

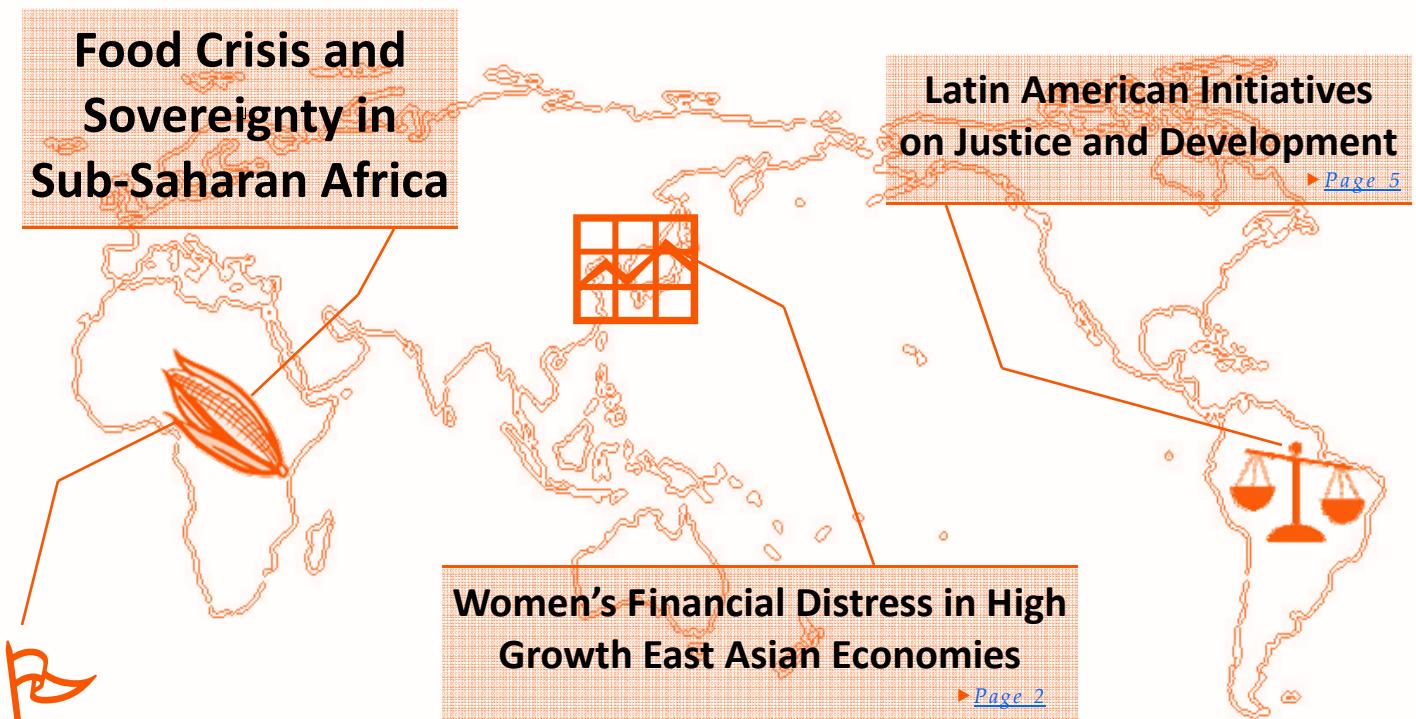
DAWN Informs

with Women for a New Era

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The Landscape of Crises in the South: Regional Impacts and Responses



The Arithmetic of the Food Crisis: Linkages with the Financial Crisis

The interconnections between the food crisis and financial crisis are multifaceted: the food price hikes began in the futures markets first. Some traders who were looking for profitable markets following the US subprime crisis and the crash at Wall Street found it interesting to buy and sell the so-called derivatives or futures in commodity markets, including food products. This speculation on agricultural products and oil has boosted demand and

Presented by Zo Randriamaro at the 'Financial Crisis Workshop: Policy Issues and Priorities' during the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, 5 March 2009

consequently increased food prices. Between June 2005 and June 2007, the face value of commodity derivatives has increased by 160 per cent, although real production has not increased. The increase was thus related to something that did not really exist but which was still driving the prices.

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Women's Financial Distress in High Growth East Asian Economies



The Impact of the Financial Crisis on Women Workers

Loss of jobs and reduction in real wages and benefits is widely occurring as tight credit affects various parts of the supply chain and has led to an overall decrease in export demand. In China alone, manufacturing firms have laid off workers estimate at a staggering 20 million, with at least 50 percent of which were women. The women had migrated back to the rural areas where there are no alternative employment opportunities or access to land and other means of production over which they had lost entitlement when they migrated to the cities several years ago. Elsewhere such as Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, educated middle class women (and men) are being laid off from white-collared jobs in the financial, banking and retail sales sector but lay-offs are also taking place among blue collar workers in the manufacturing sector. Across all of these countries, there is no data that can be used to tell how many women in the informal sector had lost their sources of incomes as a result of the current crisis.

In an attempt to lower production costs, many firms throughout the East Asian region were reported to have more widely resorted to anti-labor practices such as: (a) substituting regular workers with part-time or sub-contracted workers; (b) targeting pregnant and older women for lay-offs; (c) widening wage gap between part-time/irregular female and regular male employees; and (d) forcing workers to take unpaid leaves, as well as, suspending bonuses and other benefits.

