



### Health

- In efforts to increase women's access to health services, including for reproductive health, countries have given priority to improving health infrastructure, broadening the range of services and quality of care, and strengthening the capacity of health professionals to deliver such services.
- HIV/AIDS related policies, strategies and action plans increasingly place specific emphasis on prevention, treatment and care for women, including with regard to information and education programmes on sexual and reproductive health, voluntary counselling and testing, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, male and female condom availability and use, and provision of antiretroviral therapy.
- Little progress has been made on reducing maternal mortality rates. Every year, 536,000 women and girls die as a result of complications during pregnancy, childbirth or following delivery, the overwhelming majority in developing countries. Most of these complications are largely preventable and treatable.
- Urgent resources are needed to reduce maternal mortality rates. Women must have access to modern contraceptives, to regular and sufficient ante- and postnatal care, to skilled personnel present at delivery and to emergency obstetric care when needed.

### Violence against women

- Over the last decade, violence against women has become a priority issue at the global, regional and national levels. A growing number of States have strengthened and adopted comprehensive legal, policy, and institutional frameworks to end violence against women and girls. Support services are increasingly becoming available to victims/survivors of violence against women.
- Despite these advances, violence against women and girls is a global pandemic. The problem remains universal, with women and girls affected by violence in every region and every country.
- Impunity for perpetrators, inadequate services for victims/survivors, attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate negative stereotypes and violence against women, and an overall scarcity of resources for implementation of existing measures remain persistent barriers to preventing and ending violence against women.

### Armed conflict

- During the past decade, the Security Council has put in place a stronger normative framework on women's participation in peace processes, the elimination of sexual violence in armed conflict, and the protection and promotion of women's human rights and mainstreaming of gender equality perspectives in the context of armed conflict, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and reconstruction.
- An increasing number of countries are developing national action plans to better coordinate strategies and activities on women, peace and security.
- However, women continue to be excluded or seriously under-represented in peace negotiations, peacebuilding and disarmament processes. Since 1992, women represented, on average, just 7.1 per cent of official delegations, and only 2.1 per cent of signatories to peace agreements. To date, very few women have been formal mediators.
- As of February 2010, out of 27 United Nations peacekeeping operations, special political missions and peacebuilding support offices, women headed four missions and were deputy heads of five missions.

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