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South Sudanese women set strategic agenda for a Gender-Responsive Peace Agreement.

“We propose and recommend that the minimum 25% quota for women provided in the Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan – ARCSS be filled in 14 Institutions and Bodies of the Government that still have no women, and open up space for competent women to compete for the remaining 75% of the positions”



Participants at the National Women's Peace Conference. Photo credit: UN Women/Ezra York Wani

Juba, South Sudan: Following the signing of the Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS) in August and September 2015, and the discussions around the implementation of ARCSS during the National Women's Peace Dialogue (24 and 25 November 2015); more than 500 women from all States of South Sudan adopted a resolution on how to implement a gender-responsive peace agreement.

The National Women's Peace conference themed **“Women Strive for Unity in Diversity”** held from 25 – 26 May in Juba, drew participants from all representatives of women organizations who have been advocating for peace in South Sudan.

They discussed the importance of women's participation and the integration of women's voices in the implementation of the ARCSS and in the formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity – TGoNU.

“We are here to look at effective strategies to implement the peace agreement, a gender responsive peace agreement! This agreement is not for the government alone. It is for everybody

and women are part of the agreement,” said Dr. Priscilla Joseph, founding member and Chair of the South Sudan Women's Peace Network.

Participants adopted a 7- point agenda, The South Sudan We want that ensured the implementation of a gender-responsive peace agreement in South Sudan and resolved to establish a Women's Peace Think Tank to monitor gender responsiveness in the implementation of the ARCSS.

Key recommendations for all parties, detailed in this communique included the necessity to:

- Fill the 25% quota for women provided in the ARCSS;
- Implement the ceasefire in all parts of South Sudan;
- Ensure that the constitutional reform process is inclusive of at least 30% of women;
- End sexual violence against women, girls and boys;
- Include at least 30% of women in all institutions for resources, finance and economic management;
- Respect freedom of expression of women and the media.

Participants also recognized the need to address truthfully the

root cause of the conflict as one of the key issues in the achievement of national reconciliation and healing: "We are talking of agreement, yes. But within that process we need to tackle, first of all, the real issue and speak the truth. People of South Sudan have suffered enough."

UN women spoke directly to some of the participants on their point of view on ways forward; and expected challenges in the implementation of the gender responsive peace agreement.

Women need to be one. Our tribe, our party should be called women. We need to speak from the same voice and represent views of all women and the entire nation. The only challenge I see here is the possibility to carry this agenda through to the president. That is why we need to do a lot of lobbying and not get tired of it – Hon. Yolanda Awel Deng, Secretary General, Women's League SPLM/IO; Secretary General Women's Block

The adopted strategy and the Peace Agreement need to be translated into local languages so that every woman, every South Sudanese could be able to fully understand what they entail. This would speed up the truth and reconciliation process which also would imply that the ruling party reunifies. If women are not fully informed then this plan will not hold holistically. – Dr. Ayak Chol Deng Alak, Spokesperson National Youth Union

Poor infrastructure would pose a major problem in the dissemination of the Peace Agreement. Already the Peace Network is working on strategies to facilitate this process starting June this year and we need support from everyone. – Dr. Priscilla Joseph, founding member and Chair of the South Sudan Women's Peace Network.



*Dr. Priscilla Joseph during her opening remarks.
Photo credit: UN Women/Ezra York Wani*

The implementation of the set quotas should be pushed forward and a system should be put in place so that even women in rural areas could be able to understand what the resolutions and the Peace Agreement are all about. If this Peace Agreement process is pushed with women of South Sudan involved then things will get done. – Suzy Matthew Othow Deng, Headquarters Fire Brigade Officer.

The Government need to recognize the importance and impact of including women in the Peace Agreement. Women should be part of the whole system, even part of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission; and they should not be left behind. A country without women and girls does not exist. That is not even a country! – Ms. Dolly Anek Odwong, Deputy Chairperson of South Sudan Women's Peace Network

Youth Forum on Africa's Entrepreneurship and its Endless Opportunities

Kigali, Rwanda: On the occasion of the World Economic Forum (WEF) on Africa, held in Kigali, Rwanda, Imbuto foundation in partnership with HigherLife Foundation, the Ministry of Youth & ICT, UN Women, and the Kigali Community of Global shapers hosted a side event themed: **'Entrepreneurships in Africa and its Endless Opportunities'**. The event aimed at educating and emboldening young entrepreneurs in African.

Rwanda's first lady - who is also the Chairperson of Imbuto Foundation - Her Excellency Jeannette Kagame encouraged the youth to continue striving for excellence and innovation. "As Rwanda continues to forge its path forward and remains committed to further connect investors, scholars, and innovators, we see this forum as a very exciting opportunity for Rwandans to continue learning from one another, strategically connect Africa's resources through digital transformation. Through the different delegations joining us from all corners of the world to share views, we fully intend to grow solutions, that can be replicable and scaled up throughout Africa," she said. "We are also obviously glad to see an increasing number of



*Youth entrepreneurs discuss some of the emerging trends in entrepreneurship.
Photo credit: Flickr/Jeannette Kagame*

young people venturing into this world of entrepreneurship, which rewards originality and boldness. We want you to feel encouraged to also step out of your comfort zones, and create life-changing opportunities not only for yourselves, but also for your communities," noted H.E Jeannette Kagame. She was joined by other guest speakers including Mr. William Saad, Co-founder of COO of IHS and Mrs. Diana Ofwona, UN Women Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa.

