

UN WOMEN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

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UN Women ESARO Hosts the First Joint Regional Peer Review Group Meeting



UN Assistant Secretary-General and UN Women's Deputy Executive Director Mr. Yannick Glemarec with UN Women ESARO And WCARO participants at the RPRG Meeting. Photo Credits: UN Women/Mary Mathu

Nairobi, Kenya: UN Assistant Secretary-General and UN Women's Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Yannick Glemarec was in Nairobi for the Regional Peer Review Meeting for 2016 Annual Work Plans (AWPs). The first-ever joint Regional Peer Review Group (RPRG) for both the Eastern and Southern Africa and the Western and Central Africa regional offices (ESARO and WCARO) took place at Windsor Hotel in Nairobi,

Kenya from 10th - 14th November, 2015.

The Regional Peer Review Group meeting was held against the backdrop of a corporate decision that as part of the decentralized agenda, all Annual Work Plans will be appraised at regional levels and not at headquarters as has been previously the case.

The review process which was

chaired by Mr. Yannick, also included trainings on: ATLAS, Results Management System (RMS) and Resource Mobilization (RM).

During his mission, Mr. Yannick had an opportunity to hear from UN Women ESARO and the Kenya Country Office about the progress being made, successes and challenges, in promoting GEWE as well as meet with staff from the two

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offices. The Deputy Executive Director gave updates on global and regional initiatives such as the Flagship Program Initiatives being undertaken by UN Women towards promoting GEWE. There was also a discussion

In addition, Mr. Yannick held Bi-lateral meetings with the Director General of the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON), Amb. Sahle-Work Zewde, The Executive Director of the United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) Mr. Achim Steiner, the Deputy Executive Director of UN



Mr. Yannick Glemarec with staff members of UN Women ESARO and KCO. Photo credit: UN Women/Rose Ogola

Habitat, Ms. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira and the UNDP Resident Representative, Ms Nardos Bekele-Thomas. He also met with women parliamentary leaders and representatives from the Civil Society. During the meetings, he discussed various issues pertaining to the advancement of GEWE, SDGs, and potential partnerships between UN Women and the respective UN agencies.



Mr. Yannick with representatives from Kenya Women's Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA), Heads of autonomous Government Agencies and Non-State Actors. Photo credit: UN Women/Kennedy Okoth



Mr. Yannick with Amb. Sahle Work-Zewde, UN Under Secretary General and Director General United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON) Photo Credit: UNON

Lives of women entrepreneurs in pottery cooperative in Addis Ababa improved



Mengesha Pottery Cooperative member working in Addis Photo Credit UN Women Ethiopia

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia — In Gulele sub city, in the suburbs of Addis Ababa, Mengesha Potters Cooperative's members produce beautiful clay dishes for making traditional Ethiopian coffee among other things. Huge piles of potteries are piled up in front of renovated working house and the clay burning kiln. The laughter of the women entrepreneurs and their children fill up the work place, as the cooperative is a foothold of their life.

Currently, 70 cooperative members and their extended families are dependent on the pottery business in Gulele. "Sometimes the members work even during the nights to earn more income for their families," Tsehay Ingdawork, Chairperson of the Cooperative says. "Our members have to take care of on average eight family members. Some of

them even have responsibility to support 11 or 12 dependents," she adds.

UN Women Ethiopia Country Office has been working on provision of women friendly, time and labor saving technology to women in Addis Ababa since 2012. This is a component of the Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, a national programme of support implemented by 6 UN agencies and the Government of Ethiopia, with financial support from Norway, Sweden and Italy. UN Women has assisted the cooperatives with construction of the clay burning houses and by providing labor saving production equipment such as water tankers and wires to preserve the clay grinding machine. The women are thus able to access water at the work place, instead of

having to walk down to a well as before.

The Mengesha cooperative was originally established in 1992 and has a committee of three members to manage the cooperative and its savings account. All the members sell their products and make profit individually due to different individual production capacity. Of their profit, all members save 80 ETB (equal to 4 USD) per month. 20 ETB goes to the cooperative savings account and 60 ETB remain for the women's personal savings.

"After UN Women supported us by building a kiln area, provided the water supplies and a wire around the compound for security and protection, our production rate has doubled" says the Mengesha savings account manager.

