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Africa women leaders demand space for transformative leadership



Various women leaders make personal commitments to ensure Gender Equality and empowerment of women during the African Women Leaders Symposium in Nairobi. Photo: UN Women/Kennedy Okoth

Nairobi, Kenya: African Women have defied rhetoric and achieved that which was deemed impossible. Women in leadership positions across political and socio-economic platforms have shattered glass ceilings and proved that they possess the undeniable ability to effectively impact and steer the continent to the zenith of equality, equity and development.

The inaugural African Women's Leadership Symposium that was held between 24 -25 August 2016 in Nairobi-Kenya, brought together about 200 women from across Africa to deliberate on goals and commitments from women leaders to impact lives of women and girls and bring about lasting change in Africa.

During deliberations at the two day meeting, women leaders called on African governments to heed the call for the process of transformative leadership. Leadership change that will not create barriers for women but instead make spaces available and create a conducive environment for equal representation of women and men in all sectors at all levels.

In her remarks, Winnie Byanyima, the Executive Director of Oxfam International alongside a rich collection of African women leaders noted that gender equality is essential for the prosperity of the African continent.

"No goal, no strategy, no vision for Africa can come true until we have sustainable leadership that delivers for women in every sphere of our lives," says Byanyima, Executive Director of OXFAM and one of the convenors of the symposium. Noting that so many wrongs are happening in the continent because women are missing from leadership, Byanyima said: "Of all the maternal mortality deaths worldwide, half happen in sub-Saharan Africa. This fact alone should be enough to make us burn with indignation for the women of Africa."

Ambassador Amina Mohamed, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs said the journey to transformative leadership is long, women and indeed all leaders must be able to make sacrifices for them to get to the final destination. Noting that only 17 out of 54 African countries have managed to close the gender gaps.

She lauded countries like Rwanda that have made it possible for women to be in leadership positions in high numbers, but challenged women to empower themselves and empower each other by walking the talk and being confident in what they do. "For us to realise transformative leadership and women's empowerment, it can no longer be business as usual," noted Amb. Amina.

Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Special Envoy on Gender and Vice President at the African Development Bank and also a co-convenor of the Symposium said there are barriers to women at all levels of leadership. "We are now ready to make change and be part of the collective. We have to break barriers, boundaries and the glass ceilings. If you don't include women you are actually undermining the change that should be there."

The Symposium, a first of its kind, provides an opportunity to women leaders to deliberate how to leverage their leadership, power, influence and access for the development and progress of the African continent in general and the advancement of women and girls' rights in particular.

The Kenya Cabinet Secretary for Defence Ambassador Raychelle Omamo closed the symposium committing to complete the gender policy in the Ministry of Defence.

The participants at the African Women’s Leadership Symposium made focussed commitments to impact and transform the lives of women and girls in the spaces they work in.

The meeting was intergenerational bringing together both young and older women to share their stories in a dialogue that was not only to inspire but also demand for attention from governments. The Symposium was held under an umbrella of various organisations that included OXFAM, the African Women’s Communications Network (FEMNET), UN Women, UNDP, Hivos, Trade Mark East Africa, Urgent Action Fund, OSIEA among others.



*UN Women Regional Director, Izeduwa Derex-Briggs in a panel discussion on women’s peace and security in Africa.
Photo: UN Women/Martha Wanjala*

“Buy from Women” Innovative Platform launched in Rwanda

Muhanga District, Rwanda: *“Before, we used to struggle to know the exact size of our land. Thanks to this new platform introduced by UN Women, we will know the exact size of our land and this will help us to forecast our level of production and negotiate better with the buyers and financial institutions and secure loans that reflect our production potentials,” says Christine Mukarukundo, a maize farmer and member of Tuzamurane Cyeza Cooperative in Muhanga District, Southern Province of Rwanda.*



*A farmer being registered on the Buy From Women Platform.
Photo: UN Women/Ochieng Tumaini*

and officials from Rwanda Grain and Cereals Corporation (RGCC).

In her remarks, Ms Fiona Bayat-Renoux, UN Women’s Special Adviser for the Policy and Programme Bureau pointed out that UN Women and WFP have joined hands to improve the PPP’s gender responsiveness and to leverage technology to address the barriers facing women farmers. Mr. Ashish Gadnis, a consultant who supported UN Women in developing the Buy From Women platform, explained how the platform will link farmers’ land size to a forecast of their maize production, and to their forward contract with RGCC. The information captured on the platform will also improve the credit profile of farmers and cooperatives over time, increasing their access to finance.

