



gender action for peace and security

## **UK National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS) and HMG Consultation**

### **Nation Action Plan Bilateral Section 30<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

#### **1. Background:**

GAPS and HMG lead NAP Departments, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Department for International Development (DFID) and Ministry of Defence (MOD) designed and held a series of workshop to review the UK's current, 2010 – 2013 NAP and develop recommendations for the 2014 – 2017 NAP. The Workshops were organised by GAPS<sup>1</sup> and HMG.

The third NAP workshop focused on the Bilateral Section of the UK NAP and six focus countries that form the Bilateral Section: Afghanistan, Myanmar/Burma, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Libya, Syria and Somalia. This workshop was Chaired by GAPS and the FCO. GAPS members Womankind Worldwide, Amnesty International UK, Women for Women International, and Saferworld supported GAPS in the delivery of the workshop.

#### **2. Introduction - Bilateral Section of the NAP by Baroness Hodgson:**

Baroness Hodgson welcomed all the participants to the third workshop and outlined the workshop objectives:

The GAPS-HMG workshops aimed to:

- Maximise civil society and HMG expertise on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and outline what the Protection and Prevention pillars should include in the 2014 - 2017 NAP;
- Outline where HMG can make the most impact add value in the 2014 – 2017 NAP;
- Highlight areas where HMG and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) can partner and collaborate; and
- Outline areas of best practice where expertise could be shared.

#### **3. Introduction - NAP Development Update by Gareth Bayley, Deputy Head, Conflict Team, FCO:**

Gareth outlined the four objectives for the new NAP, which included:

1. Visibility and energy: the previous NAP was considered to be lacking, and had a major focus on protection and relief.
2. Coherence across government: the previous NAP was considered to lack coherence across Government with the different strands not working in tandem. Government has now produced a Strategic Framework which it hopes will provide the overarching strategic direction of the NAP and increase coordination across Government. The Strategic framework also recognises the key role of women in preventing conflict and peacebuilding.
3. Collaboration and transparency for civil society and government: In addition to the Strategic Framework, which could be used to hold government to account, HMG are

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<sup>1</sup> GAPS promotes, facilitates and monitors the meaningful inclusion of gender perspectives in all aspects of policy and practice on peace and security. Through research, campaigning and advocacy, GAPS works to bridge the gap between the realities of women in conflict affected countries and UK decision makers and practitioners.

looking for funding to develop a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework for the NAP.

4. Action on the ground: The Government hopes to see more impact on the Ground in its new NAP period. The Workshop would feed into this objective. This would be supported by the new CSSF.

Gareth highlighted some key dates for the NAP:

- Drafting would commence the week beginning **the 10<sup>th</sup> February**
- Final draft by **31<sup>st</sup> March** when it will be sent to civil society
- Week commencing the **7<sup>th</sup> April**, HMG will hold a workshop with GAPS to discuss the draft NAP.

#### **4. Bilateral Section Discussion - Introduction:**

Baroness Hodgson asked Hannah Bond, GAPS Director, outlined the desired output from the breakout out groups. Hannah informed the Group that the Country discussions should focus on solid practical recommendations as to what the NAP could look like in country. In addition, the Groups should identify national legislation and policies that NAP could be aligned to, key stakeholders that NAP could engage with, monitoring, evaluation and learning that would focus not just on a baseline but also on the shape the NAP could take going forward. The emphasis was on evidence based discussions that could be taken forward and with consideration of what HMG was already doing, for example on the borders of Syria, and a focus on each of the four pillars. The final issue to be discussed was the main security issues that NAP should address.

- Outline of HMG Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Programming in-country
- Brief outline of GAPS member programming in-country
- National legislation, policy and programmes the UK NAP should be aligned to.
- Key stakeholders for consultation/involvement in the UK NAP.
- Ways in which GAPS can support HMG's MEL of the NAP in-country (implementation and development of the MEL framework; information sharing; in-country feedback and consultation).
- HMG work in country that the NAP should be central to.
- How the NAP should address the specific pillars: Prevention; Protection; Participation; Relief and Recovery.
- Major WPS issues the NAP should address.