In addition to the increased production, the cooperative members now benefit from better market linkages. They have reported that they feed their families better and are able to send their children to school. They are planning to standardize their products and strengthen the links with local markets in order to export the products in the long term. The UN Women Program Team is further supporting the strengthening of the market linkages and conducting trainings on production and marketing skills.

Sudan launches the Women's Entrepreneurship Day (WED)



*WED Ambassador Ms. Maisson Matar launching the first WED in Sudan
photo credits: UN Women Sudan / Lucia Diroso,*

Ahfad University, Sudan: The Women's Entrepreneurship Day (WED) was launched for the first time in Sudan on 19th November, 2015. Led by the WED ambassador, in partnership with UN Women Sudan, the WED was jointly celebrated at the Ahfad University for Women and the Sudanese Businessmen Association.

WED was officially launched at the UN Headquarters in New York last year and is celebrated annually on the 19th November. During the official launch in New York, 144 nations recognized and took part in the event.

WED provides a platform to recognize and discuss the work of women entrepreneurs as well as support and empower women, students and youth to initiate and run their own

small businesses through exchange of ideas and knowledge with successful women entrepreneurs.

In Sudan, WED was jointly celebrated by UN Women and the WED Country Ambassador, Ms. Maisson Matar, CEO and founder of Fandora, and brought together participants from government institutions, Business Sector, UN agencies, civil society and academia.

The celebrations were marked by two key events in partnership with Ahfad University for Women. The opening session included statements from the President of the Ahfad University for Women, Mr. Gasim Badri, the Ambassador of WED in Sudan, Ms. Maisson Matar and UN Women Sudan, represented by Ms Hanadi Abdelhalim. In the afternoon UN Women spoke at a

session with the Minister of International Cooperation, amongst others.

An important element of the celebrations was the participation of Sudanese women entrepreneurs-Dr. Balgis Suliman, inventor of a new type of organic fertilizer and Ms. Khadeja Al Fahal, an entrepreneur Sudanese woman perfume maker.

In her speech, UN Women Sudan country Representative, Mme. Jennet Kem, Affirmed UN Women's support to this initia-

tive and acknowledged the launch as a key celebration for women empowerment and gender equality in Sudan. She gave made reference to the work and efforts that UN Women Sudan has put into accomplishing the implementation of the Micro-finance Law in Sudan.

"When it comes to women business. We usually talk in terms of micro-business, micro-credit, etc. We should stop talking in 'micro' terms. We are not micro women, we are macro women," said Mme. Jennet Kem, UN Women Sudan country representative.

Sudan launches the Women's Entrepreneurship Day (WED)



Perfumes created by a woman entrepreneur. Photo credits: UN Women Sudan /Lucia Dirosa

The celebration concluded with high level discussions with women entrepreneurs. The Minister of International Cooperation, Dr. Kamal Hassan Ali, the General Director of the Business Union, the project manager of 'My Project', Wael Musa, the African Development

Bank representative, Mrs. Salwa Shakir Abdel Massih, CEO of Contran United, an Agent of Qatar Airways in Sudan and a Member of the Political Parties Affairs Council all re-affirmed their support towards WED and women entrepreneurship in their speeches.

Women Entrepreneurs in Rwanda Call for Improved Access to Financing and Training Opportunities

Kigali, Rwanda – “There is need to change the narrative on women’s economic empowerment and improve women’s access to suitable and affordable financial services and training!” This was the rallying call at the Advocacy Event on promoting Women and Economy in Rwanda, held on 10th November 2015 at Serena Hotel, Kigali. The event, which was organized by the Rwanda Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs (RWCE) in partnership with UN Women, was graced by a number of dignitaries and partners including the Rwanda Development Board, GIZ, New Faces, New Voices Rwanda, DFID, EU, the Netherlands Embassy, CARE, BDF, World Bank, Equity Bank, Banque Populaire, USAID, Goldman Sachs among others.

