

Gender Relations in Peace Building and Conflict Resolution

-Cases of Mozambique and Angola-

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Women Organizations in Post-Conflict

MOZAMBIQUE

“Organização da Mulher Moçambicana (OMM) (1973~)” Photo: Women in action week 2012



ANGOLA

“Organização da Mulher Angolana” (OMA) (1962~) -- “AS Heroínas”-“Heroine” Magazine



Reality and Law: A Permanent Disconnect?

Gender Roles and Power Relations

- Do gender roles (household, community and national level) change as a result of conflict?
- Conflict gives women greater responsibilities (household level, community level)
- Opportunity to increase economic status and political participation (Disruption of traditions)
- Men & Women power dynamics are modified by conflict and post-conflict process. (**Power dynamics is a product of cultural, social, economic and historical processes).

Gendered Analysis of Peace Building

CONFLICT

**Micro-level
(Household)**

Distorted gender identities
(men & women),
domestic friction,
intergenerational conflict

Increment of female-headed
households, displacement to
urban areas,
more economic
opportunities to women

**Macro-level
(Community and
National context)**

Impoverishment
Displacement, Militarisation
Breakdown of social
mechanisms and structures

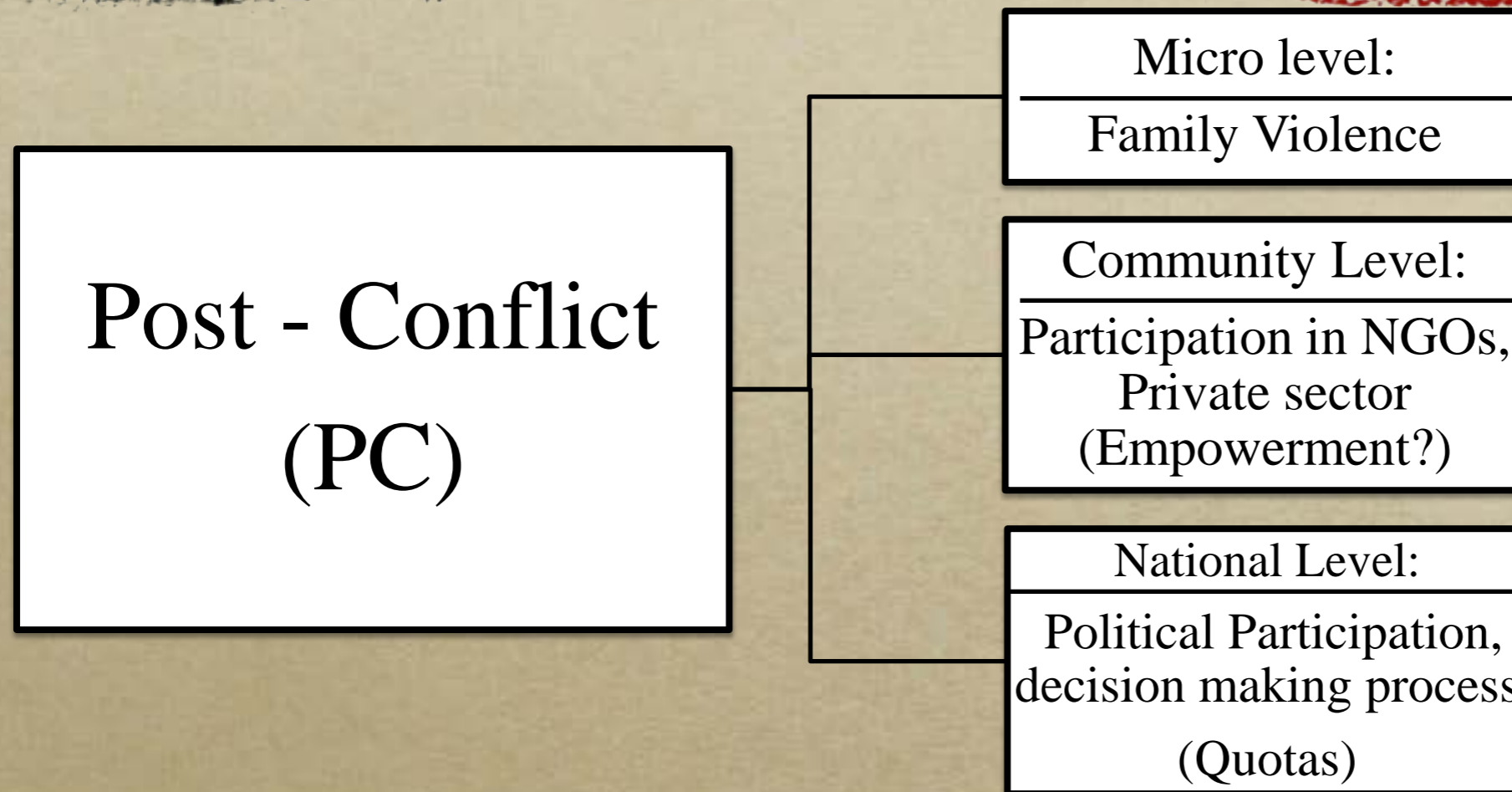
*Women not a passive
victim but an Active
Agent*

