

UN WOMEN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

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UN Women and Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) Ring the Bell for Gender Equality



Various leaders ringing the bell for Gender Equality Photo credit: UN Women/Martha Wanjala

Nairobi, Kenya: UN Women in partnership with Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) joined 34 stock exchanges globally to “Ring the Bell for Gender Equality” on 3 March 2016. This happened at an opportune time as the world was gearing up to commemorate the International Women’s Day on 8 March. The Ring the Bell Campaign is an important opportunity to highlight women’s empowerment and gender equality in the world’s financial markets.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Eddy Njoroge the Chairman of the NSE, encouraged the private sector to practice gender balance because it makes a business case. He noted that gender equality is not only a key issue globally locally too as the Kenyan Constitution sets out to promote gender equality both in the political and economic spheres. “Diverse and inclusive leadership has become a key strategic initiative in promoting performance, productivity, innovation, and creativity,” he said in his remarks.

Speaking during the bell ringing event, NSE CEO, Mr. Geoffrey Odundo pointed out that “NSE remains committed to championing Gender Equality in realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). I urge the capital market players to take their own step towards promoting gender equality.” Mr. Odundo also joined other CEOs across the globe in signing up in support of the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs).

The Principles outline seven steps for business on how to empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community. During the event, a total of 11 companies signed and committed to the WEPs. The companies are the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE), Capital Markets Authority (CMA), Central Depository & Settlements Corporation (CDSC), Total Kenya, Barclays Bank of Kenya,

Chase Bank, Institute of Directors Kenya (IOD - K), Access Business Management Conferencing International (ABMC International), Diamond Trust Bank, Apex Africa Capital and Evensis Décor Limited.

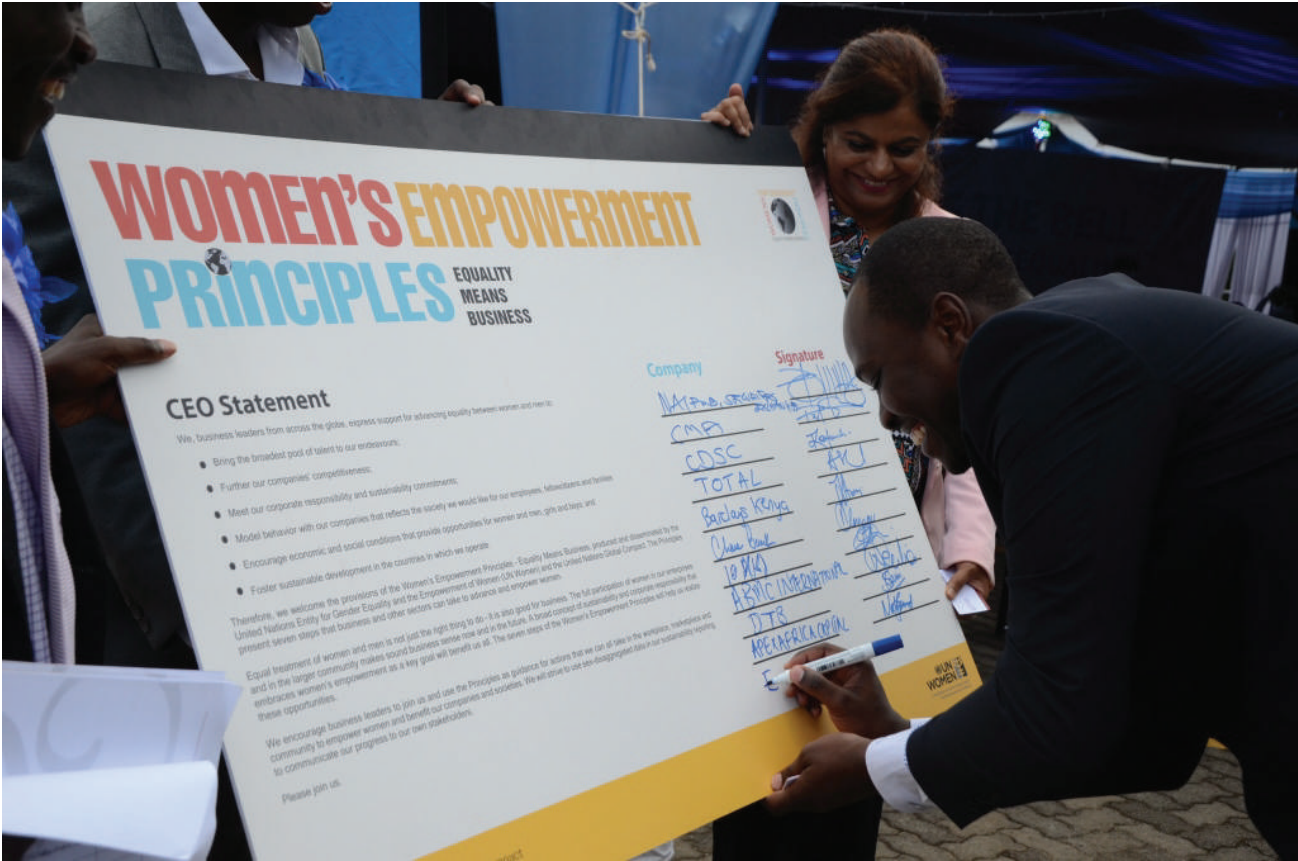
Ms. Zebib Kavuma, Country Director UN Women Kenya noted that despite many years of promoting gender equality, inequalities among women and girls as well as men and boys persist around the world. She applauded the NSE for signing the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs), urging other listed companies to join in. She further called for the implementation of the Principles through specific action plans. She cited examples of ways this could be done including voluntarily reporting to stakeholders on achievements, future goals and partnerships for action in realization of the SDGs. “Investing in women and girls, and enabling their full economic participation is important for business and society” said Ms. Kavuma.

