

UN WOMEN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

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Regional Sharefair on Gender Equality in the Extractives Industries: Building On Good Practices



Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Hon. Najib Balala takes a tour around the exhibition booths

Photo Credits: Un Women/Mary Mathu

Nairobi, Kenya - At a time when extraction of oil, gas and minerals in Africa is driving immense economic and social development, UN women Regional office for Eastern and Southern Africa (ESAR) in collaboration with key partners successfully held a regional sharefair on Gender Equality in the Extractives Industries (EI). The three day event brought together approximately 350 women

and men in strategic roles and functions within the EI sector across Africa.

The Sharefair brought together governments, private sector and civil society in effective partnerships to nurture gender-responsive approaches to address issues that inhibit women's access to resources and resource-related opportunities.

The solution oriented sharefair aimed at exchange of knowledge on gender issues at all levels, identifying challenges, solutions and opportunities for women in the EI, promotion of innovations, best practices and policies that support women in the EI and mostly provide a platform for all stakeholders to interact with women in the EI.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Christine Musisi UN Women Regional Director ESAR stated that, "Women's economic rights are human rights which we all subscribe to. If we seek to ensure women's rights are fulfilled, we must proactively work towards their full integration into the economy." She also restated that it makes economic sense to invest in Gender Equality and women's empowerment in the extractives Industry terming it a good business.

Hon. Najib Balala, the Cabinet Secretary for Mining in Kenya, officiated the opening ceremony of the Sharefair. He commenced his

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Hon. Najib Balala Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Kenya giving his opening speech at the Sharefair opening ceremony photo credits: UN Women/Mary Mathu

speech saying, “Yes, our women can do it because it has been done before by other women”. Hon. Balala appreciated the work that UN Women is doing in bringing women at the forefront of Africa’s development and transformation, such as the extractive industry. In his closing remarks, he said, “minerals are part and parcel of our inheritance. We should be accountable and ensure that women get their fair share in this resource, not as a token, but through management and bankrolling women’s participation in all spheres. Through this, I believe we will bring the promise of mining sector to women and girls in Kenya.” Hon. Balala also gave a re-affirmation of the commitment of his ministry to empowering women in the mining sector through partnerships with various stakeholders.

The Sharefair came at an ideal time since several African countries are developing their extractive policies hence creating an opportunity to learn from different countries

and to interact with women working directly in the EI. In addition, 2015 is the Year of women’s Economic Empowerment as declared by the African Union, providing a strong initiative for integrating gender equality into a traditionally male dominated sector to bring benefits to all.

The sharefair aimed at fulfilling the Africa Mining Vision adopted in 2009, which the African Union members stated committed to making progress towards gender equity and women’s empowerment including integrating gender dimensions in mining policies, laws, regulations, standards and codes. The event also came at a time when UN women is working towards implementing the recently approved Sustainable Development Goals, specifically goal 5 on **Achieving gender Equality and empowerment of all women and girls** which has opened up new opportunities to reconnect, recommit, mobilize political will and public support for women’s economic support particularly in the EI sector.

The culmination of the event brought about concrete business linkages and partnerships, solutions and recommendations between all the participants from governments, bilateral and multilateral organizations, civil society organizations, communities and the private sector.

Gulf African Bank and Tribe Hotel Take a Stand for Gender Equality by Signing Up to the Women Empowerment Principles (WEPS)



From left: Mr. Stephan Merves, General Manager of Tribe Hotel, Ms. Zebib Kavuma, UN Women Kenya Country Representative, Ms. Simone Ellis Oluoch-Olunya, UN Women Deputy Regional Director ESAR, Anna Falth, Manager, Empower Women, UN Women and Mr. Abdalla Abdulkhalik, Managing Director of Gulf African Bank.

Nairobi, Kenya - The Gulf African Bank and Tribe Hotel signed up to the Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs) in October 2015 at the Tribe Hotel, Kenya.

Mr. Abdalla Abdulkhalik, Managing Director of Gulf African Bank and Mr. Stephan Merves, General Manager of Tribe Hotel signed up during the WEPs Awareness and Sign up cocktail ceremony for companies involved in and around the extractive industries.

In his remarks, Mr. Stephan Merves cited Kofi Annan's words "There is

no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women." "I would like to sign up to the Women Empowerment Principles and with this step hopefully many more individuals will experience a path I was lucky enough to go through-empowered by many women," said Mr. Merves.

The WEP Awareness and Sign up Cocktail was held as part of a three-day Regional Sharefair on gender equality in the extractive industries. The Sharefair, hosted by UN Women and its key partners, brought

together governments, private sector and civil society organisations to discuss and share experiences on gender issues in management of natural resource development.