“We used to sign contracts with buyers and not be able to meet its terms, especially related to supplies because farmers would go ahead and side sell part of their produce. Now with this system, everyone will know in advance the quantity of produce that he or she is required to bring at the Cooperative, and this will motivate everyone to meet the requirement and even aim to produce surplus”, said Beatrice Mukanoheli, a member and Adviser in Tuzamurane Cooperative.

The meeting ended with the signing of a pre-planting contract worth 80 metric tons of maize, with minimum floor prices for the imminent planting season between the Cooperative President, Mr. Dieudonne Barihafi, and the Managing Director of RGCC, Mr. Nzitatira Ntwali Alain.



*Farmers in the field with the Buy From Women numerators.
Photo: UN Women/Ochieng Tumaini*

Adult literacy opens up new opportunities for women farmers in Malawi



Loveness Moses. Photo: UN Women /Andrea Medaas

Salima district, Malawi: 73 year old Loveness Moses, and a mother of eight, enrolled in an adult learning school. Slowly but surely, she learned how to read and write. As a result, she qualified to become the first female lead farmer in Nankumba village in the Salima district of Central Malawi. She now leads cooking courses which highlight local recipes that are easy to make and also nutritious for the family.

Since becoming a lead farmer, she has been advising other community members on how to make manure, construct backyard gardens and on good nutrition practices. She has also received trainings in conservation agriculture, irrigation farming, prevention of HIV and AIDs and nutrition practices that mitigate its effects, among others.

Loveness desire to go back to school came about after gender trainings carried out in her village established that nutrition interventions were necessary to address challenges of malnutrition and food insecurity. Due to high levels of illiteracy, her village did not have any female lead farmers who could carry out demonstrations in cookery. Other women in the village now look up to her as an inspiration and role-model. By learning how to read and write, they too have the potential to become Lead farmers.

Loveness' story is like that of many other women in her village in Malawi. Growing up, her mother decided to only send her boys to school, believing that girls should stay at home and assist with domestic chores. When Loveness became a mother herself, she decided to change this narrative by ensuring that all of her children, girls and boys alike, went to school. Since attending Adult Literacy Classes, Loveness' views on education have been transformed and she has become an advocate and activist to ensure that all children, particularly girls, attend school for as long as possible.

When asked about how her husband felt about her academic endeavours, Loveness says that he couldn't be happier for her – he values education and the opportunities that it affords. At school, Loveness learnt more than just letters and numbers, she also attended classes on life and development, nutrition, and agricultural production.

Loveness has also practised the knowledge gained in her own household to enhance their food security. She ensures that all members of her household work together to produce crops and raise livestock. As part of her role as a lead farmer, she advises on household labour and believes that youth participation will lead to greater efficiency.

When asked about the way her life has changed, Loveness says that learning makes her feel so good that she never ever wants to stop. She serves as an inspiration and reminder to her community that it's never too late to learn and that empowerment has a ripple effect – and has the potential to transform not just one life, but generations of lives to follow.

Loveness and many more women are beneficiaries of the UN Women Gender and Agriculture Programme, which facilitated the training of 183 Agricultural Extension Officers on gender issues in 2014 and 2015. The District Agricultural Extension Officers who attended the trainings then travelled to their respective Extension Planning Areas, passing on the lessons learnt in the training.

The Agricultural Extension Officers do not only train the farmers about crops and agriculture, but also about gender roles, norms and issues.

Uganda Police Force managers to enforce Gender Responsive Policing

Jinja, Uganda: Uganda Police managers have resolved to enforce gender responsive policing within their operations. The resolution was reached during a two-day training on gender responsive policing supported by UN Women Uganda country office. The training, which was held on 8-9 August 2016 in Jinja, exposed senior police officers and middle managers to substantive knowledge in Human Rights, Gender Based Violence and the interpretation of existing laws.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence cases are the most inadequately, unprofessionally handled and investigated crimes in Uganda. This has contributed to a number of such cases being dismissed from courts due to lack of sufficient evidence. As a result, most victims have lost

trust in the formal justice system thereby resorting to settling cases out of court through informal avenues or not reporting these cases at all.