Barclays Bank Kenya, whose board comprises of 50% women was also represented at the ceremony. Asked how they managed to achieve this gender balance, the Managing Director Mr. Jeremy Awori underscored that it has taken deliberate action and put in place policies to guide this. Barclays Bank has internal systems in place which have helped achieve equality. He added that Barclays is supporting women owned businesses and will train 10,000 women to equip them to take advantage of international business opportunities.



Industry leaders Nuru Mugambi-Pan African Investment, Jeremy Awori-Barclays Bank of Kenya, Geoffrey Odundo- NSE, Josephine Mugai- IFC, Sarah Richson-Techno Brain and Wambui Kosgey-EABL discuss why corporate diversity particularly, Gender Equality, is important for business success Photo credit: UN Women/Martha Wanjala

The "Ring the Bell for Planet 50/50 by 2030: step it up for gender equality" event is a global collaboration by the UN Global Compact, UN Women, the Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative, IFC, the World Federation of Exchanges and Women in ETFs. This event aims to celebrate International Women's Day and raise awareness about the importance of women's economic empowerment to business and sustainable development.



Companies signing up to the Women’s Empowerment Principles Photo credit: UN Women/Martha Wanjala

Empowered Woman Transforms Lives in Rural Ethiopia



Kimiya explains on use of the time, labour and energy saving cooking stove that her group assembles and sells. Photo Credit: UN Women/Fikerte Abebe

Ethiopia: For the middle aged energetic mother of six, Kimiyaa Umar, lack of capital and the basic knowledge on how to run a viable business constrained her from establishing a business and to improve hers and her family's livelihood. This was until a year ago when she received the 3,000 Birr interest free loan equivalent of 140USD together with a training on basic business skills and entrepreneurship through the UN Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment's income generating activities, which has benefited over 19,500 disadvantaged women throughout Ethiopia.

Today Kimiyaa, a leader for a group of 13 women, who are benefiting from the programme, is improving her family's and her group members life styles. This is by enabling herself and each of her group members to save and invest in labour, time and energy saving cooking stove technology cooperative targeting women in their village and beyond.

"Before receiving the loan we were given training on how to start and manage a business including how to save and the benefits of saving. Using the skills gained all of us started different businesses and now each one of us has finished paying back the 3,000 Birr loan, and saved enough to invest in a different cooperative business of labour, time and energy saving cooking stove technology. Each member uses this technology in her house. We also sell the stoves in different villages to benefit more women," explained Kimiyaa, who added that currently the stove technology cooperative, which began a year ago has sixty members with a total capital of 40,000 Birr an equivalent of about USD 2,000.

"We were selected to benefit from the programme for being the neediest and had no capital or the knowledge on how to deal with business. Today, we are the model in our village and many women have started to organize themselves by self-initiation," said Kimiyaa whose leadership style has influenced for the success of the group as she strictly applied the rules the group established in timely paying back of the loans and saving for expansion.

Kimiya, who got public recognition for this achievement by the district's Children and Women Affairs Bureau, has also changed hers and her family's life style using the loan.

A year ago Kimiyaa's children's educational materials were not provided in full. They didn't even have the chance to study in the evenings as their house had no sufficient light to use since the only available source of light was a small locally made Kerosene lamp. The goats fattening and selling business she started first using the 3,000 Birr loan is making a difference as she used part of the profit to purchase a solar lamp, which her children today use to study longer with enough light.

"When I first got the 3,000 Birr loan, I purchased 2 female goats and one male goat. I fattened the male goat, which I bought for 600 Birr and sold it for 1,500 Birr. Each of the two female goats gave birth to two totaling the goats to six. I sold the 3 goats and paid back the 3,000 Birr loan. From this business I have profited three goats and the solar lamp I purchased for 500 Birr in addition to the 260 Birr saved in a bank according to the group's regulation," explained Kimiyaa, who added that each member of her group has changed hers and her family's living condition for better as a result of the support from the program.