The cocktail, which was attended by mostly women who have broken gender barriers in the oil, gas and mining sector in Africa and beyond, aimed to not only have companies sign up for the WEP, but also to network, raise awareness and promote commitment to the women's empowerment principles, which is a joint initiative championed by UN

WEPS Awareness and Signup Ceremony—Continued

Women in collaboration with the UN Global Compact.

The Principles present seven steps that business and other sectors can take to advance and empower women. Please [see more](#)

Since the launch of the Women’s Empowerment Principles –Equality Means Business Initiative, in March 2010, many businesses have publicly declared their support for gender equality by signing the associated CEO Statement of Support. In doing so, businesses have demonstrated growing recognition of the business case for empowering and advancing women – as data increasingly confirms the link between gender equality and improved financial performance.

In her closing remarks, the UN Women Kenya Country Representative, Ms. Zebib

Kavuma accentuated what other speakers had pointed; noting that investing in women is not only the right thing to do, but also the smart thing to do because it makes business sense.



From left: Mr. Abdalla Abdulkhalik, Managing Director of Gulf African Bank and Mr. Stephan Merves, General Manager of Tribe Hotel shows the signed CEO statements of support for the WEPS

A Safe Space to Dream and Hope



Deputy Police Commissioner of Oromia cutting the ribbon to the newly opened Safe House (Photo Credit UN Women)

Oromia region — Ethiopia. About two hours from Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa, concrete steps to implement gender equality commitments and frameworks to end violence against women and girls are being taken. These steps included the opening of a second Safe House for women and girls survivors of violence in Adama, Oromia Regional State. The safe house was officially opened in the presence of the Head of Oromia Bureau of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (BoWCYA), Deputy Police Commissioner, Oromia Police Commission, representatives from the Adama offices, embassies and UN agencies. The Safe House is another response to the need of providing safe spaces and services for women and girls survivors of violence and builds on an assessment undertaken in May 2015 targeting the police and women's affairs offices which pointed

out the need to enhance the response to VAWG in 6 identified zones the region. "We used to worry where to send the women but now we can refer them to the Safe House" states Ms. Alemshet Regassa, Deputy Manager, East Hararge Zone, Women and Children Affairs Office. It is a chance for rehabilitation and an opportunity for survivors to reintegrate, stated W/ro Hirut Birassa, Head of Oromia Bureau of Women, Children and Youth Affairs.

The newly opened Safe House in the Oromia region, makes it two Safe Houses that UN Women and partners are supporting to respond to the needs of survivors of violence, especially of sexual violence, some as young as 9 years old. "This is not just another programme we are supporting, this is our attempt to create alternative

family structures for women, where they can feel safe, have voices, be able to participate fully in their personal as well as community development, and where we provide models to government on how to respond to survivors of violence". Ms. Funmi Balogun, UN Women Deputy Representative to Ethiopia stated in her remarks. "It is also a dif-

ferent way to development which is not about high numbers but about turning the lives of individuals, with names, with stories, around in way that impacts on generations to come" she highlighted and applauded the commitment of the Government of Denmark in supporting this cause, especially since Safe Houses are not usually very attractive initiatives.

Ms. Maria Munir, Executive Director of the Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD) stressed that Safe Houses are much more than beds and food for women and girls survivors. Safe Houses according to her, 'take a lot of work, efforts and commitments — from supporting women and girls who come in and are often suicidal, rejected by their families to build their self-esteem back, to providing them with economic opportunities

A Safe Space to Dream and Hope

and skills, to the numerous follow ups for medical and psychological support, working with the Police and health officials to preserve evidence and numerous visits to courts to often get justice”. These are kinds of support that cannot be quantified.

The number of safe houses in Ethiopia continues to increase, and to date seven of them are availing safe spaces and services to survivors of violence. “If we work together crimes will not have a place and our children will be protected” the Deputy Police Commissioner, Ato Abebe Legesse, highlighted and reminded the need to create safe and peaceful environments that can prevent violence. “Change should start within our families” he stated underscoring the role of the family as being the natural safe space for women and men, girls and boys.

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Celebrating the Opening of the new Safe House in Oromia with flowers (Photo credit : UN Women)

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UN Women Embarks Heforshe University Impact pilot plan in Uganda



Makerere University Heforshe champions Photo Credits: UN Women Uganda Nadine Kamolleh

HeForShe Makerere University Kampala (MUK) is a University student's gender equality association that started in Makerere University Kampala in February 2015.

At the launch of the Impact 10x10x10 for Universities, Makerere University was chosen to be the first University to champion gender equality and women empowerment and equality in Uganda. The University Champions were selected from the Women's school of Gender Studies department comprising of a male led group of 10 committee members.