New graduates and entrants in the labor force are finding it more difficult find jobs. In Taiwan, Hong Kong and Korea, the government began offering part-time jobs and internships to new graduates. In Japan, there is a visible increase in the number of unemployed young people who have joined the ranks of the homeless in the cities.

The governments' responses have been inadequate. Sex disaggregated data on the unemployed is rarely available and monitoring of anti-labor practices is not carried out properly. Governments have introduced re-skilling and re-training programs but job search assistance and job creation schemes are sparse. In some instances in China, some local officials

Based on the draft declaration of the East Asian Women's Workshop on Beijing Plus 15: Implications of the Financial Crisis on Gender and Trade convened by IGTN-Asia and supported by DAWN, Hong Kong, 10-12 April 2009 and on "Women's poverty and vulnerability in the midst of systemic crises" delivered by Gigi Francisco at the International Seminar on Women's Labor in the Age of Globalization during the International Women's Film Festival in Seoul (IWFFIS), 14 April 2009.

with conservative views on gender relations were reported discouraging women from further competing in an already tight job market.

Foreign migrant workers are most vulnerable. Many middle class families who can no longer afford full-time domestic helpers are sending migrant workers home and prematurely ending contracts. In some cases, foreign migrant workers were forced to take on part-time work where together with laid off migrant workers who refused to go home, they become vulnerable to extreme exploitation. Migrant workers whether foreign or domestic who go home earlier than planned, find themselves with sizable amounts of unpaid debts.

Women's Access to Assets, Credit and Capital

East Asian women's access to assets, credit and capital is more critical than ever in this period of financial and economic contraction. Despite legal environments in which they have formal right to asset ownership and inheritance, persistent social and cultural practices linked to disciplining of women's societal roles including their sexualities, bar many of them from controlling material assets such as, housing, dwelling and land. In Japan, there is even an income tax exemption structure that encourages wives to remain dependent on husbands. Everywhere women generally have low levels of financial resources that make it difficult for them to pay the required inheritance and property taxes. There are government programs that provide women with access to finance but the amounts involved are small. Indeed, governments need to do more in order to protect during stable times and more so during crisis moments the economic right of women to assets, credit and capital.

Workers' pensions, insurance and provident funds that are managed by governments have also been negatively affected by the financial crisis. In Japan and Taiwan, the governments had invested the workers' pension funds in the financial market and the public is concerned that it had lost much money from the financial crash. There are cases in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea, Japan and Singapore where employers were found to have under-paid or altogether stopped giving their contributions to the workers' pension or provident funds and there is not enough that governments are doing to curtail this. Across the sub-region, women who perform unpaid house work along with performing their other traditional roles, are being denied pension rights.

Public financial support given to women's individually-owned and cooperatively-held enterprises have also come under increasing scrutiny by women's organizations and anti-poverty networks at this time of crisis. In many cases, governments were found to have treated women's social enterprises and cooperatives as welfare support that is de-linked from more vigorous policies on industry or market development. After distributing small start-up capital, governments fail to provide the full support necessary to make these enterprises succeed in an environment of market competition, making their businesses difficult to sustain in the long-term. In Korea, the government uses the name of social enterprise without the spirit of social solidarity and without any proper support.

Budget Distress and Social Reproduction

Financial stress leading to a situation of vulnerability is felt at all levels of society, including at the sphere of governance. This crisis had strained government budgets, large parts of which are now being used to rescue bankrupt firms. Households are also financially vulnerable as a result of loss of incomes and jobs. Psychological distress linked to unstable incomes and savings have led to incidents of suicide as well as to increase in the reported occurrences of domestic violence.

Prioritizing on saving the market has led to trade-offs in social welfare and socially reproductive services. Cost cutting measures in Japan, had included the utilization of low-paid NGOs and women's cooperatives for the provisioning of public social services such as counseling and daycare centers.

Across the region, governments are simply cutting back on regular services and decreasing the budgets of women's machineries and committees. In Korea, the government now allocates what women's organizations see as a ridiculously low budget for women's rights and development. In Hong Kong, the newly arrived immigrants from mainland China who do not meet the residency requirements are now being denied access to even the most basic publicly provided social support.

Making Economic Stimulus Packages Work for Women

One of the policy responses of East Asian governments to the financial crisis has been to roll-out economic stimulus packages as an immediate response to crisis containment. Gender perspectives and considerations had not been used to inform their design. The East Asian meeting of women's rights advocates and women's workers raised the following:

We are concerned that the spending allocation focuses on infrastructure spending more than social protection and social services provision.

One-time subsidies through vouchers and other measures meant to stimulate overall demand for consumption are not enough to mitigate the impact of the crisis on households and individuals.

Some packages rely on provisioning of micro-finance to women who have lost their jobs in order to assist them start their own businesses but these need to be complemented by additional government support to enable them to effectively compete in the market. Sometimes, the credit is not accessible because women do not have the collateral required by the program.

Not enough is being done to support in the short term women workers who suddenly lost their jobs, especially those coming from temporary, casual, and part-time status.

Special concern is raised over how governments will respond to the immediate welfare needs of women migrant workers.

Special concern is also raised over how governments will ensure that services to women's health especially in responding to their emergent health needs as a result of financial distress, are functional and adequate. ■

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Food Crisis and Sovereignty in Sub-Saharan Africa



Oil is a strategic product, as its price is included in the prices of other agricultural products for which it is needed (e.g. transportation, fertilizers, etc.). Experts estimate that approximately 25 per cent of the oil price is determined by speculation. The increases brought about by this financial speculation plus the increases in the price of oil, which is also subject to speculation, have contributed to the food price hikes. On top of this, because most of international trade is billed in US dollars, the depreciation of the US dollar has led producing countries to increase food prices in order to compensate the exchange rate losses that they have incurred.

