

MALI MUSOW

Women of Mali

Flash Back 2014

In crisis and post-crisis Mali, UN Women operated in five priority areas in 2014: (a) governance, (b) economic empowerment, (c) the fight against violence and maternal health; (d) humanitarian response/peace and security; and (e) support for communities in gender-sensitive planning and budgetary allocation.

In collaboration with the Government of Mali and some UN agencies, including UNFPA, UNICEF, FAO and UNDP, UN Women Mali and its implementing partners carried out several activities in the implementation of the Four-Year Plan (2012-2015) for which the main donors were: Netherlands, Sweden, Belgium, France, Spain, Switzerland and Japan. Some of the key results are listed in the Table attached. In addition to these achievements, mention should be made of the constant support given to the Ministry for Advancement of Women, Children and the Family under the National Gender Policy and National Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325 (2000) of the Security Council.



Some Achievements in 2014

Citizen and political participation of women

► Establishment & Operation Platform Citizen Watch

11 out of 14 of Women Elected Members received the support of UN Women

Advocacy with senior responsables of 14 political parties for better positioning of women on electoral lists

► CMDID - Malian interparty Framework for Dialogue and Democracy.

National Orientation Workshop for Women eve of the election commissions - Participation of 81 political leaders

Economic Strengthening of women

► Support for Rural Women & Women's Economic Network Operators of Mali - RFOE - M

13 units of processing and marketing of agricultural products providing income to 840 women

Capacity building in the field of cross-border trade. Access to sources of financing facilitation.

Fight Against Gender-Based Violence

► Establishment of a Green Line - Number: 80,333 at the National Police

Available and accessible throughout the territory 24h / 24h

2530 calls received between March and décembre 2014. On 4 calls received 1 case of violence reported.



EDITORIAL

Dear Partners, Dear readers

We have been waiting for it for several months, and now it is here! I wish to present to you the maiden issue of «Mali Musow- The Women of Mali.» Your quarterly publication, which you will henceforth receive on the activities of UN Women in Mali and Gender news at national and sub-regional levels.

Through these few lines, I wish, first of all, to reiterate my sincere thanks for your constant interest in Malian women through your continued support for UN Women.

The publication of this maiden issue comes at a time when we are commemorating the International Women's Day (celebrated on 8 March 2015) offers us the opportunity to boost our collaboration in discussion and sharing mechanisms that allow for better synergy of actions to consolidate our efforts towards strengthening Malian women.

The theme for the 2015 edition of the International Women's Day is that of Beijing 20 Public Campaign, launched by UN Women in May 2014 during the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and its action plan.

Indeed, within the same vein and in order to galvanize efforts and ensure greater visibility for actions towards building an egalitarian Malian society, we propose the Section «Gender VIP (Infinite Philanthropist Breeding Ground)» that will appear in each of our issues. This will present the portrait of a young Malian citizen who is fighting for the rights of Malian women. Gender VIP

will therefore embody the hope of a Mali that offers the same opportunities to its daughters and sons. A hope in which you and us believe and work together.

I hope you will enjoy reading this issue and send us your feedback and suggestions to help us improve the publication. Hoping to read from you soon!

Sincerely,
Dr. Maxime Houinato



© Dr. Maxime Houinato
Credits: C.Bah

Some Achievements in 2014 (Continue)

Humanitarian Response - Women's Participation in Peace

► Socio-Economic Reintegration of women in conflict zones	1706 women supported through start income-generating activities in the North
► Taking holistic care of surviving victims of violence due to conflicts	3 care units established in Konna areas - Menaka and Gao
► Women's participation in the mediation process	14 Cases of Peace «Woye Siifa» offering women Dialogue frameworks
► Training Defence Forces and Security on the rights of women in areas of conflicts	192 women trained in negotiations technics and mediation
	4730 officers trained in the bodies of the Police, National Guard, Civil Protection, Prison Guards, Gendarmerie, Air and ground forces

Community support for a fair distribution of Resources

► Strategic partnership with the Training Centre for Local Authorities	200 state officials and local elected officials trained on Gender responsive budgeting
► Consultation framework established with the state	Establishment of Regional Councils for Gender focal points and relay.
	Inclusion and integration of the priorities of women and girls in the state budget (Ministry of Finance and sector ministries)

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International Women's Day:

A colorful 8th March

Commemorated by the United Nations since 1975, the International Women's Day (IWD) was celebrated in Mali, like in the World Community, on Sunday, 8 March 2015. The theme of the 21st edition of the IWD in Mali was «Economic Growth and Empowerment of Women, Inclusive Commitment for a secure, stable and emerging Mali». The official commemoration ceremony took place under the Chairmanship of the President of the Republic, His Excellency Ibrahim Boubacar Keita.

