IWDA INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Women's right to safety and security

Thematic framework 2010-2015

1 Introduction

IWDA works in partnership with women-focused and women-led groups by influencing institutions, policy and practice to create empowering and transformative change for women in the Asia Pacific. IWDA works through a partnership model to support and 'walk with' our partners. IWDA is committed to supporting and nurturing small women's NGOs to enable them to engage in issues and develop their own locally appropriate responses to development challenges for women. We also support other organisations which are committed to gender equality to strengthen effective gender responses across the broader development community.

IWDA works within a Gender and Development (GAD) framework, seeking to both empower women and transform unequal power relations between women and men. Enabling women to participate in and benefit from development requires a focus on women and their status and rights, alongside strategies that engage men and women to work together towards mutual goals and greater equality, and address the wider social, economic, cultural and political factors that perpetuate women's inequality.

IWDA's development activities address one or more of four key themes which are interlinked, complementary and mutually reinforcing:

Theme	Description
Women's Safety and Security (SS)	**IWDA supports practical programs and policy influencing to address violence against women (VAW). In addition, in conflict and post-conflict contexts, IWDA promotes women's participation in conflict resolution and peace-building processes.**
Women's Civil and Political Participation (CPP)	IWDA supports practical programs, advocacy and policy influencing that create space for women's participation in decision-making at all levels, from the household to local, national, regional and international fora, and build women's leadership skills and confidence to participate in elected and appointed bodies.
Women's Economic Empowerment (EE)	IWDA supports practical programs, research and policy influencing that help to make visible and value women's unpaid work, address barriers to women's economic participation, increase the returns to women's labour and their ability to make decisions about how these are used, and promote gender sensitive economic policy making
Sustainable Livelihoods and Natural Resource Management (SLNRM)	IWDA promotes gendered approaches within sustainable development initiatives, and women's equal participation in decision-making in relation to use of communities' natural resources.

IWDA is committed to two themes which inform but are not the primary foci of IWDA's work:
1) *Women's Right Education and Information*: IWDA promotes education as an important vehicle for furthering the status of women.
2) *Women's Right to Health and Wellbeing*: IWDA promotes women's rights to make health decisions for themselves and their families and to advocate for improved health services, as an important strategy for achieving positive health outcomes.

2 Thematic Analysis

Lack of safety and security for women is both an abuse of human rights and a very significant barrier to social, economic and political development. IWDA's approach to Safety and Security incorporates a concern with issues of Violence Against Women (VAW) and gender issues relevant to living in settings experiencing or affected by civil and political conflict. Both sources of insecurity profoundly shape women's lives and opportunities, at great cost to individuals, families, communities and economies. Women living in contexts of political, religious or inter-ethnic violence and conflict are at heightened risk of violence and rape yet are frequently denied the opportunity to participate in processes which contribute to conflict prevention and resolution and to wider democracy and freedom.

There are still no regularly kept global statistics on the incidence or prevalence of violence against women. Data collection is improving and becoming more standardised although there are live debates about what data to collect, and decisions about collection have a significant impact on apparent rates.[1] The World Health Organisation (WHO) has undertaken a Multi-Country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence Against Women, and that methodology is being replicated elsewhere.[2] This probably provides the most useful current source of statistical information about 'domestic' or intimate partner violence. The research confirms that the most common form of violence experienced by women globally is physical violence inflicted by an intimate partner. On average, at least one in three women is beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused by an intimate partner in the course of her lifetime.[3] Among women aged 15 – 44 years, violence against women (VAW) accounts for more death and disability than cancer, malaria, traffic injuries and war put together.[4] Recent AusAID-funded research on VAW in Melanesia and East Timor has begun to fill data gaps in the Pacific, although t he quality of regular data collection needs improving.

Despite the almost universal accession to the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) by countries in Asia and the Pacific and further commitments at multilateral (eg. the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995) and regional levels (eg the. Pacific Platform for Action, revised in 2004, on Advancement of Women and Gender Equality 2005 to 2015), gender-based violence in the region is distinguished by its prevalence and corresponding negative impact on development. For example, it is estimated that direct and indirect VAW costs Papua New Guinea 7% of its annual GDP[5]. In Cambodia, participants in IWDA's project with Banteay Srei, 'Community Action Against Violence Against Women' reported that family violence is a direct contributor to household poverty as a result of poor health and medical costs as well as loss of material possessions[6]. This is consistent with

