



GOVERNANCE REGIONAL INTEGRATION ECONOMICS AGRICULTURE TRADE

GREAT

insights

She Drives Change

In this issue:

SheTrades and we
all benefit by Arancha
Gonzalez, ITC Executive
Director

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• with:
• SUN and Assistant UN
• SG Gerda Verburg on
• Empowered women
• and girls as agents of
• change

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• and security

About GREAT Insights
Governance, Regional integration, Economics, Agriculture and Trade (GREAT) Insights is ECDPM's magazine covering a wide range of topics related to economic development in Africa and the developing world. *GREAT Insights* gathers expert analysis and commentary from a wide variety of stakeholders with different perspectives.

GREAT Insights is published by ECDPM
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ISSN: 2215-0593 (print)
2213-0063 (online)
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Cover photo:

Women in Côte d'Ivoire Celebrate International Women's Day. Photo: United Nations Photo/Flickr



Editorial

No regions, countries or communities can meet the challenges of the 21st century without fully and equally involving women and men, girls and boys. In the words of Kofi Annan, *“Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance.”* Perhaps even more importantly, equality is about recognising the full humanity of all individuals.

This assessment has led to the development of several strategies, policies and programmes aiming to support gender equality: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development dedicates one of its goals to achieving gender equality; the African Union puts women empowerment and full gender equality as key aspirations of its Agenda 2063; and the EU launched last year its Gender Action Plan 2016-2020. These examples show that equality in rights, opportunities and responsibilities is a universal issue – even though context-specific. But they are also long-term objectives if we consider the slow pace to close gender gaps, which the World Economic Forum optimistically estimated at *47 years in the Western Europe and 63 years in Sub Saharan Africa*.

Gender equality is not only a political commitment and objective, but also an instrumental means for sustainable development, as shown by the World Bank's ‘*Smart Economics*’ approach. Hence several financial institutions and private sector actors have started implementing ambitious strategies, programmes and/or products aiming to empower women and foster women and men's equality.

While these are obviously welcome and laudable initiatives, the real challenge is to learn from such experiences – whether driven by the development community, African countries' governments or other stakeholders – and better understand how the political, social and economic factors and actors' incentives and constraints shape and influence the impacts and unintended consequences of such strategies and programmes on women and men.

One important lesson is that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to gender-related issues. Taking the case of trade liberalisation policies, *recent research* demonstrates that gender-blind policies may in fact undermine women's empowerment – something that can only be understood by taking into account the local political, economic and social context. Women often work in very specific jobs and stages of value chains, such as small-scale farming, or the clothing or hospitality industries. While reducing tariffs for certain crops may increase trade and generate economies of scale (thus providing cheaper products to consumers), it may decrease the income of small-scale farmers. When such policies indeed contribute to the creation of more and better jobs in the agro-processing/clothing industries, women tend to be stuck in the low-skilled and less profitable jobs (e.g. labour-intensive tasks like packaging). Impact assessment based on gender-

disaggregated data is therefore crucial to better inform policy decision-making.

Further, to be effective, gender-sensitive programmes in Europe as in Africa need to address power relations and deal with the incentives and constraints that shape women's and men's behaviours and relations. As reflected in recent campaigns advocating for women and men's equality such as *“heforshe”*, gender equality is not just a women's issue – it's a human rights issue. Involving men and boys in the political, societal and social arenas (as role models) is key to designing sustainable solutions addressing gender inequalities. Otherwise policies and programmes aiming to empower women and girls will continue to come up against the barrier of male power and expectations, structures and beliefs *that benefit men over women*. This requires incentivising men and boys by showing the value in equal opportunities for women and girls, and the issues related to the restriction of boys and young men to traditional 'male' roles.

Providing the link between policy and practice is thus one of the objectives of this issue, which combines concrete examples on the one hand, and recent changes in the (development) policy field. This issue of *GREAT Insights* brings together many perspectives and insights on the varied and innovative approaches pursued to rise to these challenges. As always, we hope you enjoy them, and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Karim Karaki (Guest editor) and San Bilal



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Karim Karaki, Policy Officer, Economic and Agricultural Transformation Programme, ECDPM



Launch of SheTrades initiative in Rwanda | Kigali, 22 March 2017.
Photo ©OGS Rwanda/Faustin NKURUNZIZA

The link between gender and trade

Trade opening has had a particularly striking effect on the number of women working in export-oriented manufacturing and production sectors, from employing a higher share of women than non-exporting firms, to providing greater returns for them. Some 70-90% of the workers employed in export processing zones (EPZs) are women. Women also produce more than half of the world's household goods and their share of informal employment generally matches or exceeds men's.