New forms of Gender relations

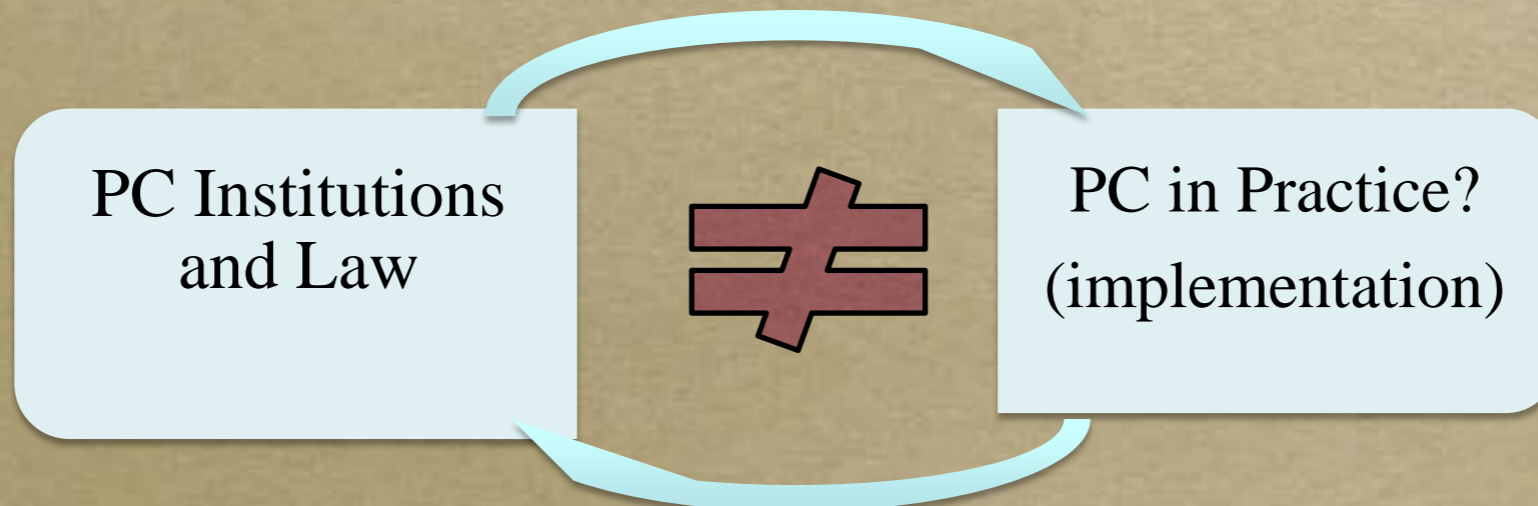
Coping, Resisting

Exerting Agency

Gendered Analysis of Peace Building



How effective are the legal mechanisms in practice?