Kimiya is convinced that the benefit they all got is enormous and the potential to make a difference at community level is great. "Over 200 women in our village got influenced by us and started saving the little they have by self-initiation. They also come to us for some advice. If more is invested in such women, we will make a lasting change." Kimiyaa is appreciative of the support by the Joint Program especially of the interest free loan, which she said assisted them to benefit more in short time and motivated them to keep working hard. Kimiyaa believes that investing in women benefits the whole community.



Kimiya receives an award certificate for her exemplary work. Photo Credit: UN Women/Fikerte Abebe



Some of the group members with the goats and sheep they purchased for income generating using the 3,000 Birr loan that each received
Photo Credit: UN Women/Fikerte Abebe

The Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Joint Programme (GEWE JP) in Ethiopia was launched in 2001 and brings together 6 UN Agencies (UNDP, ILO, UN Women, UNESCO, UNICEF and UNFPA) to support the Government of Ethiopia in its efforts to improve the lives of Ethiopia women and girls. Aligned to the government's Growth and Transformation Plan, and grounded in the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Ethiopia, the GEWE JP targets women in the 11 regions aiming to increase rural and urban women's income to improve food security, nutrition and livelihoods; rural and urban women's opportunities for education, leadership and decision making; strengthen the capacity of federal and local government's institutions to implement national and international commitments on gender equality

and women's empowerment; and enhance the capacity of federal and local government's institutions and communities to promote and protect the rights of women and girls.

To increase the rural and urban women's income, one of the applied activities under the programme with the support of ILO and UN Women is the provision of interest free loans to needy women along with training on basic business skills and entrepreneurship so as to enable them start income generating activities. The returned loan by the women

has been used as a revolving fund to economically empower more women. Over 19,500 women in Ethiopia have benefited from this.

Women Situation Room observes peaceful elections in Uganda



Uganda's female Presidential Candidate Maureen Kyalya (centre) poses for a picture with the group of eminent women during their visit to the Women Situation Room in Uganda. Photo credit: UN Women/Nadine Kamolleh

Kampala, Uganda: During Uganda's general elections from 15-22 February 2016, women came together to establish a Women's Situation Room (WSR) as an early warning and rapid response and conflict mechanism against violence arising before, during and after the elections. The initiative aimed to ensure peaceful elections while also involving women and youth in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820.

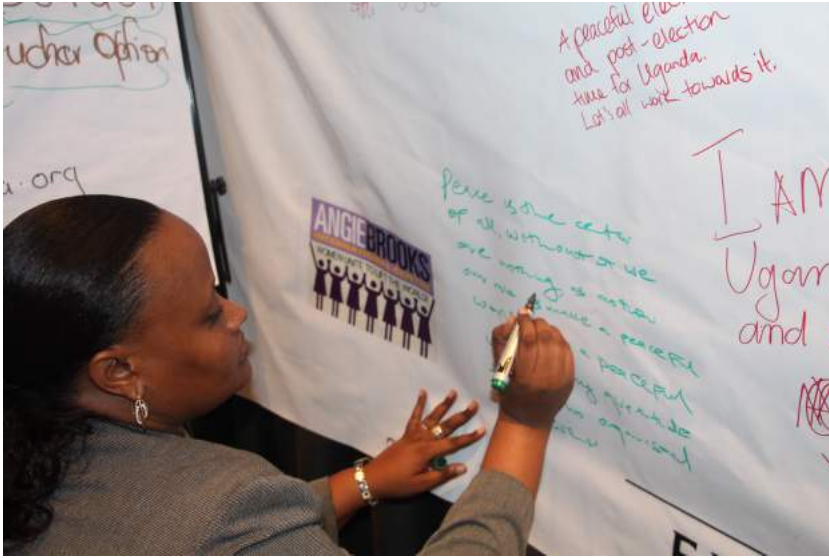
A group of 10 eminent women from Uganda, four elders and five women from African countries where similar projects have had successful impact towards peaceful elections, including Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana and Liberia were constantly on-call to address any concerns during elections. They reported violent incidents and addressed questions from citizens and police officers, army officials and the electoral commission. These women bring knowledge and experience from other parts of the continent and consult and dialogue with key stakeholders to ensure a peaceful transition.

At the local level, women and youth were trained in advance to handle conflict resolution and observe the elections in order to effectively report back to the room. The WSR in Uganda trained 450 women observers, 120 youth and 225 members of women's groups in 15 districts marked as hotspots. While the women and youth called in

various incidences, the general public also contributed to the number of calls received. Before, during and after the elections, the call centre received 1,415 calls from across the country. About 50 per cent of the calls were inquiries about the voting process, which were redirected to the Electoral Commission. The other half were related to voter bribery, delays at the polling stations, missing voting materials, disputes between citizens, security forces and supporters of opposing parties. A team of Eminent Women investigated these incidences and followed up on these concerns with relevant security institutions.