The event, which had gathered youth across the continent also held a panel discussion with some of Africa's leading voices in youth and entrepreneurship, such as Sangu Delle (CEO of Golden Palms Investments), Jessica O. Matthews (Founder & CEO of Uncharted Play, Inc), Ashish Thakkar (Founder & CEO Mara Group), Rwanda's very own Amin Gafaranga (CEO of Innovation Village) and Diana Mpyisi (Founder and CEO of Blue Oceans).

The discussions provided an insight on emerging trends of entrepreneurship from a pan-African perspective, regional and continental trade, innovation, youth empowerment, among

other key factors in the field of entrepreneurship.

Ms. Diana Ofwona, UN Women Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa emphasized on the benefits of tapping into youth entrepreneurship in Africa. "Young people represent more than 60% of Africa's population...while millions of young Africans are unable to secure formal employment opportunities, boosting entrepreneurship is critical not only to harnessing their energy but also to advancing Africa's economic transformation and industrial development, as well as averting possible societal and political instability for the region and beyond, particularly of violent extremism among the youth," noted Ms. Ofwona.

The Youth Forum Series are part of Imbuto Foundation's Youth Empowerment and Mentorship Programme, launched in 2007, to fully engage, educate and empower young people at the national level. Each year, the series brings together specific segments of youth and features exceptional speakers on topics ranging from socio-economic and political awareness, professionalism, entrepreneurship, communication, self-reliance, to unity and reconciliation.



H.E Jeannette Kagame (5th left) and other guest speakers at the Youth Forum. Photo credit: Flickr/Jeannette Kagame

New Horizon: Gender Planning and budgeting for Mozambican administrators and policy makers



Workshop participants Photo credit: UN Women Mozambique

Maputo, Mozambique: Eight men and 30 women had the opportunity to improve their competencies in gender-sensitive budgeting and planning through a UN Women sponsored course **“Planning and budgeting from a gender perspective”**. The 10-day course was organized by the Centre for the Coordination of Actions on Gender (CeCAGe), a branch of Mozambique’s largest university, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, between 10 -20 May 2016.

The course - initiated by UN Women Mozambique seven years ago - has had widespread success, training more than 220 policy-makers and administrators (64.8% women), and completing its sixth edition in 2016.

Dr. Gracinda André Mataveia, Director of the Centre noted that the trainings are intense, but positive. “We saw debates and sharing of experiences, among very diverse participants – ministry functionaries, public planners, academia and civil society organizations,” said Dr. Mataveia.

“We are noticing an increasing focus on gender budgeting in the institutions that participate in our programmes, because they have understood the necessity of including women in their activities. In fact, requests for admission have been consistently higher than the 30 places usually offered for the course,” noted Dr. Mataveia.

Although Mozambique has made significant progress in developing specific action plans and creating institutional framework for women’s advancement, fewer local development plans have integrated women’s priorities across the planning, implementation and monitoring processes. Capacity building activities still need to further be scaled up in order to reach a more considerable share of Mozambique’s policy-makers, especially at the local level.

Sixteen (16) of the course participants are also part of a larger UN Women programme, focusing on women’s economic empowerment, in the province of Gaza. They are going back to their jobs with new tools and an improved vision about gender; but aware that they will face challenges to bring about change.

One of the biggest challenges noted is the ability to bring gender planning to local chiefs and leaders. We need to replicate the training in our institutions and sensitize the key decision makers. They are the ones that will ultimately make a difference.

By linking planning, budgeting and monitoring and women’s economic empowerment, UN Women Mozambique is increasingly leveraging more resources, more champions and leaders as well as a combined effort across all programmes and through diverse partners and stakeholders to achieve gender equality and women’s economic empowerment and at the same time, eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls.



Group discussions during the training. Photo credit: UN Women Mozambique

Moving from Normative Frameworks to Enforcement and Delivery of Justice to Survivors of Violence against Women and Girls



Practical exercises in groups for the ToTs. Photo credit: UN Women/Paula Mata

Amhara, Ethiopia: Notwithstanding the commendable normative frameworks for the promotion and protection of women's rights put in place by the Government of Ethiopia, enforcement still remains a challenge. Law enforcement agents and the justice delivery sector has limited capacity, skills and commitment to handle cases of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG). To address this gap, UN Women partnered with the Amhara Bureau of Justice to enhance the knowledge and skills of law enforcement professionals in Amhara Regional State. A Training of Trainers (TOT) for 170 participants including Police Officers manning Child and Women Friendly Protection Units, Public Prosecutors and Judges was held from 11 - 22 April 2016 in Injibara District, Amhara region.

The participants benefitted from a training package which included modules on how to handle and deal with cases of violence against women and girls at all stages including investigation, prosecution and adjudication. Practical cases and exercises enabled participants to evaluate and identify the challenges in their daily work and acquire skills and methods to appropriately respond to VAWG cases.