The event, whose main objective was to initiate a national public and private dialogue with key stakeholders supporting women’s economic empowerment in Rwanda, attracted over 300 women entrepreneurs from various parts of Rwanda - particularly in rural areas. Participants had an opportunity to share first hand experiences on the joys and challenges faced in their entrepreneurial journey. It also provided a platform for business women from rural and urban areas to network and share challenges and solutions to enable their increased participa-



The Belgian Ambassador making his remarks at the event

Photo Credit: UN Women Rwanda/Grace Ruzibiza.

tion in the economy. UN Women is providing support to the Chamber of Women entrepreneurs under the Rural Women Economic Empowerment Programme (RWEE) to enhance its capacity and that of its members.

Ms. Theresa Dusabe, the Vice Chairperson of the Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs, proposed that BDF should cover 100% of business guarantee for women. “To ensure convenient access to finance services, BDF should be the one to lend money to business women and not banks, as it is now. Many women have expressed inconsistencies in the collaboration between BDF and banks,” Dusabe said.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, Ms. Henriette Umulisa, said that though the number of women entrepreneurs is increasing in the country, challenges remain and every stakeholder should take responsibility in ensuring that women thrive in business.

Mr. Schadrack Dusabe, National Programme Officer, UN Women noted that in Rwanda, despite a conducive policy and regulatory framework, women entrepreneurs face numerous challenges including lack of knowledge about financial management and market information, innovation, resilience in doing business and limited access to

Women Entrepreneurs in Rwanda Call for Improved Access to Financing and Training Opportunities



finance mainly due to the lack of collaterals, thereby missing out on the opportunity to have promising business ideas funded.

Mrs. Zubeda Kitoko, a business woman who shared her inspiring testimony said that since she decided to quit her former employment and concentrate on her own business, she enjoys more financial freedom and flexibility. “I encourage women entrepreneurs in Rwanda to develop their self-confidence and pursue their business dreams”, she said.

Schadrack Dusabe, UN Women National Programme Officer making opening remarks at the event. Photo Credit: UN Women Rwanda/Grace Ruzibiza.

It was noted that there was no single solution to the challenges raised but that multiple solutions are needed. The meeting commended the efforts made by Government to support women entrepreneurs through relevant policies and programmes and appreciated the gains made over the years. The meeting also called on financial service providers to develop tailored products that serve the needs of different categories of women and ensure that this is coupled with training and support to develop bankable business plans. They called for more dialogue forums to be organized between financial services providers and women entrepreneurs so that they can understand their needs better. There were also proposals for women to set up their own bank and the development of mentorship programme where seasoned business women can mentor other women entrepreneurs particularly from rural areas.



A cross Section of the Participants. Photo Credit: UN Women Rwanda/Grace Ruzibiza.

UN Women SAMCO and Edgars UNiTE to Orange the World



Students from the National School of the Arts, which performed at the Edcon event with UN Women SAMCO staff. Photo credit: UN Women

Johannesburg, South Africa— On Wednesday, November 25th, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women was honored in style as UN Women SAMCO joined forces with Edcon - South Africa's largest non-food retailer, and the group of clothing retailer Edgars is a part - to launch the UNiTE Campaign to End Violence Against Women, turning everything orange in their wake.

The guests of honor were 40 women, survivors of abuse from shelters across the city, who were invited to Edcon's headquarters for the day. The Gauteng Departments for Social Development and Community Safety as well as the South African Fashion Council also supported the campaign.

This flagship initiative seeks to sup-

port victims of violence through skills development in fashion design, which will result in opportunities for job creation, financial independence and enterprise development. At the launch, the women were split into groups made up of women from different areas, and then had to design a garment using only fabric and safety pins. Later, they paraded their creations to much applause from the crowd.

Celebrities from TV and radio, as well as many of South Africa's best fashion designers, including Sun Goddess and David Tlale attended the launch.

In his speech, UN Women SAMCO Deputy Representative Themba Kaula said "It is heartening to know that core to the campaign today is not to just raise awareness only but

to take this a step further through contributing to Women's Economic Empowerment, giving them the skills and opportunities to reclaim their lives."

Other speakers at the event included Edcon CEO Bernie Brooks, Edgars Chief Executive, Birgitt Gebauer and CEO of the Fashion Council, Anita Stanbury, who stressed that women employed in the South African fashion industry each support between 5 and 7 people on average on their salaries.

The day ended with a play by students from the National School of the Arts that looked at various forms of abuse.

The campaign will continue with the women continuing to design clothing with the hope that eventually they will supply to Edgars stores and other retailers. The women chosen for this programme will be coached and mentored by some of South Africa's leading designers.