The Head of State, accompanied by his wife, wanted to be with the women, even though there had been a terrorist attack in Bamako the day before. Indeed, on 7 March, a restaurant in Bamako had been attacked by gunmen. Despite this horrible episode, the "Palais de Culture" was teeming with people: men, women, young and old people came from all parts of Bamako, from within the country, and even from outside the country. Several high-level guests, Presidents of institutions, Ministers, Ambassadors, Heads of United Nations Agencies, and other municipal personalities and elected officers were also there to celebrate with the Malian women. The program of the Day, graced with music by the "Ensemble Instrumental du Mali", started with the welcome address by the Mayor of Commune V of Bamako. Mr. Boubacar Bah commended the legendary courage and sacrifice of unknown altruistic women: women vegetable farmers and dyers working in the informal sector without any recognition or reward, in total anonymity for the well-being of others, the well-being of their families. Following the address, Mrs. Oumou Touré, President of the Coordination



Overview on official memorial of 8 March 2015 at «Palais de la Culture» in Bamako. Senegalese community celebrating with Mali. Credits : Zan. Fomba

«My commitment to women is a commitment of respect, not to please you women, but because I believe that those are your rights,»

said His Excellency Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali, Head of State (March 8th, 2015)



H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar KEITA, Head of State and his spouse Aminata MAIGA. Credit : C. Bah.

of Women's Associations and NGOs (CAFO), in her speech, pointed out that more political commitment is required to strengthen women and reduce gender inequality in Mali.

As for the UN Women Resident Representative in Mali, he thanked the highest authorities of the country for the progress made. Dr. Maxime Houinato welcomed the appointment of a woman as head of the Supreme Court, as well as the recent adoption of two texts by the Government.



View of some partners during memorial ceremony of 8 March. Credit : C. Bah.

► ... read continue in page 12

Validation of 2015-2017 Program

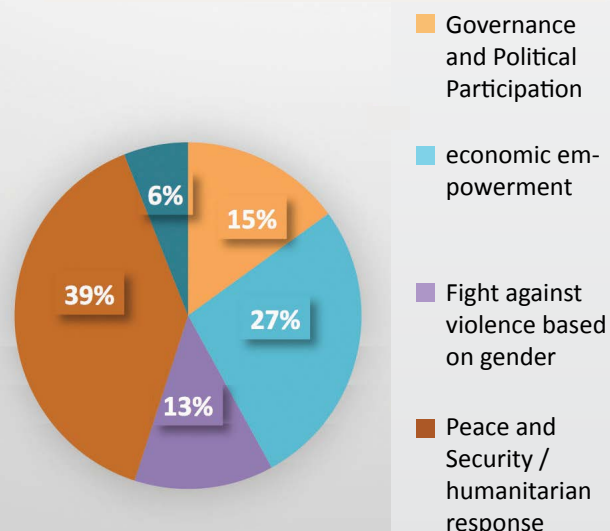
The annual retreat of UN Women Mali, held from 19 to 23 January 2015 at «Hotel Independence» in Segou, served as forum for finalizing and validating the 2015-2017 three-year program. The meeting, which was facilitated by an external consultant, reviewed the past three years and identified prospects for the coming years. For five (5) days, the UN Women Mali team, headed by the Resident Representative, discussed the challenges facing the organization and identified the weaknesses, as well as strategies for consolidating the strengths. Five (5) program components were validated (see figure). Given the special context of the country, emphasis was laid on projects aimed at effective integration of women into humanitarian responses and on projects relating to women's participation in the peace and reconciliation process. Furthermore, with the strengthening of the UN Women Team, discussions focused on strategic positioning of the Agency on the institutional landscape of Mali and the United Nations for more efficiency.

Discussions focused on various operational, organizational and program aspects. The topics for discussion were as follows: strengthening of human resources,



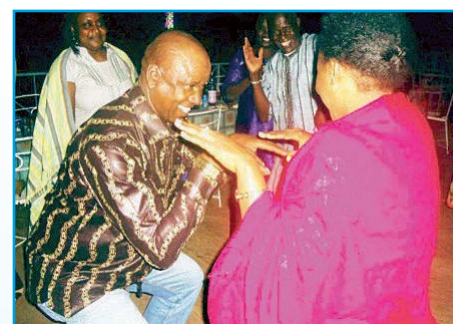
Team Building Session led by a consulting with the Participation of Resident Representative (laid on floor). Credit : C. Bah

Budget breakdown by component (2015-2017)



team building, collaboration among staff, participatory approach to the management of monitoring/evaluation systems, communication, partnership and resource mobilization. The meeting ended

with concrete recommendations for an Action Plan with unimplemented corrective actions of the 2014 retreat, as well as the gaps identified in the last ACT audit of September 2014 and actions defined during the functional analysis conducted in December 2014. The relaxed atmosphere throughout the meeting allowed for the integration and full participation of all staff, particularly the newly recruited staff with an average of only three months in the organization. The last evening was dedicated to the presentation of wishes during a musical dinner, a ceremony which helped to bring the team closer to one another. Overall, the entire staff was pleased with the retreat. The evaluation conducted at the end of the session reported full staff satisfaction with the achievement of the retreat goals.