The Politics of the Food Crisis

There are serious political questions that can be asked about the food crisis, in particular *why* is it called a 'food crisis'? After all, as far as the African region is concerned, hunger and famines have been around for a very long time and yet, no one called it a crisis. This time, because it affected not only African countries but also regions that were not used to such food shortages and price increases, it is called 'crisis'. The current food crisis is thus hiding a pre-existing food crisis which was ignored because it was taking place in the poorest countries. It is a dramatic testimony to the critical flaws in the global institutions that govern the food system, as well as in the market-based agricultural policies that have been imposed on African countries during the last two decades. The food price hikes and shortages are a reminder about the serious flaws in the current food system that globally leaves more than 850 million people undernourished and over 1 billion overweight (300 million of them obese). This began with the Structural Adjustment Programs that ended the provision of subsidies to farmers, and led African countries to focus on large-scale production for export markets at the expense of subsistence production by small scale farmers.

The long-term and structural reasons for the food crisis are linked to the nature of the food system and the prevailing agricultural policies in Africa, which have tended to overemphasize the promotion of primary commodity exports and large scale farming at the expense of food production and smallholder farming. This is despite the fact that most African

countries are characterized by the predominance of smallholders' farms (80% of SSA farms are smaller than two hectares) within which the household is a key institution in the production system. In addition, as it is well known, women account for an average of 70% of food production in Africa, but all of these agricultural policy issues are happening at the expense of women's rights.

Women's Rights and Food Sovereignty

The current food crisis is clearly linked to the lack of food sovereignty, i.e. the sovereign right of African countries and their peoples to define their agricultural and food policies, and to protect their production from any dumping from third countries. It is also linked to a history of continued gender discrimination in access to productive assets and decision-making. This crucial issue can be addressed through the Food Sovereignty framework, which is based on the respect for the rights of women farmers, and the recognition of their major role in agricultural and food production

Overall, the recommendations from economists and experts on both the food and financial crises boil down to necessary cuts in public expenditure and the crucial need to maintain macroeconomic stability through inflation targeting, fiscal discipline, etc. In agriculture, African countries are being pushed to undertake land reforms and titling, and to increase their agricultural productivity through the purchase of imported agrochemicals as part of the so-called African Green Revolution. In other words, the Africa region is being pushed towards increased foreign dependence and unsustainable patterns of production.

The current context with the conjunctions of different crises is an opportunity to change the international food system and agricultural policies in Africa. In this regard, it is important to note that even the official discourse on agricultural and food security has changed a little bit. There are now talks about self-sufficiency, etc. Perhaps it is then possible to turn the current food crisis into an opportunity for advancing gender justice, people-centered and sustainable development and women's rights. ■

Latin American Initiatives on Justice and Development



Readings Outside the US and Europe

Latin America is a continent that has been experiencing different crises—centuries of plundering, dictatorships, corruption, negative impacts of the Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs), and bad negotiations of free trade agreements. Today 44% of its population live in poverty and 6 million of which, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), will be experiencing chronic hunger in 2009.

Initiatives: Good News at Last

This crisis that we are experiencing now is something different from what the international news portrays. But although there has not been good news coming out from Latin America lately, some governments in the region are moving towards a broader concept of human development. Ecuador, for example, has recently ratified a new Constitution where the right to food sovereignty is enshrined. There are also other signs of hope that are included in the regional proposals such as ALBA (Bolivarian Alternative for Latin America and the Caribbean) which focuses on social problems, embracing gender perspectives in sustainable development. One program under this initiative which is being developed in Nicaragua called Hunger Cero.

Governments, societies and social movements in Latin America have similarly recognized that the crises we are facing are not just financial and economic, but that they are also social and ecological.

Exclusionary Process or Inclusive Alternatives

In the attempt to find solutions to these financial and economic problems, there have been on-going initiatives, which we find as exclusionary processes. For instance, G-21 cannot speak for all the countries. Southern governments are called to move beyond rhetoric. The crisis also provides an opportunity to revise the past and current relations between the North and the South who are encouraged to unite and play a bigger role in finding solutions. The time to do this is now.

Similarly, we are claiming for ecological debt, a concept brought to the international arena by Ecuador in the beginning of last year. This implies that Northern countries,

Presented by Magda Lanuza (Agribusiness Accountability Initiative) at the 'Financial Crisis Workshop: Policy Issues and Priorities' during the Commission on the Status of Women, 5 March 2009

who for centuries have plundered the natural resources of the South, must recognize that they are responsible for all the side effects of this pattern up to now. Furthermore, Northern countries are debtors and they have to acknowledge their debts, pay for it and stop getting in more for the South.

The Call is for:

1. Continuation of external debt audits and cancellation of illegitimate debts until now paid from Southern Countries to the North, a direct transfer of resources to the enriched countries: In Ecuador, it took over a year to review 30 years of external debt last year. During this period, the external debt rose to 17 times more. The evidences shows that this external debt is unjust and is taking out possibilities for human development investments. Nicaragua, is still waiting for the United States to pay for a quantified debt for the 10-year civil war imposed upon on Nicaragua. The International Court of Justice declared in 1986 that the US had to pay Nicaragua USD27million for that war.
2. Different rules for foreign investments in the South: Bolivia and Venezuela, for example, are trying to play differently with foreign investors in their countries, warning them not to undermine human rights and environmental laws just because they are putting jobs in the country.
3. Fair trade with fair prices in the exchange of goods from the South to the North: These prices must allow our workers to live with dignity, have access to housing, etc. This call also implies that we will be able to protect the environment and people's rights, and oppose Free Trade Agreements that we have been signing for the last decade in Latin America.
4. Support for people-centered programs and policies. International aid must support entirely national policies and programs that enhance local sustainable development that are coherent to the MDGs, and not to continue with a trade-centered focus.

