

UN WOMEN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

May 2015

UN Women Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa Maps its way Forward towards enhanced performance



UN Women's regional office for Eastern and Southern Africa (ESARO) held a four and a half day visioning and team-building retreat from 11th to 15th May 2015, in Naivasha, Kenya. The theme of the retreat was "Team work makes the dream work." The overall goal of the retreat was to enhance wellness and teamwork in the organization for accelerated results delivery.

The retreat sought to establish clarity of the office's role in the region, and the context in which it is currently operating, with a view to collectively discussing ways of realizing accelerated program delivery, and enhancing

It also aimed at providing participants with opportunities to learn problem solving skills, assertive skills, conflict resolution skills, and leadership skills.

The expected outcomes included improved communication, interpersonal skills, and identified strength and capacity needs for staff development, all for the benefit of moving the organization to greater heights.

In her opening remarks, Christine Musisi, UN Women ESARO Regional Director encouraged staff to use the retreat as an opportunity to build on team synergies for enhanced organizational performance.

Through various team building activities that involved group discussions and practical activities, the teams were able to discuss issues such as staff wellness, inclusion of fun activities in the office, creating a conducive office and work environment and communication between team leaders and the rest of the team, which all contribute to enhanced performance.

One particular session aimed at strengthening growth in the various units where the participants discussed the various issues they face as a team.

UN Women ESARO Maps its way Forward Continued



Some of the solutions identified included having frequent team meetings to evaluate progress, ensuring clarity in information given, offering room for negotiating on deliverables where necessary, and ensuring promptness when delivering results without compromising the quality.

On an activity aimed at understanding individual values, and the values of the institution, the participants were challenged to list their personal values which contribute to the growth and better performance of the organization. At the end of this exercise, the dominant values that came out were commitment, accountability and focus on results which would enhance delivery.

Running concurrently was a training for Deputy Country Directors in the region. The main objective of the training was to enhance the leadership competencies of UN Women Deputy Directors. To achieve these objective, the training focused on issues such as handling challenging situations in the office, reviewing the core and functional competencies and goal setting where each participant was required to formulate three objectives for personal growth and development and thereafter had an overall self-assessment of performance highlighting the their strengths and possible areas for development.

Both the ESARO and the Deputy Country Directors also benefited from talks on transformational leadership done by Dr. Ron Archer, a renowned transformative leadership coach from the United States of America.



Deputy Country Directors from the UN Women offices in the region

Women Political Participation under Threat in Kenya



Press Briefing during Chepkonga bill protests at Uhuru park

Nairobi, Kenya—The Constitution of Kenya 2010, in a bid to promote gender equality, makes provision that not more than two thirds of members of elective and appointed bodies should be of the same gender. The unresolved controversy is how to realize the two-thirds Gender Principle by August 2015 - the deadline set by the Attorney General.

The background

On August 27th 2010 the people of Kenya adopted a new constitution heralded as one of the most progressive constitutions in the world. Equity in gender representation was constitutionally mandated. A Supreme Court ruled that the two-thirds gender principle should be implemented progressively and that legislative measures for giving effect to two-thirds gender principle should be taken by 27th August, 2015. The Attorney General appointed a Technical Working Group led by the National Equality and Gender Commission to work out legislative measures to ensure that the deadline of 27 August 2015 was met.

The latest developments

The Technical Working Group submitted their legislative measures to stakeholder consultations in February

2015. Very quickly it became apparent that the realization of the two-thirds Gender Principle was under threat as the TWG sought to postpone the implementation of the gender parity rule until after the 2017 elections.

However, major stakeholders such as the Kenyan Women Parliament Associations, political parties, the Attorney General's office and the Executive are advocating for progressive realization of the two-thirds rule.

The Gender Rule Laws Amendment Bill, referred to as the "Chepkonga Bill" was passed in a first reading end of April 2015 seeking to amend the Constitution of Kenya to realize the two-thirds gender principle "progressively."

"The 'Chepkonga Bill' essentially postpones the realization of the not more than two-thirds gender principle indefinitely and even endangers the 20.7 per cent of seats currently filled by women in the National Parliament in Kenya.

Women Movement in protest

Eventually the Chepkonga Bill brought more than 300 women and men from different civil society and women organizations to the streets in a protest march demanding

immediate withdrawal of 'Chepkonga Bill'. Several bills have been brought to parliament to counter-act the "Chepkonga Bill".

