



TECHNICAL LEARNING SERIES

Monitoring and Reporting on the Implementation of National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security

CONCEPT NOTE

8 November 2022, 8:30 AM-10:00 AM (EST)

[Registration Link](#)

1. Background

Nine years after the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on women, peace and security (WPS), the Security Council adopted Resolution 1889 (2009), which called for clearer monitoring and reporting on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 by relevant UN entities, other international and regional organizations and Member States through the development of global indicators. As a result of the resolution and mammoth efforts from civil society, there has been a renewed interest in the use of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) by governments to show that their efforts to implement the WPS agenda are becoming more efficient, effective, and accountable. Today, 85 percent of National Action Plans (NAPs) to implement the WPS agenda include a monitoring and evaluation framework with indicators.

However, despite the widespread introduction of M&E mechanisms in NAPs over the past 15 years, States continue to struggle to use these tools to inform and improve implementation. While some countries have used M&E to transform how they operate and to improve the implementation of the NAP, others have found reporting and monitoring requirements as another cumbersome bureaucratic exercise. Too often, systems are developed, and information is collected without a clear sense of why, how it will be used, and by whom.

2. Recent developments and avenues for action

Despite these challenges, countries are continuously working to improve their approaches to M&E. Based on country experiences, some general insights are helpful to consider when designing, implementing or changing M&E systems.

- 1) **Adopting a results-focused approach.** While outputs are easier to measure, an approach oriented towards results and outcomes allows decision-makers to ask fundamental strategic questions about how to implement the NAP such as: Is this activity necessary and appropriate for the problem to be addressed? What is the intended objective of this activity? How can the activity be best designed to achieve that outcome?
- 2) **Fostering a culture of learning.** M&E can enhance effectiveness because it can identify and address barriers to the implementation of the NAP's activities and identify good practices to be replicated. In addition, periodic evaluations of NAP implementation can more clearly elucidate why programmes are not working.
- 3) **Facilitating sharing of experiences between actors.** Experience shows that facilitating continuous dialogue between stakeholders is an important tool for establishing an understanding and trust among

parties, including sharing experiences and jointly overseeing monitoring processes. Moreover, diversifying the stakeholders involved in M&E processes and including those responsible for other policies, plans and strategies linked to the NAP, civil society organizations, and where applicable, building synergy with mechanisms such as the CEDAW monitoring mechanism and General Recommendation 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations and the Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action, can help support a more robust monitoring approach.

- 4) **Adequate financial, technical and human resources.** States continue to experience challenges with developing the necessary institutional capacity to support M&E. This can sometimes be as a result of limited investment in time, expertise or knowledge in results-based management (RBM) to develop performance measures and effectively monitor NAP implementation.
- 5) **Strong leadership** can create momentum in promoting the development and use of M&E and foster a whole-of-government approach to realistically reporting on and evaluating progress at all levels and promoting a culture of learning and reflection on results and what needs to change to improve implementation.
- 6) **Regional coordination** through regional frameworks such as the EU GAP III and the African Union Continental Results Framework are important to assess regional progress on WPS and to foster accountability for NAP implementation. Where relevant, NAP indicators should incorporate indicators developed by regional organizations and report consistently on NAP progress.

3. Objectives and guiding questions

The webinar has two major objectives:

- 1) Introduce the participants to the guiding principles and tools for monitoring and evaluating NAP implementation;
- 2) Create a space for Focal Points to exchange learning around the challenges, barriers and opportunities for undertaking Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning for National Action Plans.

Guiding questions:

- What are the best practices and recommendations to move from measuring outputs towards an approach focused on assessing outcomes and qualitative change?
- What are some innovative ways to improve the use of M&E in decision-making and policy planning?
- What are some recommendations to improve coordination among government actors and other stakeholders?

4. Format

Interactive discussions in plenary and breakout format with short presentations from Gender Associations, UN Women, and Focal Points. This is a closed session and by invitation only. Participants are encouraged to sign up to the [WPS Focal Points Network Members Forum](#) to post questions and comments on the topic, before and after the session.

Under the troika leadership of Switzerland and South Africa, Canada and Uruguay, this meeting is part of a series of technical learning sessions hosted by the WPS Focal Points Network Secretariat, in partnership with UN Women and Gender Associations, to enable the sharing of the best practices and lessons learned on implementing the WPS agenda and to provide technical capacity and support to WPS focal points.

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