This has also resulted in women and girls living in abusive situations for a long period of time due to the feeling of helplessness, and acceptance of violence leading to impunity of perpetrators. Most victims are convinced that it's impossible to access justice through formal courts due to the lengthy procedures involved thereby making it costly to the victims.

According to the 2014 crime report, a total of 3,006 cases of Domestic Violence were reported and investigated. 12,077 cases of defilement were investigated

compared to 9,598 cases in 2013, thus giving an increase of 25.8%. 1,099 cases of rape were investigated compared to 1,042 cases in 2013 hence an increase by 5.4%.

In his remarks, the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Martin Ochola noted that there is limited capacity and awareness among police officers and other duty bearers that impede prosecution of gender based violence cases. “This has affected successful investigation, prosecution and conviction of perpetrators because of preference of wrong charges or no charges at all. Of equal importance is a need to re-align the attitude and demeanor of front desk officers regarding appropriate customer care skills towards victims of Gender Based Violence,” he said.



Group photo of participants at the training workshop on gender responsive policing. Photo:UN Women/Denis Onen

Sudan steps up efforts to integrate women in DDR processes

Darfur, Sudan: The Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (SDDRC) in collaboration with Central Darfur state, Ministry of Defense, UNDP, UNFPA, UNAMID and UN Women have launched projects for Reintegration, Registration and Marking of Civilian Arms in Zalingi, the capital of Central Darfur State.

The official launch of the DDR Programme in Central Darfur State was attended by the Assistant to the President of the Republic of Sudan, His Excellency Major General Abdel Rahman Al-Sadig Al-Mahdi and the Central State Wali Governor, Shartai Gaffer Abdel Hakam. Federal and state ministers, UN agencies, diplomats and CSOs were also present.

The Government showed great commitment to the the international community and the people of Sudan to implement the signed peace agreements, as well as fight and control cross border weapons and combat human trafficking, illegal migration, extremism and terrorism.

Before the one day ceremony, the delegation paid a visit to the demobilization site located near to UNAMID super camp in Zalingi to acquaint themselves with the different phases of DDR Programme interventions.

In his remarks, the Assistants to the president of the Republic of Sudan, major general Abdul Rahman Al-sadiq Al-Mahdi affirmed the readiness of Sudan to ensure realization of local, regional and international peace and security.

He also noted the need to address traditional and cultural beliefs which frustrate police intervention such as settling Gender Based Violence cases in family spheres and out of court settings. Mr.Ochola noted that lack of awareness and capacity of duty bearers has resulted in delays in following up and prosecuting Gender Based Violence cases. This has led victims to believe that it’s impossible to access justice through formal courts due to the insensitive approaches used.

UN Women has supported the Judiciary to develop a gender Bench book to guide the litigation and prosecution of gender base violence cases, as well as provided logistical support to assist police investigate and prosecute gender based violence cases.



Assistant to Sudan’s president (Centre) during the inauguration of DDR related projects in Zalingei, Central Darfur State. Photo: UNAMID/by Kone Mouroulaye

On his part, the Governor of Central of Darfur, Gaffer Abdul-Hakam noted that there has been progress on peace issues in Sudan and the strategy of the State is to enforce the realization of peace and security in Darfur and the two regions of South Kordofan State and Blue Nile State.

UN Women Sudan Country Representative, Jennet Kem, noted that peace is crucial for sustainable development. “Effective participation of women and girls in the DDR processes will fast track stabilization and lasting peace in Darfur. Without peace there is no equality, justice or development,” she said.

UN Women continues to support peace programs in Sudan.

Snapshots from TICAD VI: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment critical in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Nairobi, Kenya: Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women are critical in achieving the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. This is a key message highlighted during the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) Summit held at Kenyatta International Convention Center in Nairobi, Kenya on 27-28th August 2016.

In a session on peace building through promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, it was noted that there is a growing recognition in international arena about the importance of women's role in peace building - which led to the adoption of a series of resolutions including the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on women, peace and security in 2000 - highlighting the role of women as active agents of peace building, rather than as mere victims of armed conflicts and violence. This also affirmed the importance of women's full participation at all stages of conflict prevention, resolution and peace building. The session looked at the roles that governments, international organizations and civil societies can play to promote gender equality and women and girls' empowerment in peace building in Africa.