Currently, political representation of Kenyan women stands at 20.7 % versus Rwanda's 56 %, South Africa's 42 %, Tanzania's 36 % and Uganda's 35 %. A progressive realization of the Two-Thirds Gender principle would throw back Kenya years back in their path towards gender equality.

UN Women in Kenya has supported the Technical Working Group that the Attorney General set up, led by National Gender and Equality Commission on the implementation of the Supreme Court ruling on the attainment of the two-thirds gender principle to develop a framework for its realization before the deadline set by the Supreme Court.

Since February 2015, UN Women Kenya in coordination with other UN agencies has facilitated the coordination among eminent women leaders, stakeholders to realize the Two-Thirds Gender principle. Currently all efforts are centered around community mobilization for a referendum to realise the two-thirds principle, media work, support to the Parliamentary bills and engagement with H.E. the President of Kenya to prevent a constitutional crisis.



Protests in Nairobi against the Chepkonga Bill

Boosting financial and business literacy in Rwanda



Kigali— Over 200 executive women from government, private enterprises, and international organizations took part in a two-hour financial planning and business investment seminar dubbed “Finishing Rich”, the first in a series of luncheon events supported by the Rwanda Development Board, UN Women and the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

The event in March aimed to expose career women to guidance on prudent financial management and trigger a mindset shift towards managing personal finances and interest in personal growth, finance and investment. The host, New Faces New Voices (NFNV), is a pan-African movement, backed by the African Development Bank, advocating for women’s participation in finance through a network of national chapters. UN Women provides technical and financial support to NFNV and sits on the Board of its National Chapter. NFNV draws its membership from a large cross-section of women and focuses on access to financial services, influence in decision-making positions in financial institutions, and increased capabilities of women in finance (as savers, investors, entrepreneurs, etc.).



Diana Ofwona, UN Women Representative in Rwanda, said: “This trailblazing event is the culmination of many months of deliberation, consultation and brainstorming on the best way to shift

mindsets from microfinance initiatives to big investments in the financial and other sectors, beginning at the personal

financial-management level, and on to a deeper understanding of, and engagement with, money and investments.”

The keynote speaker, Nancy Asiko Onyango, is a Partner at Ernst & Young, based in Nairobi, Kenya. She redefined the notion of “rich” as holistic well-being and abundance of wealth in mental and physical health as well as in income. It is not limited, though, to financial resources. Ms. Onyango made a convincing case for a well-planned retirement, cutting the dependency umbilical cord, revisiting social and cultural norms that disempower women financially and sounded the clarion call for all women to take control of their finances and their lives and “finish rich”.

A NFNV Rwanda Chapter will be officially launched on 10 June 2015 in Kigali, at the international conference “Transformative Financial Solutions for Women”. The two-day conference will be hosted by H.E. Jeannette Kagame, First Lady of Rwanda, and former First Lady of South Africa Graça Machel, who is the Founder of New Faces New Voices.



New Faces New Voices (NFNV) Chair Person, Monique Nzansabaganwa. Photo: Christian T. Mulumba/UN Women Rwanda

UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa ESAR EAW Specialists Workshop



Participants at the ESAR EAW Workshop

Nairobi, Kenya—UN Women's global Strategic Plan 2014-2017 under Impact area number 3 stresses the Entity's commitment to a world where "women and girls live a life free from violence".

The development of the Regional Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EAWG) Strategy accompanied by a Regional Programme Initiative, proposes broad strategic orientations to support and guide both policy and operational EAW work in the region.

EAW specialists in the Eastern and Southern Region (ESAR) recently met in Nairobi to discuss strategies to advocate for EAWG.

The Regional Director for UN Women ESAR Ms. Christine Musisi gave her opening remarks noting that there is no place in the world that gender equality has been achieved and that more action needed to be taken to end VAWG.

She noted that the workshop was first of its kind in the region and the participants had an opportunity to be pace setters on EAWG. Ms. Musisi also spoke about the cultural norms that were dominant in the region and suggested the development

of positive norms and rejection of a 'new moral code' which entails the negative ones by partnering with traditional and religious institutions. She called on strengthened coordination and new partnerships as key to growing the work of EAW.

The Regional Director emphasized the need for a new empowerment framework for EAW, which links peace & security, economic empowerment and transformational leadership, as spelt out in the Regional EAW Strategy and Programme Initiative. She ended her speech by putting emphasis on the need for a compendium of best practices to emerge from the ESAR EAW specialists to build onto the existing knowledge on the issue.