To date the Heforshe campaign has increased awareness and a visibility towards a shift in perceptions and practices at the university. The inclusion of the University's 'Impact 10x10x10' pilot initiative embraces

the potential of young people in an ever-changing world to actively engage and become a part of UN Women's solidarity movement. Heforshe MUK has acknowledged the critical role Universities play in shaping gender images and behaviors at national level, including the direct impact on the youth as the next political/decision making generation of Uganda. Heforshe MUK initiatives contribute to ongoing university efforts in combating inequality and violence prevalent on various campuses in Uganda.

Reports indicate that Makerere University has experienced a slight decrease in incidences of women abuse and unfair treatment at the University Campus since the launch of the campaign. The President of Heforshe MUK Grace Julius Ssem

batya says that this campaign has reshaped the local discourse on gender equality and the important role men play in achieving these results. "I believe that as champions we are the spark in an active voice for women and girls, as well as change agents as we exhibit strong leadership which strengthens the cross-sharing of experiences and networking with other universities in Uganda," he said.

The main objective of Heforshe MUK is to strengthen the base of men who are taking a stand for women and the promotion of gender equality. The University Champions have committed their expertise and other resources to help UN Women end gender inequality. In addition, the university has taken a step further by directly engaging

UN Women Embarks Heforshe University Impact pilot plan in Uganda– cntd

with other Universities around the country to sign up to the solidarity movement. Heforshe MUK has encouraged male university employees and faculty to join the solidarity movement and raise awareness about the campaign. HeForShe MUK has already reached out to Nkumba University, Uganda Christian University and Bugema University students, faculty and alumni where they were able to enlist coordinators and champions who engage in promoting and registering students who are committed to the cause and are ready to advance women's rights.

HeForShe MUK has established a fully functional committee of 10 HeForShe MUK student leaders and registered 846 students on the HeForShe registration Forms (offline pledgers) and 50 Students on the online platform. The efforts led by Heforshe MUK has managed to make an outreach to a civil society led youth initiative organization, Ubuntu Foundation Uganda, to carry out sensitization meetings in selected Universities across the country.

UN Women MCO and Coca Cola Team up to celebrate Small Business Owners during the I Business Journey Yami Event

Midrand, South Africa - UN Women Multi Country Office in South Africa, in partnership with The Coca-Cola Company and Hand in Hand, hosted a half-day event celebrating small business owners at the Riversands Incubation Hub in Fourways, Gauteng.

The event was the culmination of an initiative called the Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs Project (EWEP), which offers business skills training to women small business owners throughout South Africa. EWEP offers trainings on record keeping, inventory management and separating business and personal income, among other basic business management skills. Started just three years ago, EWEP has already reached more than 17,000 women in South Africa.

The women own Spaza shops and take-away restaurants - they fuel their townships, cities and communities. 150 of the women who have been part of EWEP so far were present at the event, where they shared experiences, networked, and celebrated all that they have achieved.

The day started with speeches by representatives from UN Women, Coca-Cola and Hand in Hand, as well as motivational and business talks by Yvonne Kagame, the founder of YBK consulting, and National Project Coordinator for the International Labour Organization, Cebisile Nyame. The women then discussed their experiences, focusing on the themes of staying motivated, managing the expectations of family members and maintaining work-life balance, among other technical themes.

UN Women South Africa Multi Country Office Representative Dr. Auxilia Ponga said, "UN Women's partnership with Coca Cola and Hand in Hand on this I Business Journey Yami has been incredibly successful. With more than 17,000 women reached in South Africa alone since 2013, we at UN Women have felt honored to witness the formidable skill, determination and progress made by these entrepreneurial women."

UN Women And ACTIL Embark on Strategy to boost Women's Growth in Business through ACTIL Trainings by calling out for more Partnerships



UN Women Regional Director Ms. Christine Musisi with a proud ACTIL beneficiary Immaculate Ochieng. Photo credits: UN Women/Mary Mathu

UN Women and the African Center of Transformative and Inclusive Leadership ACTIL hosted a successful partner's breakfast meeting in September to share the progress of ACTIL with current and prospective partners and seek new partnerships financially, In-kind contributions, and Patronizing of ACTIL trainings through tailor-made trainings.