Trade appears to offer greater incentives to remove gender biases and discrimination at the economy level, with governments seeking to harness the full productivity of women; with the private sector, with the recognised benefits of gender diversity; and at the individual level with women working in export-oriented sectors reporting greater empowerment and agency in the household.

It is estimated that there are 8 to 10 million formal small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in developing countries with at least one female owner. These businesses are contributing to economic growth and poverty reduction. The plots in the figures below show a clear positive impact. They highlight the relationship between the rate of female firm ownership and the level of economic development as measured by annual growth of GDP, annual growth of GDP per capita and trade to GDP ratio, for a cross-section of 80 countries.

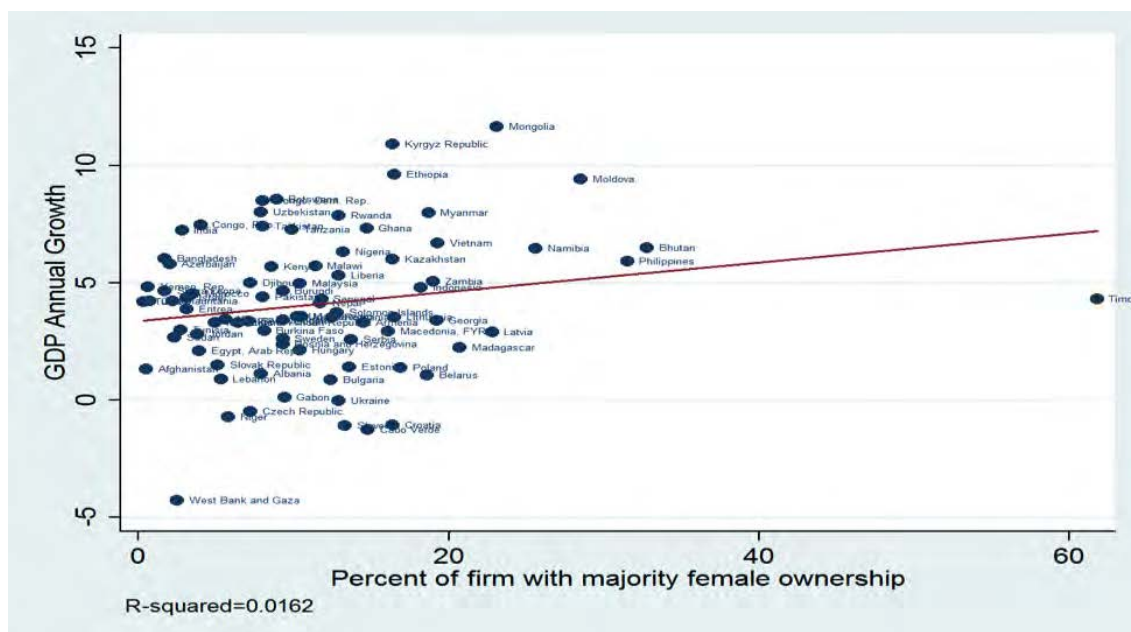
Economic empowerment of women at ITC

Women's economic empowerment through trade is a strategic priority of ITC. ITC was the first international organisation to deliver a programme of this scope, analysing and addressing obstacles to women entrepreneurs' participation in trade and skilling and linking them to global markets. ITC's *SheTrades* initiative, launched in 2015, seeks to scale up the organisation's efforts, setting a goal of connecting one million women to market by 2020; and has already within its first 18 months of establishment secured commitments from partners to connect over 800,000 women to market.

The initiative provides a blueprint of seven actions to unlocking women's economic empowerment through trade and modalities for partners to collaborate with ITC to implement programmes and actions along the seven areas of action: collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data on women's economic activity; developing gender sensitive trade policies; leveraging government procurement to support women's economic participation; working with the private sector to create economic opportunities for women, particularly with respect to markets; facilitating access to financial services and providing women with equal rights to own assets. But over and above these, we must all – men and women together – work to change social norms and stereotypes.