Kenya's President, H.E Uhuru Kenyatta, also noted that Africa has made progress in terms of implementing global commitments on gender equality and the empowerment of women. "We have major continental frameworks that demonstrate our ownership of this issue. These include: the Maputo protocol, the AU solemn declaration on gender equality in Africa and, more recently Africa's agenda 2063," said H.E Uhuru Kenyatta.

TICAD VI was also used to officially launch the second Africa Human Development Report themed "Accelerating Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Africa". Speaking at the launch, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Helen Clark said the report's recommendations are highly relevant to achieving the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. "Gender equality is the sole focus of one of the seventeen



**UN Women Exhibition booth at TICAD VI.
Photo: UN Women/Martha Wanjala**

SDGs, and is critical to progress across the rest of Agenda 2030," Ms Clark said.

The report looks at how to address persistent gender gaps across the economic, social, environmental and political spheres. MS Clark said giving greater attention to gender equality will support faster and more inclusive human development and economic growth for Africa.

UN Women showcased the broad range of its work across Africa to mainstream gender into the humanitarian and resilience agenda by participating in various sessions, presentation by the Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda Country Offices to the delegates and an exhibition booth.

Japan launched the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in 1993 in order to refocus international attention on the importance and urgency of African development issues as well as to promote high-level policy dialogue between African leaders and development partners.

TICAD aims to promote high-level policy dialogue between African leaders and their partners; and mobilize support for African-owned development initiatives.



UN Women staff presenting to delegates on its work across Africa to mainstream gender into the humanitarian and resilience agenda. Photo: UN Women/Martha Wanjala

Orange Day Partnership Drive in Mozambique



UN Women Mozambique 2016

Participants at the Orange day event pose for a group photo. Photo: UN Women Mozambique

Maputo, Mozambique: In an effort to mobilize for more action and raise awareness about gender based violence, UN Women Mozambique invited various partners from the diplomatic core, civil society, media, higher education institutions and government to a picnic at the Eduardo Mondlane University Campus gardens to commemorate Orange Day on 25 August .

The interim UN Resident Coordinator, Bettina Maas, noted that “Orange Day is part of a set of actions of the UNiTE Campaign to End Violence against Women and Girls which is linked to the initiative "HeforShe", an appeal to the involvement of men and boys in the fight for gender equality.”

In her remarks, UN Women Deputy Representative in Mozambique, Leisa Perch, highlighted the importance of a collective effort to step up efforts in this regard. “Our collective task is to educate people; not only reduce cases of violence that, but to change the dialogue on gender-based violence and in general how we respond to conflict and tension”.

To build on the results of the partnership with the Government of Japan, with whom the Country Office launched an advocacy campaign during Women’s month in March, partners and actors were encouraged to adopt Orange Day on every 25th day of each month in their institutions and private lives. They were also urged to wear Orange to commemorate all those that hold this cause close to their hearts.

UN Women staff further committed to continue highlighting the role of men as well as increase their participation in issues aimed at achieving gender equality. “The increased perception of machismo in our societies as indicative of men that get their way through the use of violence and deception is destructive” said Marco Gozio, UN Women Fellow. They also exhorted other males in the audience to be more active participants in and champions of EVAWG.

“We want to see a world where opportunities are equal, where women and men alike can decide their future without having to conform to limiting ideas; where a woman can walk freely in streets without being sexually harassed, assaulted or killed,” noted UN Women Deputy Representative in Mozambique, Leisa Perch. “Soon we will begin mobilizing for the 16 Days of Activism when we hope to engage even more partners and actors to “mobilize resources for EVAWG and to accelerate progress towards 2030 and beyond,” she added.

The elimination of violence against women and girls (EVAWG) is a key component of a comprehensive set of measures adopted by the United Nations system to achieve inclusive and sustainable development for all. Reflected in Agenda 2030 - particularly SDG 5 on achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls - it reflects a commitment to eliminating violence, directly or indirectly, in all the activities UN women has developed globally and in Mozambique.



UN Women Mozambique 2016

Participants at the Orange day event. Photo: UN Women Mozambique

Turkana County Government Officers trained on Gender Mainstreaming

Eldoret, Kenya: UN Women Kenya held a capacity building workshop on Gender Mainstreaming for Turkana County Government Officers from 10 - 12 August 2016 at Pearl Hotel in Eldoret. The three day workshop was attended by 35 officials from Turkana County Government drawn from Trade, Energy and Infrastructure, Education, Health, Pastoral economy, Agriculture and Gender sectors.

