

Canada insure that there is a capacity for gender specific issues?

Economic Growth: Conversion from War Economy to Peace Economy

The gender relations produced during a war are necessarily going to impact upon a woman's ability to contribute to economic reconstruction as well as her own practical and strategic needs. More often than not, women will be the primary heads of households at a war's end. To begin with, one-third of the world's families are headed by a woman (Vickers, Moser). This figure increases in the aftermath of armed conflict. In Rwanda and Cambodia, for example, women comprise over 60% of the surviving population. This condition, combined with the fact that women are responsible for 80% of agricultural production in developing countries indicates an even more prominent role for women in economic reconstruction than in times of peace. (Vickers, 1993:91).

Some women may also have carved out new economic roles for themselves during the course of the war. In Mozambique, for example, a number of women began working in the informal economy;

The collapse of rural economies as a result of war has undermined the power base of patriarchy and the hegemony of its legitimating ideology. Traditional social support networks have also broken down. In their struggle to counter-act their vulnerabilities occasioned by this break-down, some women have attained relative economic and political autonomy from male domination. This has primarily been through entrepreneurial activity in the grass-roots war-economy (Chingogo, 1996:209).

While some women have found economic independence at the end of armed conflict, others face difficult obstacles. Likewise in Mozambique, violence against women in the family has risen as a result of women's new economic status (Chingogo, 1996:233). Elsewhere, state and