

Zonta International

2010-2012 International Service and ZISVAW projects

Security and Empowerment for Women and their families: Ensuring a Gender-Responsive Humanitarianism and Early Recovery Response in Haiti

This program responds to the urgent humanitarian and early recovery needs in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti. It also builds on the foundation of the current UNIFEM programming around gender responsive governance, economic security and advancing women's rights.

Prevention of Burns Violence Against Women and Girls in Cambodia, Nepal and Uganda

This United Nations-supported project, which falls under the **Zonta International Strategies to End Violence Against Women (ZISVAW)** program, seeks to reduce the incidence of violence against women and girls by changing personal and/or political knowledge, attitudes and behaviors contributing to violence against women. ZISVAW projects are focused on preventing and ending violence against women. Acid violence and other forms of burning involve throwing corrosive acid at victims – usually at their faces – burning them and damaging skin tissue, often exposing and sometimes dissolving the bones. The consequences of these attacks can include blindness and permanent scarring of the face and body.

Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Gender-Based Violence in Rwanda

Rwanda is largely a nation of vulnerable women and children. Treating HIV-positive women, preventing the transmission of the virus to their children and giving women access to health care and reproductive health services are critical. Preventing and responding to the violence, stemming from the brutalization of the society during a recent civil war, is vital to the recovery of this war-torn country.

Safe Cities for Women Project in Guatemala City and San Salvador

Whether on city streets, public transportation or in their own neighborhoods, women and girls are subjected to various types of violence and abuse — from sexual harassment, both physical and verbal, to sexual assault and rape. Such daily occurrences limit the rights and freedoms of women as equal citizens to enjoy their neighborhoods and cities, and to exercise their rights to mobility, education, work, recreation, collective organization and participation in political life. The focus of the Safe Cities for Women Project in Guatemala City and San Salvador is on urban security as a gender issue. This is because women in cities are increasingly vulnerable to gender-based violence in situations exacerbated by social violence.

Elimination of Obstetric Fistula and the Reduction of Newborn Mortality and Morbidity in Liberia

Obstetric fistula usually develops when a prolonged labor presses an unborn child so tightly in the birth canal that blood flow is cut off to surrounding tissues, causing the tissues to die. This results in a hole that forms between the vagina and the bladder or rectum during prolonged, obstructed labor. The dismal causes that can lead to obstetric fistula are poverty, lack of education, early marriage, childbirth, and lack of medical care. Obstetric fistula is an injury of childbearing that has been relatively neglected, despite the devastating impact it has on the lives of girls and women. The consequences of fistula are life shattering: The baby usually dies, and the woman is left with chronic incontinence. Because of her inability to control her flow of urine or feces, she is often abandoned, or neglected by her husband and family, and ostracized by her community. Without treatment, her prospects for work and family life are greatly diminished, and she is often left to rely on charity.

