Implementation of peace agreements refers to the state of a peace process after the negotiation, where transition and consolidation takes place. Inclusive implementation means that diverse stakeholders are included and their views and needs are addressed.

Particular attention should be paid to ensuring the implementation of gender-related provisions and promoting women’s meaningful participation in implementation modalities.

Studies reveal that up to 50% of peace agreements fail and conflict resumes within a five-year timeframe. Recurring obstacles and reasons for partial implementation include:

- Fragile agreements: vague language, unclear responsibilities, too short time horizons, lack of national ownership, exclusive processes, lack of allocated funding
- Breakdown of transitional security arrangements: weak monitoring and verification mechanisms or absence of dispute resolution mechanisms
- Limited commitment of parties and/or their constituencies, presence of spoilers
- Insufficient consultation between mediators and implementers, and among implementing agencies
- Unfulfilled donor commitments and donor ‘cherry picking’

HOW TO SUPPORT INCLUSIVE IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS?

ENGAGE WOMEN AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS AS PLANNERS, IMPLEMENTERS AND BENEFICIARIES

- Promote the representation of women and marginalized groups (including ethnic and religious minorities, ex-combatants, survivors of sexual and gender based violence, and youth) in decision-making positions (elected and appointed); for example, as chairs and members of transition or implementation bodies, for which quotas or other temporary special measures may be required.
- Ensure the representation of women and marginalized groups in monitoring and governance bodies of ceasefire and peace agreements.
- Invite representatives of women and marginalised groups and CSOs to speak at and participate in international preparatory, strategy or donors’ meetings and advocate for dedicated funding to support women’s and civil society initiatives.
- Continue or establish international contact groups.

PROVIDE CAPACITY-BUILDING

- Target capacity-building support to women leaders to boost their participation in the political transition process.
- Target capacity-building support to men leaders to cultivate support for women’s inclusion and gender equality in transition and implementation processes.

RESOURCE ADEQUATELY

- Draw upon a wide range of experts, ensuring that there is dedicated gender expertise in implementation teams and that thematic experts address gender considerations in their work.
- Encourage donors to adhere to the UN commitment of dedicating 15% of all post-conflict peacebuilding funds to projects addressing women’s specific needs, advancing gender equality or empowering women.

INVEST IN COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

- Invest in communication and media strategies to inform wider society systematically of inclusive mediation progress and strengthen buy-in of the wider public including women’s groups in the peace agreement.
- Use different platforms of media, including social media and opinion polls to: expand participation including those previously excluded or hard-to-reach groups; inform and engage the public as well as identify points of contention and counter misinformation.
- Encourage relevant actors to document the challenges and successes of gender-relevant provisions, helping to contribute to reliable data on women’s participation and rights in agreement implementation.