



Permanent Mission of Hungary  
to the United Nations  
New York



## **Financial Inclusion to Empower Women in Humanitarian Contexts, including Survivors of Sexual Violence in Conflict**

Side event on the margins of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Monday, 11 March, 16:45-18:00

UN Headquarters, Conference Room 6

### **Concept Note**

Women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings are disproportionately impacted by poverty and inequalities, and face multiple barriers in accessing financial and economic resources and public services. This is particularly true for women and girls belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, many of whom are survivors of discrimination, violence, persecution and displacement. These women should be provided context-specific, trauma-informed support that goes beyond immediate humanitarian aid, and enable them to access economic and financial resources, build independent livelihoods, and break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. This does not only require access to the necessary resources and tools, but also to the knowledge, capacity, skills and mentorship to build financial autonomy and confidence that sets them on the path of long-term stability and success.

Therefore, the event will showcase success stories on how financing empowers women and girls belonging to minorities in humanitarian contexts, with a specific focus on persecuted Yazidi and Christian minorities in the Middle East. Recognising that the private sector and especially financial institutions have the potential to play a much more significant role in this regard, the event will feature best practices and recommendations from representatives of the financial sector. Thus, the event also aims to create awareness in the financial services industry on the important issue of financing for gender equality, and creating linkages between financial institutions and women and girls in vulnerable situations.

The event will address the following questions:

- What are the short and long-term socio-economic barriers faced by women and girls who are survivors of conflict or persecution by terrorist organisations?
- How to bridge the gap between humanitarian and development programming to build long-term livelihoods for these women and girls?
- How can private financing be leveraged to empower women and girls in post-conflict settings? What are the obstacles and opportunities?
- What are the effective ways to encourage companies to invest in women's empowerment? What are the best ways to invest and how to evaluate impact?

**Introduction**

*H.E. Amb. Zsuzsanna Horváth*, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations

*Jacqueline Isaac*, Vice President, Roads of Success, moderator

*Yvette Isaac*, President, Roads of Success

**The role of States**

*H.E. Dr. Attila Beneda*, Deputy State Secretary for Family Affairs, Ministry of Innovation and Culture of Hungary

*Sara Eid*, Head of Transparency & Citizen Engagement Unit, Ministry of Finance, Egypt

**Testimony by a survivor**

Iraqi Christian woman survivor of conflict-related sexual violence perpetrated by Da'esh

**Perspectives from the financial sector**

*Eduardo Espirito Santo*, Founder, The Ekman Company and former Research Analyst, Rockefeller & Co.

*Abby Frank*, Associate Vice President and ESG Engagement Analyst, Rockefeller Asset Management

**Interactive discussion with questions and answers from the audience**

**Closing remarks**