



# UN WOMEN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

Issue 1, 2017

This issue of the newsletter covers the first half of 2017 from January through June with highlights from Multi/Country offices, Regional office and global initiatives.

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## TOP STORIES



### New platform launched to galvanize and boost women's leadership of Africa

UN Women, the African Union Commission, and the Permanent Mission of Germany launched the **African Women Leaders Network**. The ground-breaking initiative, launched on 2 June, seeks to enhance the leadership of women in the transformation of Africa with a focus on governance, peace and stability.

[\(See full report\)](#)



### In Tanzania, refugee women find safety and embrace new lives

In three Women's Centres supported by UN Women in Tanzania, women refugees find safe spaces to network, learn new skills and recover from the trauma of war and sexual violence. Many have picked up new trades and advocate for their own rights. Some have found new family and new lives. [\(See full report\)](#)



### In pastoral communities of Kenya, women bear the brunt of drought

On 10 February 2017, the Kenyan Government declared the drought a National Disaster. In some of most arid areas of Kenya, women bear the brunt of the impact of the ongoing drought. Not only are they in charge of supplying food for their families, they also contribute to their household income through gathering and selling firewood or gravel for construction in neighbouring towns. Economic empowerment of women would reduce their vulnerability during such droughts. [\(See full report\)](#)



### From where I stand: "We thought gender was only for educated people"

Modesta Mujawariya is a co-founder of a small farmer's cooperative in Rwanda. Although she had twelve plots of land, she didn't know the exact size of her land and how to estimate yields. The Buy from Women platform connected her to markets and information through mobile technology. One of her biggest surprises was learning about how gender equality matters in agriculture. [\(See full report\)](#)



## Take Five: Women and Sustainable Development Goals

Dinah Musindarwezo, the Executive Director of FEMNET weighs in on the link between Women and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as fostering collective thinking on how to address women's key issues related to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Africa Agenda 2063. [\(See full report\)](#)



## Rural Women enhancing agricultural productivity and doubling assets in Ethiopia

Mrs. Kebela Gure, is a 30 - year old wife and mother of five from Adamitulu District, Oromia region in Ethiopia. Having dropped out of school in 8th grade to work and financially support her family, Mrs. Gure's key priorities is giving her children a good education and improving her family's livelihood. [\(See full report\)](#)



## Reserve Bank seeks to improve women farmers' access to finance in Zimbabwe

Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe assured women farmers in Zimbabwe that financial support to women to up-scale production and access markets is high on the Central Bank's agenda. Currently, more than 350 registered women farmers in the area have received inputs and loans through a partnership with Steward Bank and Metropolitan Bank to engage in poultry farming as a small cooperative. [\(See full report\)](#)



## Township entrepreneurs in South Africa prove that investing in women-owned businesses makes economic sense

In May 2017, UN Women South Africa Multi-Country Office made a follow up visit to two among the forty women entrepreneurs trained using the International Labour Organization's enterprise development training materials who proved that investing in women-owned businesses is not only the right thing to do, but makes business sense. [\(See full report\)](#)





## UN Women promotes access to livelihoods and inclusive financing for conflict affected women and girls in South Sudan

With funding support from the Government of Germany, UN Women in collaboration with the Yambio State Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Agriculture concluded a weeklong training on production of seven high-valued vegetables and formation and management of community managed micro finance in Yambio. ([See full report](#))

## VIDEOS



Are women underrepresented in leadership roles in Somalia?  
([Watch video](#))



UN Women ESARO Evaluation Report of Capacity Development Initiatives ([Watch video](#))



New films on Global Goals spotlight women's journeys of resilience  
([Watch video](#))



# NEW PUBLICATIONS



ASSESSING THE GENDER GAP IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IN RWANDA

## THE ISSUE

In Rwanda, as elsewhere in the Eastern and Southern Africa region, female and male farmers do not always face the same production conditions, nor do they always make the same production choices. They consequently do not always have identical levels of agricultural productivity.