The first day

of the workshop was focused on conceptual and contextual clarity on global and regional level on Sharing organizational vision, priorities, trends, Post 2015 Agenda, the outcomes of the Beijing Plan of Action, Africa Agenda 2063 and lessons from the UNiTE and related campaigns.

The focus of the second day was on Experience sharing on County Offices EAW programming, partnerships and resource mobilization as well as the engagement of different stakeholders.

Knowledge Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, Communications and Coordination of EAW at country level, Review of EAW Strategy and Regional Initiative, Advocacy leadership, networking and the way forward were the areas of focus for day three, four and five respectively. This was achieved mainly through presentations, group work, report back and plenary discussions.

The workshop came to a close with Ms. Jennet Kem thanking all the participants for their inputs. She analyzed the progress achieved and areas covered in the workshop which she called a great milestone especially in developing a regional EAW strategy. She was optimistic that it will be 'business unusual' for EAW strategy as there will be institutional transformation in response and prevention of VAWG as well as focusing on an empowerment framework.



Ms. Christine Musisi Regional Director Un Women ESAR and Regional EAW Adviser Ms., Jennet Kem

African Queens and Women Cultural Leaders in Uganda use Bonfire Event to Fight Female Genital Mutilation



Attendees of the Kapchorwa bonfire event, including UN Women Country Representative Hodan Addou in the blue dress in the middle. Photo credit: UN Women/Nadine Kamolleh

Kampala, Uganda – In an innovative way to raise awareness on the harmful nature of female genital mutilation (FGM), a bonfire (Ekyoto) event was held in Kapshorwa, Eastern Uganda for FGM victims, escapees, surgeons, government officials and cultural leaders to chart a way forward to eradicate the practice.

The event brought together over 200 women and district officials and was graced by the presence of the African Queens and Women Cultural Leaders Network (AQWCLN) President, the Queen Mother of Toro Kingdom; Vice President of AQWCLN, Omugo of Kooki; as well as other AQWCLN members including the Kajwejiwete of Bunyala, Nyineka of Buluri, Toto of Teso, Adhola of Jopadhola, Ikumbania of Bukedi, Nabajerema of Bugisu, Omugo of Bunyoro Kingdom and the Rwenzuru Queen of Rwenzori Mountains Region.

The men were also not left out in this event as they were informed of the pre and post FGM activities, the shaping of cultural attitudes towards FGM as well as reviving the moral imperative to fight against FGM in that region and the rest of Uganda.

The UN was also represented by UN Women Country Representative Hodan Addou. The guest of honor was UN Resident Coordinator Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie. On behalf of the AQWCLN, the President of AQWCLN, the Queen Mother of Toro Kingdom donated UGX 10,000,000 towards women's projects in Kaserem sub-county in Kapchorwa district.

Recognized internationally as a violation of the rights of women and girls, FGM also constitutes an extreme form of discrimination against women. It also violates a woman's rights to health, security, physical integrity and also the right to life as the procedure could at times lead to death.

Income Empowers Kilimanjaro Women to Seek Justice

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania—Through a programme supported by UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality, more than 1,000 women have joined savings and loans groups, started businesses, and sought legal advice to claim their rights.

When farmer and widow Rose Davis' plot of land was taken over by another farmer in 2012 she lost her income. Alone and with no savings she was discouraged by many from taking legal action, which also brought with it substantial costs.



Upendo Women's Support Group members meet once a week at the village offices. The 21 members each contribute to the savings and loan fund and a social fund. UN Women/ Stephanie Raison

Having lost the land that was given to her by her father after her husband's death, Ms. Davis could have easily given up her legal fight to reclaim her property. However, she is now actively pursuing her case at the District Land and Housing Tribunal in the Municipality as a result of the Women's Economic Empowerment for Justice in Tanzania Programme, which is funded through a USD 450,000 grant from UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality.

The programme is being implemented in the northern Kilimanjaro region of the United Republic of Tanzania by the Kilimanjaro Women Information Exchange and Consultancy Organization (KWIECO) and is supported by UN Women. The goal is to increase vulnerable women's incomes, access to legal support, and awareness of their rights. Through peer support groups, skill-building, and access to information to generate a sustainable income, they are gaining the confidence and capacity to challenge violations of their rights.

