

# UN WOMEN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

JULY 2015

## FFD3 Conference Yields Commitment to Financing for Gender Equality

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia—Emerging from the Third Financing for Development Conference (FFD3), which ended today in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, was a clear recognition of gender equality as a critical element in achieving sustainable development. During the conference, UN Member States adopted the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), a global framework for financing for sustainable development, committing to action to achieve economic, social and environmental changes by transforming global finance practices.

In particular, States committed to “ensure gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment,” hence reaffirming that this goal and the full realization of human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development. UN Women intensely engaged in the negotiations of the AAAA, advocating for the inclusion of transformative financing for gender equality, which includes upscaling of resources for the implementation of gender equality commitments and strengthening support for gender equality and women’s



*Delegates applaud the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda at the Third Financing for Development Conference which concluded on 16 July. Photo: FFD3/Shari Nijman*

empowerment institutions. UN Women will now work with a group of Member States to implement an Action Plan on Transformative Financing for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, to ensure that the gender commitments that were included in the agreed text will be turned into actions.

During her four-day mission to FFD3, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka contributed to official sessions such as the official opening and as a panelist on Roundtable 2 on “Ensuring Policy Coherence and an Enabling Environ-

ment at all Levels for Sustainable Development” as well as several other meetings and side events. In order to promote enhanced gender-responsive planning and budgeting and targeted investments towards gender equality institutions and programmes, the Executive Director engaged with key government officials and stakeholders. In all meetings she emphasized that the inclusion of gender-responsive financing in the AAAA is critical if sustainable development was to be achieved for all.

## FFD3 Conference Yields Commitment to Financing for Gender Equality— continued

UN Women organized three high-level side events with key stakeholders to join forces in harnessing support for strong gender equality commitments in the AAAA and UN Women Deputy Executive Director Lakshmi Puri launched the Action Plan on Transformative Financing for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment with a select group of Member States. She also spoke at the UN-Women-supported Women’s Forum and the Civil Society Forum 10-12 July, emphasizing the important role of civil society in influencing global agreements and keeping their governments accountable, saying: “we have to work together to push our common agenda forward”. At the start of the conference, Ms. Puri contributed to a side event linking financing of gender equality to human rights and economic justice, and a side vent organized by the Global Migration Group on remittances and the contributions of the diaspora to financing sustainable development.

“With these tools, we know WHAT needs to be done and HOW it can be done,” said Letty Chiwara, UN Women Representative to Ethiopia, the African Union and UNECA, as she delivered UN Women’s statement at the plenary on 16 July 2015. [watch the archived webcast] “New and existing commitments on gender equality require unprecedented and transformative financing, in scale, scope, ambition and quality, from all sources and at all levels.”



*Letty Chiwara, UN Women Representative to Ethiopia, the African Union and UNECA, delivered UN Women’s statement at the plenary . Photo: UN Women/Binyam Teshome*

Throughout her meetings, UN Women’s Executive Director emphasized the AAAA as a critical element to move from policy to practice. “We need to move from side events to the plenary. From Women’s Ministries to the responsibility of Heads of States,” she stated during the International Business Forum on 14 July.

While the AAAA is a key document for the implementation of the SDGs, the Executive Director stressed that previous commitments are already in place. In the Political Declaration adopted this year in March at the 59th Commission on the Status of Women, Member States

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## Multipurpose Centers opened to Support Female Refugees in Lusenda



Lusenda camp. Under the leadership of UNHCR, humanitarian organizations struggle to respond to the immense challenge of assisting and protecting people's lives and dignity.

In the camp, the refugees especially women faced significant problems such as "survival-sex", social isolation, harassment, domestic violence and other types of sexual and gender based violence. Since all these issues are the core

of its programming mandate, UN Women has developed a holistic approach based on experiences of other UN Women country offices.

UN Women has worked with UNHCR, its local partner Rebuild Hope for Africa and Women Refugee Committee to establish two "Multipurpose Safe centers" for women and girls named in Kurundi by refugee women "Abakenyesi Amahoro" and "abakenyesi c'runkundo."

Lusenda, DRC—Two safe centers for women and girls have been opened at the Lusenda camp in DRC to offer enhanced protection against Gender Based Violence. The Multipurpose Safe Centers will provide space where they will feel comfortable and enjoy freedom of expression without the fear of judgment or harm.