#### **5. Bilateral Sections: Discussion and Recommendations for Asia – Afghanistan and Burma. Chaired by Bethan Cansfield, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Womankind Worldwide and Karla McLaren, Advocacy Officer, Amnesty International UK**

##### **5.1. FCO and DFID Update:**

The FCO updated the Group on its current work on WPS in Afghanistan. This included the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the Human Rights Council at which HMG raised freedom of expression and children's and women's rights. During the UPR, HMG raised article 398 (honour killings) of the penal code which is under review. The FCO's focus is also on the upcoming Presidential elections, including supporting through funding, free and fair elections and looking forward to post-election. HMG gives support to the AIHRC, which holds people to account who have abused human rights. At EU level, HMG is working with member states to support a human rights priority post-2014, which should include the rights of women and children. At UN level, there is a strong focus on Human Rights in Afghanistan, which is important given the UN's post-2014 presence.

For DFID, the Presidential Elections is a central focus, as well as the Development Conference which will take place 3 to 6 months after the elections (2 years after the TMAF). HMG is also working on joint coordination and the monitoring board (JCMB) which has met with all eleven presidential candidates. In terms of VAWG, DFID is working to improve long-term condition, focusing on education, empowerment, and the TMAF, as well as how the VAWG Strategic Priority will be defined for 2015. The Government have committed to £2million of Tawanmandi to CSOs for VAWG. The Girls Education Challenge Fund will give education access to 250,000 girls in remote areas. DFID has a women's political participation programme and has built capacity of female MP participation. DFID is working on Access to Justice using formal and committee based training on the EVAW law.

## 5.2. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL):

- The Group agreed that monitoring and evaluating programmes in Afghanistan is difficult, but is essential. However, working with participants of programmes to identify the change they would like to see is the most effective means of MEL to ensure the changes you are seeking align to the programme participants' understanding of what concepts mean, for example unpacking with programme participants what empowerment or a life free from violence means to them and what small steps are needed to achieve the programme aim.
- Local MEL managers can be useful in an insecure context like Afghanistan. including because a local MEL Manager can continue monitoring on a regular basis and may have better access to the communities.
- There is increased pressure for NGOs to feedback to donors. The Group agreed that accountability is key, but reporting should not be excessive. The Group also recommended that HMG should measure MEL requirements against the DAC Network's recommendations on making funding accessible including through MEL requirements.
- The Group agreed that MEL for women's rights and WPS in Afghanistan should be seen incrementally with a small step-by-step approach which accounts for attitudinal change.
- Human Rights and Democracy funding should allow for the collect of baseline data which will form the basis of programming achievements.

## 5.3. Pillar Recommendations - Prevention:

The Group discussed the following Prevention issues:

- Community conversations are key and will enable international donors to identify, with community, what the entry points might be in discussing VAWG, for instance one example is discussing the high price of marriage which led the community onto discussing the negative impact of early and forced marriage.
- Prevention programming should be founded in a community based approach which is about collectively discussing and challenging harmful social norms and individual attitudes and not an imposed external idea.
- It is vital to listen to religious leaders and local women's rights organisations on how to take forward VAWG prevention work and to slowly integrate VAWG issues into programming.
- Training and mentoring of religious leaders is important for prevention. HMG should work with Afghan organisations, including women's rights organisations, who understand cultural differences, political and cultural context and have links with the community.
- Women role models are important, but their security is at risk. When good role models are unsafe it acts as a deterrent for other women who may have otherwise entered public life. Protect WHRDs is vital to create an enabling environment for WHRDs to work. They also have a key role in changing the attitudes and behaviours of men and boys.
- The Afghan NAPWA (2008-2018) is a good foundation for prevention but it does not give specific guarantees on implementation and there is no legal responsibility on the

Government of Afghanistan to implement. It is important in the new UK NAP for HMG to support strengthening NAPWA, including pushing for a presidential decree and/or a reporting mechanism on annual basis.

- Gender budgeting is key and should be undertaken with provincial level planning and regional context analyse with government departments.
- Mainstreaming gender concerns into the education curriculum, and framing women's rights from Islamic perception is key.
- Increasing VAWG related prosecutions is important to prevent a culture of impunity and to further legitimise the EVAW Law.
- Media engagement is important to prevent VAWG and should be engaged in a sustainable manner. This could include UK funding to the BBC World Service Afghan Women's Hour which stopped in 2010.
- Afghan women's rights organisations should be supported to undertake advocacy and campaigning work, not just for project work. This will give organisations the tools, capacity and sustainability to undertake national and regional level work on women's rights. Through Tawanmandi HMG could support this work, in addition to core costs which are currently difficult to access.
- Working with men and boys is an essential element of prevention and should be explored.

