitched to microfinance institutions and the Investment and Development Bank for Women.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND POLICY INFLUENCE

- **337** women **(91%)** reported increased access to services.
- **94%** of community members affirmed that men were actively engaged in behaviours promoting gender equality.
- Partnerships were built with local authorities, the Ministry of Youth and the Ministry of Gender.
- Small grants were awarded to women-led CSOs to accelerate implementation.
- A socio-anthropological study on barriers to women's economic participation informed awareness campaigns.

Burundi

REAL VOICES, REAL CHANGE

Buganda

RETHINKING MASCULINITY



"Before, I thought violence was normal. After the training, I realized my behavior was harmful. Now I want to change and support my wife."

– Mfatatukobiri Elie, trader

Through positive masculinity workshops, Elie began to question harmful norms he had long taken for granted. The training gave him practical tools to build more respectful relationships and see men's role differently—not as gatekeepers of power, but as allies in advancing women's safety, dignity and equality. His story reflects a wider shift the initiative helped spark in fragile border communities, where changing attitudes is critical to prevention and social cohesion.

FROM EXCLUSION TO VISIBILITY



"For the first time, we are not hidden at home. We are working with others, and our voices are heard."

– Bizimana Alphonsine, member of "Les Vaillantes," an association of women with disabilities in Burundi

For women with disabilities, exclusion from public and economic life is often reinforced by stigma and isolation. Through agribusiness and leadership opportunities, Alphonsine and other women gained visibility, confidence and recognition in their community. Their participation marked an important shift—from being excluded from community life to being seen as active contributors to recovery and resilience.

Gihanga

CONFIDENCE THROUGH COMMUNITY FINANCE



"Joining Village Community Banking groups showed me I can save, start a business, and believe in myself as a leader."

– Claudette Kwizermana, woman trader

For Claudette, access to community finance was not only about savings and credit. It also created a pathway to confidence, solidarity and greater economic independence. By helping women invest in small businesses and build peer support networks, Village Community Banking groups strengthened both livelihoods and women's participation in community life.

Burundi

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS

The following challenges and actions taken, as well as further response measures identified to consider, provide key learning to inform future interventions.

INSECURITY AND DISPLACEMENT PRESSURES

Refugee inflows linked to conflict in eastern DRC disrupted activities and stretched local systems in border areas such as Bubanza and Gihanga. Close coordination with local authorities and community actors helped sustain delivery, highlighting the importance of building crisis preparedness and flexibility into programme design from the outset.

CLIMATE STRESS AND FRAGILE LIVELIHOODS

Drought, irregular rainfall, water scarcity and soil degradation affected agriculture, small trade and household food security, while disruptions to cross-border trade further constrained women's economic opportunities. This underscored the need to align support with local realities, diversify livelihoods and markets, and strengthen climate-resilient economic options for women in border communities.

STIGMA AND FEAR AROUND GBV

Survivors were often reluctant to speak out due to stigma, fear of retaliation and acute socio-economic vulnerability. Community outreach and engagement with men and community leaders helped create safer spaces for dialogue and referral. This showed that livelihood support for survivors must be linked to confidentiality, psychosocial support and safety considerations.

RESTRICTIVE SOCIAL NORMS

Harmful norms—including the normalization of unequal gender relations—continued to limit women's agency and participation. Positive masculinity work and collaboration with women's associations, local leaders and community structures helped shift attitudes and strengthen support for women's leadership, showing that economic empowerment is more sustainable when paired with social norm change.

GLOBAL SUPPORT, KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND STRATEGIC INFLUENCE

A global component of the project accompanied its deep, context-specific work in Ukraine, Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People, Moldova, Chad, Mongolia, and Burundi. Technical assistance, knowledge products and South–South exchanges whereby countries shared tools, engaged in peer learning and developed gender-responsive recovery strategies, altogether broadening impacts. This process positioned the **Global Women, Peace and Security Initiative** as a model for WPS implementation in crisis contexts.



VISIBILITY: COMMUNICATING IMPACT

UNDP has employed a number of communications strategies to strengthen understanding of the importance of WPS across multiple audiences, demonstrate the significant results that can be achieved through targeted investment, and inspire other countries to learn from its successes – made possible thanks to the support of France.

Strategic communications throughout the project spotlighted France's transformative support for gender-responsive recovery and peacebuilding. France's partnership was featured in all communications materials, including printed products, training banners, event signage and public outreach tools.

To further strengthen advocacy and stakeholder engagement, UNDP organized field visits and information sessions with French embassies in Ukraine, Mongolia and Chad, providing diplomatic representatives with firsthand exposure to results, local leadership and community impacts.

- In **Ukraine**, the Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of France, Mr. Sébastien Surun, spoke at the Women—Leaders of Change Forum on 17–18 March, 2024 in Uzhhorod. The meeting concluded the project by reflecting on the transformative impacts of the partnership between UNDP and France in empowering women leaders to continue their recovery efforts.
- In **Moldova**, UNDP used the AdTrade Café on women and the green economy to raise the visibility of women's entrepreneurship and promote dialogue across divided communities. Bringing together over 130 participants from both banks of the Nistru River, the event highlighted renewable energy, the green economy and women's economic empowerment.
- In **Chad**, UNDP worked closely with the French Embassy to coordinate a visit to Mandelia to hear directly from women about their struggles and contributions to a climate-resilient, inclusive society. Project sites displayed joint branding, and community members participated in high-profile outreach events celebrating women's leadership as well as project successes and innovations.
- In **Mongolia**, H.E. Ms. Corinne Pereira, Ambassador of France, visited initiative participants to observe a renewable energy system in action. The visit drew attention from the Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar, indicating strong national buy-in and interest in scaling up the model.

