a High-Level Round Table Dialogue on Investment in women’s resilience as a strategy for community resilience in crisis context

a side event of the 62nd Session of the CSW

Monday, March 12, 2018
12:15-13:45pm
Mission of Japan to the UN; 866 UN Plaza; 3rd Floor

A light lunch will be served from 11:45am

Of the 128.6 million people currently in need of humanitarian assistance, over three-quarters are women and children. Conflict and displacement affect women and girls differently from men and boys. Disruption to livelihoods, social protection, health, education and shelter caused by a crisis, worsen the situation for women and children in their care. The situation is made even worse by the fact that crisis and conflict go on for longer. Although situations of crisis increase existing gender inequality and discrimination, women’s important contributions to humanitarian and crisis response, their roles as first responders, in building community resilience to withstand hardship and maintaining social cohesion, are often not acknowledge or supported.

To respond to the urgent needs of women and girls in crisis, UN Women’s Women’s Leadership, Empowerment, Access & Protection in Crisis Response (LEAP) programme aims to promote resilience, restore dignity, and provide durable solutions to refugees and displaced women, their families and communities. LEAP seeks to ensure that women and girls affected by crisis lead, participate in, and are empowered by and benefit from response and recovery efforts.

This roundtable will discuss the LEAP program which aims to promote resilience, restore dignity, and provide durable solutions to refugees and displaced women, their families and communities and seeks to ensure that women and girls affected by crisis lead, participate in, and are empowered by and benefit from response and recovery efforts. It will include the sharing of good practices and success stories of women's resilience building in such settings.

Participants:

- H.E. Mr. Yuhei Yamashita, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Cabinet Office of Japan
- H.E. Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women
- H.E. Ms. Annika Saarikko, Minister of Family Affairs and Social Services of Finland
- M.E. Mr. Jens Frølich Holte, State Secretary for International Development of Norway
- M.E. Ms. Mara Marinaki, Ambassador, Principal Advisor on Gender and Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security
- H.E. Mr. Koro Bessho, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations
- Mr. Yannick Glemarec, ASG and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women
- Ms. Grainne Ohara, Deputy Director, UNHCR New York
**Background**

Of the estimated 136 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, it is estimated over three-quarters are women and children. Conflict and displacement disproportionately affect women and girls. Disruption to livelihoods, social protection, health, education and shelter result in rapid deterioration of the situation of women and children in their care, rendering them food insecure and subject to exploitation and abuse, such as trafficking, slavery and violence. Further complicating the situation is the increasingly protracted nature of crisis; the average length of time for displacement has reached staggering 17 to 25 years, straining host country resources and infrastructure and therefore exacerbating existing vulnerabilities within host communities. Traditional conflicts are further aggravated by new threats including climate shocks, global health pandemics, and a rising wave of violent extremist groups directly targeting women’s rights. Thus, displaced women and girls face distinct needs and heightened vulnerabilities caused by crisis and displacement. Although situations of crisis reinforce, perpetuate and increase gender inequality, women’s actual and potential contributions to humanitarian and crisis response, and their central role in building community resilience to withstand hardship and maintaining social cohesion, are often not acknowledged or supported.

Despite the plethora of international commitments calling for gender equality and ensuring women’s leadership in resilience building in crisis and humanitarian settings; such as commitments made during the World Humanitarian Summit; the landmark security council resolutions on Women Peace and Security, the New York Declaration on Migrants and Refugees and stipulated in the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030, significant gaps remain in translating these commitments into action. The gaps, such as lack of sex and age disaggregated data (SADD) and understanding on the gendered impacts of crises, lack of substantive women’s participation and leadership in humanitarian response, lack of targeted livelihood opportunities for women, and insufficient protection measures for women and girls continue to impede the realization of effective and gender-responsive policies and programmes of resilience building efforts in crisis settings.

In addition to analyze and respond to urgent needs of women and girls, to promote women’s participation and nurture leadership is the key to enhance resilience of conflict affected community.

**Discussion agenda and format**

The round table will be convened in the form of interactive discussions, targeting member states, including donor countries and recipient countries, UN agencies and other international partners, with an idea to invite the key humanitarian actors that operate in relation to similar initiatives.

**Expected outcomes**

1) The international community to strengthen their commitment and increase their investment in women’s resilience as a strategy for community resilience in crisis context.

2) Success stories and good practices in women’s resilience building in crisis settings shared and promoted.