#### **5.4. Pillar Recommendations - Protection:**

- Strengthening security and justice mechanisms and women's access to these, to increase protection should be a key element of the new UK NAP. This should also include women in the Afghan police, judiciary and armed forces and tackling the barriers to women's participation in these sectors (in particular, harassment). For this, the Ministry of Interior would need support to improve its Gender Strategy through prioritising and mainstreaming it. Women should be supported to gain senior roles in the security and justice mechanisms but their protection needs should also be addressed, both in terms of their treatment by communities and colleagues.
- Security and justice are not the only response needed in protecting survivors of violence; they require access to multi-sectors in particular health and safe houses. A positive approach used in other contexts in supporting survivors of violence access multiple services are 'One Stop Shops' where survivors can access a range of services.
- Emergency protection is also key and HMG should increase its VAWG programming, including funding shelters.
- Tawandmandi and civil society funding should include provisions for security and protection needs of organisations within the application process.
- Protection for WHRDs, especially those working on women's rights women who support women also at risk must be a focus of the new NAP.
- HMG could support provincial commissions to implement and report on the EVAW Law.
- Women's vocational training should be invested in as part of a holistic approach to VAWG and protection.
- Laws to safeguard women's protection are important, as is the implementation of existing legislation.
- Family Response Units are an important initiative and supposed to be staffed solely by women but are currently staffed by men and women. The Family Response Units should be safe spaces within police stations for survivors and women police officers are essential to that. The international community should provide more resources and capacity to improve the Family Response Units, perhaps through facilitating capacity building and best-practice policy sharing with other comparable countries such as Turkey, who have demonstrated an improved response to VAWG
- The NAP should include DFID's plans for its Strategic Priority on VAWG and plans to upscale the Priority in the new DFID Operational Plan.

- Gender sensitive programmes are key to meeting women's needs and enabling women to access services. The new NAP in Afghanistan should reflect the DFID High Level Event for VAWG in Emergencies.

### **5.5. Pillar Recommendations - Participation:**

- Participation at local level, including youth and women's committees is key to WPS in Afghanistan. Programming for this should include training women to be local leaders and participate on volunteer committees. One of the Group members gave an example of a programme that supported women to take part in the community development council. The women participants gained confidence and capacity and stood (and gained) seats in the national election.
- Challenging social norms is also vital for participation, however, this should be seen and implemented locally rather than deems as an imposed agenda.
- HMG should use its diplomatic lobbying and influence to ensure women are able to meaningfully engage with the peace process. This should include national level peace processes, but should also address bottom-up peacebuilding and the vital role women are playing there.
- HMG should ensure that women participate in both the NATO and TMAF conferences. Women's participation in these conferences could be measureable and time-bound indicators in the new NAP.
- Quotas should remain as they are a useful tool for ensuring women's representation. However, it was noted that representation does not guarantee women's rights will be respected or that the representatives will be dedicated to women's rights.
- Capacity Building for Results to support civil servants has been successful and should be enhanced. It has helped support women leaders, such as the Head of the Export Promotion Agency. However, it needs an increased gender focus
- The Group agreed to send the FCO and DFID examples of good WPS programming and this has subsequently been done.

### **5.6. Consultation:**

- Consultation is a key element of all programming and is particularly important in WPS programming and policy. The Group agreed that whilst there are difficulties with consultation in Afghanistan, there are networks of organisations who can undertake wide scale consultation. This included the Asia Foundation Surveys which are triangulated with other specific surveys and AWN consultation ahead of the Bonn and Tokyo Conferences. The AWN Consultation started with a survey and national level consultation, included provincial level consultation to discuss the findings from the Survey. Outcomes were feedback to the participations. AWN used their existing networks that and traditional Ulema councils and women's cooperatives.

