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U.S. CENTER
FOR
CITIZEN
DIPLOMACY

U.S. SUMMIT & INITIATIVE FOR GLOBAL CITIZEN DIPLOMACY

NOVEMBER 16-19, 2010 | WASHINGTON, DC

CITIZEN DIPLOMACY ON GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES

ROUNDTABLE

Kerri Kennedy | Chair
Marjorie Margolies | Co-chair



EVERY CITIZEN A DIPLOMAT

Published in conjunction with the
U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy's U.S. Summit & Initiative for Global Citizen Diplomacy
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Materials included in this document are the views of the roundtable authors and
are meant to serve as a tool for discussion.

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Cover: Visiting and working in rural India, mostly in the state of Tamil Nadu. Photo: McKay Savage

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I. INTRODUCTION

Introductory Statement from the Chair, Kerri Kennedy, Executive Director, Women's Campaign International

Women's Campaign International is proud to present the "Citizen Diplomacy on Global Women's Issues" report. Although just an introduction to the complex, diverse field of global women's issues, this report is a valuable resource for organizations and citizens alike. We highlight some of the major issues women face around the world today, provide examples of innovative initiatives recently undertaken by women's organizations like ours, and recommendations for how to become engaged and proactive in this field. Such a report would not have been possible without the wide range of contributions from dozens of fellow women's organizations (please see the detailed list below of our roundtable participants over the past several months).

It has been a sincere pleasure for me to lead in the production of such a report. The conversations and exchanges between Women's Campaign International and the roundtable participants were particularly enriching as they provided great examples of best-case practices in the field and helped to foster relationships that could lead to collaborations in the future. We also found the focus on the question of U.S. citizen engagement to be quite useful. Global women's issues are not always part of mainstream conversations. As such, engaging our neighbors is a challenge we constantly face. Nonetheless, the organizations' contributions and conversations proved once again that there are a number of ways we can go about doing this whether it is through creative uses of social media, innovative methods of fundraising, or carefully planned marketing campaigns.

I would like to thank all the organizations that participated in the compiling of such a thorough report for both their time and their openness in sharing some of their own ideas and strategies. I would also like to thank the WCI staff, and especially Meredith Thurston and Marion Abboud, for their significant contributions to this report. And of course, I would like to give a special thanks to the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy for putting together such an initiative – one which encourages and facilitates conversation and exchange among like-minded organizations engaged in a common cause, whether it be women's issues, or another global issue that is in need of the attention of the average American citizen. We hope that these reports and the upcoming conference will provide USCCD with many more tools, ideas, and strategies in its continued efforts to engage American citizens in the causes that truly matter.

Roundtable Members

- Chair: Kerri Kennedy: Executive Director, Women's Campaign International
- Co-Chair: Marjorie Margolies: President & CEO, Women's Campaign International
- Alyse Nelson: President & CEO, Vital Voices Global Partnership
- Elisa Muniz: The International Women's Media Foundation
- Jacqueline O'Neill: Lead Advocacy Coordinator, The Institute for Inclusive Security
- Lyric Thompson: Policy and External Relations Officer, Women for Women International
- Meryl Frank: UN Ambassador, The Commission on the Status of Women
- Michelle Barsa: Advocacy and Program Specialist, The Institute for Inclusive Security
- Sara Manzano-Diaz: Director of Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor

Panel

- Kerri Kennedy, Executive Director, Women's Campaign International, Chair
- Marjorie Margolies, President & CEO, Women's Campaign International, Co-Chair
- Sara Mazano-Diaz, Director of Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor

Host at Summit

- Laurie Heintz, President and Owner, Protective Barriers; Executive Committee, Board of Directors, USCCD

II. OVERVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ISSUES

To be a woman in today's world is to be a hard worker with a lesser right to rest or reward. Women perform 66% of the world's work, produce 50% of the food, but earn 10% of the income and own 1% of the property.¹ They fall victim to gender-based violence and die during childbirth. They are also more likely to contract HIV/AIDS, and less likely to be enrolled in school or elected to office.

But addressing women's issues is not just about improving the lives of individual women. Women are mothers, sisters, daughters, students, employees, community members, thinkers and action-takers. Empowering women thus serves to benefit others all over the world by increasing economic activity, broadening perspectives in the policy- and peace-making table, improving the health of populations and strengthening communities.

Women face a myriad of overlapping issues that serve to reinforce their marginal role in society. This report provides an overview of problems faced by women around the world by examining six categories of women's issues: labor and economic opportunities, education, gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health, political participation and conflict-resolution. It should be noted that this overview is meant to serve as an introduction to women's issues and is by no means all encompassing.

Conflict Resolution

In October of 2000, the UN Security Council enacted Resolution 1325, mandating that women be allowed the opportunity to fully participate in post-conflict processes. However, few policymakers have actively worked to fulfill this obligation, and many report not knowing how to safely and fully incorporate women into the process. According to the Institute for Inclusive Security, women remain the largest group of stakeholders regularly excluded from formal negotiation processes. It is essential that international and local groups work to ensure that policymakers know how to incorporate women into these processes.

Women are critical participants in peace-building efforts, as they have proven to be particularly effective in bridging differences between political parties and in bringing the concerns of victims and civilians to the table. When women are actively involved in conflict resolution, peace agreements are seen as more credible and cover a broader range of social and political issues that may otherwise have been ignored. Women are also essential in addressing the needs of uprooted populations. The protection of these populations' rights is essential if peace is to last, but is often overlooked when women are excluded. Mediators have also reported appreciating women peace-builders' "holistic approach" to debate and discussion.

In the crafting of the 2005 Sudanese Comprehensive Peace Agreement, local women involved with the peace process were essential in pushing for the inclusion of humanitarian, social, and economic considerations. Women were likewise especially effective in Uganda during talks with the LRA. Health and education were addressed in the agreement on disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration thanks to the work of Ugandan women. These women also worked to create a compensation fund for victims and succeeded in including the end of gender-based violence in the definition of "ceasefire."² Although women around the world have demonstrated time and again their strength as survivors of conflict who work daily to mediate between armed groups, keep food on the table and schools and clinics running in the midst of chaos, women have to this day served as only 6% of negotiators to formalized peace talks. There have been zero female chief mediators in the UN system.