Project communications sustained advocacy across platforms and audiences. Aggregated activities in countries and globally included:

6 BLOGS AND STORIES

- 1 from Ukraine
- 3 stories and press releases from Moldova
- 1 from Mongolia
- 1 global blog — Hope, Power, Action: Women Reclaiming Peace by UNDP Global Director for Gender Equality, Raquel Lagunas

13 PUBLIC EVENTS

- 1 national forum in Ukraine[8]
- 5 national events in Mongolia
- 1 event in Gaza to validate the Gender-Responsive Conflict Analysis report
- 1 global event at the 2025 Commission on the Status of Women
- 1 side event on the margins of the United Nations Security Council 2024 Open Debate on WPS
- 1 National conference and 3 regional events in Moldova

60+ SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

- 57+ country-level posts (Ukraine: 12, Gaza/PAPP:6, Moldova: 30 +, Burundi: 4, Mongolia: 2, Chad: 3)
- 3 global posts including a post by UNDP ASG Shoko Noda (When women lead, everyone prospers)

12 REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- 3 research papers from Ukraine
- 2 Gender responsive conflict analysis reports from Gaza and Burundi
- 1 analysis and brochure featuring success stories from Moldova
- 3 published reports from Mongolia
- 2024 Gender Equality Strategy report
- 2025 Funding Windows annual report
- **Phase I–II** Global Initiative report

8 VIDEOS

- 1 global social media video, featured in **DiploDev #23**[9], France's development-focused communications series.
- 7 videos in Moldova

2 DEDICATED GLOBAL VISIBILITY WEBPAGE

- Putting women, peace and security into action: UNDP and France investing in women's leadership in building peace and resilience
- UNDP and the Women, Peace and Security agenda

[8] The Women—Leaders of Change Forum featured France in opening remarks and branding, and garnered broad media coverage.
[9] DiploDev is a short digital communication series of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs highlighting development and international partnership initiatives; episode #23 featured the UNDP–France Women, Peace and Security initiative.

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

The concrete results and lessons learned from the **Global Women, Peace and Security Initiative** (Phases I and II) suggest a strong model for replication and expansion. Pending resources, new phases could include deepened support in current programme countries while also adapting and expanding the model to additional crisis-affected contexts, based on demand, relevance and strategic opportunity. Together with local partners, UNDP has identified the following programmatic priorities for future investments and partnerships:

1 EMBED WPS IN SYSTEMS—NOT STANDALONE INTERVENTIONS

Move from project-based gender activities to **institutionalized WPS delivery across crisis systems**—including recovery planning, service delivery, climate action, and local governance.

- Evidence from the initiative shows that impact is strongest where WPS is linked to **budgets, policies, and decision-making spaces** (e.g., Mongolia energy governance reforms; Ukraine local recovery planning; Gaza GRCA influencing response planning).
- Future support should prioritize integrating WPS into **national policies, local development plans, financing mechanisms, and accountability systems.**

2 POSITION WOMEN'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY AS A DRIVER OF PEACE AND RESILIENCE

Use **women's economic empowerment as a primary entry point** for recovery, linking livelihoods with markets, services, climate solutions, and governance.

- Across contexts, economic initiatives (e.g., agroecology in Chad, green SMEs in Moldova, community finance in Burundi) strengthened **social cohesion, agency, and peace outcomes—not just income.**
- Future programming should move beyond livelihoods to **integrated economic systems** (finance, value chains, green transition, digital inclusion) and assess its impact on peace and resilience.

3 SCALE FLEXIBLE FINANCING FOR WOMEN-LED SOLUTIONS

Expand **direct, flexible financing** to women-led CSOs, cooperatives, and community networks.

- The initiative demonstrates that **small, catalytic funding enabled rapid, locally led results** (e.g., Ukraine and Gaza recovery hubs, Burundi CSO grants, Moldova SME support).
- Future phases should combine **core funding + scalable financing windows** to sustain and expand local delivery systems.

4 ADDRESS STRUCTURAL BARRIERS AND SOCIAL NORMS TOGETHER

Pair investments in services and opportunities with **targeted efforts to shift harmful social norms and barriers.**

- Results show that outcomes are stronger when economic and institutional support is combined with **norm change (e.g., positive masculinity in Burundi, GBV awareness and mediation in Gaza, adapted literacy approaches in Chad, and women's participation in household and local energy decision-making in Mongolia).**
- Future programmes should systematically address **access gaps (assets, services, mobility, information, care responsibilities and decision-making spaces)** alongside norm change strategies.

5 SYSTEMATIZE REPLICATION OF PROVEN MODELS ACROSS CRISIS CONTEXTS

Scale what works through **structured cross-country learning and adaptation**.

- The initiative generated replicable models across contexts, including:
  - women-led community recovery hubs (Ukraine, Gaza)
  - women mediators and community first-response models (Gaza)
  - women-led agroecology and renewable energy solutions (Chad)
  - women-led clean energy transition and local energy governance models (Mongolia)
  - women-led cross-river business ecosystems (Moldova)
  - women-led community finance and digital inclusion initiatives (Burundi)
- Future phases should invest in **practical programme packages, South–South exchange, and global coordination mechanisms** to accelerate scaling.



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