WWG Engages with UN Negotiations on HLC Draft Outcome Document

***WWG Proposed Language in Boldface**

Para 4: Developing countries are now bearing the brunt of this crisis, for which they are least responsible. The ongoing food and **energy** crises have only compounded the effect of the financial and economic collapse, and exacerbated the burdens and sorrows of the poor, **especially women in developing countries who remain largely responsible for food and fuel provisioning in the households**. Nonetheless, the destiny of developed and developing countries in an interdependent world and a globalised economy is inextricably linked. Therefore, short-term stabilization measures must protect the poor, and long-term measures must ensure sustainable financial flows while simultaneously reducing the likelihood of future crises.

Para 9: However, the greatest impacts may be difficult to quantify. At its heart the present crisis is a crisis of human security... We are deeply concerned with its severe adverse impact on development. This crisis put a disproportionate burden on women **who are already in positions of disadvantage in both market and non-market spheres**. This **results in** women facing greater income insecurity and increased burdens of care for household members and their communities. The crisis has exacerbated the challenges and impediments to the attainment of our internationally agreed

development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. It risks becoming a social and human crisis – with implications for political stability and peace.

Para 11: We are all in this crisis together. We will therefore work in solidarity on a vigorous, coordinated and comprehensive global response to the crisis in accordance with our abilities... Going forward, our response must focus on creating jobs, increasing prosperity, equalizing imbalances, developing sustainably, **and having a strong gender perspective that places value on social reproduction in this package of reforms**. It must also lay the foundation for a fair, inclusive and sustainable globalization supported by renewed multilateralism. We are confident that we will emerge from this crisis stronger and more vigorous and more united.

Para 14: We undertake to do all that is necessary to:

- restore confidence, growth, and jobs; ...
- **enable governments to actively manage the macroeconomy, provide social protection, and regulate markets;**

Para 16: Developing countries in a position to do so should utilize the room for fiscal stimulus that they possess. The response of individual countries should be tailored to their specific circumstances and take into account differentiated

impacts among various social groups so that inequalities are not exacerbated. Countries should be empowered to use available scope for domestic resource mobilization **and encouraged to promote participatory and gender-responsive budgets**.

Para 19: We recognise the commitments made at the G20 London Summit to make available an additional \$1.1 trillion program (\$850 billion through the International Financial Institutions, and \$250 billion for trade finance) of support to help the world economy through the crisis and to



L-R: Pauline Vande-Pallen, TWN-Africa; Cecilia Alemany, AWID; Carlyn Hambuba, FEMNET; Diana Aguiar, IGTN; Patricia Akakpo, NETRIGHT; Luisa Antolin, WIDE; Mirjiana Dokmanovic, WIDE

restore credit, growth and jobs... However, only a limited amount (less than \$20 billion) was targeted to the poorest countries. We therefore stress the importance that the financing needs of the poorest countries are adequately dealt with, **through increased SDR allocation and with exemption from pay back or from interest payments.**

Para 28: Our global problems require new and innovative forms of financing. We encourage the scaling up of existing and the establishment of new innovative sources of financing initiatives ... We repeat our request to the Secretary General to produce a progress report by the 64th session of the General Assembly, taking into account all existing initiatives **with particular attention to avoiding new cycles of debt.**

Para 32: We recognize the important role to be played by increased SDR allocations in increasing global liquidity, and the potential for expanded SDRs to contribute to global stability, equity and economic strength. **We request the IMF to contribute to the increase in global liquidity by providing a new general SDR allocation of at least \$250 billion.** We also call for the urgent ratification of the Fourth Amendment of the Articles of Agreement of the IMF for a special one-time allocation of SDRs, as approved by the IMF's Board of Governors in September 1997. **SDR allocation should not be based on shareholdings of the IMF rather on a range of other needs-based criteria such as income and population levels and macroeconomic gaps.**

Para 53. In order to operationalise the lines of action agreed to in the Conference and as a bridge to on-going processes through which Member States may be informed on a timely basis of on-going work and decision-making processes, the following mechanisms might be considered:

- Establish a multi-stakeholder Panel of Experts to offer independent advice to the General Assembly and to the Economic and Social Council ... The Panel shall include well-respected academic experts, as well as representatives of social movements, **including women's organizations**, and the private sector.
- Establish a new Global Economic Council **that is transparent, accountable, with full and equal representation of developing countries** and is part of the United Nations system, which provides coordination and oversight of concerted responses in addressing the

DAWN Coordinates Women's Working Group on Financing for Development

The WWG on FfD, formed in October 2007, is an alliance of women's organisations and networks that advocates for the advancement of gender equality, women's empowerment and human rights in the FfD and other economic governance-related UN processes including:

- High-Level Dialogue on FfD (Oct 2007);
- Commission on the Status of Women (Mar 2008);
- Hearings of Civil Society on FfD (Jun 2008);
- ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum (Jun 2008);
- Doha Review Conference on Financing for Development (Nov 2008);
- Commission of Experts on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System (Mar 2009);
- Commission on the Status of Women (Mar 2009);
- ECOSOC-BWIs-WTO-UNCTAD Spring Meeting (Apr 2009);
- High Level Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development (Jun 2009).