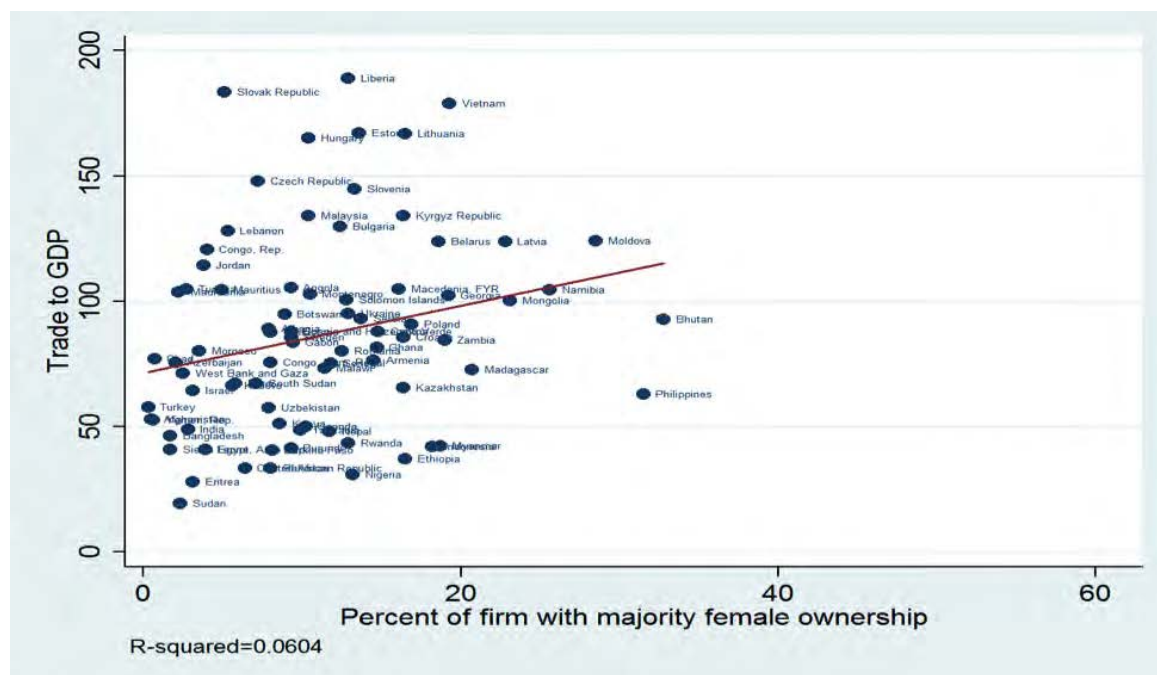
The *SheTrades* initiative is supported by a mobile and web

Figure 2: Positive correlation between rate of female firm ownership and GDP growth



Source: World Bank Data

Figure 3: Positive correlation between rate of female firm ownership and trade to GDP ratio



Source: World Bank Data

app at www.shetrades.com where women entrepreneurs from around the world can network, find new buyers and access a range of tools and resources to become more competitive. We must support that SheTrades because in doing so we ensure that growth is more inclusive, national economies are more competitive and the route to end extreme poverty is faster. SheTrades because it is good for all. ■

Further reading:

International Trade Centre,
Unlocking Markets for Women to Trade. Geneva: ITC, 2015.

About the author



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No sustainable improvements in nutrition will be achieved unless women and girls are empowered as agents of change



ECDPM's Carmen Torres talks to Gerda Verburg, SUN Movement Coordinator and Assistant UN Secretary-General

The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement's vision is to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030, based on the principle that every woman, man, girl and boy has a right to food and good nutrition. Considering the abundance of international policy frameworks and initiatives that seek to address gender equalities in our food systems, putting the rhetoric into practice should not be so hard. SUN member countries like Malawi and Senegal are proving this, and the efforts of partnerships with business, civil society, donors and the UN system are paving the way to progress.

Carmen Torres: What are the objectives of the Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and the challenges to achieve them, especially regarding gender inequality?

Gerda Verburg: The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement's vision is to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030, based on the principle that every woman, man, girl and boy has a right to food and good nutrition. Our strategy and roadmap for 2016-2020 is built around the notion that both under and overnutrition (obesity, non-communicable diseases, etc.) need to be tackled, often in parallel, and that every country – in the global South and North alike – has a nutrition problem. Today, we have 59 countries in the driver's seat of our Movement, which was founded in 2010.

Our remit is to ensure that countries make strides towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), besides Goal 2 on eliminating hunger and achieving food security

and improved nutrition, as nutrition is a maker and marker for all the SDGs – with women and girls at the centre of all action.