The Multipurpose centers have emerged as a key strategy for the protection and empowerment of women and girls affected by the Burundian crisis. Social, cultural and economic disempowerment, in addition to poverty, also create contexts in which women are more susceptible to abuse and sexual exploitation.

Conflicts often put women and girls at increased risk of violence and vulnerability. Putting its mandate into practice, UN WOMEN has created Women and Girls Multipurpose Safe Centers in Burundian refugee camp of Lusenda in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Since the end of March 2015, the Democratic Republic of Congo is experiencing a situation of refugee influx from Burundi as a result of political disturbance and violence in their country. As the crisis enters its fourth month, UNHCR has reported that 12,578 Burundian refugees (53% of women/girls, 47% of men/boys and 65% are children) have entered in South-Kivu, specifically in Fizi and Uvira territories.

To date, 5,981 Burundian refugees have been already transferred to



## Multipurpose Centers opened to Support Female Refugees in Lusenda- continued

The key objectives are to provide an area where women and girls can:

- Socialize and re-build their social networks
- Receive social support and economic assistance
- Acquire contextually relevant skills
- Access safe and non-stigmatizing multi-sectorial GBV response services (psychosocial cohesion, conflict prevention, peaceful coexistence with hosts communities)
- Organize recreational activities



In her opening remarks at the ceremony, Mrs. Francoise Ngendahayo said, “It’s your center! Here you could regain your confidence, dignity and hope for a better life! Here you could find Joy and the Energy you need to take care of your family and children! Your determination will be a critical part in the success of the centers.”

Some of the services which will be progressively implemented beginning with basic activities include support to SGBV survivors, psychosocial and recreational, information and raising awareness, and prevention and outreach activities and moving on to more advanced ones in consultation with women and girls refugee so services and activities are responsive to their needs, and are context and age appropriate.

The Multipurpose Centers will collaborate with other sectors to provide information on a range of issues and available services in the camp and how to access them; sexual and reproductive health; women’s rights; infant and young child feeding practices; life skills; hygiene promotion, water and sanitation or nutrition, etc.

Since the opening, more than 200 women, youth and men refugees have come to the Multipurpose Centers for the information and awareness-raising sessions. As the day came to an end, one refugee woman said “Today, we have felt that we are still human beings, women, mothers and spouses. We should not give up but fight for a better life for our children! You have given us Hope.”

1 Means Peace in Kirundi

2 Means Solidarity in Kirundi

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## Ethiopia Renews Commitment to End Child Marriage and FGM/C by 2025 at First National Girl Summit

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – Ethiopia has reiterated its commitments made during last years' Girl Summit held in London, to eradicate Child/Early/ Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) by 2025 during the first ever National Girl Summit in its capital.

In his opening remarks during the Summit held on June 2015, the Deputy Prime Minister of Ethiopia, H.E. Demeke Mekonnen said, “Many efforts have been in place for long, but at this crucial point in our progress against these harmful traditions, we need to reinforce and sustain coordinated work. I reaffirm my government’s commitment and belief in an FGM- and CEFM-free Ethiopia by 2025,”.

The National Girl Summit was organized by the National Alliance to end FGM and Early Child Marriage under the leadership of Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs, with the support of UN Women and other partners. Around 250 participants comprised of Ministers, regional presidents, representatives from all other government institutions (federal and regional), UN agencies, International Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations, Faith based organizations, women and youth organizations, media, community leaders and girls took part in the event.

During the morning sessions of this one-day follow-up summit to the London 2014 Global Girl Summit



*Participants of the National Girls Summit Photo Credit: UNICEF*

where Ethiopia pledged the 2025 goal, Ministers of Education, Health and Justice also made commitments to upscale the multi-sectoral approach required to streamline efforts. Selected adolescent girls voiced demands for protection, education and coordination to end the HTPs. The UN Resident Coordinator, representatives of the Development Assistance Group (DAG) and the Inter-religious Council acknowledged the success achieved so far and pledged continued partnership in combating these practices. This first National Girl Summit also unveiled the establishment of the National Platform on Prevention and Elimination of HTPs – a high-level Platform that comprehensively leads, monitors progress and coordinates resources across ministries, donor groups, girls and women networks, the private sector and all stakeholders pertinent to the cause. An exhibition displaying the work of

14 organizations working on ending FGM and CEFM was also held throughout the morning session.