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[1] For an in-depth discussion of the challenges of quantitative research on VAW, see Mary Ellsberg & Lori Heise, *Researching Violence Against Women: a practical guide for researchers andactivitsts*, especially chapter six, 'The challenge of defining and measuring violence in quantitative research' - www.path.org/files/GBV_rvaw_complete.pdf

[2] For information, see http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who_multicountry_study/en/

[3] http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/pdf/VAW.pdf, published by the United Nations Department of Public Information – DPI/2498 -- February 2008

[4] *Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe 2002, Recommendation 1582 (2002 on Domestic Violence against Women*

[5] *García-Moreno et al. (2005). WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence Against Women. Initial results on prevalence, health outcomes and women's responses, Geneva: WHO, p.74*

[6] Field visit report January 2010 by Programs Team Leader

findings from the WHO work, and research by the International Council for Research on Women on estimating the costs of intimate partner violence[7].

While many countries in the region have adopted long term policies to reduce violence against women, most continue to rely on external funding and implementation by NGOs. Financing of regular national household surveys that include questions about VAW is generally funded externally. In many communities, discussion of VAW remains difficult. Some local NGOs such as such as IWDA's former partner Fiji Women's Crisis Centre have amassed significant experience and developed effective approaches to addressing VAW in a Pacific context and keeping the issue on the policy agenda.

A 2008 study by AusAID's Office of Development Effectiveness, *Violence against Women in Melanesia and East Timor: Building on Global and Regional Promising Approaches, found* that activities which effectively promote women's right to safety and security include:

- Work with local communities to promote women's confidence and safety by changing attitudes and behaviours related to VAW;
- Engage with men and local authorities to encourage dialogue and the development of action plans and village-based strategies that will reduce VAW and promote non-violent ways of resolving conflict ;
- Support attitudinal change around non-violent conflict resolution, restorative justice and prevention of violence against women and children
- Support initiatives that ensure women's perspectives are included in security initiatives (eg de-mining);
- Provide support in post-conflict and peace-building communities for the adoption of non-violent methods to manage conflict and stress;
- Provide education and training that informs women about their rights under the law in relation to violence;
- Support women's community organisations that work with the police sector to address sexual- and gender-based violence;
- Changing attitudes to VAW through community-developed advocacy campaigns[8].

Violence against women and the threat of violence not only undermines the security of the individual and the community; it also provides an indicator of broader state security. Initiatives to mitigate violence and bring perpetrators to justice are not only effective tools for supporting women's legal rights but for improving human security more broadly including by reinforcing the rule of law. Recognising that violence against women is an abuse of human rights and calling on governments to implement their commitments to international conventions such as CEDAW[9] is an essential prerequisite for advancing safety and security.

Making visible the significant negative impacts of violence against women on individuals, communities and economies, in terms of increased direct health costs, reduced mobility and

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[7] Eg, Duvvury N, Grown C and Redner J (2004), *Costs of Intimate Partner Violence at the Household and Community Level: An Operational Framework for Developing Countries*, International Council for Research on Women; ICRW (2007), *Estimating the Costs and Impacts of Intimate Partner Violence in Developing Countries: A Methodological Resource Guide*.

[8] Office of Development Effectiveness (2008), *Violence against Women in Melanesia and East Timor: Building on Global and Regional Promising Approaches*, AusAID, www.ode.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/vaw_cs_full_report.pdf The Australian Government's response to the report is *Stop Violence: Responding to violence against women in Melanesia and East Timor (2009)*

[9] The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) had been signed by 79 countries as of December 2009. Human Rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, can be used to advocate for the rights of women where national governments are signatories.

lost productivity and assets is key to elevating violence against women as a development priority and mobilising the resources to tackle it.

Security and insecurity are deeply gendered. UN Security Council Resolution1325[10] was developed to acknowledge and reflect the gendered nature and impacts of conflict, women's history of involvement in conflict avoidance and brokering peace, and the reality that women remain frequently marginalised by those who come to keep the peace and assist in the rebuilding process. The precursor statement of the Security Council in March 2000 underscored "the importance of promoting an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes …" relating to peace and security. In the words of Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, President of the Security Council in March 2000, 'the potential of 1325, its implications and its impact in real terms are enormous'.[11] Integration of UNSCR 1325 into UN operations and implementation by national governments via National Action Plans offers an important pathway for engendering approaches to conflict and peace-building and creating space for participation by women and women's organisations in formal peace processes.