From a gender perspective – and given the inclusive nature of the 2030 Agenda – this means that all of us must roll up our sleeves and move from inspiration to actual impact to ensure equity and equality-driven action. Whereas on many levels the world has made great strides in reducing undernutrition over the past decades, this progress has largely been uneven across regions, population groups and genders. Women and girls are often the last to eat the food they have prepared and drink the water they have fetched. Investing in mothers is not just the right thing to do, but the smart thing to do as good nutrition in the 1,000 days between a woman's pregnancy and her child's second birthday sets the foundation for all days that follow.

As we speak, SUN Countries are about to embark on their annual joint assessments, a mutual accountability exercise where all sectors and stakeholders at the country level assess where they stand and how they are faring in ensuring sustained progress and that no one is left behind in the nutrition puzzle. The Movement has committed to scale up its work to address the fact that there will be no sustainable improvements in nutrition unless women and girls are empowered as agents of change. This means that we are looking at staffing, substance and structure of nutrition communities in the 59 countries where we work, to make sure they, in turn, have an equitable improvement in the nutrition status of everyone; that they adopt policies that reduce nutritional inequalities and improvements in education – with the spotlight on women and girls – and eliminate discriminatory laws and practices. A key element will also be

to make sure that representatives from all communities in decision-making processes are involved, which will bring the right people to the table.

CT: What can important international policy frameworks and initiatives like the upcoming G7 Taormina initiative, the Nutrition 4 Growth (N4G) initiative, the Decade of Action on Nutrition and the Paris Agreement concretely do to effectively address gender inequalities in our food systems for better nutrition?

GV: Considering the abundance of international policy frameworks and initiatives that seek to address gender equalities in our food systems, putting the rhetoric into practice should not be so hard. After all, these frameworks and initiatives provide the perfect backdrop for all countries and stakeholders to take the baton and sprint – not just run – on their course to make sure food systems work for everyone. For true change to happen we need to be more consequent, every day, in everything. This is what we do with actors that make up the SUN Movement, from its Lead Group to its Country Network. It isn't enough to just say that women and girls need to be empowered – this is the time to deliver; each actor needs to act. Our strong invitation is “lead from where you are, be credible”.

Looking at the G7, for instance, this powerful group has made great headway in its approach to gender equality – albeit often in the health realm – since the 1990s, with the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit generating an unprecedented 29 commitments on gender-related issues, with indicators and targets, including stepping up actions to empower women in food systems and value chains. The Ise-Shima Summit Leaders' Declaration of last year takes it one step further by integrating gender equality throughout its final Communiqué, which bodes well for the upcoming G7 Summit in Sicily. What I would love to see in Taormina is a stronger focus on the links between gender equality and decision-making. Tangible results in women's empowerment in migration, refugee and humanitarian policies and action are needed, as the nutrition of migrant women and girls as well as the role they play in peace and resilience-building are often overlooked and undervalued.

We know that by educating adolescent girls and outlawing child marriage, fewer children will be born undernourished to become wasted and stunted, which makes putting women and girls at the centre of all nutrition action the more important – also as the main caregivers and those that most frequently prepare their families' food. We need concretely to ensure that women and girls have more equitable access to financing, land, services, and legal protection, to name a few. And for this, it is up to countries to walk the talk and put the right policies in place and invest, as needed. There is no need to complicate it. I would like to applaud the governments of this world who, in practice, put gender equality at the heart of all action, at home and abroad.

It can't, however, just be up to governments to take this action further. Business has a key role to play – not just in terms of investments, but also in ensuring that women are a part of every decision-making process – in the boardroom, in every office and everywhere in between. Put in place female-friendly and family-driven human resource policies like breastfeeding facilities and family leave structures. Business also has a key role to work with governments to make the requirement for equal pay for work of equal value crystal clear in any country they may be operating in. We all know that well-nourished and happy workers are productive workers, so aim high and go for it, I say!

CT: Can you share with us a SUN compelling story of change, successfully empowering women within the food system for better nutrition, which could be replicated and scaled-up?

GV: I can give you two great stories of change from SUN Countries Malawi and Senegal – both signatories of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) – that have successfully empowered women within the food system for better nutrition, which I hope will inspire others and perhaps be replicated and scaled up. These stories make it abundantly clear that a community-centred approach that ignites the power of sisterhood is essential. Women are very often best placed to decide how resources are used at home to improve nutrition. Supporting them to reach out

to other women in their communities to share their experience, knowledge and aspirations is vital.