## **6. Bilateral Sections: Discussion and Recommendations for Middle East and North Africa – Libya and Syria, Chaired by Zarina Khan, Advocacy Offer, Saferworld**

### **6.1. Syria:**

#### **6.1.1. Overview of HMG Programming:**

HMG has deployed a Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI) team to work in the refugee camps in neighbouring Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon to build the capacity of doctors and health professionals to collect evidence of sexual violence. This has also focused on the importance of supporting survivors to give informed consent for evidence collection. The FCO also worked on women's participation at the Geneva Talks, wanting to see an increased role for women's groups during Geneva II. William Hague made a number of

statements to this effect and the FCO worked with civil society and the opposition on including women in the delegations.

#### **6.1.2. GAPS Member Programming:**

GAPS members, including Oxfam, CARE and IRC are providing humanitarian assistance in the refugee camps on the Syrian border. Other GAPS members, including WILPF, UNWomen and Oxfam have worked on women's participation in the peace talks. Widows for Peace Through Democracy travelled to Rojava, Kurdish-Syria to train women on legal rights and assess the developing Internally Displaced People (IDP) crisis.

#### **6.1.3. Stakeholders:**

The Group discussed the importance of identifying stakeholders in Syria and the refugee camps with which the FCO could discuss the developing situation, develop plans for transition and opportunities for peacebuilding. The Group recommended that the FCO undertake or commission a NGO to undertake a mapping of organisations to ensure that it is effectively engaging with the formal and informal groups working on peace and WPS. The Group agreed that this would be essential to capitalise on the 'window of opportunity' offered in terms of women's rights in post-conflict situation (see Workshop 2 Report and Participation Breakout Group).

The Group also recommended that HMG continues to engage with other donor governments to ensure its work is effectively coordinated with other donor programming.

- Syrian Women's Forum for Peace

#### **6.1.4. Pillar Recommendations:**

- The NAP should account for the long-term nature of the conflict, and recognise that women peace and security objectives can be addressed at all stages of the conflict cycle, and should not be seen as a secondary issue to be considered once the country is stable. In the NAP, HMG should acknowledge that without achieving the human rights and equal participation in all aspects of public and private life for half of Syria's population, it is not possible to achieve long-term stability ([see BSOS definition of stability on page 5](#))
- HMG needs to acknowledge this the long-term nature of conflict and be prepared in advance for transition in Syria. Stages of transition are extremely important. These need to be identified so that women's participation can be planned for at the various stages. Mapping of women's rights organisations is central to this (see above).
- Gender Advisors are required for all stages of the peace, reintegration and transition processes. HMG should, through its diplomatic and development work, push for international agencies, including the UK, to appoint Gender Advisors and ensure they have the right level of authority to be effective.
- When Syria is drafting a new constitution, HMG should support the integration of women's rights and gender equality as a firm foundation in the constitution. This could include, but is not limited to, legal support, supporting coalitions of women to advocate for women's rights, and supporting and providing international experts who can suggest how to include the principles of international law into the new constitution. HMG should learn from examples, such as Egypt, where women were excluded from stages of transition and constitution drafting, and Yemen where the National Dialogue included women who were subsequently excluded.
- HMG should use the women involved in the peace talks and women's conference ahead of Geneva II as a starting point for identifying women leaders. However, through its work

on engaging women, HMG should ensure it works with a broad cross section of women who are representative of the Syrian population. This should include local, informal women's rights organisations working on peace in Syria (see recommendation on mapping above)

- HMG should establish a programme to build the capacity of women and women's rights organisations both in the short and long term to better enable them to take part in peace, transition and reintegration processes. This will also support their future political, social and economic participation and better enable them to access donor funding.
- In addition, HMG should support awareness raising around UNSCR 1325 for women and women's rights organisations to support increased knowledge, awareness and advocacy on WPS.
- HMG should continue to support evidence gathering. For example in Rojava where there are ongoing human rights abuses and sexual violence perpetrated against extremely vulnerable communities. However, this should be based on a survivor-centred approach which respects the decision of survivors and provides holistic support.
- Women must be included in plans for post-conflict DDR and the reintegration of refugees back into Syria, and their specific needs within these processes must be accounted for.
- Saferworld are currently undertaking research on the impact of Syrian refugees on host communities in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan as part of a two year project to build the capacity of local actors in early warning and action to prevent conflict. Zarina will share this with HMG when it is finalised.
- HMG should support women's rights organisation to achieve multiple goals, including responding to and protection from VAWG, reintegration of refugees and IDPs, and women's equal and meaningful participation in all levels of decision making and sectors of public life.
- Service delivery and humanitarian support within Syria and the refugee camps should be targeted to women's needs. This requires consultation with women to identify women's major concerns, and tailor services and provisions accordingly.
- Rights education is essential both in accessible areas of Syria, but also in transition and post-conflict contexts when knowledge on women's rights may be limited.
- The Group recommended that during transition, HMG supports a conference of women in Syria to discuss the future of Syria and women's rights. This should feed into transition plans and post-conflict political and socio-economic landscape and decision making. The conference should include women from other conflict-affected regions to share their experiences. This conference should be in addition to equal participation in transition and not separate from other transition processes.
- Local level political participation of women should be a key goal in the new NAP. This will support women's future empowerment.