Mr. Firdie Cheru, Head of Amhara Bureau of Justice, highlighted that it was the Amhara Regional Government's priority to build the capacity of law enforcement bodies and share experiences and improve their skills on gender responsive justice delivery in the region. "These legal experts know the law very well. However, there is a big gap in terms of how to interpret and apply it in order to guarantee the protection of women and children. It is key to enable these three bodies to reach consensus on how to address the challenges they face. This will result in better service provision for survivors of violence and will translate in better justice service for the society at large", he noted.

The post training assessment showed that more than 80% of the participants would have responded to specific practical cases differently if they had received the training before. Around 98% of them also declared that they had acquired enough knowledge to be able to train others.

The participatory approach of the training allowed participants to exchange experiences, views on key constraints and reach consensus on key issues such as limiting the accused bail rights of VAWG suspects, importance of setting up women friendly benches and hearings victim's testimony, risk of victim blaming, need for police and prosecutors to jointly investigate VAWG cases and secure moral damage for victims of violence, link with shelters for additional support and the importance of Judges' involvement in validating and requesting for more evidence on VAWG cases given that Ethiopia follows an inquisitorial judiciary system.

Ms. Anguach Fante, Public Prosecutor, Semen Gonder, Gonder Town, Amhara region highlighted the importance of linking survivors with shelters, when they require additional support, as something she had learnt during the training. "The training showed me the gaps that existed in legal and enforcement institution and I learned on the ways that I can contribute to fill the gap," she said. sentiments echoed by Ms. Firehiwot Abebaw, a Public Prosecutor (civil bench) from Amhara Bureau of Justice by saying "After the training, I am now committed to ensure that women and girls are awarded adequate moral and material damage compensation."

Mr. Temsegne, President of the High Court in West Gojam district stated, "I've worked as a judge for 11 years from local to Federal level, mostly in a criminal bench. In all those years, we used to treat cases of VAWG just as ordinary criminal cases. Now, I have learned that they require special priority and attention. Thus, I will make sure to establish a special bench for these cases, also, will train our women judges specifically and I will make sure that they are the ones assigned to handle them."

At the end of the training, all participants agreed on the importance of hearing the victim's testimony in court as a key part of the examination processes testified by one of the participants; "In most cases, judges tend to focus on the evidences provided by the prosecutor and the accused and forget to involve the voice of the victim which is very important especially in cases where there are no direct evidences to the crime."

This training was undertaken as part of UN Women Ethiopia Country Office's EVAWG programme, which aims at supporting women and girls in Ethiopia to access justice and protection services, while also working towards the prevention of violence against women/girls.



Group picture of the ToTs. Photo credit: UN Women/Paula Mata

UN Women partners with Mozilla Foundation for Web literacy training

Kenya and South Africa: UN Women in South Africa and Kenya and the Mozilla Foundation have partnered to bring key digital skills to women and girls in the two countries. The partnership seeks to form Mozilla Clubs for women that teach them how to participate on the web in an inclusive and engaging way, as well motivate them to become content producers and not just media consumers.

In this regard, Empower Women - an online Knowledge Gateway on Women's Economic Empowerment - gathered with Mozilla Club Captains, and other local leaders from Digital Opportunity Trust and World Pulse to teach women and girls on the web use in Nairobi. The 32 attendees participated in many group exercises and activities to teach the web while learning how to adapt the Mozilla Clubs model in a local framework that allows for them to create safe and open learning spaces for women online and offline.

Similarly, UN Women South Africa Multi-Country Office met women and girls running and participating in Mozilla Clubs in the township of Khayelitsha. The first club in Khayelitsha is for women, many of whom are small business owners, while the second club is made up of girls from a high school dedicated to maths, science and technology education for learners from low-income households.



Mozilla champions who attended the literacy training in Nairobi. Photo Credit: Empower Women/Japheth Ondiek

The Mozilla club trainings aims to provide safe learning spaces for women and girls on topics they care about while providing tools and resources that can be used in their local communities.

The training in Nairobi included brainstorming on various issues ranging from the best approach of training to Cyber bullying where 73% of women online suffer from the vice. It was recommended that more needs to be done to protect women from these practices and empower them by creating awareness using offline and online platforms.



Girls from Khayelitsha's Centre of Science and Technology (COSAT) School who are also part of the Mozilla club pose with representatives from the Mozilla Foundation and UN Women South Africa Multi-Country Office during a field visit. Photo credit: UN Women/Helen Sullivan

According Empower Women Global Champion Gladys Muthara, "Being at Mozilla Foundation's training on Digital Literacy was time well spent, as I got to learn more about how I could make use of the internet to empower women."

"I was moved by the fact that the use of web could be made simple and easier for the women and girls at the grassroots to comprehend. This is very possible by teaching what they like most online and taking the same to the offline mediums. With this, it is very likely that the women will be more engaged to participate instead of thinking technology as a complex matter," said Empower Women Global Champion Teresa Abila. "9 million women have experienced a form of cyber violence by the time they are 15 years old. More needs to be done in terms of empowering women regarding the same and securing women's online spaces," concluded Ms. Abila.

UN Women's partnership with Mozilla focusses on the web literacy of women and girls, driven by the fact that fewer women than men are online in developing countries, and fewer women than men own a mobile phone. UN Women aims to integrate these clubs into other initiatives, including encouraging club members to work on projects targeted at empowering women.