Women in Kilimanjaro live in a patriarchal society where they are often

not allowed to own or inherit land. So raising the level of awareness and having women speak up about violations of their rights has been encouraging, says KWIECO's Executive Director Elizabeth Minde. "If women come out of their shell, then you had better help them. We have to work long hours and overtime now to meet the demand."

To reach women in the predominately rural area, 48 savings and loans groups have been created, which currently have 1,099 members. To date, some 863 women have received loans from their groups and 253 who have never owned businesses before have started new enterprises. It is hoped that, through training on their rights and economic independence, more women will have the means to pursue legal cases. These groups are also a vehicle for knowledge-sharing, training and support through mentorship.

Last year, Ms. Davis was elected as Chair of the *Upendo* (which means

Love in Swahili) Women's Support Group in her remote village at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro. The Group has 21 members and has saved 2,720,000 Shillings (almost USD 1,350) for collective use. It is available for women like Ms. Davis to borrow. She took a loan of USD 75 to lease land to farm and start a small business to support her family of three children while she continues the legal proceedings. This has given her an income and helped cover the cost of going to court.

Round trip transport from Ms. Davis' village, *Mitimirefu* (Tall Trees) near Moshi in northern Tanzania, to the nearest court room costs USD 2.50 by the only form of transport available from her village, motorbike. This is a significant cost in a village where women earn an average of USD 10 per month. A baseline study of vulnerable women in the six districts of the Kilimanjaro Region found that 79 per cent of women earn less than USD 1 per day.

Income Empowers Kilimanjaro Women to Seek Justice — Continued

Legal officer Anna Gabriel has trained 516 women on human rights, and informed them of gender equality and marriage laws. During the workshops, women learned that if their husband dies, as a wife they have the legal right to inherit the land. Many only knew the traditional custom of the husband's family taking over the land and widows often being left destitute. KWIECO is already busy providing legal advice to the newly empowered women, and hopes to help 50 women pursue cases through the courts – related to inheritance rights, domestic violence, unpaid child support and others.

“Having access to money made the women come forward. Some of the women knew about their rights but a barrier to accessing their rights is economic independence,” said Ms. Gabriel.

Project coordinators say the most noticeable impact of the programme has been the increase in self-esteem among women who were previously lonely and desperate but are now encouraged by the group solidarity.

Before joining the group, Ms. Davis said she had high blood pressure, but now it has stabilized.

“From associating with fellow women in the group you feel less lonely,” she says, adding that her world changed “through the exchange of ideas ... and also from the interaction with other women ... and the loan that I accessed. Although it is not all that I need, there has been an improvement.”



Upendo Women's Support Group member Martha Simon is now able to earn an income selling tomatoes. She has already paid back the 150,000 Shillings (USD \$93) loan she took from the Group to buy treatment for her tomato crop. Photo: UN Women/ Stephanie Raison



The three youngest members of Upendo Women's Support Group preparing to sell tomatoes at the local market. The women share the cost of transporting the goods to the market. UN Women/ Stephanie Raison

Nairobi hosts the 8th Public Procurement Oversight Authority National Stakeholders Forum.



Members of the Panel at the PPOA Forum

Nairobi, Kenya—The 8th National Stakeholders Forum for the Public Procurement Oversight Authority (PPOA) held at the KICC on the 29th May, with the technical and financial support of UN Women, Kenya. The main objective of the forum was to review the gains, identify the challenges experienced as well as make recommendations. The forum attracted 370 participants from the private sector, civil societies, academia and government agencies. This year's theme was "Preferences and Reservations Scheme: Assessing the Gains."

The Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury is the chairman of the forum and was represented by Mr. Mutua Kilaka who is the Financial Secretary. The Cabinet Secretary's speech was read by Mr. Kilaka stressed on the importance of public procurement as a vital component of Public Finance Management.

He stated that as strives to achieve the development goals outlined in vision 2030 needs an efficient and effective procurement system. For that reason the ongoing reforms in the public procurement system is crucial, he said. A major current reform agenda is the policy on inclusion of women, youth and persons living with disability in Public Procurement by setting aside at least 30% of public Procurement for them.

The forum was interactive and provided a platform for disadvantaged groups such as women, youth and persons with disabilities to access the gains of the scheme since its inception. The key challenges shared include delayed payments by some public entities causing financial distress to suppliers particularly for the beginners in the field of tendering for government contracts and limited access to trade finance (LPO/LSO).

groups. Despite the elaborate legal and regulatory framework, the uptake of these opportunities remains below expectation. This calls for more effort to improve the success of that noble Government policy.