It is committed to follow through economic governance issues in the UN System.

The WWG on FfD is coordinated by Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) and includes the following networks/organisations:

- African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET);
- Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID);
- Feminist Task Force-Global Call to Action against Poverty (FTF-GCAP);
- Global Policy Forum (GPF);
- International Gender and Trade Network (IGTN); International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC);
- Network for Women's Rights in Ghana (NETRIGHT);
- Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO); and
- Women in Development-Europe (WIDE). ■

broader range of global challenges, **especially the reduction of all forms of inequities and inequalities in ensuring development, rights and security for all.**

- Review how ECOSOC can more meaningfully implement its mandated role to make or initiate studies and reports with respect to international economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related matters and make recommendations with respect to any of such matters to the General Assembly... and support consensus around policies on global economic issues, including **fully integrating gender equality in its social and ecological dimensions.** ■

Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights and the M

DAWN is currently undertaking a study that is focused on analyzing how SRHR policies and MDG/poverty alleviation policies are framed and integrated into the national policy architecture. The research which seeks to find out what gaps and contradictions in policy discourses, implementation and impact might exist, is being undertaken in India, Mexico and Nigeria. In this first phase of the research process, the following were accomplished: a) setting-up of a web-based communication portal to facilitate better communication and information exchanges amongst the researchers; b) conduct of country level research initiatives and consultations; and c) convening of a Researchers Meeting in Rio de Janeiro in March 2009.

Launched in March 2008, a web-based communication portal was created to serve as the virtual site for communication and information exchange amongst the members of the Research Team. Also designed to function as a virtual library where all relevant literature and research documentation may be uploaded, the web-based communication portal continues to be an important site for a)

mobilizing the Research Team; b) facilitating discussions and collective learning; and c) organizing the Research Team's work more effectively in order to realize the full potential of decentralized and multi-location working mechanisms subscribed to by the Research Project. Meanwhile, across country-level research efforts, activities were primarily devoted to: a) reviewing, adjusting and adapting research guidelines to contextual and spatial specificities; b) consolidating the country-level research teams; c) gathering and selecting key policy documents pertinent to the research; d) conducting preliminary analyses on materials compiled; e) identifying key informants to the research; and, in some cases f) conducting interviews with identified key informants.

Constituting the research team are: Sonia Correa, DAWN Global Research Coordinator for SRHR, Alessandra Chacham (Brazil), Ngukwase Surma and Mary Okpe (Nigeria), Renu Khanna and Ranjani Murthy (India), and Erika Troncoso Saavedra (Mexico). The team used the opportunity of the Rio meeting for sharing updates and a discussion of the preliminary findings of country research

Engendering Peace Building for Political Restruct

Conflict often arises in situations of marginalisation, whether from political structures and equitable power sharing or discrimination based on religious, ethnic, caste, class and other social memberships. It also denotes the failure of nation states to accommodate the exercise of inclusive citizenship and accept plurality within their polity. Therefore in terms of 'Political Restructuring and Social Transformation', conflict and post-conflict phases probably offer the most opportune moment to renegotiate structures of power and whole paradigms governing nation-states. It is even more so if this phase also involves a change of political regime, which signifies a new balance of power and is often accompanied by constitution making processes.

The challenge is that this phase is often fast-paced and opportunities to influence political decision-making arise unexpectedly. In many cases, the post-conflict phase is also fertile ground for the rise of religious fundamentalisms and identity politics. Post conflict situations may negate the agency and gains women

made in times of conflict when they are expected to return to a former status quo. Protracted conflict and equally protracted peace building and peace making also place heavy demands on women and women's organizations that engage in these processes. New, innovative and strategic initiatives at the local, national, regional and international spheres on women in armed conflict and post-conflict situations need to take account of these multiple complex and often contradictory, circumstances.

The project is focused at the collection of case studies on women's engagement in conflict resolution and peace building work in the South and Southeast Asian regions. The team decided to document and to analyze the actual work that they were doing as activist-feminist researchers involved in peace building initiatives. This generated a strong interest on inter-generational learning among participants that came from groups and institutions that constituted the research team. These are : Women and Media Collective/Suriya Women's Development Centre (Sri Lanka); North East Network

Millennium Development Agenda

Report by Sonia Correa

teams that involved a) revisiting research guidelines; and b) rearticulating and defining language used by the research project to strike clarity and consistency in the analytical and methodological trajectories of the research. It was also announced at the meeting that Carol Ruiz (Philippines) will soon assume the role of research coordinator while Sonia moves to the role of Research Adviser.

Linked to the research are activities related to ICPD+15 that includes participation in the 2009 Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development that marked the 15th Anniversary of the Cairo Conference where governments adopted a resolution entitled “The contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals”; the writing up of a short ICPD policy document to be released later this year; and participation in the NGO Forum to mark the 15th anniversary of ICPD that will take place in Berlin later this year. As well, since March 2007, DAWN has been engaged in joint civil society advocacy and lobby efforts towards the integration



SRHR: Erika Troncoso Saavedra (Mexico), Researcher

of gender and sexuality related issues within the framework of the Human Rights Council. As part of this effort, one of the themes that this civil society group has been working on is on the intersectional issues of maternal mortality and human rights. Representing DAWN in the HRC is Angela Collet. ■

Conflict and Social Transformation

Report by Kumudini Samuel

(India); Institute of Human Rights Communication (Nepal); and National Commission on Violence against Women (Indonesia). Together they gathered a total of 18 case studies on women's initiatives in peace building that covered a diverse range of conflict situations, periods, actors, and forms of women's engagements.