Presentations and discussions were held in the afternoon sessions where four breakaway groups gathered around the themes Data and Evidence; Coordination; Grassroots Experience; and Budget and Accountability. A total of thirteen presentations were made by government agencies, NGOs, grassroots civil society organizations and faith organizations covering various topics such as drivers of the practices, successful intervention programs, experience in coordinating efforts, enforcing law and improving accountability, and the economic gains of empowering women. Following presentations were vibrant discussions among participants and presenters on the recommendations and action points shared.

## UN Women supports The One UN- Rwanda's inter-agency Comprehensive Gender Needs Assessment for Burundian refugees



*Mahama refugee camp (Hosting Burundian Refugees. (Photo Credits: UN Women/ Nina Kagenza*

Kigali, Rwanda – With the huge influx of Burundian refugees who are enduring challenging conditions and circumstances in the refugee camps in Rwanda, the humanitarian actors are seeking solutions to ensure that all refugees have safe and equal access to humanitarian assistance.

Rwanda is currently experiencing an influx of refugees from Burundi as a result of a civil unrest that erupted in Burundi following the announcement in April 2015 that the incumbent Burundi president Pierre Nkurunziza would be seeking a third term. As a result, a large scale of refugee movements into Rwanda quickly followed starting from May 2014. The wave of new arrivals from Burundi mainly claim to be harassed by armed youth militias ('Imbonerakure') loyal to the ruling party.

In June 2015, the One UN in Rwanda in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda officially kicked-off the joint gender needs assessment at the Mahama refugee camp. The goal of

this assessment was to provide evidence-based advice to the UN in Rwanda and its partners, on interventions for women, girls, men and boys of different ages and ability in humanitarian situations. The gender and humanitarian assessment provided concrete recommendations for the way forward but also served as an advocacy tool for each participating UN agency and Partners. Outcomes of the needs assessment informed the type of support required to by refugees from an Age, Gender and, Diversity (AGD) perspective.

The assessment is not planned to be an off/stand-alone event. It will assist in identifying entry points and making concrete suggestions for the way forward; which will also provide the

baseline for an after action review – in terms of what the support from humanitarian actors has contributed to, in changing or improving the lives of refugees. The evidence base created by the assessment will be used as an advocacy tool to ensure that Gender Equality integration efforts are taken into account in the humanitarian response.

Representatives from different United Nations (UN) agencies (including UN women, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, and WFP) and Government institutions (Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs – MIDIMAR, Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion – MIGEPROF and Gender Monitoring Office-GMO) with assistance of three UN Women colleagues deployed by the Regional Office of Eastern and Southern Africa; jointly organized the needs assessment.



*WFP staff in a focus group discussion with women refugees. Photo credit: Nina Kagenza/UN Women*

## UN Women supports The One UN- Rwanda's inter-agency Comprehensive Gender Needs Assessment for Burundian refugees -continued



*UN gender needs assessment team led by Jebbeh Foster, UN Women Regional Advisor for Peace and Security. Photo credit: Nina Kagenza/UN Women*

Through different interactions and discussion with key stakeholders - including different categories of refugees at the Mahama camp - the gender assessment aimed at assessing the level of participation of women, men, girls, boys and other persons of concern in leadership and other decision making structures (including the accessing of basic services for their survival and livelihood).

The assessment focused on the conduction of 12 Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) and 8 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), grounding the discussions on the different sectors of the Rwanda Refugee Response Plan: Health and Nutrition, Education, protection, WASH, Food, camp management etc. Initial findings from the FDGs and KIIs point to the fact that the AGD mainstreaming approach is paramount in restoring

dignity to refugees and in responding to the critical needs of different categories of refugees in an equitable and sustainable manner.

Additionally, the aid agencies working at the camp also jointly analyzed the various challenges they face including insufficient resources to satisfy the ever-growing needs and numbers of refugees.

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# Uganda Consultation calls for innovative strategies to increase access to Energy for Women and Children's Health



*The First Lady Janet Museveni (centre), energy minister Irene Muloni (on her left), UN Women Representative Hodan Addou (on her right) and some participants pose for a group photograph after the opening of a two-day workshop on energy for women and children's health held at Speke Resort Munyonyo Kampala Uganda. Photo credit: Martin Ninsiima*

Kampala, Uganda- A two- day consultative meeting has drawn up a plan to improve access for Health Centers to improve women and children's health. The national consultation was held under the theme, "Addressing Challenges and harnessing opportunities". The symposium was organized by UN Women in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF, and UNFPA with support from UN Foundation.