Education

There are over 110 million children worldwide who are not in school. Two thirds of these children are girls. It should then come as no surprise that of the world's 875 million illiterate adults, two thirds are women.³ This represents an extreme lack of opportunity for girls and their communities. It is estimated that an extra year of primary school boosts girls' eventual wages by 10 to 20%, and an extra year of secondary school boosts wages by 15 to 25%.⁴ Greater education thus leads to both greater financial security within the home and to an increase in a community's economic productivity.

Education also leads to increased community stability and a healthier population. When a girl in the developing world receives seven or more years of education, she marries four years later and has 2.2 fewer children.⁵ Specifically, in Nicaragua, 45% of girls with no schooling are married before age 18, versus only 16% of those who are educated. In Mozambique, the figures are 60% versus 10%, and in Senegal, 41% versus 6%.⁶ Often, girls who are married want to continue their education, but are not allowed to do so. A study in Bangladesh by the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) found that 74% of local girls, who on average were married at age 16, say they would like to continue their schooling after they marry. In this area, only 30% of married girls are actually attending school.⁷ Research in developing countries has also shown that mothers who receive higher levels of schooling consistently see

better health in their children.⁸

Local customs often serve as obstacles for girls who wish to receive an education. Girls are usually expected to fulfill time-consuming housework in addition to their schooling, and girls who are married young are often pulled out of school. Many girls are often not enrolled in school because they fear sexual harassment and intimidation on the commute to and from school. Girls are also sometimes deterred from attending when schools do not have proper toilet facilities or do not hire female teachers. This is especially a problem for young girls once they experience puberty.⁵

Often, families simply cannot afford the cost of books, school fees and uniforms for all of their children. When this is the case, sons are consistently sent to school over daughters, as sons customarily support their parents later in life, while daughters often move in with their in-laws after marriage. Girls are often not consulted when these decisions are made for them. Studies by ICRW in East Asia and the Pacific found that 40% of local teenage girls felt that their own opinions were not taken into consideration enough or at all when their parents made decisions that impacted them, and 50% felt left out of community-level decisions that affected them. In surveys conducted in India, more than half of girls reported having little or no say in life-changing events such as when to marry, when to have children, or whether they would receive an education.¹²

Gender-Based Violence

At least one out of every three women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime, with the abuser usually being someone known to her.⁹ Gender-based violence is not restricted to developing nations – women experience abuse all over the world. The World Health Organization (WHO) found the percentage of women abused by partners or ex-partners to be 16% in Cambodia, 30% in the UK, 52% in the West Bank, 21% in Nicaragua, 29% in Canada and 22% in the United States.¹⁰ In sub-Saharan Africa, the prevalence of domestic violence experienced by women ranges from 26.6% in Malawi to 70.9% in Ethiopia.³ WHO has also found that the degree to which women experienced intimate-partner violence was significantly associated with a range of negative impacts on women's current physical, mental, sexual, and reproductive health. This held true across the many varied geographical regions of study.¹¹

Despite widespread reports of gender-based violence, there are many countries in which few women take advantage of formal support services. In some cases, this is a reflection of limited service availability. But often, women do not seek out help because of costs or other difficulties with travelling to service areas, the perception that the available services will not be helpful, or fear that they or their children may not be safe if they formally report their abuser. Because of these barriers, women often seek help from family and friends instead of established agencies.¹⁶

In times of war and civil unrest, women and girls are particularly vulnerable to violence and exploitation. As a tactic of war, their bodies are subjected to rape, torture, slavery, forced prostitution and mutilation to send messages to the enemy and destroy the social fabric of war-torn communities. Gender-based violence does not end with the cessation of the conflict; incidences of rape actually increase in many post-war conflict countries, as does the risk of exposure to forced prostitution and trafficking. As critical services are destroyed by war, the challenge of meeting the needs of survivors is severe. Violence against women is not just harmful to women. It affects every aspect of society including the economy, healthcare and education. According to UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, "the impact of violence against women on women and girls, their families, their communities and their societies in terms of shattered lives and livelihoods is beyond calculation." A 2004 study in the United Kingdom estimated the total direct and indirect costs of domestic violence, including pain and suffering, to be £23 billion per year or £440 per person; the cost of intimate partner violence in the United States alone exceeds \$5.8 billion per year: \$4.1 billion is for direct medical and health care services, while productivity losses account for nearly \$1.8 billion.

Labor and Economic Opportunities

According to some estimates, women represent 70% of the world's poor.¹² This is largely due to the fact that women are not offered formal employment opportunities at the same rate as men, earn less pay, spend a large portion of their time performing domestic tasks, and are often denied property rights.

In most countries, women are offered less desirable formal employment opportunities than men, with available jobs often involving meager pay, deplorable work environments, and both verbal and physical harassment. Women are

also much more likely than men to be employed in the informal employment sector, which usually offers minimal job security, little to no benefits, and much lower wages.¹³ However, it is important to note that when women earn income, they reinvest approximately 90% of it into their families, as compared to only 30 to 40% for men.¹⁴

When women are employed outside the home, they are usually still responsible for the majority of the domestic labor as well. This leaves them little time to rest and essentially no personal time. It is estimated that women and children living in Africa spend 40 billion hours every year traveling to and from water sources. This is equivalent to the time spent on a year's labor for the entire workforce of France.¹⁵ Shortening the amount of time that women spend gathering water would enable them to increase economic productivity and contribute to their communities in more significant ways through means such as starting their own businesses, teaching in schools or working in under-staffed health clinics.