At the South and South East Asian Regional Consultation on Feminist Engagement with Conflict, Impunity and Peace, held in Katmandu, Nepal on 27-28 March 2009, the case studies were presented and discussed. Also shared was a case study on the long-running Kashmiri conflict. The Consultation was followed by a meeting between the participants and activist from the Women's Movement in Nepal. Also present were two women Constituent Assembly (CA) members who were part of the Women's Movement, Sapana Pradhan (Women's Rights) and Malla Pandey (Trade Unionist). The CA members gave an overview of their post-conflict work including their involvement in the constitution making process; engagement with diverse issues of citizenship, affirmative action,

fundamental rights; and the difficulty of setting up a women's caucus in the CA. The DAWN Team that facilitated the Nepal consultation are Kumudini Samuel (Sri Lanka), Gita Sen (India), and Cecilia Ng (Malaysia). They will be joined by Kamla Chandrakirana (Indonesia) in guiding the finalization of the case studies and consolidating the overall analysis.

During the Conflict Consultation in Nepal, participants grappled with the problem of protracted armed conflict and the lack of UN special procedures or gaps in the special procedures to deal with some of the gendered concerns of such types of conflict. Thus, in terms of advocacy, the research team is looking at a possible two-prong engagement, i.e. pursue the idea of a CEDAW General Resolution on Women in Conflict, as well as, take the opportunity of the anniversary of UNSCR 1325 to open up advocacy at the level of the Security Council. UNSCR 1325 is especially significant in that it clearly mandates to look at issues of conflict transformation and political restructuring. ■

Additional Research Projects

Positioning Sexuality in Holistic Development through Interlinkages

The last decade has witnessed major steps forward in legitimising a more holistic approach to “development”, which has led to efforts that address inequality and poverty through a multi-dimensional approach, taking into account empowerment, freedom, well-being and human rights. In parallel, political and policy advocacy around sexuality issues and related areas has evidently become more visible both at the national and global levels, as exemplified by the international debates on HIV-AIDS, sexual rights and more recently, the articulation of human rights principles to tackle discrimination and violence related to sexual orientation and gender identity (Yogyakarta Principles; December 2008 GA Declaration). While one could think that aspects relating to sexuality would come into this debate as one of the key dimensions of human development, main obstacles remain, which make it difficult to more fully incorporate sexuality as development priority.

This “silence” is not surprising as sexuality has always been controversial and triggers many conflicts at both societal and policy levels. In the last decade, moral conservatism has gained space in the international development arena as illustrated by millions of dollars being invested by the Bush administration to promote abstinence or initiatives aimed to deny young people access to information and contraceptive methods, to attack abortion rights or to restrict funding for organizations that support sex workers rights. For reasons of politics or religion, these forces oppose the granting of sexual rights and freedoms to those who fail to conform to their prescribed norms. These trends are contested at all levels by sexual rights activism that is attaining unprecedented levels of global-local connectivity.

Also there is the fact that few development experts and institutions have positively moved towards greater openness to sexuality issues. In DAWN, we experience this challenge in our engagement with the Human Right Council work, as part of a collective effort of NGOs to sustain the sexual rights agenda at the level of UN debates. In many contexts, sexuality can be about the very right to exist. Just as gender, race,

Excerpt from Angela Collet's Presentation at the UNRISD NGO Consultation, Geneva, 12-13 January 2009

ethnicity, sexuality is determined by societal, economic, political and cultural dynamics.

When the intersection between poverty and HIV and AIDS prevention is examined, we clearly see that societal norms in relation to sexuality can create severe conflicts. In many countries (86 UN member states) where “homosexuality” is a taboo or criminalized, HIV and AIDS campaigns tend to ignore same sex and bisexual relationships, or even more problematic, outreach work aimed at providing information to MSM have led to individuals being prosecuted and imprisoned as just happened in Senegal. Studies on social movement dynamics also reveal a host of barriers and risks for sexual rights activists.

The intersection between sexuality and economics is yet another critical area. For example, in the domain of poverty reduction, sexual norms and related violence, discrimination and exclusion affect the ability of persons to access economic resources, health, education, employment and security. In relation to poverty specifically, the IDS (Institute on Development Studies) team working on sexuality and development has expanded the framework developed by Robert Chambers – the Web of Poverty’s Disadvantages – as to include dimensions related to sexual norms and related discrimination. These poverty-sexuality connections are all relevant in terms of research methodology and analysis. For instance, if a research on poverty adopts a household model that assumes a heterosexual family, dynamics taking place within the household around other existing kinds of relationships are made invisible. And if a woman lives in a lesbian relationship, the household would likely be categorized as a “female-headed household”, a term which usually applies to single women with children or other dependents. However many other connections between sexuality and economics are urgently requiring deeper research and analyses as in the case of labor market discrimination, migration trends, access to assets and credit, to

▶ [Positioning Sexuality / Page 14](#)