The workshop aimed at enhancing the skills of the officers in gender mainstreaming within the policy setting and planning stages of the budget cycle. The expected outcome was to have an action plan on measuring gender indicators. The workshop is part of the activities within the UN joint programme in Turkana.

In his opening remarks on behalf of UN Women Country Director, UN Women Kenya Team leader- Democratic Governance, Robert Simiyu, stated that development can only be achieved faster if men and women are on the same table. "Opportunities to women would make a great difference in our economy," he pointed out

Hon. Charles Lokiyoto, County Executive member for the Turkana County Public Service, Decentralized Administration and Disaster Management Committee, stated that Gender Mainstreaming needs to assess concerns of both men and women. He explained that Turkana County had been the first county to have four ladies and six men in the County Executive Committees level.

Discussions on alignment of the Turkana County Government sector programmes for financial year 2016/17 to the second Medium Term Plans made it clear that capacity building was necessary for the county to do more on institutionalizing gender mainstreaming.

"Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Violence Against Women (CEDAW) defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets out an agenda for national action to end such discrimination," UN Women Kenya Programme Specialist, Strategic Planning & UN Coordination Nyambura Ngugi, explained as she gave a presentation on CEDAW.



Hon. Charles Lokiyoto Minister Public Services giving his remarks. Photo: UN Women/ Sharon Macharia



Participants at the Capacity Building Workshop for Turkana County Government Officers on Gender Mainstreaming. Photo:UN Women/ Sharon Macharia

Nyambura Ngugi presented three major frameworks for gender analysis being; Gender roles framework (Harvard), Triple roles framework (Carolyn Moser) and Gender analysis matrix (GAM). "Specific gender disaggregated statistics is some of the information provided by Gender Analysis," She pointed out. From her presentation a discussion arose among the participants on the two main tools in Harvard Framework; The socio-economic activity profile and the access and control profile outlining who is responsible for the different duties between the men, women, boys and girls. This led to a conclusion that socially there are roles meant for women e.g. cooking and reproductive duties while there are those meant for men e.g. offering security and decision making.

'Disparity of opportunities is directly related to education levels, network connections, regional dispositions, exposure and economic status," explained Joseph, one of the participants.

UN Women Kenya Team leader- Democratic Governance Robert Simiyu led the participants in an exercise on using the art of effective advocacy and using soft skills to promote gender equality. The exercise involved role playing with social groups pitching their ideas before decision makers i.e. the Governor, Principal Secretary Treasury or a Member of County Assembly. From the exercise it was concluded that evidence was essential when conducting advocacy.

At the end of the workshop all sectors came up with an individual action plan based on Institutionalizing gender mainstreaming in Ministries, Departments and Agencies. The action plans were to be reviewed by their other sector members and agreed on in the next workshop scheduled for September 2016 on Gender Responsive Budgeting.

South Sudanese Women Refugees Encouraged to Take Leadership Roles

Adjumani, Uganda: UN Women has initiated a leadership training for thirty-five South Sudanese women refugees as part of a wider effort to encourage greater participation of women in leadership positions within the settlements in Adjumani, northern Uganda.

To date, Uganda has received nearly 325,013 South Sudanese refugees, 87 per cent of whom are women and children (UNHCR). However, despite being the overwhelming majority, women are only narrowly represented in the Refugee Welfare Committees (RWC), the settlements' governing body in Adjumani. This year, UN Women, together with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), other UN agencies, and partners and NGOs engaged in the refugee response in Adjumani, have committed themselves to reversing this trend.

The Women in Leadership one-day training took place three weeks prior to the elections for the RWC. At the start of the training, an anonymous poll was conducted to gauge the level of interest in both advocating for and becoming leaders. Participants were asked if they believe a woman can be a leader, if they consider themselves as leaders, and if they want to compete for a RWC position in the upcoming elections. The majority of participants answered yes.

The positive results inspired a deeper question – if women believe they have the power to lead and already aspire to be elected in the RWC, why are they largely excluded from the governing bodies? Over the course of the day, the training facilitated discussions to identify barriers to leadership women face, strategize ways to overcome these barriers, and build skills to implement these strategies.