Women are rarely included in property ownership, which can restrict their access to credit loans and leave them extremely vulnerable should their husbands threaten them with a divorce. Unfortunately, most countries do not keep housing data that includes information about individual ownership. This has made it difficult to monitor the amount of progress made in female ownership of housing and land assets.³

U.S. citizens need to be aware of the fact that economic inequalities are not only present in lesser-developed countries. Women in the United States continue to earn less than men for their labor. White women in the U.S. make 77 cents for every man's dollar, African American women make 62 cents for every man's dollar and Latina women make only 53 cents for every man's dollar.¹⁶ Yet, American women are much more likely than their male counterparts to raise a child on their own. In fact, there are over 10 million single mothers in the U.S., compared to only 2.5 million single fathers.¹⁷

Political Participation

Approximately 50.3% of the world's population is female (vs. 49.7% male). However, as of 2008, only 18.4% of national parliamentarians worldwide were women. Rwanda has the largest percentage of women in office in the world at 48.8%. There are currently 17 heads of state or government worldwide who are women, and as of 2010, approximately 17% of the US Congress is women.¹⁸ Only 20 countries have parliaments with over 30% women. Eleven of these are in the developed world; six in sub-Saharan Africa, and three in Latin America and the Caribbean.³ Ten countries have no women at all in parliament.⁵

These figures demonstrate that women continue to be excluded from equal participation in political decision-making. This is a tragedy both because men are responsible for making decisions that heavily impact the lives of women, and because nations are missing the unique and essential perspective that women bring to the governance process. Women have proven to reach out to a wider range of groups during decision-making processes, which builds levels of constituent trust and increases the legitimacy of governments. According to the World Bank, increased female participation in the governing process has also been associated with lower levels of graft. In addition, women broaden political discussions to include more dialogue on constituent matters, social concerns, and local issues. A study in Colombia, Argentina, and Costa Rica found that women legislators focused more on women's, children's, and family issues and were more likely than their male colleagues to initiate bills related to these topics.¹⁹

One of the greatest opportunities for women to enter into the political process is immediately following conflict-resolution. Women have proven to be incredibly effective during this time of transition, using their expertise to increase participation from the public, bridge political divisions, strengthen government accountability and bring women's issues to the forefront of discussions. This has resulted in systems of government that are more stable, transparent, and legitimate within their communities.

Sexual and Reproductive Health

There has been an extreme lack of progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goal of improving maternal health. There were more than 536,000 maternal deaths worldwide in 2005, and developing countries accounted for more than 99% of these maternal deaths.²⁰ The lifetime risk of maternal death is 1 in 30,000 in Northern Europe, compared to 1 in 6 in the least developed countries. These numbers only reflect actual maternal deaths; for every woman who dies during or after childbirth, between 15 and 30 women suffer from life-long illness and disability.²¹

The absence of effective health services and the widespread demand for out-of-pocket payment at the time of delivery have created barriers to improved maternal health in many developing countries. Four-fifths of maternal deaths result from complications that could have been prevented if a skilled birthing attendant had been present or if emergency obstetric care had been available.⁵ In fact, less than 50% of births in South Asia and Eastern and Southern Africa are delivered by a skilled medical attendant.²²

Women in developing countries also face high rates of fistula, an injury that occurs during childbirth. Fistula usually results after a woman suffers through several days of obstructed labor without timely medical intervention. This usually results in the child's death and leads the mother to lose control of urine or feces, often resulting in the woman being ostracized from her community or family. An estimated two million women continue to be untreated for fistula in developing countries, and between 50,000 and 100,000 new cases develop each year.²³

Maternal mortality is a devastating problem not just for women, but for girls as well. Fourteen million girls in developing countries between the ages of 15 and 19 become mothers every year. This means that between one quarter and one half of all girls in developing countries will give birth before reaching the age of 18.²⁴ These numbers are extremely worrisome, as, when compared with women ages 20 to 24, girls between the ages of 10 and 14 are five times more likely to die from childbirth, and girls' ages 15 to 19 are up to twice as likely. In fact, worldwide, the leading cause of death for girls between the ages of 15 and 19 are medical complications that occur during birth and pregnancy.²⁵

In some developing countries, especially those located in South Asia, the majority of adolescent pregnancy occurs within marriage. This demonstrates the importance of delaying the age of marriage in order to lower adolescent birthrates. One in seven girls in developing countries will marry before the age of 15²⁶ and 38% will marry before the age of 18.²⁷ The importance of age-appropriate sex education is crucial in reducing girls' birthrates.³ Unfortunately, programming for girls is extremely limited; at present, less than two cents of every dollar spent on international aid goes towards addressing girls' needs.²⁸

A lack of effective and available contraception has also contributed to the continued high rates of maternal mortality. One in every seven maternal deaths in developing countries is caused by unsafe abortions. In addition, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) has estimated that one in every three deaths related to pregnancy and childbirth could be avoided if effective contraception had been available to all women who wanted it.⁵ The percentage of contraceptive demand satisfied in the developing world is exceptionally low. Low income countries in the Middle East and North Africa report that 35% of demand for contraceptives is satisfied, followed closely by 42% demand satisfaction in low income countries in sub-Saharan Africa and 46% demand satisfied in low and lower-middle income countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.³

Since 2001, the total amount of funding allocated to sexual and reproductive health has increased. However, the majority of this increase has gone strictly to programs addressing HIV/AIDS. Funding for basic reproductive health services stayed static during this time, and funds for family planning programs actually declined.

The UNFPA reports that “limited progress on maternal mortality... attests to the low value placed on saving women’s lives and the limited voice women have in setting national priorities.” In order to change this, women must be given a greater voice in political decision-making on health policy and spending.⁵

Increased education for young women has also proven to increase maternal health. Many women do not have the proper background knowledge necessary to make informed health decisions. The International Center for Research on Women found that in 49 out of the 62 nations with available data, the difference between the percentage of births occurring under the supervision of health care staff for women with the highest and lowest levels of education was 30 percentage points or more.