See more...<http://ow.ly/S6j230139kP>

Restoring hope and Amplifying voices of refugee women in Uganda

Adjumani, Uganda: “My four children and husband were murdered in our home in South Sudan and I survived with only one child. I hated myself... and I thought many times about death – my life was useless. After receiving psychosocial support from UN Women partner TPO, I have new energy and see some hope in me and my son. I love this group.” These are the words of Grace, a South Sudanese refugee woman living in one of seventeen refugee settlements in Adjumani District, Uganda.

Since the onset of the conflict in South Sudan in 2013, Uganda has received over 220,000 South Sudanese refugees, more than half settled in Adjumani District. Women and children make up roughly 87 per cent of this population fleeing from a conflict rampant with sexual violence and other heinous war crimes. Many, like Grace, have experienced such atrocious acts of violence first hand and are in desperate need of psychosocial support.

While Uganda may provide refuge from the immediate threats of war, extreme poverty and limited resources for even the most basic of protection services in the refugee settlements compound the burden of violence South Sudanese women refugees bear.

The breakdown of structures, forced displacement of people and separation of families have increased the prevalence of gender-based violence in the refugee settlements. There are reports of girls as young as fourteen being forced into marriage in order to relieve families’ financial burden. Women and girls, often tasked with ensuring households have food and water, report cases of harassment and abuse when venturing out to collect firewood, cultivate food, or fetch water. In the private sphere, women are suffering from increasing rates of intimate partner violence.

Additionally, the influx of refugees has sparked conflict between host communities and refugee settlements. The strain on resources in and around the settlements, such as water, has caused tension between the two communities at spaces that are largely managed by women. Some community clashes have even resulted in fatal attacks on vulnerable women or the harassment of female headed households. Yet, despite women’s involvement in such clashes, they are rarely included in peace-building and mediation efforts within the settlements.

UN Women in Uganda has been a key partner in the South Sudanese refugee OPM-UNHCR interagency response since the beginning of the crisis in early 2014. Their three mutually reinforcing interventions, targeting 30,000 women refugees and host community members, include: increasing access to emergency legal aid and psychosocial SGBV services, strengthening capacity of existing mechanisms to prevent and respond to SGBV, and enhancing space for women and girls’ voice in the response. Ensuring the rights of women and girls has proven to



Refugee Leaders participating in community dialogues
Photo credits: UN Women/Claire Hawkins

not only increase the sustainability and effectiveness of humanitarian response, but also to reduce hunger and maternal mortality, and increase primary school enrollment and access to water (Global study on UNSCR 1325, 2015).

In 2015, UN Women launched a partnership with Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO) offering professional psychosocial support to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence through cognitive behavioural therapy treatment, the first professional service of its kind in the settlements.

For Grace and many others, these services were lifesaving. Another woman, Anita, also recalls how UN Women’s interventions revived her will to live. Anita was widowed at 26 and arrangements were underway for her to be “inherited” by her brother-in-law unless she repaid her dowry to her late husband’s family. Crippled by depression, Anita became suicidal.

TPO’s therapy sessions helped Anita work through her depression and restore her confidence. “It is through counselling, dialogue and experience sharing that women can be helped to peacefully co-exist,” said Anita. “I am free – free from being inherited, free from endless tears. I now walk and socialize freely and I am not worried of my in-laws because UN Women has empowered me I know where to go if my rights are violated.” Anita went on to become a leader in her community, counselling girls in need of psychosocial support.

UN Women has also responded to the rising tensions between refugee and host communities in and around the settlements. Through a partnership with War Child Canada, they support the training of women refugees and host community members on mediation, equipping women with conflict resolution skills to maintain peace in their communities.

These programs have had a powerful impact on women who have received the training. One women refugee recalled that “before men refused to allow us women to participate in

community or household mediations and we could only observe. After receiving the peace building training on mediation from UN Women partner, War Child Canada, our group of women leaders have successfully resolved many conflicts within the refugee settlement. When we return to South Sudan we hope to use these skills to bring peace to our country. "

The need for a gender sensitive humanitarian response to the South Sudanese refugee crisis in Uganda is clear. Gender equality in this refugee context is about ensuring that the protection and assistance provided in emergencies and recovery is planned and implemented in a way that benefits men and women, boys and girls equally. Ensuring gender equality now is essential for building a foundation for sustainable development at a later stage.

*****The names of individuals in this article have been changed for their protection*****

Pre-Deployment training for Malawi Defence force on HIV, Human Rights, Gender and UN Security Council Resolution 1983 and 2272

Salima, Malawi: UN-Women and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations have collaborated under the auspices of United Nations Action to develop scenario-based, pre-deployment training modules on preventing and addressing conflict-related sexual violence. In this regard, UN Women Malawi joined UN AIDS and ONOCHA in the delivery of pre-deployment training of the next phase of peacekeeping troops to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

UN Women successfully trained 90 soldiers (10 women and 80 men) on gender dimension of peace support operations focussing on Gender related concepts, Policy frameworks, Situation of women and men during conflict and Impact of conflict on women and men amongst others.