After intensive work of the week, Some step dance exhibition by staff. Credit : E. Touré

Revitalization of the Gender Thematic Group

The first meeting held in January 15th, 2015 at Hotel Salam in Bamako was attended by a large delegation of the Ministry of Women and Gender Affairs, by its head, the Department head of

office, Ms. Fatima Maïga, and that of several diplomatic missions and development agencies as well as the sister agencies of the UN system.

► ... read continue in page 9

Challenges of the upcoming municipal elections

The upcoming regional and municipal elections are awaited with great interest by UN Women and its government, financial and technical partners. Not only will the elections allow Malian women to fully exercise their civic and citizen duties, it will also serve as an opportunity to strengthen women's leadership through their full and active participation at local level in the various stages of the electoral process (before, during and after). As local elections, they will also offer opportunities for advocacy and sensitization for better local and participatory governance, a balanced democracy taking into account the full and active participation of women in political life and in decision-making bodies on issues affecting their region and community: Ensuring Malian women's involvement in decision-making and action on issues affecting their lives directly.

With the signing of the new texts governing the regions and following the recommendations of the Algiers Agreement, Mali will, for the first time in its history, hold regional elections. This challenge will be coupled with municipal elections that will be their tenth time since the advent of multiparty politics in 1991.

For the female politicians and women of Mali, what will therefore be at stake? Challenges and obstacles? Prospects? Can we be hopeful?

Challenges and Obstacles: The study conducted in February 2011 by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on «Poverty and Gender Inequality in Mali» reports many testimonies that corroborate personal observations already made by many of us on the hoped/expected image and role of Malian women within the society. Statements like: «Women can never become village chiefs; this is not possible; power is a secret, whereas women can never keep secrets; in our great empires and kingdoms of yesteryears, the leaders were betrayed by women. The role of women is limited to the home and nothing else.» These statements amply demonstrate the weight of social factors on women's access to decision-making bodies, consultation and involvement in the management of their communities. These sociocultural constraints are real demobilization factors for women's interest in running for elected office.

In addition to this societal censorship, the lack of a legal framework remains a real obstacle to the political emergence of women in Mali. The under-representation of women in decision-making bodies has been a common denominator of all the governments of the

independent Mali. On average, a margin increase of +2% is observed every five (5) years, and at this rate, it will take us until 2069, that is to say, fifty-five (55) years, for Mali to reach the critical threshold of 30% stipulated by the Convention on the Elimination of all Discriminations Against Women (CEDAW), ratified by Mali. To date, Mali remains the only country in the sub-region that does not have a law on quotas or parity, despite the adoption of a bill by the Government and its submission to Parliament. We have heard some parliamentarians asking questions about the leadership of the Executive: Where can the blame be placed? Who really is to blame? Can we blame the legislative power when the executive itself does not give a good example, by applying its own texts and obeying the laws that it proposes voluntarily? Is the National Assembly wrong when it refuses to pass the law on quota that the Government proposes but does not respect? What about a cabinet reshuffle that takes place following the adoption of the bill on 30% quota for women's representation in elected and appointed positions, but not only disrespects its proposal of 30% but also truncates the number of women ministers from four to three in a government of 30 members? Women wonder about this ping-pong game. Each party only needs to play its role for the records. According to observers, the National Assembly can change the situation for all the other institutions of the Republic.

Let's be hopeful—We should not give up hope. It is a woman who was elected by her peers to head the Constitutional Court, an institution that guarantees the Basic Law of the Nation. We hope that this will help Malian women to fully enjoy their fundamental rights, and that they will henceforth be treated on the same footing with their fellow men—as stipulated in Article 2 of the Constitution of 25 February 1992.

Meanwhile, Malian women, the nation is within your reach. Come together and take up the challenges! Exercise your civil and citizen rights to the full. Cast your votes! Your vote counts, your vote is important. Remember that you make up more than half of the voters! That is a strength, and that's one of your strengths among many others!