Economic independence has proven to be another key influence on maternal health. When women are less economically dependent on spouses or other family members, they are better able to make their own health decisions and purchase the services that they need. ICRW found that unemployed women were four times more likely to die during pregnancy or childbirth than employed women.¹⁸

Women are also much more likely to suffer from HIV/AIDS than men, which many organizations describe as the “feminization” of the disease. In parts of Africa and the Caribbean, young women between the ages of 15 and 24 are up to six times more likely to be HIV-positive than their male counterparts.²⁹ The prevalence of HIV in women is both the cause and effect of violence against women. It is critical that groups working to form national or international HIV strategies consult with women’s groups and address female needs in the prevention and treatment of the virus, and the violence so often associated with it.⁵

III. SUCCESS STORIES AND PROGRAMS TO WATCH

The members of the Roundtable on Citizen Diplomacy's Role in Global Women's Issues collaborated to formulate a list of programs working to address the issues faced by international women. This list represents only a small sample of the wonderful work being done by organizations on behalf of women, but we feel that it provides a good representation of successful programs that could be looked to by others wishing to develop similar programs. Citizens interested in learning more about women's issues or looking to contribute to a specific campaign will also find this list to be especially useful.

BRAC

BRAC has been working in microfinance in Bangladesh since 1974. Their Dabi economic program arranges landless groups of 30 to 40 women into self-selected groups known as village organizations (VOs). These VOs allow women to work together on various development activities including savings, credit, health, education, social development and livelihood support. Loans are used for activities ranging from agriculture to running a restaurant or a grocery store. The average loan size in 2007 was \$121, and as of 2008, the total number of outstanding borrowers was 5.02 million.

BRAC also runs an Employment and Livelihood for Adolescents program, through which they utilize life-skills training and credit facilities to help improve the quality of life for young rural women between the ages of 14 and 25. The program teaches members to earn their own income and to save for the future. Members invest their loans in tailoring, poultry, livestock, nursery, vegetable cultivation, and other small businesses. 272,989 young women have so far been enrolled, receiving a total of more than \$17.2 million in loans.

Camfed International

Camfed has worked extensively to enhance the opportunities for girls in rural Africa to receive a quality education. They do this by supporting young women throughout their entire development. Camfed starts by providing the funds for girls to complete elementary school and high school, which is often not possible for girls whose families cannot afford school supplies, fees, uniforms, or even shoes. Camfed then continues to work with young women after graduation by providing them with economic training and further education. Through their Seed Money program, Camfed teaches women about money management and assists them in the launching of small businesses. These women then serve as role models for the other young women who Camfed supports.

To date, Camfed has impacted 1,065,710 children in Ghana, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi by improving school conditions. They have financially supported 500,948 of these students, allowing them to go to school. 42,184 girls have been provided the necessary funds to finish high school, which is the level of education that brings the greatest benefits to students, but far too few girls reach. Camfed also works to improve the quality of schools by training teachers and teaching mentors; Camfed has directly supported 392 women teachers, and has trained 4,068 teacher mentors in its 3,139 partner schools.

Camfed has seen success in its efforts through pass rates and attendance rates. The pass rates on the elementary school leaving exam rose 80% among Camfed-supported girls in Tanzania between 2005 and 2007. The high school girls supported by Camfed have consistently achieved a retention rate about 90%, and in 2008 Camfed's high school girls had an attendance rate of 94.7%.

The Centre for Development and Population Activities

CEDPA is dedicated to assuring women's greater participation in governance as a step to building stronger societies. For 30 years, CEDPA has worked together with local organizations to support an equal role for women in their communities and nations by raising awareness and provide women with the tools to build more just societies. CEDPA partners with communities to register voters, raise women's voices within peace efforts, mobilize advocates for better public policy and increase women's political participation. CEDPA also works with local governments to help them design structures for stakeholder engagement that enables women to meaningfully participate in decisions that affect their lives.

For example in Kenya, CEDPA, together with the Women's Political Alliance-Kenya, the Caucus for Women's Leadership and the League of Women Voters-Kenya, sought to ensure that female political candidates and aspirants

could be readily identified by political parties through an up-to-date and easy to use database prior to the 2007 elections. The partnership also addressed gender-based election violence by training monitoring agents and female candidates on gender-based electoral violence and the means to avoid it.

In Nepal, CEDPA continues to work with women's groups to ensure that their voices are heard in the post-conflict reconstruction process and the new government to ensure it is being more responsive to issues of gender and social inclusion. CEDPA conducted a post-conflict workshop series that outline the political processes that occur after conflict has ended, and ways women can engage in these processes to advance women's leadership. The workshops inspired participants to form a network called Women Acting Together for Transformative Change or Women Act. The coalition includes over 36 women's NGOs and NGO networks that ensure that women throughout Nepal can raise their voices, work together and support each other in making the changes they want to see in their country.

In Nigeria, CEDPA is working to make local government authorities more responsive to women and gender considerations through the LEAD project in the northern states of Bauchi and Sokoto. Through providing training to local governments and women's NGOs, CEDPA is helping to ensure that local services meet women's needs and that women are productively engaged in local decision making.

Worldwide, CEDPA has strengthened women's leadership skills through our global training programs. Our alumni have gone on to become vice presidents, ministers and parliamentarians in their nations. Learn more about CEDPA's work in governance at www.cedpa.org.

Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE)

FAWE's objective is to provide access to education to girls in disadvantaged areas as well as to ensure that once they are in school, the gender constraints that can lead to their dropping out of school or performing poorly are minimized or eliminated.

A FAWE Centre of Excellence is a school in which the physical, academic and social environment is gender responsive. It is one that has all the ordinary school facilities and in addition gender-responsiveness in all its aspects including the physical infrastructure, the social environment and the academic environment. It should be a showcase that clearly and effectively demonstrates how to create a gender responsive school environment. It adopts a holistic, integrated approach towards addressing the problems in girls' education by creating an enabling learning and teaching environment in the school and ensuring community involvement in the promotion of girls' education.

There are currently eight FAWE Centers of Excellence in Senegal, Tanzania, Rwanda, Namibia, and the Gambia

The Center of Excellence intervention package consists of the following components:

- Gender sensitization of parents, community leaders, community members, teachers, boys and girls
- In-service training for teachers into gender responsive pedagogy
- Empowerment of girls into skills for self confidence, assertiveness, speaking out, decision making and negotiation
- Training in reproductive health with attention on sexuality and protection against HIV and AIDS
- Establishment of counseling desks and training of teachers and students into the relevant skills
- Provision of scholarships and support to needy girls
- Provision of gender responsive infrastructure including boarding facilities in cases of long distance from school, separate toilets for boys and girls
- Activities to promote the participation of girls in Science, Mathematics and Technology (SMT) subjects such as science as well as support for science and computer laboratories and equipment
- Establishment of a gender responsive school management system and training of school management teams
- Activities to involve the community and other stakeholders in the school operations, monitoring and taking action to ensure attendance and performance of the girls, including persuading parents against practices that can negatively affect girls' education such as early marriage or reluctance to take girls to school

FAWE has noted many challenges in its efforts in the education of young women. These include cultural practices such as female genital mutilation and early marriage, poverty, and inadequately trained teachers.

