

international forces have undermined the ability of women to care for themselves and their families. In Nicaragua in 1990, for example, the new government dismantled a number of social welfare programs such as sex education and health services (Wilson & Whitmore, 1995:66). In addition, a new government anxious to provide employment programs for former combatants, may overlook the just as vital employment needs of (non-combatant) women in the process.

Structural Adjustment Programs

Many countries attempting to rebuild are simultaneously facing the pressure of foreign trade arrangements and structural adjustment programs. Structural adjustment programs have an impact on the ability of women to contribute to peace building. Jeanne Vickers argues that structural adjustment programs have a greater impact on women than men, "the impact is principally felt among food-deficit farming households, pastoral communities, the landless, the urban unemployed, and those with jobs that do not pay enough for survival (Vickers, 1993:90). Moreover, when women are heads of households, the impact is even more dramatic. Vickers sums of the situation in this way;

Because of social and gender discrimination, the strategies adopted for structural adjustment have tended not to take into account the vital economic role of women in agriculture, in industry and in the home. Instead of supporting women's productive roles, such strategies have created further obstacles to their economic participation and consequently reinforced the negative effect of such programmes on the most vulnerable (Vickers, 1993:90).

Caroline Moser notes the structural adjustment programs additionally rely on women's unpaid labour to care for children, gather fuel, process food, prepare meals, and nurse the sick (Moser, 1989:1814). a nutrition program in Tamil Nadu, India sponsored by the World Bank, for example, did not factor the labour of community women's volunteer groups into the project's successful efficiency rating (cited in Chowdry, 1995:33). Most alarming for women in post-war