Article drafted by Mr. Zan Fomba
Programme Officer
Governance & Elections

Women Peace & Security: Echoes from the Regions

Despite increasing insecurity in the northern regions of Mali, UN Women remains active with the population to promote effective inclusion of women in humanitarian responses, as well as conflict prevention and management. In charge of the overall coordination of the program component Peace and Security, the UN Women Regional Office in Gao carried out many activities in the first quarter of 2015 in the implementation of the Project «SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION OF WOMEN AFFECTED BY THE CONFLICT IN GAO, TOMBOUCTOU AND MOPTI REGIONS», with co-financing by three major donors (Netherlands, Sweden and Spain). The project is implemented by five (5) implementing partners, namely: AMPRODE Sahel (Gao and Tombouctou), GREFFA

(Gao), Association ASG-Subaigoumou (Tombouctou), FCI Mali (Mopti) and GAAS (Mopti). To date, the implementation of the action plan faces security risks which increase the vulnerability of the population, particularly that of women. For example, on 26 March 2015, one of the implementing partners was attacked by gunmen on the Tombouctou-Goundam highway while on a field supervision mission. He was stripped of his work tools (motorcycle, digital camera and mobile phone). Fortunately, the partner escaped unharmed. The damage was thus limited to material losses and emotional shock. In addition to this aspect, there is also a financial risk due to the lack of banking facilities in the districts where remittances need to be made through big local traders. Despite these challenges,



A banner of an awareness session against GBV Kermes in Douentza. Credits : FCI Mali

UN Women and its partners were still able to carry out the planned activities for the first quarter of 2015 as outlined below:



Echoes from Mopti:

- Establishment of 69 surveillance committees in 69 villages of the 7 municipalities of Douentza district
- Provision of funds for the economic rehabilitation of 335 women in Mopti Municipality and Douentza and Ténékou districts
- Training of 15 leaders on Peace and Social Cohesion – Feedback and duplication program action plan at community level.
- Training of 156 focal points on referral techniques for GBV survivors
- 169 sensitization sessions including a bazaar. Nearly 5,000 people involved.



Echoes from Tombouctou:

- Provision of funds for the economic rehabilitation of 350 women in Tombouctou town, and Goundam and Diré districts.
- Training of 15 leaders on Peace and Social Cohesion with the preparation of a feedback and duplication action plan at community level.
- Establishment of eight (8) Woye Siifa Peace Houses- Diré, and Tienkour, Gari, Tindirma, Arham, Kondi and Haïbongo rural municipalities.
- Establishment of 18 cooperatives in Diré, Tienkour, Gari, Tindima, Arham, Kondi and Haibongo.



Echoes from Gao:

- Provision of funds for the economic rehabilitation of 300 women in Bourém and Ansongo districts.
- Training of 15 leaders on Peace and Social Cohesion with the preparation of a feedback and duplication action plan at community level.
- Training of 50 women relay trainers on the use of the image box for GBV awareness sessions
- Joint meeting with OHCHA of women leaders in Gao town.

Malian business women and Donors and Financial Institutions

Facilitation by UN Women Mali

The UN Women headquarters has served as forum for dialogue between women entrepreneurs, donors and financial institutions based in Mali. The meeting, which was held on 5 March 2015, was part of the commemorative celebrations of the International Women's Day on 8th March, with the theme «Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it!»

The main objective of the meeting was to facilitate direct contact between women entrepreneurs, represented by the Network of Malian Business Women (RFOE-M), and financial institutions. This entailed offering women an ideal and neutral forum for them to present their challenges in general, and particularly in the national post-crisis economic climate. This objective was fully achieved, according to Mrs. Aïssata Touré, President of RFOE-M who, addressing the Resident Representative of the African Development Bank, Mrs. N'Garnim Ganga Hélène, said: «Were it not for such opportunities, I would surely have been reluctant to contact you. We often see international financial institutions as highly placed organs that work only with the Government.»

For Dr. Maxime Houinato, UN Women Representative, this feeling among businesswomen shows the complexity of problems that women face, even those who play a leadership role. The obstacles to women's empowerment are not always individual, but rather structural. Hence the vital need for support and assistance to women.

The UN Women/RFOE-M partnership dates back to 2012 when UN Women started supporting initiatives to create a more favorable environment for business women and address inequalities in access to sources of financing. A study conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development in 2010 reported significant gender inequality in access to loans in the agricultural sector: 56% of male farmers had access to loans, as against only 0.8% of female farmers.

In view of these inequalities, UN Women in 2013 established a guarantee fund of forty-five (45) million CFA francs in private banks to help cross-border traders, who operate mostly in the informal sector, to



Group photo of meeting participants. Credits : C Bah

establish themselves legally, receive training and become real economic operators. Unfortunately, the crisis that shook the country had a negative impact on the use of this fund by women. The Vice-President of RFOE-M, Mrs. Tantou Kebe, wanted these funding initiatives to be restored. However, she expressed reservations about micro-credits, which have a very high interest rate that jeopardizes the viability of women's enterprises. She commended USAID and Sweden for their initiatives in this area. Furthermore, she requested more donor support for access to information and technical training.