Moreover, agricultural productivity is itself challenged by environmental hazards – especially climatic variability – which affect the productivity of both male and female farmers, both collectively and differentially. The effects are different as between gender gaps in agriculture influence how women and men access, participate in, adopt and benefit from climate smart agriculture. And climate smart agriculture is essential to poverty reduction in Rwanda: studies suggest that economic growth led by productivity increases in the agricultural sector has a greater effect on poverty reduction in Rwanda than does the same level of growth in the non-agricultural sector (Dias and others, 2010).

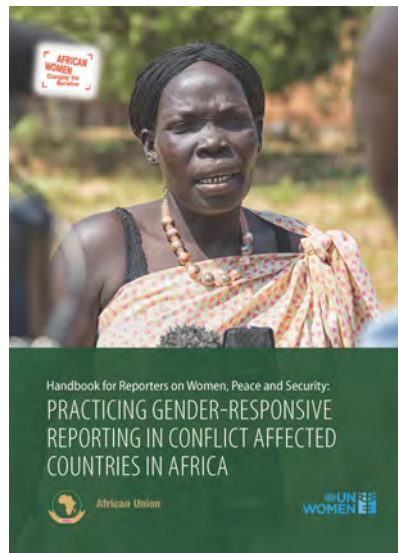
It is thus necessary to evaluate the productivity of female farmers in relation to male farmers in Rwanda. This policy brief summarizes the first attempt to estimate the cost of the so-called “gender gap” in agricultural productivity in Rwanda. It builds on work by the UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, the United Nations

Development Programme–United Nations Environment Poverty & Environment Initiative Africa, and the World Bank (UN Women, UNDP–UNEP PEI and World Bank, 2015).

## METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

This brief is based on a technical analysis using Rwanda’s 2013–2014 Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey (IHS). Using the IHS data, farms were identified as being managed by females or by males, and a production function was used to estimate the gender gap in agricultural productivity. An Oaxaca–Blinder decomposition (Blinder, 1975; Oaxaca, 1973) was then used to identify the various production factors which contributed most to the gender gap in agricultural productivity. Next, the share of land under women’s control was used to estimate the monetary value of the gender gap, in terms of potential gains in agricultural production, and the impact on total economic output, if the gap were eliminated. Finally, estimates of the elasticity of poverty reduction with respect to economic growth were used to quantify the impact of the closure of the gender gap in agricultural productivity on the number of people remaining in poverty.

The individual, household and plot characteristics used in the analysis were not as comprehensive as those found in an integrated survey of agriculture, such as those



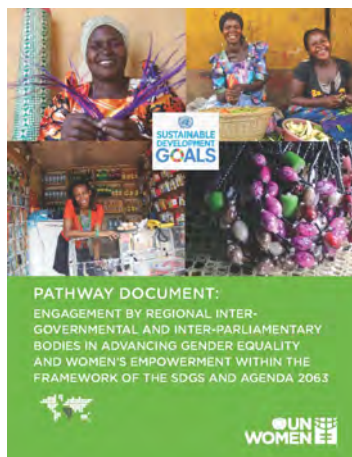
**Handbook:** Practicing Gender Responsive Reporting in Conflict Affected Countries in Africa



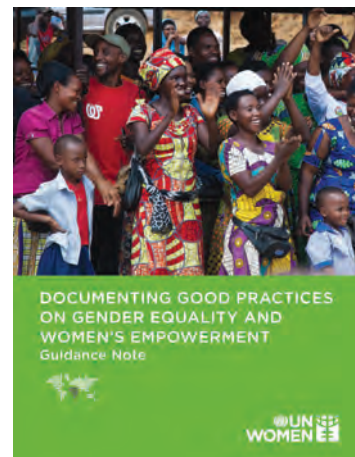
**Frequently Asked Questions:** Gender Responsive Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals

**FAQs:** Gender-Responsive localization of the Sustainable Development Goals

**Policy Brief:** Assessing the Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity in Rwanda



**Pathway Document:** Regional consultations on Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063



**Guide:** Documenting Good practices on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa covers 15 countries in the region:

Burundi  
Ethiopia  
Kenya  
Malawi  
Mozambique  
Rwanda

Somalia  
South Sudan  
Sudan  
Tanzania  
Uganda  
Zimbabwe

South Africa Multi-Country Office (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland)