To ensure that the process was successful, it was vital to have the support of political parties, respected State institutions and the donor community. During the entire electoral process, the women met with prominent leaders from political parties, various kingdoms, the African Union, and the European Union, among others. Representatives from the international community were also present, including ambassadors from Sweden, the United States, France, Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Belgium and many more.

When elections came to a close on 18 February and the situation remained calm, the team decided to scale down their interventions, moving the call centre to the offices of a local NGO. The 0800 line to report concerns will stay open until 12 March, two days after the local elections end.



*A woman signing up to have peaceful elections in Uganda.
Photo credit: UN Women/Nadine Kamolleh*

Since the situation room was seen as beneficial, discussions are ongoing to expand the process for the 2021 elections. The programme will focus on engaging women and youth, while also bringing civic education and peer-to-peer peace processes to all 112 districts. Several donors have already indicated their willingness to support such an initiative based on the quality of work they witnessed during the elections.

The Women Situation Room Uganda was made possible through the support of the Swedish Embassy, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, Urgent Action Fund, Diakonia, Airtel and GIZ. The conveners of the room are the Forum for Women in Democracy, Isis-Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange and Institute for Social Transformation.

UN Women hosts Women in Energy side event at the 2016 Africa Energy Indaba

Pretoria, South Africa: UN Women in Partnership with Deloitte and the Africa Development Bank, hosted the Women in Energy side event at the 2016 Africa Energy Indaba on February 15. Ms. Geraldine Joslyn Fraser-Moleketi, the Special Envoy on Gender for the African Development Bank, focused on how African women can change the energy business in Africa in her keynote address. On his part, Dr. Elham Mahmood Ahmed Ibrahim, Commissioner, Infrastructure and Energy at the African Union Commission reiterated the importance of the role of women in the energy sector in Africa.

The panelists at the event included Director of ENS Africa, Sasha Singh; CEO of the Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority (ZERA), Gloria Magombo; General Manager of Eskom Wendy Poulton; Head of Energy for NEPAD Agency, Prof. Mosad Elmissiry; Africa Consulting Leader at Deloitte, Thiru Pillay; and Deputy Representative, UN Women SAMCO, Mr Themba Kalua.



UN Women SAMCO Deputy Representative Mr. Themba Kalua (centre) moderates a session on strengthening women owned businesses in the energy sector at the women in Energy Indaba. Photo credit: UN Women/Helen Sullivan

The panel discussions focused on how the energy sector can uplift the lives of women as well as the promotion and support of women's leadership in the energy sector, strengthening women-owned businesses and getting more women on corporate boards.

The event concluded with personal testimonies from women whose lives have been positively impacted by the services from the energy sector such as electricity.

UN Women hosts a breakfast meeting on Women, Peace and security at the High Level Ministerial Partnership Forum on Somali

Istanbul, Turkey: UN Women Somalia facilitated a breakfast meeting on Women, Peace and Security during the High Level Partnership Forum (HLPF) on Somalia in Istanbul, Turkey on 23 February 2016. The breakfast meeting was jointly organized by the Somali Federal Government and the United Nations, and co-hosted by the Governments of Sweden, Denmark, Norway and the United Kingdom.

The meeting was held on the background that, in peace and state building, we often focus a lot of attention on perpetrators of violence rather than investing in peace-makers and social rebuilders: that is investing in women.

The breakfast meeting focused on the need for increased security, access to justice and political participation for women to promote stability and prosperity in Somalia. The Minister of Women and Human Rights Development was hosting the breakfast meeting which was attended by representatives of the Somali and Turkish government, partner governments, UN agencies and representatives from Turkish and Somali civil society. It involved keynote speeches from the Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia Mohamed Artehd and the Special Representative for Somalia Government Michael Keating, and panel discussions involving the Ministry of Women and Human Rights development and Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs, Somali civil society and key donor partners. The president of Somalia, H.E Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud joined the meeting on a surprise visit and emphasized the commitment of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) to ensure 30% reserved seats for women in the Upper and Lower House in the 2016.

He also reiterated the Federal Government of Somalia's commitment to ratify CEDAW. The meeting was closed



*Participants at the breakfast meeting.
Photo credit: UN Women/Maiken Thonke*

by the First Lady of Somalia Qamar Omar Ali who focused on the role of Somali women as peacemakers, and the First Lady of Turkey Emine Erdogan who emphasized that women and men are regarded as equal in the Koran.

Some of the key points made during the meeting included the urgency of recognizing Somali women as agents for change; the recognition of the fact that peace is more dynamic and more sustainable when women are included; as well as the need for leveraging on collective action for enhanced representation and engagement of women in setting national agenda and priorities.