As for the donors, they recommended better organization of women's associations with efficient communication strategies that master information and communication tools and technologies (ICT). The Director of USAID proposed the use of electronic money for women to ensure traceability of their transactions. All the partners promised to support women, even if support is limited for the conventional trade sector. The meeting ended on the good note of providing AfDB with funds to support the private sector and women's businesses in the agro-food, industry and handicraft sectors. UN Women promised to organize another session before the end of the year.

UN Women Mali:

Six Program Components

Given the special crisis and post-crisis context of Mali, UN Women will continue to work on the same program components as in 2014, with particular emphasis on the Humanitarian Component and effective participation of women in the peace and security process. In 2015 alone, more than eight (8) million US dollars (40 billion CFAF) will be invested in this component.

Furthermore, in 2015, UN Women Mali seized the opportunity offered by the commemoration of three (3) major events: (1) the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and its Action Plan; (2) the 15th anniversary of Resolution 1325; and (3) the deadline of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to conduct awareness campaigns and carry out advocacy activities with the Government to galvanize gender equality, a 50-50 Mali by 2030 (see page 14 for more details on our various campaigns).

Component 1: Governance, Political Participation and Leadership

Promote leadership among Malian women and girls so as to guarantee full and active citizenship for them.

Through this component, UN Women Mali supports advocacy initiatives and governance programs to increase women's political participation in decision-making at all levels. Given the proposed electoral time-table, special attention is paid to projects that support the municipal elections process to ensure that the elections take place in a peaceful environment, without violence and with transparency.



Component 2: Economic Empowerment of Women

Promote women's economic power – a guarantee for sustainable development.

This entails strengthening female entrepreneurship, developing the economic capacities of business women, and facilitating access to sources of financing. Special attention is paid to rural women operating in the agricultural sector.



Component 3: Fight against Gender-Based Violence

Ensure that each Malian woman lives a dignified life that excludes all forms of violence based on her status as woman.

This program component covers actions to protect and guarantee the fundamental rights of Malian women and girls as regards gender-based violence. The focus areas cover various aspects such as stakeholder capacity building for access to holistic care structures, justice and compensation for damages. Public awareness activities for reporting violence and protection of survivors are integral parts of this program.



► ... read continue in page 11

Boosting the Gender Thematic Group



Working session of stimulus thematic Genre group - January 2015 . Credits: UN Women / C. Bah

In accordance with its mandate as gender focal point responsible for coordination and effective management of gender inequality and women's empowerment in intergovernmental processes, UN Women coordinates the work of the Gender and Women's Empowerment Thematic Group (GTG) in Mali. In this regard, it facilitated two meetings to boost the activities of the Gender Thematic Group for 2015. The first meeting, which was held on 15 January 2015 at "Hotel Salam" in Bamako, witnessed the participation of a strong delegation from the Ministry for Advancement of Women, Children and the Family, led by the Director of the Minister's Office, Mrs. Fatima Maïga, as well as several diplomatic representations and development

agencies, and sister agencies of the UN system. The objective of the meeting was to give fresh impetus to the group by establishing a governance system. Under the leadership of the Ministry for Advancement of Women, a new management model was proposed to allow for more involvement of diplomatic representations, and technical and financial partners. In addition to the establishment of a permanent secretariat, an Embassy will henceforth co-chair the group meetings with UN Women. Consequently, each member country will, on a rotation basis, have the opportunity to co-pilot the group for a period of two (2) years. For the 2015-2016 period, the honor was given to the Kingdom of Belgium.

■ UN Women News

What's New on the National Plan?

Consultative Group Civil Society: With the aim of strengthening its mandate, strengthen collaboration with civil society and ensure relevance of its interventions in Mali, UN Women will, next quarter, establish an Advisory Group of 10 members. For more details, please feel free to contact us:

mali.courrier@unwomen.org

Audit of implementing Partners: From Mar. 16 to 25, UN Women has audited some of its implementing partners. A requirement of the internal procedures of the Organization, the audit evaluates the compliance of the implementation of projects, particularly in operational and financial areas.

In order to generate an appropriate action plan, a retreat was organized on 27 February 2015 at Radisson Hotel for members to review the 2014 action plan and identify prospects for 2015. It should be noted that the activities selected in 2014 focused on five intervention areas: (1) Peace and Security; (2) Economic Empowerment; (3) Policy and Citizen Participation; (4) Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation, and (5) Capacity building.