The consultation was conceived after the signing of MOU between UN Women headquarters and UN Foundation as part of Sustainable Energy For All initiative. Engaging women is essential to eradicating

poverty –which is at the center of the initiative. Women need to play an active role in the planning, producing, supplying and management of energy.

The meeting brought together close to 100 participants from Ministry of Health, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Development Partners, and the private sector was opened by the First Lady of the Republic of Uganda Hon. Janet Kataha Museveni. She observed that providing energy to health facilities is a high-impact intervention in saving the lives of women and children. "The highest consumers of health facilities are mothers and children.

When energy services are unavailable at health facilities, it makes it difficult for health workers to save lives", she said. The First Lady called on managers of health facilities to seriously plan for cost effective and efficient energy options at all levels and pledged government support in the implementation process.

According to health experts, the low level of access to modern energy has a negative impact on the lower level health facilities which constitute 96% of the total number of health facilities in Uganda and are largely situated in the rural areas with very low access to electricity.



## **Uganda Consultation calls for innovative strategies to increase access to Energy for Women and Children’s Health—continued**

“We used to help women deliver in very poor lighting conditions. We could use light from our phones, holding it in our mouths and at the same time giving instructions to the women as our hands are engaged in delivery. For sure energy is important for saving lives” said Florence Rwabahima, a Midwife from Kanungu district.

The Minister of Energy and Mineral resources, Hon. Irene Muloni, expressed the need to extend the supply of energy to health facilities and to health staff houses. She said health facilities in rural areas should benefit from the rural electrification programme which is being implemented in several districts of the country.

While addressing the high level national consultation, the UN Women Uganda country Representative, Hodan Addou, reiterated the importance of scaling up access to energy in health facilities as a key component of UN Secretary General’s initiative on Sustainable Energy for all.

“Lack of access to modern forms of energy, or energy poverty, has both direct and indirect negative effects on health and medical care facilities. Provision of energy, especially electricity, has multiple benefits – for women, for children and for everyone,” she said. WHO country Representative, Dr. Alemu Wondimagegnehu, welcomed Uganda government’s strategic plan for extending energy to all health facilities in the country but pointed out the need for the country to accelerate scale-up of services as a means of averting avoidable morbidity and mortality.

“A child who misses vaccines will suffer from vaccine preventable diseases and a mother who bleeds to death is a life lost,” he said.

The consultative meeting developed an advocacy plan and recommended the formation of a multi-sectoral technical working group to guide the implementation of the plan and provide technical support to government and other stakeholders.

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## Safaricom Kenya Limited stands up to be counted HeForShe Champion



like its not a men's issue. It is time for us to take a stand with our women and girls." He reached out to each of the members present saying he trusted they believe in being responsible for the well-being of everyone.

In her opening remarks, UN Women Country Director,

*From Left: Bob Collymore-C.E.O Safaricom ,Dean Yu-C.E.O Huawei Kenya, Zebib Kavuma-C.D UN Women, Safaricom's Joseph Ogotu-Director of Strategy &Innovation, James Mutisya-Senior Manager, National Retail Sales and Denish Osodo-Internal Audit Director.(Photo by UN Women Kenya:Sharon Macharia.)*

Nairobi, Kenya- During a colorful event held at the Michael Joseph Center, Safaricom Kenya Ltd joined other corporations in the HeForShe campaign when its C.E.O Bob Collymore and Safaricom male Head of Departments publicly signed up to become HeForShe champions. The Campaign which was officially launched in Kenya by H.E the President Uhuru Kenyatta on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014, is a UN Women solidarity movement for gender equality that looks into mobilizing both men and boys as advocates and change agents to bring about gender equality. In his remarks, Safaricom CEO, Bob Collymore said, "I hope that you believe that our mothers, sisters, daughters, grand-mothers, or aunts deserve to live in a society that believes in equality; one that is

free from all forms of discrimination"

Safaricom officially became one of the 10 corporations to sign up through ([www.heforshe.org/vodafone](http://www.heforshe.org/vodafone)), fulfilling the Impact 10X10X10 HeForShe campaign strategy which aims to engage governments, corporations and universities as instruments of change to galvanize momentum in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. The impact 10x10x10 (10 Universities, 10 Heads of Government and 10 Corporations) engages key decision makers in governments, corporations, and universities around the world to drive change from the top .