But we mustn't only look to the women – men should champion and actively engage in women's empowerment. From presidents to chiefs to husbands, fathers and brothers, men must actively engage in ensuring that every member of their families can enjoy good nutrition. In our work with nutrition champions in the SUN Movement, we stress the importance of leading from where you are, which also rings true of how men can lead on the empowerment of women, focusing on a prosperous society for all.

In Malawi, President Peter Mutharika has spoken up and out for the empowerment of women and girls by eliminating child marriage and by advocating for higher education, not just in Malawi but across sub-Saharan Africa, making women's empowerment the business of everyone in the country. As we know, child marriage and lack of higher education opportunities for adolescents have detrimental effects on the nutritional status of children and women themselves. As a champion of the global UN Women 'He for She' campaign, President Mutharika has made sure that the entire cabinet, ministers and permanent secretaries are on board and committed to furthering women and girls, a commitment that has been met by local level traditional authorities, who work tirelessly within their communities to realise the rights of the girl child. By putting in place training for traditional authorities on gender-related laws such as the Gender Equality Act and the Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act, village Chiefs have developed their own declaration used to mobilise the community and households, themselves, to put their money where their mouth is and support women's empowerment, end gender-based violence and support girls' education. These laws are now enforced all over Malawi through the integration with community bylaws. Religious leaders have been key to ensure also a shift in mindset takes place, which has resulted in, for instance, Senior Chief Inkoso Kachindamoto annulling over 300 child marriages since the new Marriage Act – which sets the minimum age for marriage at 18 years – came into force in 2015.

The work does not stop there, however. Malawi has also been a frontrunner in ensuring all ministries are trained in developing gender-responsive budgets, which is also a key area of work of the Ministry of Finance, as gatekeepers of the financing framework over funds allocated towards gender equality by each ministry. What Malawi has shown us is exciting: policies, legal frameworks and financing should be conducive to help the girl child to complete her education cycle. All levels of society from the government to the village-level need to be on board for tangible and sustainable results. Mother-to-mother support groups can be essential to re-admit girls who have dropped out of school as a result of teen pregnancies. Re-admission programmes need to be scaled up for those girls already married or pregnant; and putting in place scholarships is a tremendous help in preventing girls from dropping out of school in the first place.

Now, across the Continent in Senegal, the early involvement of women in the fight against malnutrition at the community level is driving the success of the National Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Programme, which relies on 18 community-based implementing structures to roll out its activities targeting pregnant and lactating women, as well as children under five years. What has been found is that, by building on the structures and relationships that exist within communities, women's participation in activities and uptake of services and interventions that are required for improving nutrition are most likely to increase.

For example, Touba – the country's second most densely populated city – offers a compelling story of change as existing religious community structures provide a platform for empowering women as implementers of essential actions to improve nutrition. In Touba (and most of Senegal) religious and political powers are strongly interconnected. Founded in 1987, Wilaya is a community-based structure that has grown to include over 40 dahiras – or Mouride religious associations established in urban areas to provide a space for communication and mutual support – in Touba. Since its founding, Wilaya has acted as a forum through which women played leadership roles in implementing hygiene actions and awareness-raising campaigns for health

issues. The engagement of religious and community leaders, including the General Caliph of Mourides, as nutrition champions has been essential to Wilaya's success. These leaders have all been sensitised on the importance of nutrition and trained to help raise awareness within their communities. Nutrition champions have also helped to foster collaboration amongst local administrative, religious, and health stakeholders, such as sub-prefect officials, presidents of the rural council, village chiefs, district medical officers, and heads of local medical centres.

Empowering women on nutrition has resulted in the consolidation of strong community dynamics and engagement, the establishment of 'family attics' (Saxum Njaboot) for cereal storage and preservation in every nutrition community centre, and the strengthening of women's leadership roles – as management committees of the nutrition community centres are chaired by women.

The success of Wilaya in Touba demonstrates that the Government of Senegal's approach works, and shows that replicating this success requires a smart recipe, including: political ownership, a mapping of existing women's associations, identifying influential women leaders, informing decision-makers on the National Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Programme objectives, establishing management committees whose members are drawn from community-based associations, providing training to actors and community stakeholders involved in efforts to address malnutrition, and elaborating an action plan as well as a monitoring and evaluation process. These are lessons we can all learn from.

CT: From your experience with the SUN Networks, what are the key challenges for stakeholders to join forces to fight gender inequalities and malnutrition? What are the strategies of the SUN Movement to leverage gender-biased power imbalances in the food systems for better nutrition? In particular, how can The Netherlands contribute to the SUN Movement, for example via the FoodFirst coalition or the 'Dutch diamond' approach?