In step with continuing the UNiTE campaign, Edgars will also be turning their stores orange on the 25th of each month in 2016, starting from January 25 and taking the campaign to all of South Africa's nine provinces.

ACTIL & UN Women ESARO hold a Regional Training for Building Gender Responsive National Evaluation Capacity



Participants at the training. Photo Credits: ACTIL/ Anthony Ngunjiri

Nairobi, Kenya – The Africa Centre for Transformative and Inclusive Leadership (ACTIL) in cooperation with UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa Region designed, planned and delivered the first **Regional Training for Building Gender Responsive National Evaluation Capacity from 2nd- 6th November 2015**. This course served as a pilot case study with the aim of regularizing the delivery of this training workshop from 2016, and was designed with the overall aim of providing participants with opportunities for learning how to establish and implement a gender responsive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system at national level, including looking at key actors and steps involved in developing national evalu-

ation policies/ systems, issues around advocacy for gender responsive evaluation at national level, strategies for stakeholder engagement, and overcoming potential barriers.

The training which was conducted at the ACTIL centre in Kenyatta University, came at an opportune time in the context of the recently endorsed UN resolution (A/C.2/69/L.35) in 2014 “Building capacity for the evaluation of development activities at the country level” as well as the International Year of Evaluation 2015 which aims to further strengthen the enabling environment for evaluation at national and local levels.

The training initiative also responds to the new 2030 Agenda for sustain-

able development which calls for effective and inclusive M&E systems at national level that help countries measure progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda, and promote accountability to citizens.

The key objectives of the training were to:

1. Enhance participants’ monitoring and evaluation knowledge and skills

in building and implementing National Evaluation Systems;

2. Explore, analyze and assess the opportunities for integrating gender issues in monitoring and evaluation of government programming and parliamentary activities that promote demand and use of evaluations; and
3. Apply adult-learning approaches and provide a forum for individuals and organizations to share information and ideas on how to improve the implementation of National Evaluation Systems.

The training was attended by 13 participants from 7 countries across Africa: Egypt, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda. They came from a mix of

ACTIL & UN Women ESARO hold a Regional Training for Building Gender Responsive National Evaluation Capacity



*Florence (Nigeria) and Nelson (Uganda) elaborating during a session
Photo Credits: ACTIL/ Anthony Ngunjiri*

organizations including Government representatives, International NGOs, independent evaluation consultants and UN agencies. The workshop schedule blended expert presentations with in-depth and case-study focused group work and discussion forums. Alongside the lessons on evaluation as a political activity, and discussions on the implications of using a gender responsive lens for evaluation practice, participants were also engaged on the key elements of transformation leadership; including concepts of mindset transformation, personal leadership, paradigm shapers, societal transformation, conflict resolution & negotiation, and results-based leadership and vision.

The participants engaged in vibrant, dynamic and well-informed discussions that truly facilitated the exchange of experiences and knowledge. Initial feedback from the participants noted that they appreciated the high level of participation which allowed for very engaged discussions and group work. Given that this training was also a pilot to inform the design of future courses, initial lessons have also been learnt on the need to allocated sufficient time for the wealth of information that is being covered, and to also be selective in the background of the participants attending the course – to ensure they have the relevant knowledge for maximizing what they can learn at the course.

At the end of the training, participants were tasked to develop Personal Action Plans – a key methodology for ensuring that the theory learned is practically applied in their organizations and home countries.



*Ms. Miliza (Liberia) leading on her group presentation
Photo credits ACTIL /Anthony Ngunjiri*

IPSTC and UN Women Kenya Launches Gender Policy to Close the Gender Gap in Peace Support Operations



Left to Right- Senior officials of KDF, Brigadier Fatima Ahmed, Ambassador Issimail Chanfi, Director of the East African Standby Force, Ms. Zebib Kavuma, UN Women Kenya Country Director, Brigadier Patrick Nderitu- IPSTC Director and Major General Ngewa Mukala- Defence Staff College Commandant Photo credit: UN Women/Idil Abisiye

Nairobi; Kenya – On 24th November 2015, the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) launched its Gender Policy, in a colourful ceremony held in Karen, Nairobi, which was presided over by high level dignities and officials including the chief guest Major General Ngewa Mukala, Defence Staff College Commandant-representing Ambassador Raychelle Omamo, Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, Ambassador Issimail Chanfi, Director of the East African Standby Force, UN Women Country Director, Ms. Zebib Kavuma, members of the Joint Control Board, Gov-

ernment Security agencies and stakeholders in the Civil Society and academia.