3 IWDA work in the theme Safety and Security

Addressing violence against women through research, supporting the work of partner organisations and advocating for policy, legislative, attitudinal and behaviour change has been a core priority since IWDA's inception. IWDA acknowledges that there are broader issues of gender based violence that could be addressed, but has violence against women as its current priority focus, given its importance for women's rights and empowerment and its significance as a development issue. Ensuring women's security is especially critical in politically unstable and post-conflict countries.

In five countries which were subject of the 2008 research, violence against women was found to be severe, pervasive and a constraint on development. IWDA is involved in ongoing work to promote gender equality in four of these five countries (Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu[12], PNG and Timor Leste). IWDA's strength is its partner relationships with women-led and women-focused organisations that deliver a diversity of programs which promote safety and security. IWDA's partners work on a range of issues including: combating family and community violence; addressing practical and strategic needs of women experiencing violence; changing community attitudes to violence; training women to be able to engage policy makers on issues of violence; and reduction of conflict through the engagement of women in peace negotiations and peace building.

As an Australian non-government development organisation that is also situated within the feminist movement, IWDA is able to offer partners valuable support to develop advocacy on issues of safety and security; to act as a conduit to enable women's voices to be heard in broader policy debates; to support linkages and peer learning among partner organisations;

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[10] Known as UNSCR 1325 this security council resolution on women, peace and security was adopted in 2000 to acknowledge the particular risks that face women in conflict situations and the specific contributions women make to structuring peace and post-conflict social and political architecture.

[11] Sanam Naraghi Anderlini and John Tirman, *What the Women Say: Participation and UNSCR 1325*. A Case Study Assessment by the International Civil Society Action Network and the MIT Center for International Studies

[12] IWDA no longer has a country program in Vanuatu but continues to work in Vanuatu through regional programs, currently a research project focused on gender equality indicators.

and to stand in solidarity with women in insecure contexts. In specific terms, IWDA contributes knowledge in gender analysis, training and mainstreaming; capacity development in project management, monitoring and evaluation; support to agencies to access information and networks through digital communication and ICT; linkages for partners to international movements and/or conventions. IWDA also engages in advocacy in support of partner's involvement in networks, for example the UNSCR1325 campaign in Australia, work which has been recognised by AusAID's Gender Unit.

IWDA's work with Safety and Security issues has often grown from existing partnerships which were initiated around other themes. For example in Cambodia, prior to working in the thematic area of safety and security, IWDA was involved in providing rural Cambodian women with opportunities to carve out sustainable livelihoods following the devastation of the Pol Pot regime. Addressing immediate practical needs through support for cow banks, rice banks, savings and credit services and perma-culture projects laid the foundations for extending the thematic scope of work to address practical and strategic gender issues in relation to VAW. In a context where the Cambodia's history of violence and conflict was continuing to shape its present, IWDA supported partner Banteay Srei (BS) to strengthen its organisational and advocacy capacity to more effectively address VAW, supporting a community-based HIV/AIDS information and counseling project and an advocacy program for women's rights.

Since that time, IWDA has partnered with local agencies to promote women's empowerment and leadership, reduce the incidence and acceptance of violence against women, promote awareness of available laws and link communities with authorities to protect women's legal rights. The BS-IWDA Community Education project (2004-5), increased women's understanding of court procedures and processes and informed them of their legal rights relating to VAW. Working in partnership with BS and the Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC), the 'Community Action Against Violence Against Women' project (CAAVAW, 2006-2009) provided direct support to women experiencing violence while also working with local authorities to strengthen their relationship with village volunteers who promoted non-violent conflict resolution within families and the village and were often the first port of call by women experiencing domestic violence. The project successfully mobilised communities and their leaders to provide support, information and guidance to women and men regarding violence against women, introducing an innovative approach of involving men as advocates against violence against women. A research report, *Men's Talk: Attitudes towards Men, Women, and Violence Against Women in Cambodia* was ground breaking in Cambodia. It highlighted the importance of men's participation for gaining acceptance of women's rights. .

The Banteay Srei Safe House (2008-Present) furthers this work, providing the only crisis centre in Battambang Province where adult women can find immediate care and address their personal and economic needs. The Safe House offers accommodation and food, transportation, referrals for medical, legal and psychosocial services, orientation on basic rights, basic health education, assistance in filing legal complaints, and accessing long term rehabilitation and reintegration support. An efficient referral system and positive collaboration between the Safe House workers, Banteay Srei, partner NGOs and local authorities has expanded women's access to practical support and legal remedies.