Set up within the community of technical and financial partners of Mali to animate and maintain a framework for dialogue with the Government and civil society in Mali on gender issues, the Gender Thematic Group is also a coordination framework for TFPs, helping them to improve the effectiveness of external aid. It meets once a month. In the future issues of this newsletter, more details will be provided on the proposed activities for 2015. For more information on the GTG or to attend the meetings, contact:

mali.courrier@unwomen.org

VIP Gender : Mariam Dramé Diallo

Recipient of the «Youth Merit» medal and ten (10) years' practical experience in the field are amply sufficient for accreditation for a young girl who is only thirty-four years old, to occupy any high-level position in this early 21st century. A century often portrayed and described by antonyms such as: fast moving and calm, technology/modernity and tradition/culture, leadership/teamwork / humanism and competitiveness ... and many other words. These words describe an epoch, these words symbolize a woman that has marked her epoch: MARIAM DIALLO DRAMA.



An activist since childhood, this mother of three children was a founding member of the Children's Parliament of Mali (1996). In addition to being the Sub-Saharan Regional Coordinator of the International Knowledge Network on Women in Politics (iKNOW Politics) from 2009 to 2012, she was also a member of the Reference Group that prepared the African Union 2063 Agenda on Democratization and Peace. Furthermore, she was a member of the Young Malians Delegation invited to US President's Forum with Young African Leaders in 2010; she was also present at the World Francophone Women's Forum organized by the French President in 2013.

Today, Mariam Dramé Diallo is the President of the Women's Leadership and Sustainability Development Association (AFLED) which she created in 2010, an association that gives much hope to the fight against discrimination against women, as well as their political and economic empowerment. In particular, AFLED has stood out in its support for women affected by the conflict, especially as regards their participation in electoral processes in a difficult crisis and post-crisis security environment. Under the leadership of its young President and with sustained advocacy, AFLED has been able to sensitize public authorities on effective consideration of the special conditions of internally displaced women and refugees so as to guarantee their fundamental voting rights. Special measures have been adopted for delegation of authority, the

distribution of voter cards, and reallocation of polling stations.

For Mariam: **«Politics should serve men and women, provide them with solutions to their everyday concerns, their basic needs, and ensure their welfare. This is possible only if we are all committed to placing Mali above everything else!»**. For her, words are sacred and should be followed by action. This is confirmed by Aicha Wallet Ibrahim, one of Mariam's young friends and member of AFLED: **«During the Malian crisis, I got to experience exile. It's amazing to see what a conflict situation can create, a situation in which from one day to the other I was stigmatized, marginalized and rejected. While others were sending me malicious SMS messages, Mariam called me in tears. She never stopped inquiring about my condition and that of all my family members, and her only hope was the return to peace, our safe return to the country,»** said Aicha concerning Mariam Dramé Diallo.

As a leader aware of the importance of synergy of action and the constant need to share information and knowledge, Mariam recently participated in the 59th Session of the CSW to inquire about the overall status of women around the world, 20 years after the Beijing Declaration and its Action Plan. Although Mali is far from the target of «zero inequality», there is room for hope with several Mariam Diallo.

Six Program Components (Continue)

Component 4: Peace & Security/Humanitarian Response

Guarantee qualitative and quantitative inclusion of women in humanitarian and peace management processes

This component of the UN Women Mali Program supports initiatives for the inclusion of women and girls in humanitarian and social actions, as well as women's active participation in conflict management processes and transitional justice mechanisms in accordance with Resolution 1325 (2000) of the UN Security Council.



Component 5: Gender-Sensitive Planning and Budgeting

Guarantee fair distribution of resources

This component seeks to support communities at central and local levels in resource management and mainstreaming of gender priorities in budget planning, allocation and monitoring.



Component 6: Coordination of Inter-Government Processes

Ensure gender mainstreaming in all processes

The overall mandate of UN Women requires the organization to coordinate gender issues and their effective mainstreaming in all development processes. This makes UN Women the Gender Focal Point in bilateral or multi-lateral processes.



