



# WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY

Ensuring women have a seat at the table is a first step toward achieving peace.

**We partner with host-country governments, civil society, the private sector, and communities around the world to ensure women are equal partners in the prevention of violent conflict and the advancement of sustainable peace.**

DAI is a trusted international development partner with more than 125 long-term projects in 100 countries. We work with partners in host countries to enhance market efficiencies, improve the quality of governance, and increase stability, bringing together fresh combinations of expertise and innovation across multiple sectors.

The Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) strategy is a U.S. Government policy acknowledging that women face unique challenges during and after violent conflict, and therefore, must be critical actors in all efforts to achieve long-lasting peace and security. Accordingly, development organizations should seek out and encourage women's voices in decision-making processes and in the protection of women's rights.

By 2023, the WPS strategy aims to: achieve greater participation and protection of women and girls; institutionalize the WPS in international programs; and ensure partners adopt WPS policies. DAI fully supports the WPS strategy and aims to promote empowerment of and equality for women in our programs. Our aim is to leave behind a legacy that reinforces the WPS strategy long after our in-country presence.

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**Participation:** DAI is committed to supporting women in leadership positions and as legitimate stakeholders within decision-making processes. In partnership with host-country governments and civil society, our projects have brought women to the forefront of local, regional, and national policy discussions.

**Liberia:** Women in Liberia played an instrumental role in ending decades of conflict that devastated the country. As part of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Liberia Accountability and Voice Initiative (LAVI), DAI and its local partners have worked to ensure that women retain a prominent role in the democratic processes that ensure continued peace. LAVI has provided strategic capacity building to Liberian consortium Women's NGO Secretariat Liberia (WONGOSOL), which represents more than 104 women-focused civil society organizations focused on increasing women's awareness and engagement in governance, peace, and security issues. As a result, WONGOSOL has initiated an advocacy campaign to enact legislation that mandates the inclusion of women in critical electoral processes. Furthermore, WONGOSOL now has the skillset to ensure improved financial sustainability of its consortium, ensuring its critical work will continue for years to come.

**Pakistan:** The Community Resilience Activity is training female community leaders from diverse backgrounds to promote positive narratives of peace and to conduct social action projects within their communities. Female members of provincial assemblies (MPAs) in Sindh and Punjab have been trained on countering violent extremism (CVE) laws and drafted CVE frameworks in district governments. Some of these MPAs have gone on to address violent extremism on social media, educating wider audiences on VE concerns within their communities. Facilitating a truly whole-of-society approach to address VE is essential to mitigating this threat to Pakistan's stability.

**Protection:** DAI recognizes that women are disproportionately impacted by violent conflict and that protection from all forms of violence supports women's human rights, and their roles as equal members of society.

**Honduras:** Since 2017, the Justice, Human Rights, and Security Strengthening Activity (Unidos por la Justicia) has worked with the Honduran justice department, the national police, and civil society to better protect survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) throughout the judicial process. Currently, Unidos is working with government agencies to bring court personnel and prosecutors together to ensure complaint files have the required documentation so that cases can proceed to trial, and to provide facilities that allow witnesses to safely give testimony without being identified or appearing in open court. These critical activities have helped to address high rates of impunity for SGBV in the country by empowering survivors to hold perpetrators accountable, while ensuring their safety.

**Iraq:** The Iraq Governance and Performance Accountability (IGPA) project operates in some areas formerly occupied by Islamic State. Service providers in these areas lacked critical technical knowledge and skills to support survivors of SGBV. As part of a larger effort to create awareness and a legal framework to address SGBV, IGPA provides training to service providers focused on maintaining survivor safety, and the physical and mental impacts of trauma. These trainings built upon existing skill sets of providers to ensure that survivors of SGBV receive support and treatment that is empathetic, does not re-traumatize, protects their identities, and enables them to hold perpetrators accountable if they choose.

**Institutionalization:** DAI engages with a wide range of host country and international partners to improve commitment to women's rights and safety.

**Southeast Asia:** The ASEAN-USAID Partnership for Regional Optimization with the Political-Security and Socio-Cultural Communities, with UN Women, is supporting the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to conduct a landmark study on the current state of implementation of the WPS agenda in ASEAN programs. The study will examine WPS progress, trends, and challenges across Southeast Asia and its recommendations will form the basis for ASEAN policy development. For the first time, ASEAN will be able to set a baseline to chart its progress on WPS and draw upon data to inform its next steps toward actively implementing the WPS agenda.