Starting in 2010, the Safe House is also providing one of the sites for action research involving IWDA, Banteay Srei, the Cambodia Disabled People's Organisation, Nossal Institute for Global Health and Monash University (Triple Jeopardy: gender-based violence, disability, rights violations and access to related services among women in Cambodia, 2010-2012).

Cambodian women with disabilities (WWDs) experience multiple disadvantages resulting from the interplay between gender, disability and poverty. Disability markedly increases gender based violence risk, and is conversely a potential outcome of violence. Consequently women with a disability are more vulnerable to adverse physical and mental health outcomes, though they face exclusion from appropriate services. This participatory research project is assessing levels of inclusion in related policies and programs, and explores barriers and facilitators to existing programs and supports. It will also pilot low cost training and inclusion tools, appropriate to the Cambodian context.

In the Thai-Burma Border region, trafficking, the spread of HIV/AIDS and violence against women are major concerns. IWDA has supported numerous projects to address these issues with women from various ethnic groups displaced from Burma since IWDA first supported the development of education kits for women from Burma who were at risk of being trafficked (Working with Images Asia 1994-1996). Using a peer approach, trafficked women shared their stories and provided knowledge from their experiences to help others. Subsequent projects (Support for Burmese Women and Girls in Thailand 1995-6, Support for Women's Workers from Burma 1998-9, Networking and Community Prevention on Trafficking 2001-2) continued the work of educating and strengthening the capacities of women from Burma to reduce their risk of being trafficked.

Projects such as 'Capacity Building of the Shan Women's Action Network (SWAN) to Address Trafficking' (from 2004) facilitated meetings in regions along the Thai-Burma border, to enable exchange on issues relating to the trafficking of girls and women. IWDA supported the Migrant Assistance Program to host women's exchange meetings and workshops (from 2002) to discuss issues including HIV/AIDS, trafficking of women and children, post-trauma counseling, trauma response training and reproductive health. The women's exchanges were vital in enabling women in the border region to come together and increase their contact and support for one another.

IWDA extended support to the Palaung Women's Organisation (PWO) in 2008 to address the increasing problem of violence against women facing Palaung women on the China side of the China-Burma border. IWDA assisted the PWO to implement a peer education program to raise awareness on VAW issues with Palaung women and their communities. The work highlighted that many women were not aware that they were being abused as they had been led to believe that violence perpetrated by their husbands is acceptable. IWDA continued its support to the PWO the following year, facilitating trainings and educating staff on women's rights and gender issues, and how to document and collate cases of violence against women to increase Palaung communities' knowledge of violence against women issues and responses.

In PNG, IWDA supports Eastern Highlands Family Voice from 2007 to work in rural communities which face high levels of family violence. EHFV provides direct counseling services for women, men, children and communities from its offices in Eastern Highlands Province and an outreach program, providing community education about family violence via volunteers, and skills development for volunteers in mediation, conflict resolution and community peace-building.

Women are disproportionately affected by conflict and war. IWDA supports organisations which enable women to positively contribute to peace-building and conflict resolution in their communities and encourage non-violent models of conflict resolution which respect human rights. IWDA also supports and promotes advocacy to change policies, structures and

institutions to reflect the interests and perspectives of both men and women in relation to peace-building and conflict resolution processes, in partner countries, Australia and regionally.

In Papua New Guinea, tribal violence is threatening the lives of women and children in Simbu Province. IWDA partners with Kup Women for Peace (KWP) which was established in 2000 by women activists meeting in secret. The founders of KWP, belonging to 'enemy' clans, joined together – prompted by the killing of one woman's son – to work for an end to tribal fighting, violence against women and children, and to build peace among clans and tribal groups through a variety of workshops, training programs, education campaigns, development activities and community policing.

In Fiji the Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding and femLINKPACIFIC's Peace Talks program advocate for resolving conflict through community dialogue and engaging women in the peace process.

IWDA also promotes women's voices in dialogue and decision-making within the context of civil or political conflict and advocates for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 so that women's experiences in situations of conflict are articulated, responded to and inform approaches to peace and security.

4 Thematic Description

Goal

Women live free from the fear of sexual violence and all forms of conflict, and women's right to safety and security is recognised and upheld by men and women in communities and in institutions at local and national levels.

Objectives

1) To empower women to take practical action to ensure the safety and security of women and girls in their communities.