In her opening remarks, Prof. Olive Mugenda, Vice Chancellor Kenyatta University stated that, new partnerships could be taking up roles such as being champions, mentors, offering voluntary expertise and enlarging ACTIL partnerships through established relations by organizations present. These partnership contribution will be a great contribution to the region as pacesetters of transformed leadership in the region. Kenyatta University will additionally publish partners corporate

Logo through the KU/ACTIL Website. Updating partners on the opportunities for partnerships, Ms. Christine Musisi UN Women Regional Director ESARO, used the analogy of "A woman with 10 dollars to take her family through a week whose transformational leadership enables her to sustain her family through gardening and continuously provide through additional small entrepreneurial practices". Ms. Musisi also shared Kenyatta University and UN Women's ACTIL partnership with support by MASHAV, other partnerships established, institutional contributions by Kenyatta University and UN Women, annual costs of running ACTIL, and the training costs and called for partnerships stating the long term plan is for ACTIL to be self-sustaining by end of 2018.

Attending the meeting were some

of the ACTIL beneficiaries, who took time to share their transformational success stories following ACTIL trainings. One of the Beneficiaries was, Immaculate Ochieng a Chicken Farmer who has up-scaled the business that transformed her family income status. Thanks to this she is currently mentoring new entrants in the business and has also established Green Farm Ventures which has mobilized and is supporting about 1,000 farmers. Catherine Mbondo Mwikali was the other beneficiary present who after undergoing the ACTIL training changed her business venture from vegetable farming to Bee-Keeping farmer having reviewed the business model, business value proposition, and is engaging her community in Makueni in Bee-Keeping.

There was also a plenary session where the participants gave their views, suggestions and feedback on the presentations. Some acknowledged that the meeting was very informative, and others pledged to partner and support ACTIL. This session was wound up with appreciation from Prof. Mugenda, who also stated that the ACTIL team would follow up proposals/pledges.

Simone ellis Oluoch – Olunya, Deputy Regional Director, UN Women ESARO gave the closing remarks, appreciating the Kenyatta University and UN Women team for turning

UN Women And ACTIL Embark on Strategy to boost Women's Growth in Business through ACTIL Trainings by calling out for more Partnerships



One of the partners giving remarks during the plenary session photo credits : UN Women/Mary Mathu

the vision into reality through support by the government of Kenya with a regional outreach and impact on 600 women since 2013. She also acknowledged the ACTIL legacy of beneficiaries, mentors, professional volunteerism terming it as a worthy partnership and a course to pursue by all.

UN Women Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa charts a way to remain “Fit for Purpose”



UN Women ESARO Senior Management Team During the Retreat Photo Credits: UN Women/Rose Ogola

UN Women’s regional office for Eastern and Southern Africa Senior Management Team convened at a retreat from 22-24 September 2015, in Nairobi Kenya to discuss how to strategically position Un Women for post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) frameworks so as to ensure UN Women is Fit for Purpose”. The SMT retreat composed of UN Women Country representatives and their deputies in the ESAR Region.

The SMT retreat was aimed at enabling ESAR SMT to deliberate on the 2015 GLR outcomes that feeds into the strategic note development, and annual work planning for 2016. There were also discussions on a wide range of issues including placing UN Women to operationalize SDGs, rolling out UN Women Flag-

ship Programs FPI’s in ESAR, review the Theory of change, strategies for improving delivery and enhancing resource mobilization, UN Women coordination mandate and enhancing staff development and welfare.

In her opening remarks, UN Women Regional Director Eastern and Southern Africa Ms. Christine Musisi welcomed all members and set the tone for discussion on Africa Development status and highlighted the “fit for purpose challenges that are: socioeconomic, human rights and environmental pillars of sustainable development. She also emphasized the significance of resource mobilization mechanisms for FPI’s and SDGs actualization, the expansion of UN Women partner base and the role of gender initiatives and the development of regional and macro-

economic frameworks.

During the retreat that was facilitated by Dr. Thelma Awori, Former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations, it was agreed that country offices need to develop effective mechanisms for integrating SDGs in 2016 Annual Work Plan (AWP) and beyond. To fast track core capacity recruitments, Country Offices were encouraged to indicate their capacity need to enable engagements with HQ on the same. RO had committed to engage HQ in a virtual workshop to establish systematic ways of providing core staffing and technical support. To enhance socialization mechanism, CO’s were admonished to adopt context specific FP’s by indicating how they were going to carry out such mechanisms.

UN Women ESAR charts a way to remain “Fit for Purpose” - continued



Participants during the SMT Meeting photo credits: UN Women: Rose Ogola

On matters security, CO's were advised to develop security mechanisms December 2015 that fosters work place security accountability. On the issue of resource mobilization, CO's were advised to provide RO with a brief on potential strategies for FPs resource mobilization.

The retreat that was held at the Windsor Hotel and Golf Club was deemed as a success as all objectives were passed through and members pledged to implement them.

UP-COMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
13-15 October	Regional Sharefair	Nairobi, Kenya
5-9 October	SN and AWP planning meeting	Nairobi, Kenya

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



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