International Responses to Women's Role in Peace Building

- a) *UNSCR 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security:*
- *“Encourages states to consider women’s inclusion in post-conflict reforms such as disarmament, security and political process”.*
 - *“Recognition of the role of women as active actors in prevention and resolution of conflicts”*
- b) *UNSCR 1820 (2008) on Women, Peace and Security:*
- *“rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide” (Criminalization of sexual violence)*
- c) *Regional Instrument: African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on The Rights of Women in Africa*

International Responses to Women's Role in Peace Building

- International efforts cannot be denied (Existence of an international framework; involvement of IOs, NGOs, CSRs)
- Lack of effectiveness?? (inequity, violence, lack of political representation) -> Top-down approach
- International framework fail to address local power dynamics associated with gender roles (institutionalized in the mind set of individuals, immediate needs)
- Possible solutions: integrate immediate needs (women and men) in the design, monitoring, implementation and evaluation of policies -> Local driven peace building, bottom –up approach

Angola Experience

Historical Background

- 1991 Creation of the Secretariat of State for the Promotion and Development of Women
- 1993 International community recognize MPLA regime (USA)
- 1997 Creation of the Ministry of Family and Promotion of Women (Primary government organ responsible for implementing policies to support women's equal rights)
- 1962 Angola women organization (OMA) within MPLA

Angola Experience

1. Quotas system and Affirmative Action

- Female are underrepresented in national and provincial institutions (low political participation)
- Quota system: failing at building women capacity (training) to run for office, win and serve effectively (Education, training)

Categories	M%	F%
Parliament Deputies	71.9%	28.1%
Executive	77.9%	22.1%
Diplomacy	71.7%	28.3%
Public Magistrature	58.3%	41.7%
Judicial Magistrature	85.9%	14.1%
Provincial Government	80.8%	19.2%
Municipal Adm.	87.1%	12.9%
National Directors	74.5%	25.5%
Provincial Directions	80.8%	19.2%

Angola Experience

2. Criminalization of violence against women 2011:

Incorporation of the UNSCR 1820 (2008) on Women, Peace and Security to national regulation:

- Violence has been recognized as a public crime
- However, sexual violence against migrant women from Congo

3. Large number of female-headed households, as a result of conflict, but laws on child support are poorly enforced, the practice of the right of inheritance usually benefits male relatives of the deceased, thus leaving widows in a particular vulnerable position.

Mozambique Experience

Country General Facts

- N#1 Southern Africa in women participation on decision making institutions (Parliament etc.)
- 1975 ~ 1992 civil war
- 1992: Peace Agreement
- 1997: Ratified the CEDAW (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women)
- 2005: Ratified the Protocol on women's rights to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Right

Mozambique Women Organization

- MWO started in 1973 supported by FRELIMO
- Since 1975 Constitution women's rights and equality are formally recognized by law
- However, Mozambique society's traditions and culture limited the access to women's rights (practices such as *lobolo*; polygamy; property rights and inheritance).
- Other problems such as education, health, lack of job security (agriculture and informal sector)

Mozambique Experience

Official Women Organization

- Ministry for Women and Social Action
- The Directorate General for Women Affairs (Implementing body of the Ministry)
- National Council for Promoting Women, which includes NGOs, private sector and religious officials
- National Plan for the advancement of women

Statistics

- Member of Parliament 35.6% of MPs are women, two provincial governors, two vice-ministers and 24 ministers are women (2011).
- Affirmative Action policy gives women applicant priority over equally qualified men for public sector jobs.
- Senior level civil service positions remain heavily male-dominated.
- Why despite affirmative action (in Public contest) women still underrepresented?

Conclusions

- *Gender power structures change as a result of conflict but to a limited degree.*
- *Customary Law VS Civil Law -> Lack of Effectiveness*
- *Peace building discourses increasingly stress the importance of including women, but to what degree have security-related practices responded to them?*
- *10 years after UNSCR 1325, yet it remains a confusing tool for scholars and practitioners in assessing women inclusion in peace building.*