



Minister of International Development Marie-Claude Bibeau visits South Sudan in June 2017.

*"In South Sudan, strong social and institutional norms and attitudes impede the inclusion of women and women's rights in local, regional and national decision making. To help tackle this, the embassy brings advocacy and programming together, for example by supporting grassroots women's rights organizations in their efforts to promote women's rights, and working with women leaders who are actively engaged in ensuring that women's interests are advanced by the peace process."*

– Canadian diplomat in South Sudan

talks, saw limited results. While the existence of the Board succeeded in bringing women's perspectives to negotiations, their engagement was made difficult by barriers to meaningful participation and ongoing debates on the selection of the representatives.

Working in complex and fluid conflict contexts challenges the ability of programs to accurately measure the results of their assistance. The current report is the first annual progress report on the implementation of the new Action Plan. Given that its baselines and indicators were newly created,

current results focus more on short-term outcomes of government activities than actual progress. Measuring change is difficult in the early stages of the Action Plan. Further, in many instances Canada cooperates with multiple partners when delivering WPS programs and projects. Tying the results of Canada's specific contributions to the broader activities of many can pose reporting and attribution challenges.

While Canada has taken strides to support local women's rights organizations through mechanisms such as the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) and the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), challenges to funding grassroots women's organizations remain. Application requirements can prove too burdensome for some organizations, and smaller projects can be difficult or inefficient to administer for donors. Questions regarding the credibility of new or unknown local organizations present additional challenges. Ultimately, while funding mechanisms designed to limit risk to the Crown can conflict with Canada's interest in supporting nascent women's organizations and change-makers, the government is working hard to identify tools and processes that are fit for purpose.

Federal Action Plan partners over the last year have significantly improved their understanding of the importance of the WPS agenda to achieve peace and security goals. Yet, much work remains to ensure that officials more systematically integrate this agenda into their policy and programming efforts.