The launch demonstrates IPSTC's continuous commitment to prompting gender equality and advancing women's leadership within the security sector and support the development of policies and action plans focused on elevating the profile of women. The development of the Gender Policy is part of a larger project supported by UN Women Kenya dubbed "**Integrating Gender in Peace Support Operations in Kenya**" that seeks to develop gender frameworks and accountability

mechanisms to protect women's rights, institutional strengthening of IPSTC on gender equality and women's empowerment, build the capacity of the security sector and women on UNSCR 1325 and evidence based advocacy and fostering strategic partnerships.

The Chief Guest, Major General Ngewa Mukala during his speech reiterated that "Women are an invaluable part of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) and our security apparatus as a whole." He proudly highlighted that female officers and service members are determined to excel in all fields beyond ex-

pectations and acknowledged Brigadier Fatima Ahmed as the first female military officer in KDF to be awarded one star General. He also affirmed the Defence Ministry's commitment to developing its own gender policy which will be informed by IPSTC process, which was recognized as one that was inclusive and participatory.

Ms Kavuma, UN Women Kenya Country Director, stressed that 2015 marked a crucial year for the issue of women, peace and security, with October marking 15th anniversary of the creation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, which

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Ms. Zebib Kavuma-UN Women Kenya Country Director and Major General Ngewa Mukala-Defence Staff College Commandant view IPSTC programmes and publication display . Photo credit: UN Women/Idil Abisiye

enshrined the link between women’s experiences of conflict and international peace and security. She also shared the newest Resolution 2242, which places women at centre when addressing current global, regional and national challenges, including rising violent extremism, climate change, and unprecedented numbers of displaced people. In line with this, Ms. Kavuma concluded by emphasizing the importance and timeliness of IPSTC’s Gender Policy by saying “It could have not come at a better time.”

IPSTC Director, Brigadier Patrick Nderitu said that the Gender Policy formalizes the Centre’s commitment to gender equality and the promotion of women peace and security in Peace Support Operations. “It is a strategy for applying gender perspectives in formulation of our Policies, plans, trainings, research and resource allocation” said Mr Nderitu. “More so the policy is a tool to keep the Center accountable to the gender equality and women’s empowerment.”

Connecting Turkana women entrepreneurs to market opportunities through public procurement



Participants registering for forum on Empowering Women through Public Procurement Photo credit: UN Women/Kennedy Okoth

Turkana, Kenya – UN Women in collaboration with the Joyful Women’s Organization (JoyWo), Turkana County Chapter and the Maendeleo Ya Wanawake Organization (MYWO) organized a sensitization and awareness raising forum for women, youth and persons with disability (PWD) - led enterprises from Turkana County on economic opportunities through public procurement. The forum was held at the Ekalees Centre in Lodwar on 5th November 2015 and was convened in the context of the inaugural Turkana Trade and Investors Forum held at the same venue from 5-7th November 2015.

The Turkana forum was undertaken as part of UN Women’s project on Empowering Women through Public Procurement. Established in 2012,

the project aims to harness the potential of women entrepreneurs to scale up and access domestic markets. However, while women-led businesses represent over 40 percent of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in Kenya, they are prevalent in less productive sectors and are largely invisible and under-represented in the government supply chain. In Kenya, public procurement constitutes approximately 40 percent of the annual national budget, but women-owned enterprises receive only a tiny share of this market.

To address this gap, UN Women supports training and skills development of women entrepreneurs on how to sell to the government. In addition UN Women conducts advocacy for inclusive public procure-

ment policies and regulations, convenes dialogue platforms with financial intuitions and other key stakeholders to advance women’s participation in procurement and forums with buyers to mitigate demand side barriers.

The forum attracted 148 women traders drawn from various sectors such as agricultural, tourism, hand-craft and services sector. The participants also belonged to women’s savings groups affiliated to JoyWo and MYWO. The main objective of the event was to connect and sensitize traders about market opportunities through the domestic public procurement sector.