Mr. Collymore passionately stated that, " Too often, violence seems

director, Ms. Zebib Kavuma said that, "HeforShe campaign is calling for the re-socialization of both men and women and working with men both as advocates and change agents to create that irreversible change in society- one that promotes equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination, and a just work place that values the contributions of men and women as equals. Gender equality will ensure that countries benefit by tapping into the productive potentials of the other half of the population – women and girls."

There was also a panel discussion moderated by Ms. Kavuma, which mainly discussed the position of Safaricom in empowering women, the position of women in the organiza-

## Safaricom Kenya Limited stands up to be counted HeForShe Champion

tion and their personal views on importance of women leadership. Panel members constituted, on importance of women leadership constituted Safaricom male head of departments; Mr. Denis Osodo, Internal Audit Director and Mr Joseph Ogutu, Director of Strategy & Innovation, Mr. James Mutisya, Senior Manager-National Retail Sale.

The heated panel discussions saw Denish Osodo, internal audit director, one of the panel members state that, "Women's rights are human rights." Other guests present included; Kenya Commercial Bank CEO, Joshua Oigara, Bharat Thakrar-C.E.O Scan Group, Dean Yu-C.E.O Huawei Kenya, Benta Okinyi, Regional Head of customer service Barclays Africa among others.

Finally before signing in Collymore called upon his staff and fellow corporate leaders to join him and the rest of the world sign up to the HeForShe campaign, to bring to an end gender inequities.

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## Un Women Kenya and Council of Governors to Work Together to Mainstream Gender at the Counties



*(From Left to right) The UN Women Kenya Country director, Ms. Zebib Kavuma and the Council of Governors chairperson Mr. Peter Munya during the signing of the Partnership Agreement*

The chair of the Council of Governors applauded the move by UN Women as a step towards gender integration and mainstreaming in the counties as enshrined in the Kenyan constitution that champions for the inclusion of women in leadership.

Hon. Munya further added that, "the counties are a young but growing institution therefore, the move by the UN Women agency and the County government is important as it will foster a strong partnership towards greatness."

The UN Women country director Ms. Zebib Kavuma asserted the need to use devolution to create a holistic partnership by working together with the counties and allocation of enough resources towards gender issues at the county level.

The partnership will work with counties and build capacities through the gender advisory position at the Council of Governors.

Ms. Kavuma further reiterated on the need for data collection, analysis and monitoring of the gender agenda in as far as women empowerment and equality goes.

Nairobi, Kenya—The Council of Governors through its Chairperson and Governor of Meru County, Mr. Peter Munya on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2015 signed an agreement with the UN Women Kenya that will see the two parties working together to mainstream gender issues in the County level all over the country.

The agreement's objective is to see the UN Women and the County government work together throughout the 47 counties in championing for gender balance and women empowerment.

## MAWIMA Represented at the Malawi Investment Forum

Lilongwe, Malawi— The first ever Trade Investment Forum between was held in Malawi last June which attracted over 400 potential investors from over 31 countries. As a follow up on Malawi Women in Mining Association (MAWIMA) Annual General Meeting held in April, UN Women funded MAWIMA representatives from the country's three regions to attend the Malawi Investment Forum (MIF) organized by Malawi Investment and Trade Corporation (MITC). MAWIMA attended as a part of its active efforts to make the Association a key player in strategic forums.

MAWIMA's main aim at the MIF was to start dialoguing with potential stakeholders that can invest in the enterprises of its individual members such as partners who can help them penetrate international markets, and support the mechanization of mining activities and in MAWIMA as an entity. At the exhibition, the women displayed a range of minerals and related products such as Aquamarine, Black Tourmaline, Rhodolite, Garnets, Ruby, Green and Blue Agate, Clear and Smoky Quartz, Tan-



*Minister of Natural Resources Energy and Mines, Mr. Bright Msaka poses with MAWIMA members*

zanite, Carnelian Agate, Ornaments (Bronze Bangles, and Rings Necklaces and Earrings), Tumbled Stones, Cut and Polished Stones, Clay Pots, Terrazzo, Gypsum and chalk among others. The Minister of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining, the Commissioner of Mines, the Principal Secretary responsible for mining, the United States Ambassador and the Dean of Diplomats, and the Zimbabwe High Commissioner to Malawi as well as buyers and investors visited the MAWIMA booth. Some MAWIMA members made links with potential markets from Finland and

Canada, who have asked for a full list of gemstones that are available in order to establish a market connection. Already some members from the North have reported follow-ups from potential equity

and marketing investors. One MAWIMA member who is interested in scaling up production at mine level got an opportunity to have a one-on-one business meeting with Industrial Development Corporation (a South African Bank), which provides information on how to qualify for a loan. However, there is a challenge which is to secure quick financing for a feasibility study, which is one of the conditions for a mining related loan. Although the MIF was not meant to sale items, there was demand for MAWIMA members to sell some of their minerals on the spot. This experience shows that making a breakthrough in international markets can indeed make a world of a difference to women's businesses.