“There are very many women who are educated, who know how to write, who know how to talk, but when it comes time for elections these women are told to keep quiet,” one participant said, noting how traditional gender roles prevent women from becoming part of leadership structures.



A South Sudanese woman contributing to a discussion during a community meeting. Photo: UN Women/Claire Hawkins



A south Sudanese refugee woman participating in the leadership training. Photo: UN Women/Molly Kellogg

Other barriers to leadership identified for women refugees include limited education and extreme poverty. “If I don’t have anything I cannot be a leader because my mind is always making me look for food or what I can do for my family,” one participant noted.

Throughout day, however, the tone of the conversation shifted as women considered the opportunities they have to secure leadership positions rather than the barriers. Women’s rights to participate in leadership structures are protected by international and national law and like the Government of Uganda, the RWC are required to designate at least thirty percent of their seats for women.

Office of the Prime Minister encouraged participants to think strategically about their role in the settlements. “You [women] are the majority but you are the fewest represented in the leadership structure....Today we are encouraging you not to fear, to express out your opinions about the positions because you are protected. Just as men are protected, you, as women, are protected as well.”

In order to prepare participants to take an active role in the upcoming elections, the training equipped participants with tools for public speaking and building a persuasive argument. In small groups, women were provided with a problem statement and tasked with presenting their argument. In this session, women showed exceptional confidence in public speaking and preparedness to participate in the upcoming elections. The training culminated into an official commitment from participants to work towards the peaceful and sustainable advancement of women in leadership positions. “As women leaders, we commit to work towards gender equality and break free from the chains that keep women down.”

Mentorship programme on commercial swine farming for rural women entrepreneurs launched in Mozambique

Guija, Mozambique: Lina Joaquim Machava, 48, is a widow and head of household. She is one of the UN Women-supported mentorship programme beneficiaries from the community of Chimbembe in Guijá District. She could not write her own name before her involvement in the programme in July 2016. Now she can sign her full name on all official documents concerning her rights.

Like the majority of participants before the training, Lina only had a birth certificate. At the end of the second phase she proudly holds her Identity card, tax payer card and Bank Account debit card.

“Thanks to the three-week mentorship programme I’ve learned best practices in pest control and tips to boost productivity in swine farming. Illiteracy and gender-based violence are among major problems limiting women’s empowerment in my community. To me, an economically empowered woman is the one with a sustainable source of income, autonomous in making decisions about her finances. My wish is to be enrolled in adult literacy classes and simultaneously run my business. I have grandchildren trapped in poverty, so I want to support them - swine farming will certainly help” - Says Lina. Besides animal husbandry, Lina’s main source of income is mat production and commercialization in Guijá.

The programme, launched on 17 July 2016, provided mentorship support to 10 women in the swine farming sector. The beneficiaries, farmers in Guijá, are all mothers with low literacy levels. Majority of them have also witnessed severe gender based violence in their families and communities, resulting in separation and abandoning of their kids by their estranged husbands.

Breeding livestock, including swine farming, play an important role in securing household food and nutritional security. In times of food shortages, households can sell livestock to purchase other food, such as cereal and legumes, diversify their diet and thus maintain a balanced nutritional intake. Women are a key player in small animals breeding but virtually absent in commercial pig farming and meat production, which is in high demand in the area. Rural women often lack the skills and capital to start profitable swine farming businesses, and are marginalized from accessing training, information and markets.

Through the training, UN Women and its partners seek to fill the financial and technological gender gap, while at the same time challenging the negative cultural norms that affect women’s role in their family, in their community, and in the sector.

The 3 weeks-long mentoring held at Uvivi farm in Namaacha aimed at improving the inspirational base, sustainability and growth of micro-businesses led by rural women. The mentorship was conducted in Xichangana, the participants’ local language, to ensure ownership of the contents and responsiveness during the sessions.



Lina at Uvivi farm, keeping the piggery clean and disinfected as a measure for pest control. Photo:UN Women Mozambique

Phase one (Familiarization & Practice, 17-29 July) introduced commercial small-scale pig farming, illustrating the importance of hygiene, prevention and treatment of swine diseases, installations and piggeries. It directly involved the beneficiaries as apprentice workers within the production process in the farm, and provided motivational inspiration for the business. The participants were also exposed to key tools and drugs used in animal treatment according to each disease.