Specifically, the forum sought to create awareness about the Public Procurement Preference and Reservations Scheme of 2011 through which the government of Kenya has set -aside a minimum target of 30 percent of government expenditure through public procurement for the benefit of disadvantaged groups. This scheme is popularly known as Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO).

The forum was opened by UN Women Deputy Country Director, Ms. Karin Feug who reiterated UN Women’s commitment to promoting women in domestic, regional and international trade and business leadership including addressing gender related trade barriers.

Connecting Turkana women entrepreneurs to market opportunities through public procurement



AGPO Works! From left to right AGPO beneficiaries- Ruth Michoma, Sally Miybey and Jane Murrey share their success stories. Photo credit: UN Women Kennedy Okoth

During a vibrant and exciting session, three entrepreneurs from Nairobi County shared their personal experiences with regards to AGPO. They talked about how they started their businesses and how they have benefited from AGPO including the impact this unique opportunity has had on their lives and business growth.

One of the entrepreneurs, Ms. Ruth Michoma who is a PWD encouraged the participants to grab the opportunities open to them through the 30 percent policy. She said: AGPO is real and encouraged the women- *"If I could do it, so can you!"* Overall, the live testimonies of women entrepreneurs about their personal experiences,

success in winning tenders as well as challenges they encountered were a big eye opener for participants, many of whom believed that public procurement is the preserve of large, established and experienced enterprises

The forum was a huge success in terms of creating awareness about public procurement opportunities given that majority of the participants had never heard about the preferential scheme and how to access government tenders.

For further information on this initiative please contact Banu Khan, Programme Analyst, UN Women Kenya; email:

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UN Women Sudan celebrates UN@70

“The UN 70th anniversary is a timely opportunity to highlight its many and enduring achievements and to strengthen our collective resolve to do more to promote peace and security, sustainable development and human rights”

Banki Moon, UN Secretary General.



UN Women Sudan Country Representative, Ms. Jennet Kem (right), UN Regional Coordinator, Ms. Marta Ruedes and President of Ahfad University Mr. Gasim Badri during UN @70 celebrations. Photo credit: UN Women Sudan/Lucia Dirosa

Khartoum, Sudan: The UN in Sudan celebrated its 70th anniversary in a joint event led by UNAMID and joined by all UN entities in Sudan. Additionally, the UNDP coordinated a lecture on the UN Charter at the Main Hall of the Faculty of Law in the University of Khartoum. While UN Women Sudan coordinated the celebration of the Youth Art Exhibition on the Sustainable Development goals.

The celebration of this important day at the National Museum counted with interactive installations, photo exhibition, UN agencies' stands and a concert.

The event was attended by national counterparts, non-governmental/youth organizations, academia, the national and international media, diplomatic and donor community.

UN Women Sudan represented part of its work in collaboration with partner NGOs run by women. The interactive installations of UN Women successfully represented one of the most important impact areas of UN Women in Sudan-women economic empowerment.

UN Women Sudan celebrates UN@70

In addition, UN Women strongly promoted the HeforShe campaign. The active participation of Sudanese men in the HeforShe campaign considerably increased the number of men that have signed for the campaign.

In general, the celebration of the 70th anniversary was proactive and successful. Sudanese and international community joint the celebration and enjoyed the closure with a concert.

This is a great opportunity to engage youth in the work of UN in Sudan.

Ms. Martha Ruedas



Participants taking pictures at the art pieces created by students at Ahfad University

Photo credit: UN Women Sudan/Lucia Dirosa

UN Women Sudan coordinated the Youth Art Exhibition on the Sustainable Development goals at the Ahfad University for Women (AUW). The topic of the art exhibition was aligned with the UN@70 slogan: Strong UN. Better world. Likewise, the SDGs served as guiding principles of the art works.

The event began by various opening speeches of Prof. Gasim Badri, president of the Ahfad University for Women, Ms. Marta Ruedas, United Nations Sudan Resident Coordinator and Ms. Jennet Kem, UN Women Country Representative. The exhibition was acknowledged as a promotor of youth creativity, active inclusion of young women in cultural activities and the representation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development as a motor to move world societies forward, actively including youth in the accomplishment of the goals.