## **6.2. Libya:**

### **6.2.1. Overview of HMG Programming:**

Gareth and Sarah, Head of the MENA Conflict Pool, updated the Group on FCO funding for Libya, most of which is funded through the Arab Partnership Fund. This includes a concentration on security, justice and defence programming. A multi-discipline PSVI team went to Libya in March 2013. HMG is also running training for approximately 2,000 Libyan police officers, this includes some education on VAWG.

#### **6.2.2. GAPS Member Programming:**

Saferworld have programmes in Libya and Egypt, and have produced a report called 'It's Dangerous to be First' on women's public and political participation and how this has been impacted by their insecurity since the Arab Spring. Oxfam and Care have programmes in Libya. Rida al-Tubuly, Libyan women's rights activist, and founder of 'Together We Build It' who attended the Workshop as part of Saferworld's Policy Tour, briefed the Group on major WPS issues that the NAP should address. Rida informed the Group that despite high levels of education amongst Libyan women, there are low levels of civil society involvement. However, women played a key role in the revolution, yet their involvement has dropped dramatically since then.

#### **6.2.3. Stakeholders:**

The Group was extremely lucky to have Rida, who has extensive knowledge of women's rights organisations and key stakeholders in Libya. Rida informed the Group of a 1325 Network which is being established in Libya. This network is growing in capacity and should be a central network for HMG to engage with on its WPS work in Libya. Rida also highlighted the importance of HMG ensuring that it does not only engage with Tripoli-based organisations and works with local women's rights organisations.

#### **6.2.4. Pillar Recommendations:**

- The Group agreed that HMG should support the centrality of women's rights as a key way to achieve national security and WPS objectives. This should include support for enshrining women's rights in the Libyan constitution. This should include commitments to international legal and other frameworks, such as CEDAW and the UNSCRs on WPS, that are central to the advancement of women's rights.
- The Group discussed women's political participation as central to HMG NAP. Rida informed the Group that in the last National Congress election, donors and the international community used their financial and diplomatic influence to support women's participation. This resulted in quotas for women and an eventual 16.5% female representation in the National Congress. However, as Libya and the issue of women's participation have fallen down donors' agendas, women's rights organisations have secured only a 10% quota for the February 2014 elections. The Group recommended HMG supports women's political representation as an objective in the new UK NAP. This should include local-level participation in addition to national. Activities to support the capacity building of women political representatives should also be included in the UK NAP. This should focus at national, regional and local levels and should aim to achieve a greater space for women and women's rights within political processes.
- HMG should support the development of a Libyan national action plan on WPS in its own NAP. This should begin with significant consultation with women's rights activists from across Libya and from diverse backgrounds. It is vital that a range of civil society actors are included in this.
- In the new NAP, HMG should support the development and capacity of Libyan civil society and local women's rights activists. This is essential given the infancy of Libyan civil society and will support holistic WPS objectives, including women's participation in conflict prevention, prevention of VAWG, protection, and political, social and economic



participation. Such support should encompass education of women on their rights, using both international and national frameworks and legislation.