Freedom From Hunger

Freedom From Hunger was established in 1946 and has since devoted its work to bringing innovative and self-help solutions to the fight against world hunger and poverty. Freedom from Hunger developed the world's first integrated microcredit/health and nutrition education program in 1989, and today, their microfinance programs are serving over 2 million families in some of the poorest countries. They are best known for their Credit with Education programs, which currently operate in fifteen countries, including Burkina Faso, Ghana, Haiti, Mali, Mexico, Peru and Senegal.

Between 2006 and 2009, Freedom from Hunger developed, field-tested, and evaluated an education curriculum for adolescent girls in India, called Learning Games for Girls. Learning Games are dialogue-based education sessions that focus on health, social and economic topics that are critical to the food security and well-being of adolescent girls and young women. Approximately 35,000 adolescent girls between the ages 10 and 19 participated, some along with their mothers and mothers-in-law. Results from a randomized control trial evaluation that was conducted with approximately 150 self-help groups of one self-help promoting institution revealed that there was impact seen in financial literacy, confidence and some savings behaviors (such as having a savings plan) at 6 months for adolescent girls, but many of these gains were lost at the 12 month evaluation. The only sustained benefit was improved confidence in ability to prioritize spending. For the health Games, there were no improvements for hand washing, diarrhea, and nutrition but there were significant gains for participating the HIV/AIDS Game. Both mothers and daughters experienced significant gains in knowledge (about what are STIs and HIV/AIDS and how one can contract HIV/AIDS, where to go for HIV test), confidence (girls could take steps to prevent HIV/AIDS), and behavior (checked for clean needles in the doctor's office and gave advice to others about use of condom). This experience indicates that girls can be reached through an existing and expansive self-help group platform in India and have important impacts on financial self-confidence as well as important impacts on HIV/AIDS knowledge and attitude change for adolescent girls.

Drawing from its experience providing education sessions to adolescent girls in India, Freedom from Hunger is now bringing its comprehensive approach of integrated services to young people in Ecuador and Mali, including adolescent girls and boys as young as 13 years of age. This new initiative, called Advancing Integrated Microfinance for Youth (AIM Youth), has the objective to provide young people with the necessary tools and knowledge to make better decisions related to money and using financial services, with the overall goal to improve their financial well-being over the long-run.

The combination of accessible financial services with relevant and engaging financial education could be especially powerful for adolescent girls as they transition to the increased responsibilities of adulthood. Adolescent girls are often limited to household-related activities, and are thus unable to learn about their options related to managing and leveraging money. As they marry and have children, they are faced with the pressure to manage household finances, without adequate preparation to make informed decisions and leverage their scant resources. By reaching out to adolescents, AIM Youth is geared to equip adolescents with knowledge and appropriate financial instruments that can help them become better prepared for their future.

In Ecuador, Freedom From Hunger is partnering with Plan International and Cooperatives Santa Ana and San José, along with other financial institutions. Our Malian partners include Nyèsigiso and Kondo Jigima (federations of credit unions) and Tonus and CAEB (non-government organizations providing community services).

AIM Youth has currently completed its market research phase, and will be finalizing the design of financial services and financial education over the next few months. Roll out of services is expected to begin at the beginning of 2011.

HEAL Africa

HEAL Africa's Safe Motherhood Prenatal Care and Micro-Insurance program in the Democratic Republic of Congo aims to increase access to health care for pregnant women. Women of reproductive age pay into a maternal micro-insurance group called Solidarity Group. These groups start with 8 to 10 members and a small sum of grant money to be used to cover their own childbirth costs. Members meet weekly and develop a support network. They also work together to arrange transport to the hospital for each of the members once they go into labor. The women are then trained in family planning and small business management. The women use income from their small businesses to repay their original loan. After the completion of loan repayment, the grant is made out to another group. In 2007, 253 Solidarity Groups were founded. 173 of these groups appear to be sustainable. In addition, 94 healthcare workers were trained under this program in order to increase the number of skilled and knowledgeable birthing attendants. The program also works to encourage women to deliver in healthcare facilities by giving out free kits of supplies for newborns to women who deliver at registered clinics.

The Institute for Inclusive Security

The Institute for Inclusive Security stands among a handful of organizations in the world with significant experience in helping coalitions of women advance peace and security in regions of conflict. The Institute has supported women to achieve tangible peace-building successes in Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel and Palestine, Liberia, Rwanda, Sudan, and Uganda. To empower women to participate in all stages of peace processes, Inclusive Security has developed a unique methodology that integrates coalition building, training, advocacy, and research that together connect women of diverse backgrounds and influence policymakers to adopt new strategies.

Inclusive Security has applied this unique, comprehensive model for women's empowerment in many places around the world with significant success since 1999. Since 2005, Inclusive Security has accomplished the following in Afghanistan specifically:

- 1) Convened women leaders in Afghanistan representing diverse backgrounds for coalition building and training around elections, legislative caucus formation and development, and security-sector reform and outreach. As a result, the women were able to organize into coalitions to plan and advocate around these key issues.
- 2) Hosted three delegations of women leaders for coalition building, training, and advocacy in DC on the rule of law, security-sector reform, and governance. The women developed comprehensive advocacy platforms, which they presented to high-level policymakers at the White House, Department of State, and Congress, among others. As a result, the US Embassy has increasingly invited women leaders to participate in meetings with visiting US policymakers;
- 3) Co-organized with NATO's Office of Public Affairs a delegation of ten Afghan women government officials at NATO headquarters in Brussels to prepare messages and then advocate for increasing women's participation in NATO operations in Afghanistan. The participants also addressed the European Parliament and met with many EU officials. NATO has since instituted meetings with women's groups for visiting NATO policymakers and analyzed the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan's implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security;
- 4) Published a policy brief documenting the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team's innovative strategy for engaging Afghan women. The brief has been used in monthly trainings at the US Foreign Service Institute; Marine Corps; and Fort Atterbury, Indiana, among others. It is designed to enable US civil servants and military personnel to develop more constructive means for engaging Afghan women in the US strategy for Afghanistan.
- 5) Collaborated with UNIFEM to support five Afghan women civil society leaders to travel to London to participate in the Afghanistan Donor Conference. With our assistance, women leaders finalized and presented a statement for the conference, based largely on recent consultations in Kabul and Dubai with a large coalition of Afghan women leaders. As a result, the leaders met with key international policymakers, including Prime Minister Brown, Secretary Clinton, and President Karzai; and
- 6) Convened over 40 women from civil society and the government to prepare recommendations and advocacy strategies for President Karzai's June 2010 National Consultative Peace Jirga. Initially 120 women were scheduled to participate. Following advocacy by Inclusive Security and the Afghan Women's Network, 400 women were invited to participate; out of the 1600 total delegates, that represents a 17 percent increase.

Inclusive Security has sustained this innovative model in Afghanistan by:

- 1) Building strong relationships with a wide array of Afghan women leaders from across the country;
- 2) Adapting the foci of training, coalition building, and advocacy to women leaders' highest priorities as the conflict and international response evolves;
- 3) Maintaining a long-term vision for women's empowerment in Afghanistan while achieving concrete, short-term results;
- 4) Assisting women leaders in developing and delivering persuasive messages directly to policymakers and shapers; and
- 5) Forging strong relationships with a broad number of policymakers in Afghanistan, the EU, NATO, the UN, and US Government.

International Planned Parenthood Federation

International Planned Parenthood Federation's SPRINT Initiative aims to increase access to sexual reproductive health services and information for people surviving crises and living in post-crisis situations in East, South East Asia and the Pacific. Sexual and reproductive health problems are the leading cause of women's ill health and death worldwide, and these needs increase during humanitarian emergencies. Started in December 2007, the SPRINT Initiative is an innovative three-year pilot program funded by the Australian Government. It works to address the fact that sexual and reproductive health issues are not regularly included in emergency response programming. Achievements of the SPRINT Initiative to date include the following:

- SPRINT has trained over 3500 people in 35 countries, and 82 in-country trainings have been rolled out.
- SPRINT trainees worked to coordinate the implementation of sexual and reproductive health services in crises in Bangladesh, Burma, China, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.
- SPRINT is supporting implementation of sexual and reproductive health service provision in the protracted, conflict-affected areas of Southern Thailand, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia and the border of Timor Leste and Indonesia.
- Progress has been made to integrate sexual and reproductive health into national emergency preparedness plans in China, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste and Vietnam.
- The University of New South Wales launched a research team to conduct in-depth monitoring and evaluation of SPRINT activities, and to contribute to the body of evidence on sexual and reproductive health in emergencies
- SPRINT is being initiated in Africa and in the Middle East/North Africa through IPPF, UNFPA and UNHCR.

Vital Voices

Founded in 2000, Vital Voices Global Partnership works to identify, train, and empower emerging women leaders around the globe. Their work ranges from combating human trafficking and other forms of gender-based violence to enabling women to become more active in government and training them to become successful entrepreneurs

Vital Voices strives to improve the economic status of handcraft business women and develop better business women and better leaders through their Global Women Entrepreneurs in Handcrafts Development Program. The program begins with a five day training workshop, in which participants learn about product design; development and evaluation; packaging and packing for export; financial management essentials; intellectual property rights; marketing and communications; export and international trade issues; costing and pricing for export and global product distribution.

Following the training program, participants strive to make their products appealing to a wide-range of international wholesalers and retailers. A Vital Voices Global Handcraft Catalog is developed to showcase these new products and connect women entrepreneurs with potential buyers. Vital Voices has developed relationships with high-profile international design and fashion houses, as well as design schools, to whom the handcraft products are presented.

In order to track the success of this program, Vital Voices introduced an M&E Baseline Survey in September 2009 and have gathered follow-up information at six-month intervals for two years with each training participant. Based on

data collected from the two most recent workshops, each woman that Vital Voices trains employs 32 people. Each businesswoman generates an average of more than US \$4,000 per month in national, regional and international monthly sales, and each employee earns an average monthly wage of US \$137. Beyond their direct employees, each organization also has an impact upon a further 101 indirect beneficiaries. These indirect beneficiaries consist of the families and other dependent relatives whose lives are directly supported through food and clothing, and who are usually educated by each artisan employee. This means that each woman trained impacts a total of 133 people.

Vital Voices has profiled three of these amazing women:

1. Sara Katebalirwe (2009 Kenya Alumna)

Every year, the Cartier Foundation launches the Women's Initiative Awards, an international business plan competition to identify and support women entrepreneurs from around the world. For 2010, the Foundation selected Sara Katebalirwe as one of 15 finalists in the running for the \$20,000 grant. Sara is the Managing Director of Royal Bark Cloth Designs Limited in Kampala, Uganda, and an alumna of the 2009 Vital Voices Kenya Training program. Sara founded the bark-based clothing manufacturer in 2008. Today, the company is one of Uganda's leading producers of bark cloth accessories, luxury office supplies, home decorations and gift items. Sara runs her business on one guiding principle: a commitment to the community. As the company expands, Royal Bark Cloth Designs remains dedicated to employing local women and using indigenous materials. "Being selected as one of the 15 finalists in the Cartier Women's Initiative Awards has had a tremendous impact on our business," says Sara, "The recognition of what this selection entails has boosted our confidence in our mission and vision; and has encouraged us to stay on course."