GV: I view our four SUN Networks – comprising business, civil society, donors and the UN system, as our main strength to forge bonds and partnerships

for country-level action and to ensure women are empowered, everywhere, to combat both under and overnutrition, the latter being an increasingly urgent phenomenon in almost every country around the world.

Looking at the companies that signed up to the Nutrition for Growth Compact in 2013 and form part of the Movement, the SUN Business Network is stepping up its work by looking at corporate social responsibility actions towards streamlining this into the business case. Businesses do have responsibilities, towards their shareholders and workers, but also towards women, men, society and the planet, alike, to ensure that global challenges like gender-biased power imbalances in the food system are addressed. As the recently launched report entitled "Better Business, Better World" by the Business & Sustainable Development Commission stresses, achieving the single goal of gender equality (SDG 5) could contribute up to US\$28 trillion to global GDP by 2025, according to one estimate, making the overall 'prize' enormous, indeed.

The Netherlands can in many ways contribute to and inspire the Movement, and I say this not only because I am Dutch. First, the Netherlands deliver by being a frontrunner in food system thinking – across the value chain – that looks beyond just agricultural development. They champion multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral action – or the Dutch Diamond Approach – which is at the core of the SUN Movement's strategy. Nutrition is also frequently discussed in public and private spaces, with the fight against malnutrition and obesity frequently coming up as priority areas within the country.

We have nutrition champions at all levels who help push this agenda along. Furthermore, the Dutch are quite vocal – and more importantly active and reliable partners – in the fight for good nutrition in multilateral fora, such as the European Union, which has committed to prevent seven million girls and boys from being stunted by 2025. Which makes me think that maybe, just maybe, the Netherlands could be the first Northern country to join the SUN Movement to work shoulder to shoulder with other countries to prevent and fight obesity and related diseases. One can but hope. ■

Women, peace and security: making sure that the voice of the voiceless is being heard

ECDPM Guest Editor Sophie Desmidt talks to H.E. Bineta Diop, the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security of the African Union Commission Chairperson



In this exclusive interview, H.E. Bineta Diop, Founder and President of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) and since 2014 the African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson's Special Envoy on Women Peace and Security (WPS), speaks about her role, the state of women, peace and security, some of the challenges for women, peace and security in Africa, and the way forward for the new leadership of the AU Commission.

Sophie Desmidt: What is the role of the AUC Chairperson's Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in working with the AU and its Member States to implement effective policies to protect and empower women?

H.E. Bineta Diop: The mandate of the AUC Chairperson's Special Envoy on WPS is a new and young mandate, even if African women have been suffering for decades on the continent. Since the Beijing Platform for Action, African women have been speaking out loudly on the need to tackle and discuss the impact of conflict on women. It was thus long overdue to create such a mechanism with this mandate within the African Union Commission, to make sure that the voice of the voiceless was being heard. Following requests from African women to have such a high-level mechanism put in place, and based on a recommendation from the African Union (AU) Panel of the Wise in 2010, the former Chairperson of the Commission, H.E. Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, decided to appoint a Special Envoy in January 2014. I was thus honoured to serve Africa in this capacity.

The Special Envoy's work is centred on the pillars of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, which includes the protection of women, the prevention of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), the participation of women in governance and peace building and relief and recovery – including in humanitarian situations. The Envoy's role is therefore principally that of fact-finding, which is done through solidarity missions and commissioned enquiries, but also by continually engaging with influential leaders and grassroots women and men in conflict-affected countries, and also by monitoring these areas. These findings inform the Envoy's advocacy work with Member States and the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC), to advance the protection of women and their agency in peace processes. Between January 2014 and February 2017, the Special Envoy has addressed the PSC five times on her role and mandate, children in armed conflicts, the need for a continental results framework to track implementation of the WPS agenda by AU Member States, the role of media in enhancing accountability on WPS commitments and the role of women in protecting lives in challenging security environments in Africa.

SD: How do you work with African leaders to ensure that Africa fights violence against women?

BD: Our work happens at various levels: at the policy level at the AU, at the level of Member States, and at the grass roots level. It should be noted that the AU is not an implementing body, and our office thus operates as a convening platform to spur national action. At the level of the AU, we support the AU Commission and work directly with the Peace and Security Council (PSC), for example briefing them on the state of women, peace and security during open and closed sessions. We also provide a rapport with the United Nations Security Council. A framework is currently being developed to ensure that monitoring and measuring progress happens on the basis of clearly outlined indicators. This framework will help us in gathering data and sharing lessons learned, which is key for our work in supporting the PSC.