- HMG should use the Libyan Universal Periodic Review (UPR) as a key opportunity in terms of progress on women's rights and WPS. The next Libyan UPR will take place within the new UK NAP period. It is important that HMG and other international donors use Libya's UPR as an opportunity to increase global pressure on, and to secure commitments from the Government of Libya on women's rights and WPS.
- Gender sensitive security and justice reform should be a key requirement for all UK work on security and justice in Libya. Given the focus HMG has on security sector reform (SSR), it is essential that HMG uses a gender sensitive conflict analysis as the foundation for its security and justice work, for instance, by examining the relationships between security providers and women, men, girls and boys.
- Responding to and preventing VAWG and improving women's access to justice are priorities for Libyan women's rights organisations. Addressing domestic violence and all forms of VAWG should be key theme of SSR, particularly in terms of police reform. This should be part of a broader, holistic means of addressing VAWG which focuses on, but is not exclusive to, police, justice systems, survivor support, protection services and social norm change with the police and justice mechanisms and at community level. HMG should lobby the UN and Government of Libya on preventing VAWG, in addition to integrating it into its own programming.
- In its new NAP, HMG should establish support for women human rights defenders (WHRDs). It is essential that through the NAP HMG provides and supports the protection of WHRDs.
- HMG should also commission consultative research on women and Sharia which informs its programming, policy, diplomatic work, and military engagement.

## **7. Bilateral Sections: Discussion and Recommendations for Sub Saharan Africa - Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia, Chaired by Carron Mann, Policy Manager, Women for Women International**

Due to the country-focuses of attending NGOs and HMG representatives the discussion focused predominantly on the DRC with a secondary discussion on Somalia, which further sought to identify relevant lessons from DRC for Somalia.

### **7.1. GAPS Member and HMG Programming:**

- *HMG:* HMG programming updates covered Somalia as there was no DRC HMG representative.
- *Conciliation Resources:* In DRC CR support a network of women's organisations called Réseau des Organisations des Femmes dans les Ueles (ROFU) engaged in a variety of peacebuilding activities in areas experiencing chronic insecurity and trauma due to the persistent presence of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). CR help strengthen their institutional capacities (internal management, planning, narrative and financial reporting) through training and advise on the kinds of activities they can do. For example, women play an integral part in ensuring the peaceful reintegration of former fighters and abductees into the community. In addition, CR create advocacy opportunities that empower women to voice their concerns in policy making circles at the local, provincial, national and international levels. Another partner, SAIPED, has set up and supports women's

forums in which women freely voice their concerns relating to the security situation and the social and economic wellbeing of their families and communities. Representatives then feed these concerns into mixed male and female local protection committees. In the long-term, CR are helping women find their voice in the public space and ensure their concerns feature in the peacebuilding agenda.

- *International Alert*: In the DRC, International Alert is promoting economic empowerment and rapprochement of women small-scale cross-border traders, and running provincial and national exchanges and advocacy campaign on women, citizenship and peacebuilding. Further projects aim to strengthen local conflict prevention and management structures, training and supporting peace committees in conflict transformation activities, improving citizen participation in governance processes and supporting in income generation activities. In Somalia Alert's is working with Italian NGO CISP on improving the response to and prevention of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in three districts of Mogadishu (Yaqshid, Bondhere and Karaan), through a multi-faceted approach which includes capacity-building, support to service provision, awareness activities and advocacy. Alert's contribution to the project will focus on in-depth conflict analysis and research on the linkages between the conflict in Somalia and the social norms related to GBV. The project will put this knowledge into practice while strengthening the local systems of referral, prevention and response to GBV at district and community level.
- *CARE International*: Work in both Somalia and the DRC. CARE has been providing emergency relief and lifesaving assistance to the Somali people since 1981. CARE's main programme activities since then have included projects in water and sanitation, sustainable pastoralist activities, women's empowerment and small-scale enterprise development, primary school education, and vocational training. CARE work's in partnership with Somali and international aid agencies, civil society leaders and local authorities. CARE Somalia is currently operational in the northern regions of Puntland and Somaliland. CARE has worked in the DRC since 2005, with main offices in Kinshasa, Goma and Kindu (Maniema). CARE's work focuses on emergency operations in the East, community level governance and reconstruction, economic empowerment of women, holistic approaches for the socio-economic reintegration of survivors of SGBV, support to adolescent girls in urban areas, and sexual, reproductive and maternal health.
- *Women for Women International*: Since 2004, have worked in north and south Kivu with main office in Bukavu. Women for Women deliver both core economic empowerment programme for socially excluded women and men's engagement programme working with existing male leaders on gender equality (since 2005). They have worked with over 9,000 women and over 1,000 men directly.

