Gender Sensitive Indicators for Situation Analysis

The following questions serve as a guide for undertaking gendered situation analyses in countries affected by conflict and transition.

1. Security Issues

Security of Civilians

- Do men and women differ in how they define security concerns and needs? How?
- What threats do civilians face in terms of movement? Do men and women have equal freedom of movement? (Eg. are men or women walking alone or in groups at night or during the day? Is there sufficient lighting? Who travels, how and in what circumstances?)
- What crimes are being committed or reported? Who are the perpetrators? Who are the victims? To whom are crimes being reported?
- What types of weapons are being used? Are the weapons used against women the same as the ones used against men?
- Who has weapons? Where do they get them from?
- Is inadequacy of pay a factor in making the police corrupt?
- Are their community based policing structures in place? What role do women and / or men play?
- How are women and men experiencing interactions with police/ military forces?
- How do men react / treat women if the women are abused by "power structures" and / or sexually attacked by militias or men of other ethnic origin? Can it generate inter-communal conflict?

Militarization of Society
- What factors are promoting or influencing recruitment into armies or militias?
- Who is being recruited or is most vulnerable to recruitment? Why?
- What dangers do men and women face in terms of abduction / forced recruitment?
- What elements are active to resist militarization?
- Have there been any programmes for disarming, demobilisation and reintegration? How successful have they been? Were women and girls included or excluded? How?

Regional conflicts

- Are regional disputes and elements of conflict (weapons flows, criminality) affecting the society and social structures – are criminal elements (e.g. trafficking groups) entering the area?
- Who are they targeting?
- How are men and / or women in the society / community taking action to resist tension / violence?

2.   Political / Governance/Legal in transition/repressive situations

Governance and political institutions:

- Is there a transition occurring politically? What are the implications for women v. men?
- What is the % and participation of men and women in political structures and in the electorate?
- What positions do women or men hold? Where are women most present or absent?
- Are women's priorities different to men's in the political sphere? How?
- Are there women's cross-party caucuses? (often women find common agendas despite political differences, and this can be an entry point to build consensus and promote collaboration).
- What is the extent of men's or women's participation in governance at different levels of society including traditional structures? (Eg. a recent study in India shows how the strong representation of women in local councils (30% + using quotas) had an impact on resource allocation/expenditure, with a shift towards health, education and welfare).

Legal system:

- Do men and women have equal rights under the law in all aspects of life? Eg. Inheritance laws, property ownership? Citizenship? Family law? Criminal law?
- Are the laws implemented fairly and effectively?
- Are judges independent of the government?
- What qualifications do judges have? Are they familiar with state commitments to international conventions, laws?
- Are judges paid enough to prevent them from being corrupt?
- What is the % of women / men in judicial roles and as lawyers? What positions do they occupy and at what levels?
- Is there a specific law against domestic violence?
- Is the country a State Party to CEDAW) and / or other major international or regional human rights instruments? How are they incorporated in national laws?
- Is there a national plan of action for CEDAW or the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, or on Women Peace and Security (per UN SCR 1325)?
- What is the relationship between customary law and institutions and formal law and institutions?

- What harmful customary practices exist? Are they rising? Why? How are they punished when discovered?
- What is the gender and age profile of the prison population?
- To what extent are 'traditional justice' mechanisms in force? How are men or women affected or treated by them?

Links between government and citizens – CSOs/NGOS

- What are the laws governing NGOs?
- How much independence does civil society have? How much is it co-opted?
- How much cooperation is there between civil society and government? Are there particular sectors that have stronger ties (sometimes women's groups work more closely with women's ministries/legislative bodies)
- Are there constraints being placed on different types of NGOs (e.g. human rights groups are often curbed, whereas service providers/religious charities may have more leeway)
- Where in civil society are women most active (in formal organizations, informal groupings, traditional roles)?
- Are there any legal or human rights advice centres?
- Where do women or men have influence in formal and informal political settings?
- How are NGOs/CSOs treated by the govt? by the public? Are they trusted?

3. Economic Issues

Conflict induced poverty

- What is the % of female headed households? What are the causes of female headed households?
- What is the % of child-headed households?
- What is the situation regarding loss of property / land / possessions? Forced migration? How do men and women cope with changes in income and livelihood as a result of conflict?
- To what extent are women working in prostitution due to economic necessity?
- Who is migrating for work purposes? What effect does it have on family structures/poverty?
- What pressures are men facing regarding supporting families? What dilemmas do they face regarding migration for work v. remaining to protect family?

Income Growth / Decline

- Are trends in growth or decline affecting men and women equally?
- Are women taking on additional non-paid work (e.g. care of the sick, elderly? children?)

- Are changes in economic structures/priorities affecting men and women differently? How?
- Is HIV / AIDS having an impact on the economy?

Income Disparities

- What are the disparities between men and women in each sector, and across sectors?