At the level of Member States, it is principal for us that Member States adopt the four pillars of Resolution 1325 (Participation, Protection, Prevention, Relief and Recovery). Relief and Recovery is a key pillar, given the important role that women play in post-conflict situations. We know that if they embed women, peace and security objectives in their development or security plans, then we can monitor it. The political will among Member States is there, but what is lacking is implementation. With indicators, with national action plans and with a wide dialogue including civil society, but also Ministries of Defence to implement the action plans and the pillars of UNSCR 1325 at the national level, then my office can measure progress.

SD: How do you work with civil society organisations and groups to advance the agenda on women, peace and security?

BD: We believe that in working together, women deliver. Our engagement with civil society is really to work as an amplifier, as the voice of the voiceless. We advocate for them to become part of the monitoring mechanisms at the national level, and we work with them to help develop national action plans. Much of the work of this office has been to reach out to the grass roots level and facilitate the emergence of women, peace and security networks. This has happened in South Sudan, the Central African Republic, but also for IGAD (the Intergovernmental Authority on Development), and the Sahel. When I meet heads of state and government, I always advocate for their participation, for example in Somalia ahead of the elections.

SD: What have been some of the main achievements of the African Union and its Member States in the field of women, peace and security?

BD: Some of the achievements have been the development of the first African Union Report on the Implementation of

the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa, with the support of UN women. In the last open session of the PSC, the chair of the PSC, Rwanda, mandated us to expedite the finalisation of the framework and to report on a quarterly basis to the PSC, which will strengthen our reporting. As mentioned, we've established a number of Women, Peace and Security networks across the continent to facilitate the exchange of information and strengthen women civil society organisations to work with the governments. We created a platform to work with media, the Network of Reporters on WPS, which includes journalists and bloggers from conflict-affected countries but also from countries working to prevent conflicts. Media report a lot on conflicts, but not necessarily on how it affects women specifically, not just in terms of challenges, but also on how women can be part of the solution. When I travel, I always include media representatives, for example in my recent solidarity mission to South Sudan as part of the AUC Chairperson's campaign to restore the dignity of women and to ensure accountability in South Sudan. We've also been working with ministries of defence to include women, peace and security training in their pre-deployment training for troops. For this we are also working with the regional Centres of Excellence, whom we've brought together to facilitate exchange on this training.

SD: Where could things have been done better, and what are some of the lessons learned?

BD: There has been slow progress in establishing national action plans. In January 2014 when I started, there were 16 national action plans on women, peace and security; now there are 19. However, there are regional action plans in place, including by ECOWAS (the Economic Community of West African States), IGAD and the Great Lakes Region. The East African Community and SADC (the Southern African Development Community) are also finalising their Regional Action Plans. Member States need to adapt them into national plans. It is important for Member States to remember that in securing women, they sustain peace.

In conflict situations such as in South Sudan, opportunities have been missed to effectively take women into account in peace negotiations, not just as a group to reckon with, but also as lead mediators. During mediation, most attention goes to those who carried a gun, but women mediate naturally, push for social cohesion and assume huge responsibilities during conflict. They know exactly what the origins of conflicts are, and while men will focus on power sharing, women generally focus on human security. We have been working on the establishment of a roster of women mediators and to include women, peace and security considerations in the terms of reference of mediators, but more work is needed.

Another failure was the lack of implementation of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry for South



*A woman carries her belongings along the road from Agok to Turalei.
Photo: Enough Project/Flickr*

Sudan. While this was a fantastic mandate, and the report was highly welcomed, the recommendations have not been forthcoming. Most importantly, the Hybrid Court is still not in place. This has led again to a feeling of impunity and of lack of accountability for women.

We need to export lessons learned and best practices from one conflict to another. For example the establishment of one-stop-centres, where women receive treatment, counselling and protection, including in Rwanda, needs to receive more buy-in and funding, so that it can be established in other conflict situations, such as the Central African Republic or Eastern Congo. Another area where more can be done is prevention, including ahead of elections. Many elections have potential risks of violence, but women have not been sufficiently included here.

Lastly, financing is an issue. While financing from donors is hugely important, it will be more sustainable when coming from AU Member States. This is also why national action plans are so key, to earmark parts of national development and security budgets for work on women, peace and security.