MAWIMA members appreciated the need for understanding international markets and realized that some of the prices for their minerals were below international prices which helped them become conscious of the fact that they needed to engage the services of a geologist.



## MAWIMA Represented at the Malawi Investment Forum-Continued

Representatives from the North found it notable that their counterparts from the South had a variety of products (some of which were processed), at readily available prices, and that they had carried numerous products representing their group. This is lacking in the North, and they learnt that they need to work hard on team building so that they can be more formidable in marketing the numerous gemstones that are found with different women in the Northern Region. The forum provided an opportunity to network as members exchanged information on the various minerals for trading. The forum assisted the ladies to appreciate working together as groups and associations and to learn more about the products they are dealing with.



*Some of the products displayed at the forum*

MAWIMA thanked UN Women for the support and encouragement that was given to women in mining to work together in promoting their economic activities through the MIF. Stating that their biggest achievements during the MIF was their exposure to a high level forum of international standards, which taught the women how to get prepared as a group in order to seize investment opportunities.

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## The rise and rise of an ACTIL Alumna



*Outgoing Leadership and Governance advisor UN Women ESARO Florence Butegwa and ACTIL Alumna Catherine Mbondo during a follow-up meeting on her ACTIL experience. Photo Credits: UN Women*

Nairobi, Kenya - Catherine Mwikali Mbondo is visionary and hard working in her bee keeping business. She stayed focused and now is on the path to great success. She supplies raw honey and other honey by-products to her customers who are growing in large numbers every day. Catherine is an excellent example on what one can achieve through ACTIL training.

The training she attended was conducted in collaboration with African Union Commission and UN Women with the support of UNDP, Kenya on agricultural entrepreneurship. After the training Catherine moved from growing and selling traditional vegetables to bee keeping due the high expenses she was incurred. Transport was expensive and the vegetables would go bad in a very short time, besides her suppliers did not offer her favorable terms. She attributes the change in strategy due to the agricultural entrepreneurship training she underwent.

Catherine now has 50 bee hives and plans to have 50 more before the end of the year on her farm in Makindu. She also buys additional honey for sale from Kibwezi Divisional Women Group with 1431 members who have 2 beehives each. Catherine supplies her honey to friends; she markets her products through word of mouth and by making phone calls to individuals. She says most of her customers are referrals from her customers who have

bought from her previously. Since she concentrated on honey production exclusively beginning of May this year, her sales have increased from in 30kgs per month to 6kgs per day by mid-July. She attributes the rise in sales to the high quality of the raw honey she produces. She also takes time to research about honey and is very active on LinkedIn platform where she gets support from experts worldwide.

“ACTIL training is a wakeup call and very practical”, Catherine said during her a follow up session on her growth with Ms. Florence Butegwa, Leadership and Governance Advisor, UN Women ESARO. Her most memorable session was on value chain which she said imparted knowledge in her about packaging and branding her product. She also benefited on getting a mentor whom has been offering valuable support throughout her journey. “The Canvas Business Model I learnt during the training has been effective for me and makes one receptive to change”, she said. Currently, she is in the process of acquiring license from Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) the Kenya government body responsible for testing and approval of products and services.

Catherine plans to expand her business in the near future by: increasing her production of honey and diversifying her business and increasing her customer base. In addition to selling honey, she has planted 30 neem trees of which she grinds the leaves, adds honey and sells it as a facial scrub to her customers. The sky is the limit for Catherine and with determination; her business is bound to grow.



*Ms.Mbondo proudly displays her products  
Photo credits: Diana Woche/UN Women*

## Protecting women and girl's rights in Sudan: 'Launching of the amended laws 149 and the new sexual harassment law (151) of the Sudanese Criminal Code 1991'



*UN Women Deputy Representative Ms. Fatou Lo (center), UNDP team leaders Sorayo, and the Vice Minister of Welfare and Social Security Ms. Khadija Abulgasim*

Khartoum, Sudan - Despite numerous interventions and advocacy campaigns carried out by different social actors, namely, civil society, community based organizations, governments, international NGOs and different UN agencies regarding violence against women or Gender-based violence (GBV), this epidemic is still a widespread issue. Therefore, combating violence against women and girls has become an essential element in the agenda of national, regional and international dialogues.