DAWN Joins Others in Calling for End to Maternal Mortality and Morbidity

1. As civil society organisations concerned with health and human rights, we welcome the theme for the 42nd session of the Commission on Population and Development on “The contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.”
2. For the past decade and a half, the ICPD Programme of Action has provided guiding principles for a global agenda on family planning, reproductive and sexual health, sustainable development, women’s empowerment, and gender equality, as these issues relate to population and development policies. The principles set out in the Programme of Action, which are grounded in international human rights law, are highly relevant to the fulfillment of the commitments made through the United Nations Millennium Development Campaign, which sets out specific goals and indicators in many of the areas covered by the Programme of Action. As a first and general recommendation, the organisations submitting this statement therefore urge UN Member States to renew their focus on non-discrimination and autonomy as human rights. The conception and implementation of all population and development policies should be permeated by a concern for the guarantee of these rights.
3. This statement is specifically concerned with the elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity. The organisations submitting this statement recommend detailed attention to the 15 Principles spelled out in the Programme of Action as relevant to the fulfillment of Millennium Development Goal 5 (MDG 5) on improving maternal health. In this connection, we call particular attention to principles 1, 3, 4, and 8, which reaffirm the interconnections between human dignity and rights; the need to eliminate all kinds of violence against women and to ensure women’s ability to control their own fertility; the importance of guaranteeing universal access to reproductive health services; and the fact that lack of

Excerpt from statement submitted at 42nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development, 30 March-3 April 2009, by Action Canada for Population and Development, Amnesty International, Center for Reproductive Rights, Center for Women’s Global Leadership, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era, Federation for Women and Family Planning, International Alliance of Women, International Women’s Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific, and civil society organisations with ECOSOC status

- development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of human rights. A human rights-centered approach is imperative to ensure effective, equitable, sustainable, empowering, participatory and adequately resourced programs and policies to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity. Human-rights violations underlie the magnitude and global distribution of preventable maternal morbidity and maternal mortality, which is estimated at half a million annual deaths worldwide.
4. Our experience and research tell us that several factors—beyond those linked to MDG 5 as formal indicators—have contributed to stagnating or deteriorating progress towards reduction of maternal mortality and morbidity. These factors include various forms of social exclusion, discrimination, inadequate human and budgetary resources for health, lack of access to high-quality sexual and reproductive health care and information, armed conflict, violence against women, a failure to adequately train health-care providers to provide safe abortions as allowed by law, and a high HIV burden. All of these factors are recognized in the Programme of Action and the Key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, presented at the 1999 General Assembly review. They should be adequately addressed in the policies and programs aimed at fulfilling MDG 5, and should be highlighted in the outcome document of the Commission’s 42nd session.
 5. In this connection, we also urge UN Member States to reaffirm their commitment to achieving the MDG target on

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Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era

Sustaining **Feminist** Activisms



Signing of MOU between Miriam College and DAWN



DAWN Office Inauguration and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

L-R: Prof. Aurora De Dios, Women and Gender Institute Executive Director; Dr. Patricia Licuanan, Miriam College President; Gigi Francisco, DAWN General Coordinator; Gita Sen, DAWN Executive Committee Member

RTI Representatives with Miriam College President Patricia Licuanan and Mrs. Cynthia Morales, Administrative and Services Division Director



Lecture on DAWN's Themes and Interlinkages Approach by Gigi Francisco



Morning warm-up before the workshop



Photo Op with Resource Persons and DAWN Secretariat

DAWN Regional Training Institute for South and Southeast Asia Feminist Advocacies for Interlinking Gender Justice and Economic Justice

DAWN's 2nd Regional Training Institute (RTI) for South and Southeast Asia was held from April 16 to 22 in Miriam College, Quezon City, and Tagaytay Hills, Philippines. The RTI had a dynamic group of 28 participants from 18 countries spread across South Asia, Southeast Asia, the Pacific and West Asia. The young feminists and activists found DAWN's interlinkages approach to advocating for gender and economic justice highly relevant to their local, national and regional work. As the RTI also coincided with the inauguration of the DAWN Global Secretariat Office, the participants got to witness the formal launching of the office and joined the celebration with the larger Miriam College community on April 18, 2009. ■



From P5: Latin American Initiatives

5. End of impositions and conditionalities on loans, international aid and trade negotiations: a) Millenium Challenge Account (MCA) – this is provided only to countries that follow certain rules imposed by the US; b) T-LAND from USAID – a new proposal that only looks at agriculture for more economic growth and export in Latin America.
6. Compensation for climate change disasters: As you may have heard, Africa and tropical countries have been experiencing the worst of these climate changes. In Latin America, we experienced this in 2006 in Bolivia and in 2008 in the Caribbean. Related to this is our call to also reject and eliminate carbon cap-and-trade systems, which promote trading without any regulation.

Expectations: How to Work Together?

The upcoming UN Conference in June on the ‘World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on

From P10: Positioning Sexuality

name a few. At the political level the link between sexuality and economics is also present, as quite often in global negotiations we have witnessed diplomatic trade offs between economic issues, such as trade and sexual matters (see Pazello, 2005).

The political debates surrounding sexuality in societies and at academic levels are also enriching the conceptualization of gender in terms of calling for an understanding of gender constructs and norms in ways that do not evade the sexuality dimension and of interrogating the limits of understanding gender as exclusively referring to the male/female binary (see Corrêa, Parker and Petchesky, 2008, Fausto Sterling, 2000, Cabral, 2005). Breaking the silence on sexuality opens a space for a more positive, affirming approach to development itself, that take up terms that have been absent from the development lexicon, such as love, pleasure, respect, tolerance, solidarity and mutuality, among others. (see Cornwall et al , 2008) This can help the field to move beyond the “victimization approach” that tends to prevail in human rights discourses and practices – and is also present in much of development thinking. The emphasis on victimization tends to reinforce dependence and inability to act and curtails the enhancement of people’s agency, empowerment and autonomy. ■

June 2009

Development’ is an opportunity for: a) carrying new commitments on gender equality in all our policies; b) bringing the lessons of some initiatives by Latin America and the Caribbean to the international arena; c) recognizing the different responsibilities that have brought us to this point; d) beginning a process that will define revolutionary changes for a new and better society that we can shape together (e.g. another G-21 or small group of nations); e) enhancing the UN role with UNCTAD and other UN international bodies that work together for a new system.