## **7.2. Democratic Republic of Congo:**

### **7.2.1. Legislation and Coordination:**

Group members noted that WPS commitments by the Government of DRC are included under CEDAW and other international laws, the a national constitution, reviews to security sector laws (2011), a regional action plan for 1325 as well as Mary Robinson's Great Lake platform, which needs to be systematic, and the Kampala declaration that the DRC is a signatory to. Furthermore, the DRC has a Peace Security Cooperation Framework. The DRC also has its own NAP (2010) although government review is overdue. HMG should ensure its NAP is coordinated with the DRC NAP.

For HMG to engage with these domestic and regional mechanisms, the Group recommended that HMG should identify which of its departments and which departments of the Government of DRC are involved in the mechanisms. From that mapping, it would be able to identify who to coordinate with.

Currently DFID covers the majority of the HMG-WPS work in the DRC, with new presence in Goma. Whereas the FCO is less involved and the MoD had more of a background role. A priority for HMG should be coordination with other countries, such as the Netherlands, who also have the DRC as a priority country under their NAPs.

The Group agreed that consultation with national civil society in DRC is essential to outlining the WPS priorities in the DRC.

### **7.2.2. Stakeholders:**

The Group highlighted some key stakeholders in the DRC:

- Local NGOs in DRC
- British Overseas Aid Care
- Government of DRC Ministry of Gender.

There are a range of local and international NGOs in the DRC working on WPS, however, there is no known national-level coordination of this work. The Group therefore recommended that HMG, through the new NAP, supports civil society to set up a coordinating network at regional levels to enable regional coordination.

### **7.2.3. MEL of the NAP In-Country:**

The Group suggested HMG uses the South African Development Community (SADC) Gender Protocol which already has 28 gender equality indicators as part of its MEL framework for the NAP. The Group also recommended that HMG should support local civil society which will not only support HMG to achieve its WPS objectives and commitments across the pillars, but also for the MEL of the NAP. The Group highlighted the Afghanistan Women's Network as an example of good practice. Local civil society will be key to monitoring and evaluating the NAP as their work at local, regional and national levels means they are in a sound position to support the MEL. Annual meetings with civil society to review the NAP would be important.

The Group discussed difficulties behind measuring change, particularly behavioural change. The Group recommended civil society in conflict-affected countries should be consulted to help set the indicators of the key changes that have been identified as well as to measure and verify the change or impact of HMG efforts. Furthermore, the Group recommended that the Government coordinates with focus country and other donor governments or multilateral organisations who may share WPS objectives to work more effectively and provide a vital opportunity for cross-learning and experience sharing.

### **7.2.4. Women, Peace and Security Pillars:**

The protection pillar should include commitments to and training for security and justice mechanisms, including the police, judiciary and military. The new NAP should include continued commitments to this and ensure that WPS is effectively addressed in SSR. However, protection is broader than this: women are best placed to know their own needs, they need to be consulted on what their protection needs are, and what is needed to increase their protection. Consultation with women during the design, monitoring and evaluation of programming should be a key element of the NAP. Another vital element of protection is rights education. Women and men should know their rights within the domestic and international legal frameworks. This is particularly important given the extent of sexual violence in the DRC. The Group referenced Oxfam's initiative that brought women together

for community level self-protection which addressed the lack of protection offered to women by the State.

The new DDR plan in the DRC is focused on men, which is problematic because removing the men from households and giving them livelihood training leaves the households vulnerable. This male-focused approach has failed to be sensitive to the women and children. Furthermore, no consideration was given to female combatants and the different needs and interests based on their experiences of conflict, including access to DDR programmes. In the new NAP, HMG should use its diplomatic and development space to ensure that DDR is gender-sensitive.

The participation focus in DRC thus far has focused on national and high level political engagement. The success of this has been limited with women making up only 9% of the lower house and 5.5% of the Senate. In addition to the limited progress in this area, there has been little attention paid to local level political, economic and community participation. Furthermore, supporting potential women political and community leaders was noted as a key issue which should also be addressed in the new NAP. This will enable women candidates to represent the needs and issues of their constituents. Given the forthcoming 2016 elections, it is important that participation is addressed now to enable increased women candidates, and increased capacity of those candidates.

