WHAT IS THE WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY (WPS) ?

Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) – A framework based on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions, which emphasizes the role of women in conflict prevention, peace negotiations, peacekeeping, and post-conflict reconstruction. It advocates for gender-sensitive approaches to security and the protection of women and girls in conflict settings.

What is the WPS Agenda?

The UN Security Council has adopted 10 resolutions on WPS: Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2008), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013), 2242 (2015), 2467 (2019), and 2493 (2019).

The resolution 1325 (2000) is the first resolution to underscores the importance of women participating in all aspects of peace and security processes, from conflict prevention to resolution of conflicts and peace-building.

Resolution 1820 (2008): Addresses sexual violence as a tactic of war and reaffirms the need to end impunity for perpetrators.

Resolution 1888 (2009): Calls for the appointment of a Special Representative of the UNSG to address sexual violence in conflict and the establishment of a team of experts to assist in monitoring and reporting on sexual violence in conflict.

Resolution 1889 (2009): Focuses on the participation of women in peacebuilding processes and emphasizes the need for gender-sensitive approaches in peacebuilding and recovery efforts.

Resolution 1960 (2010): Establishes reporting and monitoring mechanisms for conflict-related sexual violence. It was presented by the United States

Resolution 2106 (2013): Strengthens accountability for sexual violence in conflict and calls for the prosecution of perpetrators.

Resolution 2122 (2013): creates stronger measures to include women in peace processes and calls for regular briefings and reports on WPS issues.

Resolution 2242 (2015): Calls for the integration of gender perspectives into counter-terrorism efforts and reaffirms the importance of women's participation in preventing violent extremism.

Resolution 2467 (2019): Addresses conflict-related sexual violence and emphasizes the need for survivor-centered approaches.

Resolution 2493 (2019): Strengthening the role of women in peacekeeping operations and post-conflict reconstruction efforts, and emphasizing the importance of gender mainstreaming in all peace and security efforts.

Women's participation in peace-building processes

The ability of women and girls to engage in peace-building processes is severely restricted without comprehensive access to SRHR.

Addressing SRHR within the WPS framework transcends the mere provision of health services; it encompasses empowering women and girls to make informed decisions about their bodies and lives.

Consequences of SRHR violations, including SGBV, and the need for integrated, survivor-centered approaches.

To empower women to engage meaningfully in peace negotiations or discussions, we must address the barriers that are SRHR violations, including sexual and gender-based violence.

the situation surrounding sexual and reproductive health and rights in conflict-affected regions is very often dire, which results in even more severe consequences for women and girls.

Challenges in implementing the WPS Agenda and integrating SRHR?

Pushback against women's rights and gender equality

The significant stagnation in implementing the WPS Agenda is primarily driven by an escalating backlash against women's rights and gender equality.

This pushback is evident in the UN Security Council, where geopolitical tensions and complex dynamics pose major challenges to advancing the WPS Agenda.

This backlash is characterized by reduced opportunities to promote the WPS agenda and disregard for gender-specific provisions in peace agreements.

LACK OF FUNDING

Inadequate funding

Inadequate funding poses a significant challenge to implementing the WPS agenda, fulfilling commitments to gender equality and the rights of women and girls, and addressing the sources of stagnation and regression.

Military spending increased dramatically, but gender equality spending dipped.

Between 2021 and 2023, the UN increased its funding requests for GBV by 40%, but in 2023, only 23.1% of the required funds were met, representing less than 1% of total humanitarian aid.

Robust systems

One of the key challenges in assessing resources for the WPS agenda is also the lack of robust systems for tracking financial investments in gender equality, women's rights, and women's civil society.

A REGIONAL HUB FOR ACTION AND IMPACT

During a gathering of representatives from Arab States, IPPF, the League of Arab States, and key regional and global partners, a shared commitment emerged to establish a Regional Hub on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) within the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) framework.

The Hub will serve as a technical, strategic, and coordination platform to advance access to:

- SRHR services
- Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)
- Psychosocial support
- for women and girls in humanitarian and fragile settings.

Mission

To serve as a dynamic regional platform, technical, strategic, and collaborative that drives collective action to advance the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of women and girls in humanitarian and fragile settings

Vision

A region where women and girls live in safety, dignity, and health—free from violence and with full access to their rights, even during conflict.
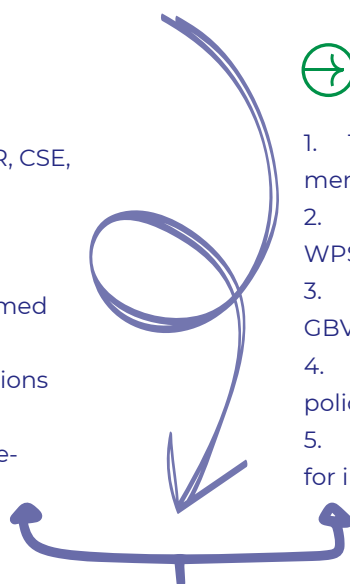
Key Activities

- ·Create thematic working groups (SRHR, CSE, Mental Health)
- ·Develop SRHR-WPS integrated CSE materials
- ·Train frontline workers in trauma-informed care and GBV response
- ·Engage with governments and institutions on policy integration
- ·Lead regional advocacy and knowledge-sharing

Strategic Objectives

1. Technical Coordination – Guide SRHR, CSE, and mental health integration into WPS.
2. Policy Advocacy – Influence national and regional WPS action plans to include SRHR.
3. Capacity Building – Equip frontline responders with GBV and trauma-informed skills.
4. Evidence & Learning – Generate data to shape policies and programs.
5. Resource Mobilization – Secure sustainable funding for impactful programs.

Expected Results

Outputs

- The need for continued advocacy to include SRHR as an integral part of the WPS agenda.
- Amplifying the voices and needs of women from conflict-affected regions.
- Evidence-based approaches to demonstrate the necessity of SRHR in peacebuilding and post-conflict settings.
- Collaboration with like-minded organizations and governments to push for greater integration of reproductive rights into the WPS framework.

Outcomes

- Expanded access to SRHR and CSE in emergencies
- Stronger GBV prevention and response systems
- Institutional integration of SRHR in peacebuilding efforts
- Broader public and political support for SRHR in crisis contexts

Impact

- Improved health, safety, and dignity for women and girls
- Leadership in linking SRHR with peace and security
- Contributions to SDG 3 (Health), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 16 (Peace & Justice)

Together, we can ensure no woman or girl is left behind—even in times of crisis