This cannot happen without the help of everyone. We need strong social movements everywhere in the world. An example of this is Latin America where many initiatives have been possible mainly because social organisations and social movements have together demanded, claimed and worked a lot to get this work done. This is a call for everyone to work together. ■

From P11: DAWN Joins Others

universal access to reproductive health, which includes, based on the concept of informed choice, the availability of accessible, affordable, appropriate, and high-quality reproductive health services, particularly in the context of primary health care; appropriate education and information on sexual and reproductive health, including family-planning; focused and effective prenatal care; maternal nutrition programs; control of infectious diseases; adequate delivery assistance that avoids excessive recourse to caesarean sections, episiotomy, administration of oxytocin, and other medical procedures, and provides for obstetric emergencies; referral services for pregnancy, childbirth and abortion complications; and post-natal care and family planning.

6. More specifically, we believe the Commission on Population and Development at this, the 15th Anniversary of the Programme of Action, and considering the special attention to accountability and human rights in the Programme, should include in the outcome for its 42nd session the recognition that maternal mortality and morbidity is a global health emergency and a serious public health problem, requiring commitment and urgent responses by all UN member states and organisations. ■

A Tribute to
Lucille Mair
1924 – 2009

Lucille Mair (top row, 2nd from left)

Photo: DAWN Advisory Committee,
Hotel Bucsky, Friburgo, Rio de
Janeiro, Brasil, February 1986



Top row (L-R): Carmen Barroso, Lucille Mair, Hamida Hossain, Noeleen Heyzer, Geertje Lycklama, Nirmala Banerjee, Devaki Jain, Krishna Ahuja, Ela Bhatt, Lourdes Arizpe, Peggy Antrobus | Bottom: Caren Grown, Tone Bleie, Gina Vargas, Kate McGee, Marie Angelique Savane, Neuma Aguiar



When someone passes away after spending 85 full years on this planet, it is not a time for sorrow but for celebration of a life well lived. Lucille Mair's life was marvelously lived! A pioneer in so many ways for the modern global women's movement, it was Lucille and other women like her that inspired us with the coolness of their courage, the strength of their commitment, and the clarity of their thinking and vision.

Lucille was a founding member of DAWN. She was a feminist historian, an early global advocate for women's equality, and an inspirational figure in the Southern feminist movement that began to emerge in the 1970s. By the time she became Secretary General of the second World Conference on Women in Copenhagen in 1980, Lucille was already well-known among women in many regions of the South, including the Pacific Islands, for her involvements in South-based feminist initiatives and her contributions at South feminist meetings. Lucille had a sharp intellect and was soft-spoken, attentive and politically astute - qualities that were well suited to the posts she was appointed to at the United Nations, and to the diplomatic posts she was subsequently given by the Jamaican government.

She will long be remembered within DAWN with love and respect. In those early days of UN conferences, we took courage from the presence of sisters like Lucille whose support we could count on. We extend our sincere sympathies to Lucille's daughter, Gail, and to the rest of the family.

Gita Sen and Claire Slatter

In the midst of so many tributes to this remarkable woman, I focus **on** the impact her particular style of leadership, transformational leadership, had on women like myself – Caribbean, Third World, feminist.

Imagine the arenas – UWI in the 1960s; Jamaica in the 1970s; the UN from the 1970s-90s. Imagine the politics of prejudice and exclusion, misogyny and disrespect, and you will understand what it was like to have someone like Lucille moving around in these arenas with style and authority, “A leader of women for women in a man’s world” (Adrienne Germain, President of the International Women’s Health Coalition, IWHC).

Lucille brought us into the processes of building institutions dedicated to the advancement of women at many levels – at UWI, in the Jamaican bureaucracy and polity, at the UN and in the Women’s Movement where she lent her vision and stature to founding the network of Third World Women, DAWN, as well as the Women and Development Studies Programme at this University.

Lucille had amazing courage, perseverance and confidence. At the first World Conference on Women in 1975 in Mexico City, she broke away from the main process of shaping a Plan of Action to draft a political Declaration. She understood, as few women did, the distinction between a technical plan of action and a declaration of political will.

She exhibited that understanding again in her role as Secretary-General of the Second UN Conference on Women in 1980, a conference that was characterized as being “too political” because it addressed those same issues of Apartheid and the Palestine-Israeli conflict. And she brought her consummate diplomatic skills to bear on managing the tensions and confusion generated by these controversies to bring the Conference to a successful conclusion. Her reward was to be made the first female Under-Secretary-General at the UN (1982-87) a position which included her role as Secretary-General of the UN’s first conference on the Palestinian question. No challenge was too great for Lucille!

In closing, I just want to say she was part of what made the times what they were and part of what made us who we became. Her legacy continues in the work of all the women whom she inspired. She will continue to inspire generations to come as they get to know of the work of this remarkable woman.

Peggy Antrobus,
Jamaica, February 6, 2009



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