

UN Women and Humanitarian Action

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- Updates on the merger of the four entities (UNIFEM, OSAGI, DAW, In straw).
- 100-Day Vision and Action Plan, as precursor to UN Women's Strategic Plan (2011-2013). The former will be finalized by the end of December and will benefit from internal brainstorming as well as external consultations.

Transitioning to UN Women

- Submission of 'regular' budget to fifth committee (November 2010)
- Submission of full budget to ACABQ (mid-December 2011)
- UN Women transition ends (1 January 2011)
- First 'official' meeting of UN Women Executive Board (end January 2011)

Key milestones

- *A/RES/64/289*: provide, 'guidance and technical support to all Member States, across all levels of development and in all regions, at their request, on gender equality, the empowerment and rights of women and gender mainstreaming', with the aim of creating, 'more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system'. Similarly, 'further decides that the mandate and functions of the Entity shall consist of the consolidated mandates and functions of OSAGI, DAW, UNIFEM, and INSTRAW, with the additional role of leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women.'
- On Oct 26th *S/PRST/2010/20* noted, 'the valuable role [UN Women] will play in supporting women's roles in peacebuilding and the prevention of sexual violence in conflict, including through coordination and coherence in policy and programming for women and girls.'

UN Women's mandate

- No UN Women entity is currently a member of the IASC
- The entities merging together into UN Women have limited capacity for engaging in humanitarian response.
- UNIFEM does however have varying degrees of experience this decade (for example, in Haiti, Pakistan, Sudan, Afghanistan, Indonesia).

UN Women's Role in Humanitarian Action

- Absence of a designated lead and coordinated response on gender;
- Lack of capacity and accountability in the field to ensure gender-responsive humanitarian action;
- Disconnect between development and humanitarian action;
- Women's rights not seen as a pressing priority in emergency – assessments can ignore/sideline gender analysis;
- NGOs and national women's organizations are often shut out of planning and implementation.

Challenges: Gender Equality and Humanitarian Response

Thank You