UN Women also assisted the Malawi Defence Force to prepare Scenario based Action Plans, in order to better prepare soldiers to handle human rights violations or any forms of sexual exploitation and abuse in the host county.

The Malawian Peace Keeping Operations (PKOs) have played a pivotal role in the safe-guarding of Human Rights and providing protection against the threat of gender based violence. Through vigorous pre-deployment training which takes a holistic approach of the role of peace keeping, instruction now includes elements of social development appropriate and relevant to the communities the PKOs aim to serve.

The United Nations Security Council on 7 June 2011, unanimously adopted Resolution 1983 on combating the spread and reduction of HIV transmission, the impact of AIDS on national peace and security and the role of international peace keeping operations. Similarly, on 16 March 2016, the Council adapted the resolution 2272 on sexual exploitation and abuse, which among other things Calls upon Member States deploying non-United Nations forces authorized under a Security Council mandate to take appropriate steps to investigate allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, hold perpetrators accountable and repatriate units when there is credible evidence of widespread or systemic sexual exploitation or abuse by those units.



Peacekeeping troops during the pre-deployment training. Photo credit: UN Women Malawi

South Sudan Launches the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security



A group photograph of the launch of the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325. Photo credit: UN Women/Ezra York Wani

Juba, South Sudan: The Government of the Republic of South Sudan officially launched its National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2015-2020) on Tuesday 10 May, 2016. The NAP was jointly launched by the Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for South Sudan (DSRSG), Mr. Eugene Owusu and the National Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare Honourable Awut Deng Acuil.

Applauding the tireless efforts of the Government of South Sudan, Mr. Eugene Owusu congratulated the government for its commitment in successfully adopting the NAP at the time when the Transitional Government of National Unity was already in Place. "The launch of this National Action Plan could not have come at a better time. This launch will for long endure as the defining moment in which the leaders of this country unequivocally committed not to be judged on the peace process merely by the formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity, but also by its commitment to the quality of women's life and the dignity of its people" Said Eugene. The aim of the UN Resolution 1325 "Women, Peace and Security" is to protect women and girls in situations of armed conflict, safeguard their human rights, prevent violence and ensure women's equal participation in peace negotiations and reconstruction efforts.

The National Minister of Gender, Awut Deng Acuil, called upon different stakeholders to identify their priority areas of intervention in the NAP and expedite their implementation. The

National Action Plan has different set of priorities for intervention and all stakeholders alongside government, are required to allocate resources to undertake strategic actions in the implementation and monitoring of activities in the NAP.

The Minister also congratulated UN Women for the technical and financial support provided right from the inception state of conducting the baseline study, national and state consultant, the drafting process, adoption and final launch of the NAP.

With the support of UN Women, the Government initiated the process of developing the National Action Plan (NAP) in 2011 through conducting a baseline study. This was followed by holding a series of National and Subnational consultations to seek the views and opinion of the population to inform the process of developing the national action plan

In order to provide oversight function and strategic advice, a National Steering Committee (NSC) comprising of key Line Ministries, UN Agencies, donors and Civil Society Organizations was established in 2012. The National Steering Committee (NSC) is co-chaired by the Ministry and United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and UN Women provided secretariat support to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee provides overall oversight and strategic guidance on the development and implementation of the NAP.



His Grace Bishop Paride Taban, blesses the South Sudan National Action on UNSCR 1325. Photo credit: UN Women/Ezra York Wani



Mr. Eugene Owusu the DSRSG and Hon. Awut Deng Acuil, Minister of Gender jointly launch the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325. Photo credit: UN Women/Ezra York Wani

Mr. Eugene Owusu also reiterated the commitment of the United Nations to support the implementation of the National Action Plan. He said the UN is committed to taking the National Action Plan forward and to integrating it in all UN Country Programme work. “We commit to support the government in the full implementation of the National Action Plan for the period up to the year 2020. The United Nations will support the government to invest in early warning systems that incorporate gender analysis and monitor increases in violence and discrimination against women. We will continue to support the participation of women in peace building processes. We will also support women’s grassroots organizations that work to stop violence and promote peace” Said Owusu. He also said that given that women’s economic empowerment leads to greater prosperity for societies, the United Nations will put women and girls at the center of programmes efforts on food security, health, and entrepreneurship and livelihoods.

Celebrating South Africa’s Women Entrepreneurs

Johannesburg, South Africa: Since the start of UN Women and Coca-Cola’s joint programme to provide women small-business owners with business skills training and mentorship in 2014, more than 24,000 women have been trained in South Africa alone.

During a visit as part of the programme’s annual steering committee meeting in May this year, representatives from UN Women and the Coca Cola Company travelled to the Vosloorus minibus taxi rank near Johannesburg to meet Mbali Luvuno, who owns a ‘Mbali’s Fast Foods’, which feeds the rank’s daily commuters. Besides drinks and snacks, Luvuno sells about fifteen plates of hot food per day for two dollars.

Luvuno runs the shop with her daughter Angel, and says that as a result of what she has learned and achieved as part of the programme, “I am extremely happy. I have learned that this is a business and I need to run it as such. I know if I don’t do things at the right time, the business won’t go on. I feel I am a real business lady.”



