The Fund for Gender Equality

The Fund for Gender Equality is UN Women’s global grantmaking mechanism and multidonor fund dedicated to supporting civil society in its key role in realizing the SDGs. The Fund seeks to accelerate women’s economic and political empowerment.

In ALBANIA, years of advocacy led by the Association for Women’s Security and Peace (AWSP) contributed to the Government’s adoption of the first National Action Plan on UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. The numbers of women in leadership positions in the State Police and the Ministry of Defense have already increased as a result. AWSP galvanized previously fragmented civil society groups around the first national coalition on resolution 1325. It is now testing new approaches to strengthen the coalition’s capacities to monitor implementation of the national plan and generate further public awareness.

In SAMOA, through the support of the Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG), historically marginalized Nofotane women – women married to men from a different village and living with their in-laws and often exploited as domestic servants – have improved their access to sustainable employment. SVSG provided livelihood trainings to nearly 5,200 Nofotane women living in 182 villages, linked them to job markets and raised awareness among 630 employers about the legal responsibilities when employing them. Nofotane women now have an increased presence in jobs that are productive, secure and deliver a fair income.

Supported by the Fund, women-led organizations from a handful of countries have learned to apply human-centred design tools that boost engagement among project participants. In PARAGUAY, for example, the Centro de Documentación y Estudios helped establish a radio programme produced and led by domestic workers. The number of women planning to join domestic workers organizations rose by 40 per cent after only five weeks.

Photo: The launch of Albania’s first National Action Plan on UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security has already led to more women leaders in the police.