In Sudan, the battle to end GBV has reflected important advancements. One of the most relevant is the recent reform of the rape law 149 and the new sexual harassment law 151 of the Sudanese criminal act 1991. The launching of the amendment of these laws was celebrated in the workshop 'Launching of the amended laws 149 and 151' which took place on July 28-29, 2015 in Khar-

toum, Sudan. Organized by UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and the Combating Violence against Women and Children unit (CVAW unit), with support of the Ministry of Welfare and Social security, and the Ministry of Justice, the workshop included presentations given by numerous experts, activists, members of the government, judges, prosecutors, investigators, NGOs and civil society to discuss and analyze these amendments and come up with an enforcement strategy of the rape law 149 and the new sexual harassment law 151.

"The best way to end violence against women and girls is to prevent it from happening in the first place by addressing its root and structural causes," said Fatou Lo, UN Women Sudan Deputy Country Representative.

As punctually noted the amendments of these laws represent a crucial step forward to end violence

against women, (EVAW) in Sudan. In this endeavor, the role of the government is essential.

"In moving towards the path to address GBV, all the UN system agencies must participate, always hand in hand with the community," commented the head of Unit in UNDP-Sudan, Surayo Buzurukova.

Similarly, the UN Women Deputy Representative highlighted that the achievement will motivate the government and different stakeholders to design a clear road map on the implementation of the amended laws as well as the ratification and domestication of the key international and regional instruments protecting the rights of women and girls.

Divided in two days, the workshop included comprehensive sessions and discussions on the analysis of the legal amendments in place, understandings of violence against women in the Sudanese culture. It also included an overview of the recent reforms and its relation to the criminal Code of 1991, and the role of media in spreading awareness of legal amendments.

Likewise, the practical application of criminal law was examined through a detailed analysis of the role of the investigator and criminal investigation in cases of violence against women. The cases of violence against women in front of the courts was also part of the discussions.

## Protecting women and girl's rights in Sudan: 'Launching of the amended laws 149 and the new sexual harassment law (151) of the Sudanese Criminal Code 1991'

Lastly, legal aid, psychosocial, and health support for survivors of violence were important elements of attention during the workshop.

Relevant and urgent recommendations were provided by the participants of the workshop. These recommendations will be considered and evaluated by the Ministry of Justice: they include strengthening government commitment to EVAWG, increase support to catalytic service for survivors of VAWG, raise awareness on VAWG, media participation contribution in raising public awareness of GBV as a criminal offence, implementation of more strict sanctions, and the urgent consideration of women in conflict areas.

Undoubtedly, this is a decisive step forward in the path to end violence against women. Nevertheless, efforts between UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA, government, and civil society, must be strengthened to protect women and girl's rights and achieve a society in which the horizon of equity, harmony and peace is viable, and real.

### Main recommendations

- Create specialized body to handle law reform processes (law reform commission)
- Continue legal reform processes to make a real difference. Especially consider the age of children, evidence article and Victim indemnity
- Inform the communities about the laws and policies that protect their rights, and strengthen the role of media in reaching this goal



Workshop participants

- Ensure the harmonization of the Sudanese laws and Sudan's international and regional obligations
- Change mindsets in terms of women's rights and violence against women
- Build the capacity of law enforcement bodies to implement the amended laws (police, judiciary, persecution, legal aid sections)
- Replicate such workshop in different states of Sudan to raise awareness about the amendments

*"Rape and sexual harassment are crimes, this is the main message we want to send to the media and the public through this workshop," Ms. Khadija Abulgasim, Vice Minister of Welfare and Social Security*





## UP-COMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
12th August 2015	<b>Building bridges &amp; cycling event (UN Inter-</b>	Cape Town South Africa
24th-25th August	<b>IORA Women's Economic Empowerment Event</b>	Regional Office
31st August - 5th Sept	<b>Global Leadership Retreat</b>	RO & M/CO's

### 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 needs worldwide.

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

Burundi

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office

Ethiopia

Kenya

Malawi

Mozambique

Rwanda

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

Somalia

South Sudan

Sudan

Tanzania

Uganda

Zimbabwe



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women

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