2) To work in collaboration with men as well as women to ensure the safety and security of women and girls in communities.

3) To resource and support advocacy and networking that promotes women's safety and security and ensures women's rights are safeguarded through policy making and provision of effective services and institutional processes.

4) To promote women as active players in decision-making with respect to conflict resolution and peace-building in complex political contexts, and to advocate for international organisations and national governments to comply with UNSCR1325 in implementing post-conflict rehabilitation and development strategies.

5) To advocate for men to be held culpable for violence, rape and incest against women and girls through national legislation and its effective implementation.

6) To contribute towards the collection and dissemination of data on violence, rape and all forms of sexual assault.

5 Strategies for achieving objectives

IWDA will:

1) Support partners, networks and alliances which empower women and increase awareness of women's rights, strengthen skills and capacity to engage actively in preventing, mitigating and responding to violence against women including physical, emotional, financial consequences of rape, incest and sexual coercion.

2) Support role models to inspire and educate both women and men on women's right to safety and security in their communities, and to advocate through local and regional networking, peer-to-peer learning, intra-project research, exchanges, and training and skill sharing to reform laws and policies which threaten women's safety and security.

3) Promote women's voices and perspectives on women's right to safety and security at home and within the community through mechanisms that enable engagement with male dominated authorities such as local government and law enforcement agencies.

4) Enable women to positively contribute to peace-building and conflict resolution in their communities and encourage alternative models of conflict resolution which respect human rights and reflect the interests and perspectives of both men and women.

5) Support work to ensure that men are held responsible for violence and rape against women.

6) Contribute to the collection and dissemination of data on violence, rape and all forms of sexual assault.

IWDA program directions

Reflecting IWDA's understanding and experience of the linkages between its thematic areas, IWDA's work on safety and security will be complemented by and integrated with work in other thematic areas.

IWDA will learn from and utilise approaches, relationships and findings from its involvement in the 'Triple Jeopardy' research in Cambodia (2010-2012) to inform its approach to safety and security, and to more directly addressing disability and inclusion in our work.

Violence, rape, sexual assault and conflict creates insecurity which negatively impact on women's and men's ability to achieve sustainable livelihoods and economic empowerment, at both individual and community levels. Violence impedes social, physical and mental health and constrains mobility and women's and men's opportunity to realise their right to education. Conflict over natural resources is often a primary trigger for violence and insecurity which has differential gender impacts in many contexts. With partners, IWDA will seek to more deliberately anticipate and plan for safety and security risks in its work on natural resource management and in any work on climate change and disaster preparation and mitigation.

Women's limited participation in civil and political decision-making continues to condone and create contexts which threaten the safety and security of women and make it more difficult to mobilise the political and economic resources required to address violence against women and enable women's active involvement in formal and informal processes related to conflict resolution and peace-building.

6 Approaches to Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

In conjunction with monitoring and evaluation at agency, country and project levels, IWDA will conduct monitoring and evaluation at the thematic level. IWDA's monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework will support program staff to:

- Integrate lessons across the organisation from individual initiatives in a more defined and effective way
- Identify areas for advocacy to influence national or regional policy frameworks
- Contribute to research within the thematic area.
- Catalyse new models of working and support at community level
- Inform and report against IWDA's strategic goals and direction
- Deepen thematic knowledge to share across partners
- Ensure lessons from program work are written up, filed effectively and available for appropriate dissemination.

The MEL process will aggregate data from various projects and programs across the theme and will be guided and informed by IWDA's agreed set of common key questions, with indicators for the specific thematic area. For Safety and Security IWDA's indicators are:

- Increased reporting of violence against women by individual women to their community based organisations, the police or other government bodies, and practical action taken to address the issue.
- Increased access to refuge and legal and economic support to victims of violence
- Evidence that advocacy and awareness raising on violence against women has led to new policies, services or resources being made available to women
- Increased participation of women in peace-building and conflict resolution processes at local, national and regional levels.

Each year IWDA will undertake a review of one thematic framework which will lead to further refinement and strengthening of IWDA's work in that thematic area. In 2011 the thematic review will be focused on IWDA's Safety and Security program in Cambodia and on the Thai-Burma border. This process will enable IWDA and our partners to assess our overall performance and impact, capture learning and inform decisions about current and future work and ways of working. This ensures monitoring and evaluation of the program is a dynamic learning process that reviews partnerships and ways of working, activities and objectives, use of resources, sustainability, networks and impacts at both practical and systemic levels.