2. Nellie Ssali (2010 Uganda Alumna)

Nellie Ssali, the Managing Director of Makika Stylz, is an exceptional entrepreneur. As Vice Chairwoman of the Garment and Textile Cluster in Kampala, Uganda, and a valued member of the Uganda Women Entrepreneurs Association, Nellie seizes all opportunities to improve her business. She gained valuable insight into operating a professional business during the February 2010 Vital Voices Entrepreneurs in Handcrafts Development Program in Kampala, where she also found a mentor, Mabel Kiggundu, member of the Uganda Women Entrepreneurs Association, a Vital Voices African Business Women Network Hub. Applying her newfound business skills, Nellie has since reorganized her workshop and started the practice of recording her entire inventory. Makika Stylz's finances and product development have undergone sweeping makeovers as well. In the future Nellie plans to teach women how to earn and save money, passing on strategies she has absorbed from her own women mentors.

3. Doron Shaltiel (2009 Kenya Alumna)

Capacity-building comes in many forms. For Doron Shaltiel, Director of Quazi Designs, expanding her business means establishing partnerships. After participating in the 2009 Vital Voices Entrepreneurs in Handcrafts Training Program in Kenya, Doron was motivated to take part in numerous trade shows. Then Doron connected with local entrepreneurs interested in Fair Trade through SWIFT Swaziland Fair Trade network. She made additional contacts while assisting with the COFTA (Cooperation for Fair Trade in Africa) fashion show and the World Fair Trade Day. Now she networks at a whole new level, making crucial connections with people who have the resources to improve her business. In six short months, her ever-expanding network has helped double her sales, secure two new South African exporting agents, a new agent in the UK, and an American distributor. Networking is essential to capacity building, and for Doron, it has translated into positive outcomes with her business.

Women's Campaign International

Women's Campaign International (WCI) implemented a comprehensive Conflict Transformation Program from 2007 to 2009. This program built the capacity of women in decision-making processes, especially on matters of peace, security, and conflict as a means of reducing political violence, terrorism and extremism. The program worked with civil society groups to create trainings, programs, and media campaigns focused on increasing the number of women leaders, enhancing advocacy skills, increasing their ability to participate effectively in conflict resolution and peace building, and providing them with resources

to implement these new skills. Specifically, the program aimed to create, lead and participate in peace-building and conflict transformation efforts in cases of protracted conflict, impart the skills and knowledge necessary to ensure that women's programs are sustainable, and build productive relationships between men and women leaders. Throughout the duration of the Conflict Transformation Program, WCI successfully supported 31 organizations and directly trained 1629 women in Sri Lanka, 1050 women in Colombia, and 1725 men and women in Liberia.

In Sri Lanka, WCI partnered with seven different organizations to conduct nine programs. Through their partnership with Young Asia Television (YATV), a leading independent television production company in Sri Lanka, WCI produced 31 television and radio talk shows/discussion programs that featured women leaders from throughout the country. Through these programs, WCI and YATV aimed to elevate the profile of current and potential women leaders as well as raise awareness and promote dialogue about issues of particular importance to women in Sri Lanka. YATV began broadcasting the programs on September 1st 2008. Eighty women appeared on the shows, with an estimated viewership of 250,000 people. This umbrella project also included two leadership and media workshops on how to interact with the media, messaging and public speaking.

In Colombia, WCI conducted a gender audit of the Colombian National Congress in collaboration with Congreso Visible, a University of the Andes-based for Political Science program. The program sought to critique the current gender-structure of the Colombian national Congress, the role and committee assignments of women members of Congress, and the controversial debate over whether to install political party quotas and an official caucus for women elected officials. Program participants included Afro-Colombian and internally-displaced men and women interested in tracking the progress of gender-related legislation, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the Ad Hoc National Women's Caucus in Congress. The program included the creation of a Congressional database available on the web for tracking gender-related legislation and members of Congress in the future. Activities concluded with program participants drafting policy critiques and presenting them in person with elected women officials from the Colombian Congress.

In Liberia, WCI partnered with the National Women's Commission of Liberia (NAWOCOL), one of the oldest Liberian women's organizations, to train over 100 community members on conflict mediation skills and improved agricultural techniques in two volatile eastern border counties. The two communities were also encouraged to set up 13 peace clubs, each with a majority of women. These clubs are helping to improve women's capacity to mediate in conflict and to participate in community decision-making processes. Additionally, forty acres of land were communally farmed by women from different ethnic groups with a history of conflict. WCI worked with Women Aid Inc, a grassroots women's organization, to provide skills training for one hundred fifty women and girls in vocational skills (computer literacy and soap-making), literacy and numeracy. Additional trainings were conducted for 200 women and girls, 30 law enforcement officers, 40 school authorities, and 30 health workers in Peace Building, Civic Education, and the prevention and management of Gender Based Violence (GBV), Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and HIV/AIDS to ensure their support of women's empowerment in the community. In total, 250 people (25 men and 225 women) were trained in civic education, community participation and peace-building, 35 women were trained in computer literacy, and 100 women and adolescents were provided with basic literacy and numeracy skills. Seventy-five women committed to ensuring that their daughters become educated and literate.

Women for Women International

Women for Women International provides women survivors of war, civil strife and other conflicts with the tools and resources to move from crisis and poverty to stability and self-sufficiency, thereby promoting viable civil societies. Since 1993, Women for Women International has helped more than 250,000 women survivors of war in countries such as Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda and Sudan rebuild their lives through a combination of direct aid, life skills and rights awareness training, and vocational and business school training, distributing nearly \$80m in direct aid, program assistance and microcredit loans. Income generation programs such as organic commercial farming initiatives give women the training necessary to generate an income and link them with markets for their skills. WfWI's theory of change holds that when women are well, are decision makers, have access to social safety nets and networks and can earn an income, they can rebuild their lives, families and nations following war and foster lasting social change.

Globally, this theory has exhibited tremendous results: graduates report higher rights awareness, self-confidence and decision-making abilities and community involvement; in Afghanistan, 94% of graduates said they have greater participation in family decisions and 56% were sending girls to school who were not previously attending. Finally, Women for Women International works with men, knowing that women's progress will not be sustained without active community engagement-which means the support of male traditional, civic, religious and military leaders. The Men's Leadership Program (MLP) trains men on topics including the value of women and girls, female participation in family and community decision-making, violence against women, and personal and family health, and engages them as advocates educating and engaging other local men on MLP topics. Participants thus become agents of change in their communities, working as allies and advocates alongside women.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR CITIZEN DIPLOMACY

There is still a great deal of progress left to be made in the effort to improve the lives of the world's women. In order for this progress to be achieved, American citizens must be educated on the importance of empowering female voices and engaged in this empowerment process. This Roundtable has developed a series of recommendations for possible techniques through which to achieve increased citizen diplomacy in the realm of women's issues.

