

# Report on Guidelines for Best Practices on Gender Mainstreaming in Alternative Development

Final Draft  
UNDCP



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# **Guidelines on Gender Mainstreaming in Alternative Development**

## **Summary**

### *UN Gender policy and UNDCP Mandates*

The UNDCP, as part of the United Nations system, is required to promote the gender mainstreaming policy under its mandated function as the co-ordinator and centre of expertise in drug control. Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality (ECOSOC, 1997).

In the Action Plan on International Co-operation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development, endorsed by the member states at the UN General Assembly Special Session in June 1998, the gender issues is a special point of attention. Under the heading 'Improved and innovative approaches to Alternative Development' it is stated that: "Alternative development programmes and international co-operation for that purpose should ... (e) incorporate the gender dimension by ensuring equal conditions for women and men to participate in the development process, including design and implementation" (Ibid).

### *Background*

Since the early 1990s, UNDCP Alternative Development Projects have included a women and development component. Gradually, it became evident that by treating women as special beneficiaries in alternative development projects, women's issues often became mere appendages to development interventions. While the current policy environment advocates "involving women", it does not necessarily promote gender mainstreaming in policy programme and project planning and implementation. Therefore, in line with the mandate given in the Action Plan, UNDCP is making an effort to improve the gender focus of alternative development projects. The guidelines on Gender Mainstreaming in Alternative Development are a first step towards this goal.

### *Experiences in the field*

The guideline document is based on the findings and lessons learned regarding women's issues and gender mainstreaming in selected UNDCP alternative development projects. Gender experts have studied project documents and visited project sites in Bolivia, Laos, Pakistan and Peru. During the course of field visits, the current practices with respect to gender were assessed and barriers and constraints faced by the projects with respect to gender issues were identified.

## *Goals*

Based on the findings of the expert mission and the outcomes of a gender workshop at UNDCP HQ, a number of goals have been adopted that apply to UNDCP Alternative Development programmes:

1. To provide equitable access and opportunities to women and men, both individuals and groups, to Alternative Development resources.
2. To take measures to ensure women and men's equitable access to and full participation in power structures and decision making in Alternative Development programmes
3. To contribute to the UN goal of reaching gender equality in staffing, particularly in higher management positions.
4. To include gender assessment as part of the situation analysis for each Alternative Development project document
5. To generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data through monitoring and evaluation of Alternative Development projects.
6. To define the implementation and monitoring requirements concerning gender in the contractual agreements with executing, implementing and co-operating agencies.

## *Implementation*

In order to achieve these goals recommendations are given for implementation of gender mainstreaming in four key areas of operation:

1. *UNDCP policy and operations at the country level*: Surveys on the drug situation, country profiles documents and other basic documents should contain information on the gender situation. Further, gender disaggregated data should be part of standard reporting requirements.
2. *Alternative development strategies and business plans*: Identification of priorities and alternative development strategies should be based on gender disaggregated data collected in the preparation of Country Profiles or the conduction of drug surveys.
3. *Formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of UNDCP alternative development programmes and programme modules*: For each step of the project cycle a list of key questions has to be addressed to ensure gender mainstreaming.
4. *UNDCP staffing policy and management of alternative development projects*: Gender awareness should be improved through training to be conducted for target groups of villagers, government counterparts at district and provincial level, project management, project staff and visiting consultants. Also gender focal points could be established in selected Field Offices.