The exhibition was attended by numerous stakeholders, donors, ambassadors, such as the H.E. Ambassador of Brazil in Sudan, UN agencies, Civil Society and especially youth attended the event. It was an excellent opportunity to familiarize the participants with the SDGs and celebrate the UN 70 years together.

UN Women Kenya and Turkana County Government urge men and boys to stand for Gender Equality

Turkana, Kenya: Turkana County through its Governor H.E. Hon. Josphat Koli Nanok on 6th November officially launched the UN Women HeForShe solidarity movement within the county. This is the first county in Kenya to rollout the movement that mobilizes men and boys as change agents and advocates of gender equality.

Turkana County, also known as the cradle of mankind, has previously been facing Inter-communal clashes in what has always been viewed as a lawless region in recent years with armed gangs raiding villages; steal cattle and making certain routes impassable. However, with the discovery of oil in 2012 and the construction of Africa's biggest wind farm on the east of Lake Turkana has seen a rise in development and stability in the area

The event that was graced by the Turkana County Governor H.E. Hon. Josphat Koli Nanok, his Deputy Hon. Peter Ekai, UN Women Deputy Country Director Ms. Karin Fueg and the Turkana County Executive for Education, Culture and Social Developments, Hon. Margeret Kuchal took place within the margins of the Turkana Trade Fair and Investment Conference and brought together over 700 men and women from the Turkana community and beyond.

In his speech, Governor Nanok stressed on the need to include the



Turkana County Governor H.E. Hon. Josphat Nanok Signs up as a champion of the HeForShe movement. Looking on is UN Women Deputy Country Director Karin Fueg. Photo credit: UN Women/Kennedy Okoth

issue of women in business throughout the Trade Fair and Investment Conference and further committed to involve both women and men on a 50/50 basis in a business incubation center the County is building.

In matters of security, the Governor noted that over the years' women were left victims of cattle rustling that left them as the sole breadwinners for their families when the husbands got killed. He however underscored that the level of violence has toned down over the years with few pockets remaining for complete eradication.

The Governor acknowledged the high girl-child enrolment in education that stands at 40% and committed to increase this amidst the challenges of the perception of education to all children in some parts

of the county.

The Governor in underscoring the importance of going beyond the launch stated

“The most

critical issue is not the signing up for the campaign but the commitment to ensure that the message is spread to reach every village in the county through various structures like schools, churches and women association within the county.”

The Turkana County Deputy Governor, Hon. Peter Ekai in his remarks reiterated on the need for inclusivity for both men and women to work and live together. He further challenged the private sector to pull resources together in empowering women by embracing gender diversity and inclusivity.

Mr. Ekai also warned against domestic violence within the county calling on security partners to work together with the county government to ensure that Violence Against Women and Girls is not condoned and challenged men and boys to shun

UN Women Kenya and Turkana County Government urge men and boys to stand for Gender Equality



*From Left- Turkana County's Executive Committee member for Education, Culture and Social Developments, Hon. Margaret Kuchal makes her remarks during the launch. Traditional dancers with a HeForShe signed portrait of Turkana Governor Hon. Josphat Nanok
Photo credit: UN Women/Kennedy Okoth*

the tradition, culture, and peer-pressure that have previously been held on what makes a man.

“Violence Against Women is Violence Against the Society and Humanity.” He Stated

The County's Executive Committee (CEC) for education, culture and social developments, Hon. Margaret Kuchal highlighted that the County supports gender responsive planning, budget and integration as part of the strategy for the realization of gender equality.

UN Women Deputy Country Director Karin Fueg in her remarks, emphasized on the need to empower women and girls as part of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) noting that they have gained rights to primary education. Moreover, political participation has increased but there is still much to be done in areas of Violence Against Women and Girls, political participation is at 20% which is below what the constitution grants, and only 5% of rural girls have access to land.

The HeForShe solidarity movement launch in Turkana County follows the National launch by H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta, corporate launch by Safaricom, Academic institution launch by Kenyatta University, and a launch by the UN agencies in Nairobi.

UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa

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

Somalia

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

South Sudan

Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office

Sudan

Ethiopia

Tanzania

Kenya

Uganda

Malawi

Zimbabwe

Mozambique

Rwanda

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



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