Another important concern was the challenge with Integrated Financial Management System (IFMIS) which has affected the smooth implementation of Preference and Reservations Scheme. One success story was from Ms. Joyce, "I struggled with business but since I trained on how to apply for tenders, I have won several tenders and I can manage business worth Ksh 60 million", she said. Joyce supplies protective apparel (gloves, uniforms) to the government. This was a clear evidence that the policy has succeeded considerably and if the bottle necks are addressed the country will leap expected benefits.

"Our support has been mainly in the area of policy advocacy, capacity building for the two parties that are key in this process, namely the suppliers and the buyers. We have also engaged with Financial Institutions so as to encourage them to come up with innovative products to meet the needs of entrepreneurs who are engaged in tendering for public contracts", said Karin Fieg, UN Women Kenya Deputy Director.

UN Women Kenya has been partnering with PPOA from 2012; one potential area for programmatic action noted was working with PPOA with regards to the Preference and Reservation Scheme in monitoring its implementation. According to the Regulations of 2013, all Public Entities are required to submit quarterly reports on the implementation of the 30 percent set-asides to PPOA which a process done manually, if automated will improve the overall monitoring, data collection and analysis for informed policy decisions.

Another potential area was in awareness creation of the scheme among the disadvantaged groups in particular women business owners operating at the county level by engaging women MCA's and Women's Representatives as ambassadors of the scheme in partnership with the Council of Governors (CoGs).

Nairobi hosts the 8th Public Procurement Oversight Authority National Stakeholders Forum-continued



Joyce Wamuyu participating during the forum

The Public Procurement and Disposal , (Preference and Reservations) Regulations 2011 Scheme, was issued on 8th June 2011, which opened a window of opportunity for target groups including small enterprises, micro-enterprises; disadvantaged groups (persons living with disabilities, youth and women) and citizen contractors and local contractors. The regulations were reviewed in June 2013 based on experiences, lessons learnt and proposals from stakeholders and with a view of removing bottlenecks identified which prevented the smooth implementation of the scheme. Under the new regulations, the Government resolved to “set-side” at least 30 per cent of all its procurement spend for the disadvantaged groups. Despite the elaborate legal and regulatory framework, the uptake of these opportunities remains below expectation. This calls for more effort to improve the success of that noble Government policy.

Lighting Up Lives - African women train as “barefoot” Solar Engineers

Stella, an illiterate grandmother from a small village in Malawi, found it hard to picture what lies ahead when she arrived at the Barefoot College of India to be trained as Solar Engineer. Six months later she emerged as one of 25 trained African Solar Engineers, ready to electrify her home village for the first time.

“I never imagined that technical knowledge like this would be open to women who were illiterate like us,” she reflects at the end of the training. “Coming to Tilonia has given us the confidence that we can learn about new things and make our lives better.”

By collaborating with the Barefoot College of India and its NGO partners, UN Women is supporting a programme to empower mostly rural women from Africa by helping them start to drive their local green economies. The overall goal of the program is to empower these women, many of whom have labored in agricultural work for most of their lives, to gain a skill more age appropriate, while giving them a new position of respect in their communities. The programme teaches engineering skills to illiterate women from rural communities - a particularly vulnerable group - before equipping them with solar lamp kits to assemble and install in their own and nearby villages.

For the first training session of the programme that ran for six months, women travelled from across Africa from countries like Uganda, Liberia and South Sudan, to take part in it. Participants were selected or nominated by their local community and supported by a variety of local and international organizations, and in some cases, their governments. Bawor Mama, for example, has spent years recovering from the lingering effects of civil war and economic dislocation in Liberia. At 53, she prefers assembling solar lanterns to the physical strain of farming. “I am not just a farmer like everyone else,”

she says with a clear sense of pride. “I am a solar engineer now and I want to electrify my village and other neighboring villages.”

“What Barefoot College has effectively demonstrated is how the combination of traditional knowledge (barefoot) and demystified modern skills can bring lasting impact and fundamental change when the tools are in the control and ownership of the rural poor,” says Dr. Bunker Roy, the Director of the Barefoot College. Besides the empowering key aspect of the programme, the women are also supporting a greener form of energy usage. Many live in villages without any electricity at all and kerosene usage is high. Yet kerosene is not a sustainable resource, nor is it cheap or healthy. Barefoot College estimates that the initiative now saves around 160,000 litres of kerosene a month across South America, Africa and Asia.