The Meeting also highlighted the contribution women currently make to security, justice, economic growth and governance and the potential they have to become important actors for change. In conclusion, the meeting made a call for interventions that support women to become active contributors to the Somali state and peace building effort by involving women in identifying and implementing more innovative solutions.

“The genesis of the discussion today was in the realization that Somali women have been portrayed mostly as victims, and insufficient recognition has been given to their role and contribution as transformational agents - economic engines and actors who are securing their community”, said Ms. Caroline Rusten, Country Programme Manager-UN Women Somalia. She went on emphasizing, “Somali women have difficulties navigating justice and security institutions. It is important to focus on removing barriers that deny women the opportunity to access justice and security.”

The participants called on the Somali government to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, and to address gender equality and Women, Peace and Security in the National Development Plan.



*The president of Somalia, H.E Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud.
Photo credit: UN Women/Maiken Thonke*

Burundi improves the lives of women and communities by fighting against sexual and gender-based violence

Gitega, Burundi: A delegation from the Ministry of Interior and the Patriotic Education; territorial administration and UN Women visited “HUMURA” Integrated Support Centre for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) on January 29, 2016.

“The center - first of its kind- is located in the province of Gitega and was set up in June 2012, to find a holistic response to SGBV through the protection of victims; their overall care (medical, psychosocial, legal, temporary shelter); their reintegration into their communities and for fair trials to alleged perpetrators,” explained Ms. Sylvie Nzeyimana, Director of the Centre. The services provided by Humura Centre are based on the principles of human dignity and respect; the rights of the victims; and confidentiality and non-discrimination. Ms. Nzeyimana also pointed out that since its establishment, the cases of which 90% relate to females, are on a downward trend.

These results are due to a partnership between the Government (through the Ministries of Public Health and the fight against AIDS, Justice, Public Security, Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender; UN agencies such as UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP and other partners.

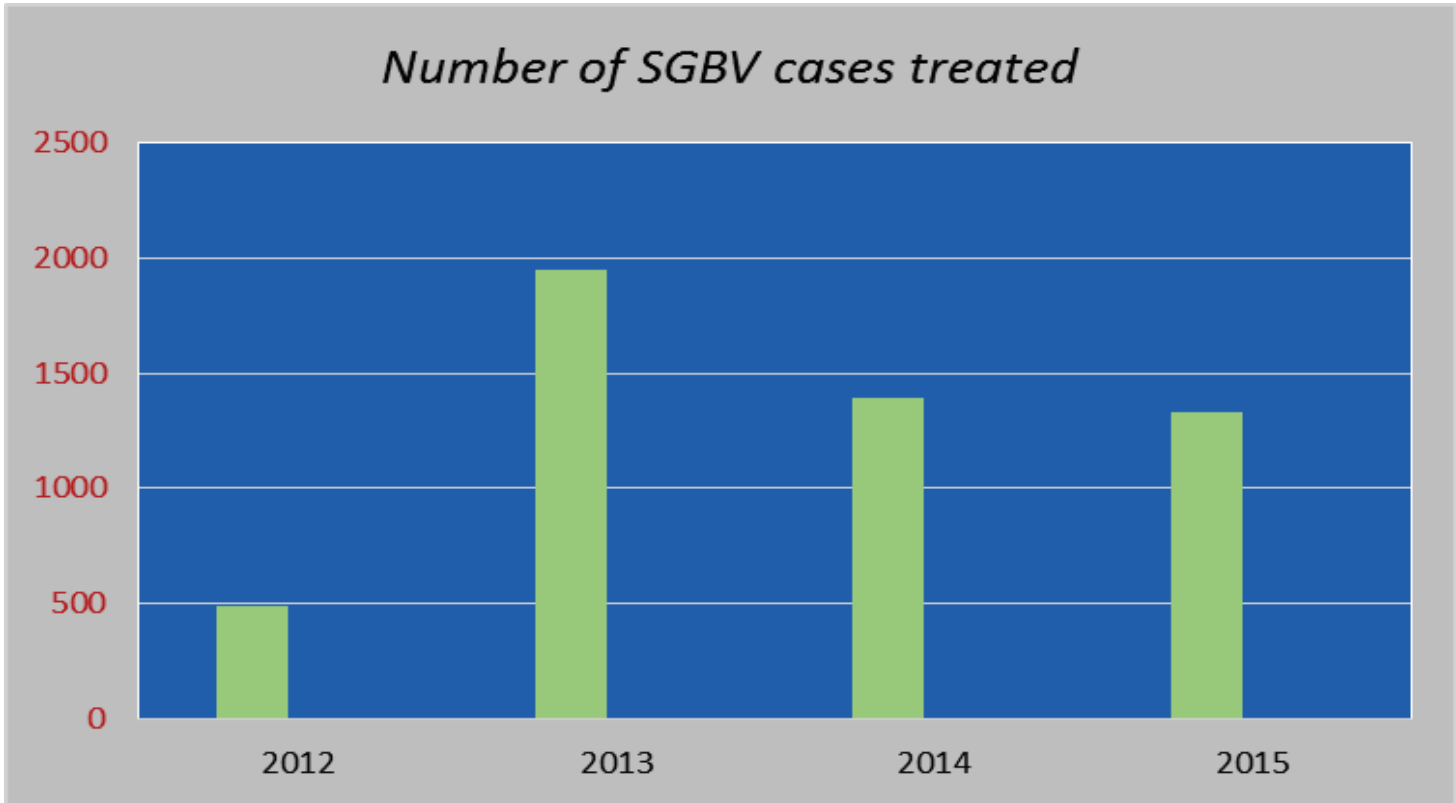
“With a one-stop service within the center, the perpetrators are apprehended and punished according to law and there is less risk of corruption since the judicial process is fast.