In the new NAP, HMG should commit to support the DRC NAP with funding for implementation, which is currently lacking in the current DRC NAP. The DRC NAP is currently being rewritten but outstanding issues remain including: funding; MEL; and laws on parity and quotas for political participation that have not yet been passed. The DRC's reporting on its new NAP is overdue. HMG should use its diplomatic influence and work with other donors to follow-up on the DRC's reporting.

### **7.3. Somalia:**

The Group discussed WPS issues in Somalia. In 2013, the Government of Somalia and UN signed an agreement on sexual violence prevention programming. This resulted in some prevention activities. Recommendations on this programme, following a monitoring visit in December, are due to be published. HMG should ensure lessons from that feed into its work in Somalia. Some Government ministries are putting together a 10 Point Plan on Women and Gender which involves taking the UN recommendations on institutional peace and combining it with the government's own plans. Programming has included training on sexual violence for first line responders and 'dignity kits'. However, the approach should also include a wider cultural conversation on cultural and behavioural attitudes and change and the collation of baseline data. Engagement with communities must be locally led and must involve trust and respect; access is impossible without those elements. The NAP should also link to the New Deal for Somalia, but should include adequate civil society participation particularly for women.

There are a number of normative studies on sexual and gender based violence in Somalia, however, there is no specific analysis on underlying causes. The difficulties of working in Somalia were discussed including the prevailing conflict and difficulties associated with the large internally displaced population which accounts for 25% of the Somali populations. The Group also discussed the importance of programming addressing VAWG in a holistic manner which are broader than current HMG work on the PSVI in Somalia. This should include work at grassroots on community support for VAWG programming, which should engage traditional, religious and cultural leaders. Somalia has three overlapping judicial systems of which customary law is important. WPS programming should work with all three judicial systems. The MoD are responsible for training and awareness raising. The Group

agreed that the MoD should use lessons from Canada where WPS training as part of all their external training programmes.

Participation is a key area for work on WPS in Somalia. Women activists are working on all four pillars of the NAP in Somalia and have the capacity to engage with HMG on the NAP and other development, peace and security issues in Somalia. Whilst clan politics is a major means of engagement in Somalia, talks with women tend to have less clan dimension which could take national reconciliation discussions forward. In the last Somali cabinet only 2 of the 10 cabinet members were women and at present the only woman is the Minister for Women. HMG should maximise the women who are engaged in politics and activism and ensure that they are involved in peace discussions and negotiations.

#### **7.4. Summary of DRC and Somalia Recommendations:**

- HMG should seek to increase coordination a) to leverage more influence in country; b) across Whitehall and on the ground (including with NGOs); c) in NAP design and implementation with other donor countries and multilateral organisations to ensure consistent messaging with DRC/Somalia governments and to avoid duplication.
- Explore lessons from other governments such as Canada and Sweden in their delivery of WPS obligations.
- DDR efforts both led by HMG and through UN Peacekeeping need to be made gender sensitive particularly to ensure a) girl/women combatants or those travelling with militias are included; and b) communities are not excluded from processes and benefits.
- HMG's interpretation of protection should be expanded on protection by the state and also look at how HMG can support women's rights organisations and CSOs to support women in protecting themselves.
- Support for women's rights organisations and CSOs should include capacity building. This capacity building should include a) creating national/regional networks; b) support for WHRDs; c) to participate in design, implementation and MEL of HMG NAP/WPS efforts; d) participate in DRC/Somalia national WPS programming (such NAP development, implementation, review etc.) and accountability; f) to ensure local ownership and genuine and impactful HMG efforts.
- Support the Ministries of Gender and position within governments. This should include funding and resource allocation and capacity building.
- The MEL frameworks should explore possibility of joint or shared indicators with other governments/multi-laterals attempting to achieve similar changes such as the Netherlands, EU and UN. MEL methods should also incorporate the SADC Gender Protocol in the DRC,
- In Somalia, HMG should support efforts to create a baseline of WPS, which would support UK, national and international work on security and WPS.

#### **8. Summary:**

Following feedback from each of the Groups, Baroness Hodgson thanked the attendees for their expertise and input. She highlighted the importance of such consultation, thanked the FCO for hosting the Workshop and for their increased consultation for the new NAP.