To ensure the sustainability of the project, the new Solar Engineers are also taught how to train other villagers in the maintenance of these lamps. They are also encouraged to set up electronics repair shops, which will generate a regular income for them. “In the beginning, many women face problems since it is the first time they will have left their children in the village,” says Leela Devi, a teacher in the solar engineering department. “But we have their sisters, and constantly remind them of the advantages if being here and learning solar engineering.” Their trainers, who mostly speak Hindi, must cut across linguistic and cultural barriers using gestures and signs. Yet the desire to light up their communities and empower the women in them has proven to be a unifying bond. With just six months of training in the college, students have shown that they can transcend tremendous barriers, and emerge as self-sustaining Solar Engineers and role models to many.

My Right to Land - Mozambican Women Defending their Right to Land



Paralegal sharing knowledge on women's rights
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Mozambique - Due to a FAO Programme, women in Mozambique are increasingly obtaining land and traditional courts are recognizing the rights of women and children in proceedings and judgments. With nearly three-quarters of poor households and 70 percent of the population located in rural areas, and 80 percent of the population working in the agricultural sector, farming remains the main source of food and income for Mozambican households.

An overwhelming majority of economically active women (86 percent) work in the agriculture sector. Despite the importance of women's roles in agriculture, gender issues in Mozambique are complex, and rural women face discrimination and vulnerability. Women are the main producers of food and are responsible for the management of their households, but many lack access to productive assets like land and related to that they also lack real decision-making power within their families.

Men are the traditional authority for allocating land rights and making decisions about land tenure, so, whether women in Mozambique live in patrilineal or matrilineal communities, their access to land often depends on some form of relationship with the men in their community – their fathers, husbands, uncles. Most rural women who do obtain

land rights do so through 'customary norms and practices', however, these norms and practices do not recognize the rights of women who lose their partners and/or are divorced and therefore expelled from the household. This is especially important in the context of HIV-AIDS, when many men are dying young leaving behind widows vulnerable to dispossession of their land.

Even though progressive laws in the country that recognize and defend women's rights over land and natural re-sources exist, the traditional system and practices continue to discriminate against women and have prevented progressive laws from being successfully implemented. It was against this challenging background that the FAO Gender and Land project was developed. The programme was set up in order to mainstream gender equality and women's rights into paralegal training courses for citizens, as well as into seminars for new judges in Mozambique.

From 2010-2013, FAO worked with the Juridical and Judicial Training Center (CFJJ) of the Ministry of Justice in Mozambique to provide community-level education and support rural women to secure and exercise land and resource rights and address HIV-AIDS related tenure security.

In addition to discrimination in regards to land ownership, land is also becoming scarcer, as private sector investments, population growth and climate change reduce real land availability. In this context, many families are taking new measures to either hold on to, or obtain as much land as they can, resulting to young widows losing their land and their children being disinherited. At a time when the extended family is traditionally expected to rally around and

In addition to discrimination in regards to land ownership, land is also becoming scarcer, as private sector investment, population growth and climate change reduce real land availability. In this context, many families are taking new measures to either hold on to, or to obtain as much land as they can, resulting in young widows losing their land and their children being disinherited. At a time when the extended family is traditionally expected to rally around and support them, there is considerable evidence to show that, in many cases, the opposite occurs. Wishing to further their own economic interests, some family members will seize the property and belongings that a widow and her children ought to inherit. Valuable resources such as land, housing, money, household furniture, cattle, agricultural implements, and clothing are taken away in the name of culture and tradition, leaving the widow and children in even greater need.

RECENT AND UP-COMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
3 rd – 5 th of June 2015	World Economic Forum on Africa,	Cape Town, South Africa
5th June 2015	GreenBelt Movement Commemoration of B+20 during	Nairobi, Kenya
7 th – 15 th June 2015	25th African Union Summit	Cape Town, South Africa
8th June 2015	ESARO and SA CSAG meeting	Johannesburg South Africa
9th June 2015	AIDS conference	Durban, South Africa
13 th – 16 th July 2015	International Conference on Financing for Development	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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 and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa covers 15 countries in the region:

Burundi	tho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland)
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	Somalia
Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office	South Sudan
Ethiopia	Sudan
Kenya	Tanzania
Malawi	Uganda
Mozambique	Zimbabwe
Rwanda	
South Africa Multi-Country Office (Botswana, Leso-	



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