The centre has also noted an increasing community trust and mindset change which includes victims of SGBV breaking the silence and publicly complain- this has made perpetrators to fear committing such crimes,” added Ms. Nzeyimana.

UN Women Burundi Country Representative, Jeremie Delage said that the Humura Centre is an eloquent testimony of a commitment of the Government in the fight against SGBV and a good cooperation between different actors and the various departments of the criminal chain and support for victims. Mr. Delage noted that cooperation between the administration, the police and the judiciary system is paramount in finding sustainable solutions to SGBV.

Mr. Delage also called for the protection of women through specific laws on SGBV which would increase accountability of public institutions. He also spoke in favor of the ratification of the Maputo Protocol, the implementation of the Kampala Declaration on GBV and the law on succession, matrimonial regimes and gifts that would promote women economic empowerment, increase investment in agricultural yields, contribute to eradicate poverty and improve food security among others.

The Minister of interior Pascal Barandagiye said that the fight against SGBV is one of the Government's priorities. This is a social problem that needs joint efforts, and the involvement of the provincial and local administration. “We urge all territorial administrative hierarchy to support this fight. The elected representatives at the municipality and local level are asked to help more and work closely in particular with the women mediators’ network,” concluded the Minister Barandagiye.



Data from Humura Centre in 2016

UN Women hosts an Innovative Market Place on Women's Socio-Economic Empowerment in Africa

Nairobi, Kenya: UN Women's Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa in collaboration with Timeless Women of Wonder Foundation (TWOW) held a regional Innovative Market Place on Women's Socio-Economic Empowerment in Africa on 10 February at the Royal Orchid Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Market Place, which was part of the Timeless Women's Conference 2016, provided a platform for sharing great initiatives/ innovations that create social and economic impacts in the lives of women in Africa. It brought together exhibitors from across Africa that showcased good practices in operationalizing normative framework on Women's Socio-Economic Empowerment and innovations by diverse organizations/individuals.

The market place aimed to create a culture of innovative business models and initiatives that guarantee wealth and job creation while implementing ideas that create socio-economic transformation in the lives of women in Africa as well provide an opportunity to document best practices/innovations on Socio-economic empowerment of women.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Zebib Kavuma, Country Director, UN Women Kenya noted that the initiatives are innovative and cutting edge examples of interventions/ programmes that could be replicated elsewhere and scaled up to increase socio-economic impacts on women and girls in Africa. "This initiatives demonstrate evidence on how organizations/ agencies work on women's socio-economic empowerment and have contributed to improving women's social and economic empowerment in Africa," said Ms. Kavuma.

The market place provided a wide range of initiatives such as TradeMark East Africa's work in addressing the gender-based constraints that prevent women from participating in regional and international trade; The



*Various exhibition booths at the Market Place.
Photo credit: UN Women/Martha Wanjala*

National Environment Trust Fund showcased their support to rural households in the up-scaling of innovative and cost effective interventions to expand the off-grid access of rural households to electricity through mini-hydroelectricity generation; while Green Energy Africa showcased their work on increasing the use of solar energy as an alternative form of energy in Kenya.

Innovative models of entrepreneurial initiatives targeting women entrepreneurs were also documented. Small and Medium Entrepreneurial Resource Centre-SME offers information, assistance and empowerment in entrepreneurship to women entrepreneurs; Etiquette Xllent provides professional etiquette skills development to women entrepreneurs; Mpension by CPF Financial Services Limited drive social security adoption through its flexible payment options to women; while Botanic Treasures Ltd has shown how they transform lives through nutrition-working with over 500 small holder farmers to cultivate highly nutritious, drought resistant Moringa tree and processing the plant into marketable health food products that are marketed nationally and internationally.

The winners, who were awarded for the most outstanding innovation -The Hive Ltd - showcased an integrated Apibusiness model of The Hive Beekeepers Kits that aim to economically empower women by introducing them to Apibusiness.