Mbali Luvuno, an entrepreneur who participated in business training offered as part of UN Women's partnership with Coca-Cola to empower women economically, poses in front of her takeaway restaurant, Mbali's Fast Foods. Photo credit: UN Women/Helen Sullivan

See more...<http://ow.ly/ZHlt3012Xs4>

Protect, Promote and Respect: Human Rights and Gender Equality Trainings for Legal Professionals



Group photo of participants. Photo credit: UN Women/ Tua Lindquist

Zanzibar, Tanzania: UN Women Tanzania together with OHCHR hosted a three-day capacity building workshop on human rights and gender equality for over 35 senior legal professionals in Zanzibar from 17 - 19 May 2016. Magistrates, senior lawyers from Attorney General Chambers and Director of Public Prosecutors Office, representatives from the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG), the Law Review Commission, and the Dispute Handling Unit were trained on national and international legal mechanisms and frameworks such as the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Universal Periodic Review on Human Rights (UPR), the African Union Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the National Human Rights Action Plan 2013, and how these instruments can be useful in their work.

Despite the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania being party to the aforementioned international conventions and treaties, discrimination of women still impacts the administration of justice. "Women's rights cannot remain only written in laws," said Mr. Mohamed Khamis, Commissioner for Human Rights and Good Governance. "We need to implement women's rights in all parts of society, including the justice system". Mr. Khamis urged participants to consider the various economic and practical obstacles women face to access justice.

"When it comes to labour laws and human rights and gender equality," said Ms. Chitralekha Massey, Senior Human Rights Advisor at UN Tanzania, "we need to ensure global standards to protect, promote and respect women workers are adhered to". Women face several challenges when entering the labour market, including stereotypes and sextortion. Addressing these challenges requires enhanced commitments from trade unions

and the local communities.

"Respect and protection of women's rights can only be guaranteed if effective domestic remedies are available," said Ms. Usu Mallya, Senior Policy Advisor, UN Women Tanzania. Particularly challenging for women accessing justice in Zanzibar is the existence of multiple legal systems i.e. religious, customary and statutory laws. "Judges, magistrates and other legal practitioners have the opportunity to apply provisions of CEDAW in domestic court decisions, as well as consider its application in the ongoing review of the Kadhi Courts Act in Zanzibar," continued Ms. Mallya.

The main objectives of the training were to reinforce understanding of international treaties, and strengthen the capacity of legal professionals in the mainstreaming of these treaties into national laws. Key elements from CEDAW and UPR on Human Rights were emphasised, focusing on observations and recommendations for the United Republic of Tanzania. In addition, participants also discussed negative effects of discrimination and gender stereotypes in imparting justice, how to handle vulnerable witnesses and victims, and the conscious focus in addressing issues of human rights and gender equality in the administration of justice.

The training concluded with commitment to raise awareness specifically for women at local levels on how to access justice; magistrates' commitment to use international instruments in decision-making; to eliminate discrimination and gender stereotypes in the justice continuum; and to empower women in the labour market through gender responsive regulations. This was also an excellent opportunity for UN joint collaboration – between UN Women and OHCHR in support of Zanzibar.

Addressing the Secondary Impact of Mining on the Environment

Nairobi, Kenya: On Thursday 19 May 2016, UN Women Kenya participated in a panel discussion on secondary impacts on the environment from extractive industries and their conflict or complementarity with country initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

The panel discussion was a pre - event for the second United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2). UNEA is the 'World Parliament for the Environment,' and is the world's most powerful decision-making body on the environment. The theme of this year's event is Delivering on the 2030 Agenda and is taking place on 23 -27 May 2016 at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi.

There was an incisive discussion on what needs to be done to identify and reduce secondary impacts of mining on forests. Antonio Pedro a mineral exploration geologist from the International Resource Panel (IRP) noted that the intensity of use of resources will continue to increase and will reach a plateau in 2050 if there is no change in the way we use and manage our resources.

Faith Kasiva - Team Leader on Social Economic Development in UN Women Kenya was one of the panelists and in her remarks, noted that women in mining are mainly artisanal small scale miners. Small scale mining is often unstructured and data that should inform policy and decision making is therefore unavailable. This makes it extremely difficult to regulate it and make it better for women. It also makes it difficult to quantify the secondary impact of the effects of artisanal small scale mining.

It was noted that mining has social impacts such as migration, insecurity, stretched resources all of which have a heavyim



Participants at the panel discussion. Photo credit: UN Women/Kennedy Okoth

impact on women. 'Lack of political good will, because of vested interests is one of the reason for the lack of focus on the impact of mining on the environment" noted Faith Kasiva. In finding a solution then, it was emphasized that women's voices must be heard. The need for a multi-sectoral approach to develop a strong business case was emphasized as one of the possible solutions. This, bearing in mind that the impact of mining is felt long after a mine is closed.

The social, environmental, economic impacts should be taken into consideration when finding lasting and sustainable solutions on the effects of mining on forests. The need for indicators to quantify secondary impacts and the cumulative effect of mining on forests was underscored as important. A multidisciplinary approach to finding solutions to the secondary impact of mining on the environment was proposed. The government, local communities which should include the contributions of women, ICT experts, private sector and data experts should come together and develop regulatory frameworks.