■ UN Women News Other National News

MIKADO FM «Radio Peace» - UN Women partner of the Issue of «Common Court»

For the sake of reconciliation among the people in order to help bridge the communicational gap existing and to send some information on its mandate and areas of intervention of the various UN agencies, the Minusma now animates the UN Radio - FM MIKADO - which currently transmits on GAO (94.0), Timbuktu (92.8) and Mopti (91.6). And very soon in Bamako and the entire Territory 24h / 24h. UN Women is co-sponsoring the program «the Common Court» program dedicated to the questions of the Commonwealth, our families and the problems of women. To participate in emissions or for more information, please contact:

mali.courrier@unwomen.org

A colorful 8th March (Continue)

The UN Women Resident Representative in Mali Women also welcomed the recent adoption of two texts by the Government, namely: (a) a Bill instituting measures to promote gender in access to elective and appointed positions adopted on 30 July 2014; and (b) a draft Decree defining the details and competence of local authorities in the protection and promotion of women, children and the family adopted on 14 January 2015. These measures will certainly contribute to better gender mainstreaming in the development of the country and greater women's participation in the life of the nation. Dr. Houinato seized the opportunity to reiterate his confidence in Parliamentarians for adopting the texts and ensuring their implementation. According to him, Mali should seize the opportunity and build on this momentum. He launched a solemn appeal for the effective involvement of all men and women, political authorities, business leaders, traditional and religious leaders, young and old, to build a stable, emerging and egalitarian Mali. A wholesome Mali by 2030 and achieve economic empowerment for women. *«Malian women deserve much more than microcredit; they are not micro-citizens!»* he asserted. On this solemn day, the International Woman's Day, with the International theme: *«Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it!»*, which is the official slogan of Beijing + 20 Campaign, the UN Women Resident Representative also seized the opportunity to celebrate all men who work together with women. These men, who are many, openly or anonymously work for gender equality and respect for the fundamental rights of Malian women and girls. 8 March offers us the opportunity to recognize their efforts and show them our gratitude.

The official ceremony of 8 March 2015 ended with the speech by the Minister for Advancement of Women, Children and the Family, Mrs. Sangaré Oumou Ba. She insisted that the future was promising because women's empowerment remains a top priority of the country, a strong determination by the Head of State and his Government, who have spared no effort to support her Ministry.

For the Minister, who is also Minister in charge of Children, the recent victories of cadet sport teams are symbolic forerunners of the changing conditions of women, a new era is being born. With this testimony, the assembly formally recognized and congratulated the two champion sport teams: the Junior Eagles of Mali crowned African Champions the U-17 African Nations Cup Finals organized in Niamey in February, and the Basketball Junior Eagles Team who were crowned Afrobasket U-18 Champions in September 2014.

In addition to other speeches, this commemorative



Minister of Women and Gender Affairs (Right) with Dr. Maxime Houinato, UN Women Resident Representative

Day witnessed the handing over of trophies – Honor List for ten (10) women leaders and Excellence Award to female pupils and students. There were also projections of films on the portraits of model women, including the brave Haby Camara who, despite her physical disability, demonstrates exemplary leadership in her community by her commitment to the cause of women.

The artist, Nabba TT, through a poetic presentation, went back in time from the 13th century to the era of independence, to recall the heroic deeds of women Ministers of the Mandingo Empire under Mansa Sundiata to the first women parliamentarians of the Republic of Mali.

Indeed, this 21st Edition of the International Women's Day (IWD) was very colorful in Mali. In addition to the capital city, activities were also organized in other parts of the country before, during and long after 8th March. *«This practice is now ingrained in our habits; women are no longer celebrated only on 8th March; they are celebrated throughout the month of March, for what they are worth, for what they are, for their importance in our society,»* affirmed the Minister of Communication and New Technologies, and Government Spokesperson, Mr. Choguel Kokala Maiga, at the 2nd Edition of the «Night of Combative Women» to which UN Women Mali provided support to honor the courage, dynamism and selflessness of Malian Women. The ceremony was organized by the Women Patrons of the Print Media of Mali on 28 March 2015 at the «Maison de la Presse» in Bamako. The event paid tribute to ten pioneering women, working in trades such as masonry, repair of mobile telephones, journalism, retail sale of fuel, domains once considered as exclusive to men and reserved for them.

Following all these ceremonies that honored women, we hope to come out of the dark era of deprivations and other violations of the fundamental rights and freedoms of women.

Women & Health: Ebola Awareness Campaign



**« ... It is not finished.
The disease still wreaks
havoc ... »**

Mme Diop, Djénéba
Mariko, President of
APRODEFE

In order to promote and maintain individual and collective personal hygiene habits acquired during the epidemic crisis of the Ebola virus disease in Mali in October 2014, UN Women supports community groups to conduct preventive awareness campaigns. Accordingly, the Association for the Protection and Promotion of Women's and Children's Rights (APRODEFE) and the AFBK-Faso Baara Association in Kita carried out activities during the first quarter for awareness and prevention of Ebola throughout the various rural communities so as to reach as many people as possible.

«Ebola is still in our country, so it is not finished. The

disease is still wreaking havoc in some neighboring countries.”

In Mali, we have to remain vigilant and continue to maintain good hygiene habits and practices», said Mrs. Diop Djénéba Mariko, President of APRODEFE, speaking to the population of Bougouni on 20 and 21 March 2015.