Several participants and exhibitors appreciated the initiative. "The market place has created a very good platform for us to build actual business linkages. We have met participants who have actually agreed to make follow ups on our initiative....thanks for organizing," said an exhibitor on use of the Moringa tree.



*Ms. Zebib Kavuma, Country Director, UN Women Kenya
Photo credit: UN Women/Martha Wanjala*

Building Resilience for South Sudanese Women through Humanitarian Assistance

South Sudan: Following a successful pilot in 2014, UN Women in South Sudan has scaled up the provision of humanitarian assistance to reach 6,000 vulnerable women and girls and 1500 men and boys in displaced settlements in Nimule, Eastern Equatorial State, Mingkaman in Lakes State and Juba in Central Equatoria State.

The interventions, which include support for livelihoods (income generation, vocational skills training, computer literacy and functional literacy), protection of women and girls against GBV and capacity-building of humanitarian actors in gender mainstreaming, are being funded by the Government of Japan.

Recently, UN Women and the Government of Japan donated materials worth US\$ 92,000 to build resilience of displaced women and girls and their host communities in three payams (Nimule, Pageri and Mugali) within the Pageri Administrative Area, in South Sudan.

The Ambassador of Japan to South Sudan, H.E. Kiya Masahiko and the UN Women Director of Programmes, Ms Maria Noel Vaeza donated five multi-purpose grinding mills worth US\$40,000, four units of one acre drip irrigation kits worth US\$ 30,000 and four greenhouse kits worth US\$22,000.

These modern machines and equipment will promote the year-round production of high-valued vegetables, reduce the workload of women and girls, and improve women's access to resources and assets, including food and incomes, while enhancing their resilience and decision-making roles at the household and community levels

The kits were provided as an addition to the US\$ 350,000 disbursed through national NGOs for promoting micro enterprise development among IDP women and their host communities. The initiative seeks to promote both livelihoods (agricultural and non-agricultural) and enhance protection for IDP women and girls, and their host communities.

The Ambassador of Japan commended UN Women for the work it is doing in South Sudan to ensure that women are empowered. He reiterated Japan's continued support to the programme as well as in other areas.

The overall value of the Japan funded project is USD 3.5 million which will be implemented over a two year period to support 1,500 households and benefiting 7,500 people in Juba County, Awerial County and Pageri Administrative Area.



Mr. Lansana Woneh, UN Women Deputy Country Representative for South Sudan, The Ambassador of Japan to South Sudan, H.E. Kiya Masahiko and the UN Women Director of Programmes, Ms Maria Noel Vaeza, inspect some of the resilience building equipment. Photo credit:UN Women/Rose Ogola

"The key to peace is to support vulnerable women to become empowered economically and as leaders so that they can actively participate in peace building as well as in the development and Japan is committed to ensuring that women are empowered in all areas," he said.

Ms Vaeza noted that the equipment donated will support wealth generation as well as reduce the labour the women have to put in to generate income.

"Investing in women makes economic sense as women have the capacity to transform livelihood support to sustainability," she said.

The project aims to build resilience through promoting access to sustainable livelihoods opportunities including: vocational skills-training tailored to the job market; entrepreneurship skills development; facilitating market access; functional literacy and numeracy Programs; computer education opportunities; micro-finance services; value-additive processing and supporting the development of women focused community assets.

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The Program will also promote peaceful co-existence among the internally displaced persons and the host communities through equitable access to program interventions.



UN Women Deputy Country Representative for South Sudan, The Ambassador of Japan to South Sudan, H.E. Kiya Masahiko and the UN Women Director of Programmes, Ms Maria Noel Vaeza cutting a ribbon as they hand over the resilience building equipment. Photo credit: UN Women/Rose Ogola

Other important components are the gender-based violence (GBV) prevention interventions and providing technical and capacity building support to the Ministry of Gender and Humanitarian Affairs, to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment needs and rights are adequately and sustainably integrated into all future humanitarian response and recovery strategic plans.

UN Women hosts Regional Workshop for Operations Team

Nairobi, Kenya: UN Women's Regional office for Eastern and Southern Africa (UN Women ESAR) organized a Workshop for Operations Team in the Region from 1-5 February 2016 in Nairobi. The workshop was composed of UN Women ESAR Operations Managers and staff.

The overall objectives for the Workshop were to understand key operational challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt in enhancing efficiency in operations; to discuss innovative ways to strengthen cohesion among Operations and Programme; and to validate business processes (including checklists, templates, databases, reporting) in all operations areas.



UN Women ESAR operations team during the workshop. Photo credit: UN Women/Martha Wanjala



Ms. Christine Musisi, UN Women Regional Director addressing the operations team during the workshop. Photo credit: UN Women/Martha Wanjala

The Workshop brought together Operations Professionals from all the countries in the Region and provided a useful platform for exchange of best practices and peer learning.