Continue to utilize social media.

Social media has proven extremely effective in gaining large support systems in relatively short amounts of time. The ability to make an impact by simply pushing a button carries enormous weight in our fast-paced world. The case of Iranian woman Sakineh Mohammed Ashtiani, sentenced to death by stoning earlier this year, has become a global media sensation that has utilized Facebook and Twitter to gain the support of thousands, including many celebrities, continuously updating her supporter's on the injustices suffered by Sakineh and her loved ones. This has not only increased the visibility of one woman's sufferings, but has educated thousands on the state of women in Iran today. Many organizations have also found success in connecting their web viewers with online forms of support beyond donations. Care International uses its website to describe its different programs, and then links viewers to online letters to Congress that address issues related to their programs. By simply entering in their contact information and pressing send, supporters can send letters to Congress asking them to pass the International Protecting girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act or to co-sponsor the Global MOMS Act.

Create straightforward, informative, and creative awareness campaigns.

The average citizen is not aware of the positive domino effect that the empowerment of women can trigger. Awareness campaigns need to not just focus on the moral right of a woman to receive an education or have access to prenatal care, but also on the influence that this educated and healthy woman has both on her own community and, when combined with the forces of other such women, on the international community. It is vital that citizens are aware that giving to an organization working to address women's issues does much more than simply improve the lives of a small group of women. Awareness campaigns should stress the longevity and far-reaching effects of empowering women.

One can look to the Girl Effect campaign as an excellent example of such an awareness effort. The Girl Effect has become a recognizable catch phrase through the series of videos and information sheets created in an effort to explain the multiplier effect of investing in the life a girl. For example, the campaign's website describes the importance of female education by noting, "in Kenya, 1.6 million girls are high school dropouts. If they could finish their secondary education, they would make 30% more money – and contribute \$3.2 billion to the Kenyan economy every year. Or they could become one of Kenya's 204,000 adolescent mothers instead, and lose the economy \$500 million a year. A three billion upside against a half billion downside."³⁰ By providing tangible statistics and comparing the long-term effects of choosing whether or not to educate a woman, the Girl Effect has created a creative and memorable message that leaves a lasting impression on viewers. Other awareness campaigns should aim to replicate this effect.

Facilitate direct contact with women in need.

Connecting citizens with international women is the most powerful way to make an individual understand the magnitude of women's issues. No one can tell someone's story better than the subject themselves, and videos that interview

local women and display their families and homes are an unparalleled method for moving citizens to action. Even more powerful are programs that directly connect local women with mentors in the United States. For example, Vital Voices is working to expand their Entrepreneurs in Handcrafts program to include a partnership with international design schools that will bring design students to work with local women on their handcraft businesses. Programs like these not only benefit the local women who are receiving assistance, but lead to increased awareness as American mentors discuss their experiences with their peers. Conferences and mentor programs that connect women around the world need to be more heavily broadcast so that American citizens are aware of the direct impact that their fellow citizens are making.

Make fundraising efforts flexible and relatable to the average citizen.

Beyond educating citizens about the far-reaching effects of addressing women's issues, it is vital that women's organizations make their work relatable to American citizens. With the myriad of different causes vying for people's attention, one cannot count on individuals to devote time or funds to an effort that they do not feel pertains to their busy lives. Today, with so many families sending their loved ones overseas, efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan may be able to gain more support. Agriculturally oriented communities may be more apt to give to programs addressing rural women's issues. Business students may feel particularly compassionate towards budding women entrepreneurs. It is essential for organization's to recognize their target audience and demonstrate that their work is relevant to the lives of those whose assistance they seek.

Organizations should also use flexible fundraising options that allow for tiered levels of giving. Different citizens will want to give different amounts of funds, and organizations should facilitate this whenever possible. Fundraising events with different priced tickets and tiered amounts of giving allow individuals to enter at a level that works for them, while also educating them about the issue.

Raise funds and spread awareness through the sale of tangible goods.

Many people are more likely to donate to a campaign if they are purchasing a good that relates to their donation. Many organizations have found success in selling jewelry or bags that were made by local women or carry a message that represents the work that they are doing. This provides the opportunity for organizations to not only raise funds, but also to spread awareness, as individuals who are wearing these locally made goods will attract the attention of others and educate them about the cause. The facilitated sale of locally made goods also acts as an incentive for local women who will be motivated by the knowledge that the product of their hard work has found a place in the international market.

V. CONCLUSION

The release of this comprehensive report and the discussions around it could not come at a more opportune moment in the history of global women's issues. WCI, along with its fellow women's organizations, can remember the Beijing Conference in 1995 as a cornerstone in the long, tireless campaign to raise awareness and seriously address global women's issues. The hundreds of nations gathered in Beijing produced a Platform for Action that entailed a comprehensive list of commitments and objectives - all aimed towards the ultimate goal of women's empowerment.

Since that time, in every corner of the world, we witness progress and see uplifting evidence that points to visible efforts within governments and civil societies to strive towards the realization of the goals set in Beijing. But one could argue that we are now once again in the midst of a new and even more exciting phase. Beijing and the years that followed were a time for the definition and recognition of a woman's inalienable rights and of the undeniable link between women's empowerment and the betterment of a community. In the last few years, a more universal awareness and the calls to action that ensue have transformed the topic of international women's challenges and women's empowerment into a hot-button issue that is pervasive in discussions and decision-making at local, national, and international levels among policy-makers and citizens alike.

As we walk through this unprecedented window of opportunity, it is with great pleasure that WCI joins its fellow women's organizations to continue the very important discussion of how we can continue this process of transforming

this newfound energy and attention into feasible and fruitful actions.

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