Phase 2 (Entrepreneurship & Market Linkages, 15-21 August) focused on practice and mentorship in innovation, agro-business management and market linkages. In an exercise, the participants were divided in two groups and assigned virtual micro-enterprises, with all the necessary productive assets: pigs, rations, tools, and medicines. They were then invited to simulate all production stages, ranging from acquisition of inputs, to management of the production, to marketing. The mentors assisted in the calculation of profitability of each group, and will follow the transfer of pigs to Guijá once the piggeries are constructed. The programme has been made possible by the funding and support of the Belgian Cooperation, who collaborates with UN Women in the project “Gender equality - Economic empowerment of women and food security” in the province of Gaza. In fact, the training is not an isolated initiative, but fits into a wider program that seeks to promote the economic empowerment of women.

By focusing on diversification of income and production and on access to services and information, the project aims at increasing the resilience of women and their communities. By doing so, UN Women also expects to transform gender inequalities and reduce time poverty and domestic care workload, instigating a shift in the roles and responsibilities that rural women fulfil within the household and in public life. This line of action is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially SDG #5 on Gender Equality: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; and SDG #2 on Zero Hunger: End Hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Safe House for survivors of Gender-Based Violence in Ethiopia

Oromia, Ethiopia: 14-year-old Martha (not her real name), listened as the judge at Me’eso district court handed down a 15-year sentence to Legesse Getaneh. Despite feeling unfortunate that she had to go through this experience, she was happy that justice had been served at last.

It was one year ago that her stepfather raped her while her mother was away attending a funeral. “He brandished a gun and threatened to kill me and my mother if I spoke out,” she remembers. Martha was frightened and kept this unfortunate incident a secret until her aunt and mother found out she was pregnant.

When her family reported the case to the police, they were referred to the Bureau of Women and Children Affairs, which in turn referred her to the Association for Women’s Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD) shelter in Adama, three hours away from her hometown Asebot. There she would access prenatal health services and wait out the legal case.

“When she first arrived at AWSAD, Martha was a recluse,” says Hiwot Adera, the counselor who works with Martha individually and in group sessions. “She would always be crying, felt hopeless and was not sure what she was going to do with the child she carried. She was in a very low place, emotionally and mentally.” Through counselling and empowerment sessions at the shelter, Martha emerged from her state of depression and she has slowly begun to accept and love her child. She has also become sociable and even reaches out to new comers to make them feel welcome. “She’s very happy with the sentencing. Now she wants to return to her mother and resume her studies from grade six where she left off,” says her counselor.

AWSAD Oromia is a UN Women-supported safe house. It is Ethiopia’s largest shelter for women and girls survivors of violence. In addition to services such as accommodation, food, health services and professional skills development, it provides much-needed free legal aid services to survivors in the safe house, which includes building survivors’ courage to report cases and press charges against perpetrators, coaching survivors to be main witnesses in their cases, following up on their



The AWSAD Shelter in Adama. Photo: UN Women/Domino Effect

court appointments and escorting survivors to and from courts, hospitals and police stations safely. AWSAD also runs capacity-building programs benefiting the community and stakeholders, including the police in the region.

As a result of the police trainings, police in the region have improved the way they handle cases of violence against women and girls, and they have a better comprehension of the special care needed when receiving and communicating with the women who come to report cases. These trainings have also led to an increase in the amount of evidence that has been gathered and also led to a higher number of investigations being carried out. AWSAD’s work at the shelter and beyond means that justice is better served. Ending Violence Against Women and Girls is one of the three thematic areas for UN Women work in Ethiopia. This Programme supports AWSAD as part of its strategy to increase the availability of services for survivors of violence.

AWSAD is supported by UN Women’s Programme on Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Women and Girls in Ethiopia. The programme aims at supporting women and girls in Ethiopia to access justice and protection services, while also working toward the prevention of violence against women/girls, through: developing and implementing Ethiopia Federal and Regional normative frameworks and enforcement mechanisms to prevent and respond to VAWG in line with international human rights standards; making available protective services that provide immediate and comprehensive care for women and girls survivors of violence; and fulfillment of women and girls’ rights within their community.

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Children Playing at the AWSAD Shelter in Adama. Photo: UN Women/Domino Effect)

UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa - About US

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women needs worldwide.

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