Operations business processes, which had been reviewed in a consultative manner with the country offices, were also validated to be used in all country offices. This would ensure harmonization of business practices and associated templates, remove redundancies/inefficiencies in the processes while maintaining internal controls. The processes would be socialized within the country offices by operations colleagues.

Accelerating the Progress Towards the Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in ESAR

Nairobi, Kenya: UN Women ESAR has developed several strategies and tools including a knowledge management and research and communications strategies to support with the localization efforts of its country offices in Eastern and Southern Africa. An analysis of women and SDGs-what SDGs mean for women and a tracking tool have also been developed for multi/ country office use in their localization efforts. The tools, accompanied by several relevant guidance documents and mobilized from diverse stakeholders working on SDGs, are also be available at the UN Women SDG Community of Practice on yammer - https://www.yammer.com/unwomen.org/#/threads/in-Group?type=in_group&feedId=6876071&view=all

The year 2015 marked a defining moment for the global development effort with the adoption of the SDGs. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which forms the next generation of development framework was adopted in September 2015. They build on the MDGs and apply universally and not just be meant for developing countries.

While countries in ESAR have made progress against the MDGs, gaps remain and several issues that were not part of the MDG framework will be taken up by the SDGs, such as urbanization, resilience, inequality, and governance. The new development agenda has been considerably broadened which covers unfinished business of MDGs and brings other aspects such as security, governance among other SDGs. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development comprises 17 SDGs, 169 targets and about 300 indicators. Supporting UN Women multi/country offices and governments to domesticate, localize and implement the SDGs remains a major objective for the UN System and UN Women. We are specifically interested in taking leadership in driving the knowledge and research agenda within the SDG frameworks to ensure that appropriate knowledge is generated, mobilized and disseminated using relevant platforms accessible to national governments, regional economic commissions and country offices and the UNDG through diverse mechanisms.

To this end, UN Women is responsible for supporting the implementation of UN Women's strategy and plan at the regional and supporting the country level, working with Country Offices and regional partners.



Premised on the SDG 5 on “Achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls”, and more than 40 gender-specific targets which have opened up new opportunities to reconnect, recommit, mobilize political will and public support for women’s empowerment, UN Women ESAR is rolling out a package of strategies, tools and services to support the localization of the SDG agenda at the national and sub-national levels in the region which are in line with the UNDG guidance/tools.

In this context, UN Women ESARO shall be making available a comprehensive package of strategies under the SDG initiative among multi/ country offices complementing the above strategies and tools. The region shared a first set of strategic documents comprising knowledge management and research strategy, communications strategy, an analysis of women and SDGs and a tracking tool developed for multi/ country office use in their localization efforts. In the coming weeks, the region will share a partnerships and resource mobilization strategy, a list of frequently asked questions on SDGs, an overall localization strategy and a donor intelligence information on SDGs to open space for country level engagement in accelerating the localization processes.

If you need more information on the strategies/ tools, please contact jack.abebe@unwomen.org

UN Women Regional Office and MASHAV-Israel Agency for International Development Cooperation sign a Cooperation Agreement

The Ambassador of the State of Israel to Kenya, His Excellency Yahel Vilan and UN Women Regional Director, Ms. Christine Musisi on 16 February 2016 signed the Memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the UN Women Regional Office and MASHAV-Israel Agency for International Development Cooperation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the UN Complex in Gigiri, Nairobi.

The event marked the renewal of a cordial relationship between the two institutions. The first MOU was signed way back in 2013. This partnership is premised on the continued sharing of experiences, know-how and technologies between MASHAV and the UN Women established African Centre for Transformative and Inclusive Leadership (ACTIL)... <http://ow.ly/Zq2ne>



The Ambassador of the State of Israel to Kenya, H.E. Yahel Vilan and UN Women Regional Director, Ms. Christine Musisi signs the MoU. Photo credit: UN Women/Rose Ogola

UN Women SAMCO signs Memorandum of Understanding with South African Local Government Association



UN Women Representative Anne Githuku-Shongwe and SALGA CEO sign the MoU. Photo credit: UN Women/Helen Sullivan

UN Women South Africa MCO signed an MoU with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) on February 3 at the SALGA headquarters in Pretoria. The signing ceremony was attended by UN Women Representative Anne Githuku Shongwe; Chairperson of the South Africa National Working Group, Ms Boitumelo Moloi; SALGA Women's Commission National Commissioner, Councillor Sindiswa Gomba; and SALGA CEO, Xolile George as well as colleagues from SALGA and UN Women SAMCO.

The MoU focuses on women's political empowerment, as well as the ways that UN Women can support local government structures in implementing policies and programmes that empower women in their communities.

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 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)	



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa Regional
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