Employment and access to productive resources

- Are there credit organizations in the region? Is credit accessible to men and women? (e.g. in many instances women are unable to travel as far as men, thus may not have physical access)
- If so, are there gender oriented micro-credit programs?
- Do credit sums vary based on gender? What activities are funded?
- What are the conditions for receiving credit? (mortgage, percentage, husband's approval?)
- Are there organizations or programs teaching women how to apply for credit and manage with it?
- Are there means of monitoring programs to ensure that women are not being exploited by men?
- Is there community pressure to exclude women (particularly women heading households) from credit schemes?
- Are there any credit unions headed by women?

Access to natural resources

- What are the laws and customs governing inheritance of land and property for men and women?
- Does resource competition between the two communities across any borders affect men and women differently?
- How are women and men involved in incidents related to resource disputes?
- What roles do women's organizations / women in communities play in solving the disputes over access to resource (e.g. in Cambodia, women more than men have been more involved in resolving disputes between logging companies and local communities. International NGOs have trained more women in conflict resolution skills)
- Are women being allocated the same land (size, quality) as men? (e.g in Cambodia /Colombia many women found that land allocated to them was not good quality and they needed assistance to work the land)

4. Social & Cultural Issues

Role of Media and Freedom of Expression

- Is there freedom of the press? (Eg. Do journalists travel freely? Is there censorship on political lines? Do journalists self-censor? Are there any political prisoners from the press / media?)
- Is the media controlled by the government? Are there any restrictions on independent newspapers, radio stations or television channels?
- Are women and men stereotyped in the media, what are the expected identities / roles? Are gender issues addressed in the press / news?
- What are the role model images of men being portrayed? How are male and / or female leaders described or criticized?
- How are women depicted, praised or criticized? (Eg. problems of trafficking, domestic violence and/or women as independent figures / decision makers/income earners)
- What is the % of women and men involved in the media? In what positions and at what levels?
- Do media outlets give balanced time to progressive views on women's rights? Activists compared to more conservative views?
- What impact has media had on attitudes towards women?
- What is the outreach of social media/internet/twitter etc? Is there rural/urban divide? Do women/men have equal access/usage? What opportunities does it provide? What challenges esp re women's participation in transitional processes and promoting women's rights.

Social and Ethnic Cleavages
- What role do women or men play in widening/sustaining the cleavages or attempting to close them (e.g. often women use social networks, cross-tribal marriage links, informal spaces as a means of maintaining contact and building bridges.)
- Conversely what are women's or men's roles in encouraging ethnic / social divisions and mistrust?

Role of kindred Groups
- What kinds of social networks exist regionally that can support actors internally involved in prevention of conflict, peace promotion or poverty reduction?

Regional Imbalances
- Are there regional differences in the status of women/men (e.g. Afghanistan in Pashtu-speaking areas, women's status is very different to in Dari-speaking areas, and under the Taliban's rule, women were treated differently across the regions and in Colombia, in areas under guerrilla control, women in rural villages have developed agricultural self sufficiency so as to limit their encounters with armed

groups. In other parts they regularly negotiate informal humanitarian accords to enable movement of people and goods.

Differential Social opportunities
- What are the opportunities or constraints for men v. women – (e.g. in Iran, over 60% of the university population is female, but they make up less than 20% of the workforce. Men on the other hand are under pressure to earn incomes and support their families, so their participation in higher education is less. However, this imbalance could have significant social impact, as young women may be unwilling to marry men who are less educated.)
- Are there child care provisions to enable women to participate in education / skills building programmes? (e.g. in El Salvador in communities where women did receive child care support, they engaged more in skills programming and community development / leadership. Those communities are faring better than others, where women were not supported)
- What pressures do girls and / or boys face in attending school? (Eg. in Sierra Leone, social workers were quoted as suggesting that it was more important for girls to learn basic skills as opposed to becoming literate, whereas the girls themselves wanted to become literate)?
- Has the conflict affected girls' access to education? (eg. in Darfur, many girls in the IDP camps are going to school for the first time because they cannot perform their normal chores. In Sierra Leone, girls who became pregnant as a result of rape during the conflict were systematically excluded from school)

Group Identity Building/Myth making

- What are the stories (including heroes, heroines) that are told to sustain the identity of groups? How do they convey those outside of the group (e.g. Burundian Hutu v. Tutsi history)? How are women portrayed? What role and identity do they have? How are men portrayed?

Culture / Traditions of Violence

- What are the forces promoting violence and / or culture of weapons/arms?
- To what extent do they draw on male / female identities? (e.g in South Africa, gun advertising played on male 'he-men' images, and targeted women through images of 'strength' and 'independence')
- What are the levels of violence against women? Is it widely tolerated? What are men's attitudes? What are the laws? Is there a law prohibiting domestic violence?
- What are the main forms of violence in society? Who are the main victims of violence? What violence is reported and to whom?
- What measures/efforts are in place to prevent/address this violence? Who is involved? How effective are they? How can they be supported?
- What is the extent of trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation? Is the country a sending, receiving or transit country?