Climate Change Workshop Results in Declaration



Participants of a workshop hosted by UN Women SAMCO on the effects of climate change on rural women pose together outside after drafting a declaration. Photo credit: UN Women/Helen Sullivan

Johannesburg, South Africa: UN Women's South Africa Multi-Country Office hosted a three-day meeting between diverse group of women smallholder farmers, farmer organisations, faith-based and civil society organisations, rural women's associations and journalists in Benoni, Johannesburg.

The workshop focussed on ways of addressing climate change in a way that protects rural women, ensuring that any approach takes into account that women are an important part of the solutions to dealing with the effects of climate change.

The meeting resulted in a declaration calling onto heads of state and government to address the problems of increasing hunger, poverty and malnutrition in Southern Africa, partly as a result of the current drought, most of the burden of which falls on women, exposing them to abuse and exploitation. See more...<http://ow.ly/Fgch3013bPa>

United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC's) visits the UN Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Ethiopia

Bora, Ethiopia: A United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) high level Independent Team of Advisors (ITA) established to support the second phase of the ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development visited Gudina Elan Women Self Help Group in Elan village of Bora district, Ethiopia. Elan village is one of the sites in the country, where women are supported to be economically and socially empowered through the UN Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (JP GEWE).

Ms. Letty Chiwara, UN Women UN Women Representative to Ethiopia, AU and ECA welcomed the group, provided the background of the mission and encouraged them to interact with the women and to witness from the site tour the transformation happening in the community as a result of UN Delivering as One.

Mrs. Bekelech, the district's Women and Children Affairs bureau head highlighted the benefits of the Joint Programme not only to women, but also to the district as a whole. "The programme transformed the lives of eighty women through loans provision following trainings on how to run income generation activities, eighteen needy female students, who were supported by the program are now employed at various organizations after completing their studies; and thirteen more students, who are currently supported to attend their education in universities", explained Mrs. Bekelech. She also stated that the programme equipped the community as a whole to fight against harmful traditional practices through Community Conversation, resulting in Elan village receiving an award of recognition by the East Shewa Zone's Women and Children Affairs Bureau.

Mrs. Bekelech Appreciated the UN Agencies support to the Government of Ethiopia in its ambition to improve the lives of Ethiopian women and girls including in her district, and called for continued support for sustainable impact. "We acknowledge and appreciate that you have done a lot to support these women and more in the country. We believe that if more is invested in these women by mechanization of farming system through provision of tractors, they and their communities will benefit more. We particularly selected this place for your visit as it is among the sites known for its



The team members tour and discuss about displayed agricultural products that the women have been producing for income generation and consumption.

Photo credit: UN Women/Paula Mata

favorable natural resources and has the potential to benefit more with small investment." She also noted that this is a good model for replication in other regions to benefit more women.

The Independent Team of Advisors toured vegetable farms – where the women are currently producing onions. The group uses this government provided piece of land to farm various agricultural products throughout the year. The women shared a number pointed out that some of this model's benefits include improved shelters, income for their children's education, and food security for their family members. They also highlighted challenges including lack of labor and time saving farming technology, and high costs related to agricultural inputs.

Under the leadership of UN Women, the Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (JP GEWE) brings together 6 UN Agencies (UNDP, ILO, UN Women, UNESCO, UNICEF and UNFPA) to jointly support the Government of Ethiopia in its efforts to improve the lives of Ethiopian women/girls and to support the realization of their rights, in line with national, regional and global GEWE commitments.

The Independent Team of Advisors of fourteen members was established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Bureau to support the second phase of the ECOSOC Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

South Sudan Parliamentarians Finalize Training in Gender and Effective Legislative Engagement.



A group photograph of the National and State Legislatures at the Parliamentary Training in Juba. Photo credit: UN Women/Ezra York Wani

Juba, South Sudan: South Sudan Parliamentarians finalized a 5 days training in Gender and Effective Legislative Engagement in Juba. The five days training that ended on 27 May, comprised of female and male parliamentarians from the South Sudan National Legislative Assembly (NLA), the Council of State and the State Legislative Assembly (SLA) drawn from the different specialized Committees of Gender, Public Accounts, Budget, Defence, Education, Health, Peacebuilding, Justice and Legal Affairs. The training was opened by UN Women Country Representative Ms. Izeduwa Derex-Briggs, who thanked the parliamentarians for turning up in a big number for the training. “I have the hope that this training will enlighten you and enhance your skills and knowledge and make you champions for gender and women’s rights. I have moved across South Sudan and the situation of the population is appalling especially women and children. I therefore urge you to visit your communities at the grass root for you to see the suffering of the people” said Derex-Briggs.

The overall objective of the training was to strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians on gender and effective legislative engagement. The training looked gender and human rights and how to empower parliamentarians to effectively engage with and monitor national institutions in the implementation and reporting process on international convention; to oversee and monitor the implementation of government gender equality

commitments; to scrutinize the government budget from a gender perspective and to hold government to account for the extent to which expenditure has produced results for women and men.