For Mr. Djigui Niakaté, Vice-President of AFBK, the awareness campaign was very useful because it helped to dissipate some myths on the existence of the disease and its origins.

Some people claimed that they were hearing about Ebola for the first time. In addition to informing people about the virus disease, its methods of transmission, and the preventive measures and actions to be taken in suspicious cases, the campaign also distributed individual hygiene kits. This first phase covered Kita (First Region) and Bougouni (3rd Region) districts, and used funding of about CFAF 20 million.



■ UN Women News Regional News

Visit the Executive Director of UN Women Sierra Leone :

Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Secretary General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women conducted a working visit of three (3) days in Sierra Leone from March 22nd to 24th, 2015. The overall objective of this meeting was to reiterate the support and commitment of UN Women to place the Government and People of Sierra Leone in the fight against the Ebola virus disease and in achieving the country's development objectives. Specifically, the Executive Director

of UN Women has sent her condolences to His Excellency Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and expressed her solidarity to accompany the country as part of the implementation of the National Program of development of the country Agenda For Prosperity («the Agenda for Prosperity» which is the third country's poverty reduction strategy), and for the integration of women in humanitarian response.



Institutional Campaigns & Events - The 2015 Rendezvous

Gender calendar 2015

March (9th to 20th)
CSW9

July 31st
Panafrican

September 26th
Beijing20 Assessment

October 24th
UN Day

Nov-Dec (25th to 10th)
16 Days

Commission on the Status of Women. Main global body dedicated exclusively to the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women. Functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), it was created by Resolution 11 (II) of the Council of 21 June 1946.



The 59th session was held from March 9th to 20th, 2015, with the main agenda stock of 20 years of the Beijing Declaration with its program of action. For more information refer to:

<http://www.unwomen.org/fr/news/in-focus/csw>

Public mobilization campaign initiated by UN WOMEN in May 2014 as part of the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995. Its slogan «Empowering women- Empowerment of humanity: Imagine !»



<http://beijing20.unwomen.org/>



Popular movement of men solidarity for Gender Equality, the HeForShe campaign was officially launched on 20 September 2014 at UN headquarters in New York.

The objective is to engage the greatest men, especially those in decision-making bodies to take concrete action in favor of women. «Gender equality is not an exclusively female problem, but a human issue requiring the participation of all.» You are a man and convinced of this statement, then commit yourself today to take action to end all forms of discrimination that women and girls face. Realize your commitment and sign: <http://www.heforshe.org/#take-action>



«16 days of activism against gender violence» is an international campaign to raise global awareness of acts of violence against women and girls around the world. Initiated in 1991 at the 1st International Institute for Women's Leadership (Women's Global Leadership Institute), the campaign is celebrated annually on November 25th, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to December 10th, Human Rights Day. <http://www.unwomen.org/fr/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism>.

■ UN Women News International News

Advocacy Campaign Launch «Step It Up» March 7th

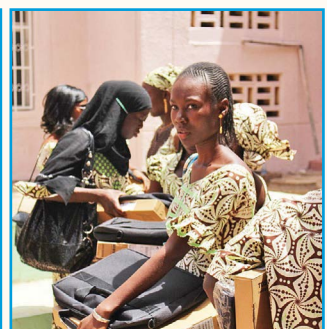
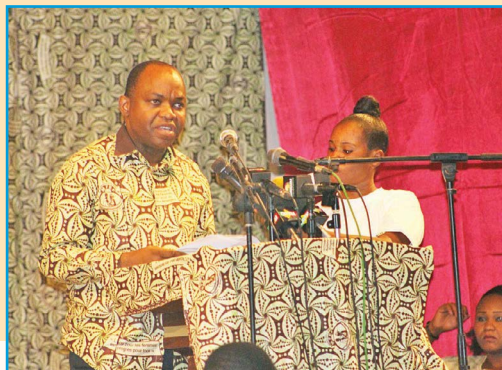
- **59th Session of the CSW:** Held in New York from March 9th to 20th
- **Fund for Gender Equality:**

Calls for proposals open from March 9th to April 5th. For more information <https://grants.unwomen.org/>
Progress of World's Women- The Progress of Women Worldwide is a document of UN Women casual survey published on progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide. The 2015-16 Report on «Transforming Economies, Respects Rights» will be launched on April 27th, 2015 in 27 countries including Nairobi (Kenya) for Africa. For more info, go on: progress@unwomen.org

Quote

In 1911, only two countries in the world had granted the vote to women. Today, that right is virtually universal!

8 March 2015





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<https://www.youtube.com/user/UNWomen>

www.unwomenwestandcentralafrica.com/mali.html