The Chairperson of the Women’s Parliamentary Caucus Hon. Susan Wasuk thanked UNWOMEN for initiating a gender responsive capacity building programme for legislatures in South Sudan. She said “With this training I am confident that members of parliament especially our male colleagues will think different and stand with us in advancing gender equality and for women rights course in parliament”

The training was facilitated by Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE) with the support of UN Women. The training is part of UN Women Programme relating to enhancing women’s leadership and participation in gender-responsive governance in the national and state legislative assembly’s. UN Women’s support to parliament aims at improving the South Sudan Legislative Assembly’s capacity to effectively produce legislation, provide oversight function and carry out its representation functions in a more gender perspective in a democratic, transparent, and effective manner. The approach is to provide both technical and financial support for institutional and individual capacity building

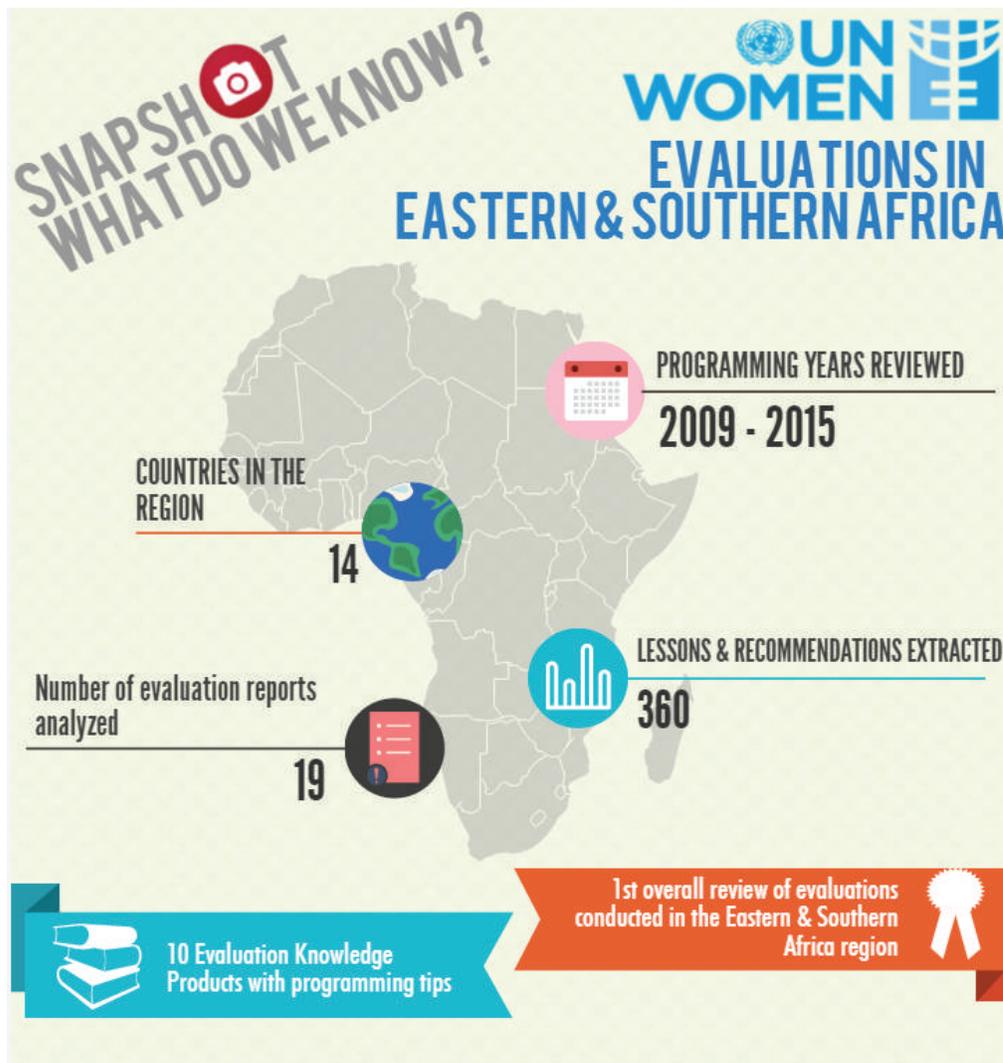
The training was the outcome of the capacity needs assessment conducted by the Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE) facilitated by UN Women in partnership with South Sudan National Women's Parliamentary Caucus in the six (6) States of the Republic of South Sudan to identify capacity gaps and recommend possible capacity strengthening programmes to enhance legislation in gender perspectives.

At the closing of the training, the Deputy Country Representative, Mr. Lansana Wonneh, congratulated the parliamentarians for the successful completing the training. He thanked the MPs for being patient and dedicated throughout the training despite their busy. He reiterated UN Women continued commitment to provide institutional capacity strengthening support for parliamentarians in the Republic of South Sudan.



Members of Parliament engage in Group Discussion during the Parliamentary Training. Photo credit: UN Women/Ezra York Wani

UN Women Evaluation Knowledge Products



Want to know more about UN Women Evaluations? We are very happy to share with you the latest issues from our series of Evaluation Knowledge Products from Eastern and Southern Africa!

The two issues are on Women's Economic Empowerment and Sustainable Development, as well as Governance, National Planning, Coordination and Partnerships.

The information contained in these products has been extracted from 19 evaluations conducted in the region from 2009 -2015. Find a visual representation of our project and the main findings at <http://ow.ly/POgz3014GwM>

All the Knowledge products are available at...<http://ow.ly/QAwp3014G0X>

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

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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