SD: What should be the priorities of the new leadership of the African Union Commission in terms of women, peace and security?

BD: As you know, where women are involved they tend to push for positive change and transformation. There is an

important role for women to play in early warning and the prevention of violence, including ahead of elections. As in 2016, there will be many elections taking place in 2017 and beyond, so we need women as mediators to prevent escalation of violence and women's networks to support with early warning. The mandate we received from the Peace and Security Council, to report to them on a quarterly basis, has given the office of the Special Envoy on WPS an important role in helping the PSC and the AU Commission to monitor progress on the state of women, peace and security in Africa. But the AU is not an implementing body, and the implementation will need to happen at the level of AU Member States. National action plans on women, peace and security and dedicated budgets will help us in our monitoring, and will make the real difference in providing women with a voice. Our office will continue to play a convening role and to amplify the voices of women and the vulnerable in that regard. ■

Gender considerations in efforts to prevent the spread of radicalisation and violent extremism

by Comfort Lamptey

In the fight against violent extremism, women are still operating informally, in the margin of official decision-making. It is time for a more inclusive approach that promotes women's participation in these efforts.



Women sit in the shade at one of the only standing structures in Ngwom, Nigeria. After Boko Haram destroyed their village, survivors fled to nearby Maiduguri and can only come home briefly under armed guard. Photo: Lesley Wright, Flickr

The international community has been quick to respond to the rise of terrorism and violent extremist groups with military power. It is increasingly evident, however, that military strategies alone cannot address the drivers of violent extremism and the spread of radical ideologies that are conducive to terrorism, nor can they build communities that are resilient to threats of radicalisation.

An inclusive approach to tackling this evolving security threat requires investments in promoting women's participation and harnessing gender-responsive approaches to the prevention of violent extremism. The need for a gender lens is premised on an understanding of violent extremism as a gendered phenomenon. Consequently, including women in the design and execution of preventive strategies will make such efforts more effective.

Why the need for a gender perspective

The use and manipulation of gender stereotypes often underpins the recruitment strategies of violent extremists to recruit both women and men. For example, male Boko Haram and Al Shabaab fighters have reportedly disguised themselves as women to evade arrest and to effectively carry out suicide bomber targeted assassinations. In July 2015, in Cameroon, girls were used for the first time, detonating two separate bombs, one in a market and the other in a civilian neighbourhood. Since then the Boko Haram terrorist network in Northern Nigeria has repeatedly used women and girls as suicide bombers to cause wide-scale devastation in Northern Nigeria, Northern Cameroon and Niger. They have also capitalised on women's ability to evade security checks and attract less suspicion in using them as suicide bombers. Women are furthermore being targeted for surveillance because of their activities, activities of their sons or husbands.

At another level, women's rights activists can be negatively impacted by efforts aimed at countering and preventing violent extremism, where such efforts are characterised by clampdowns and restrictions which impede both economic and political engagement of women and civil society activists. Marginalising women from discussions on prevention policies and strategies related to violent extremism policies constitutes a missed opportunity for ensuring that the necessary red flags are raised on how these policies are affecting their rights.

In spite of the fact that women are specifically targeted by violent extremist groups, can serve as an entry point to preventive efforts, and that they can also be a source of radicalisation, they remain marginal to decision making processes where counter terrorism frameworks and policies are developed and implemented. Factors including cultural norms and traditions, their underrepresentation in security sector institutions, and limited access to funding by women's organisations, all serve to impede women's leadership role in the prevention of violent extremism.

The role of UN Women

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) is working with partners to highlight gender considerations in efforts to prevent violent extremism and to expand programming in this area. In the West and Central Africa region for example, UN Women's efforts include the recent commissioning of research projects to better understand the drivers of recruitment, particularly of women, who join extremist groups, as targeting the Sahel region; strengthening the capacity of women's civil society groups to engage in efforts to prevent violent extremism, including in Northern Nigeria; and providing comprehensive and integrated services to women and girls who are impacted by the humanitarian crises resulting from the actions of violent extremist groups, such as in Cameroon and Niger.

Still greater investments are required to support interventions that engage women in preventive efforts and that address the protection priorities for women affected by violent extremism. Enhancing women's leadership in the fight against radicalisation and violent extremism requires both a strengthening of existing networks and the building of new ones. Investing in gender sensitive reform of security sector institutions and mobilising female security personnel to engage in their communities to gather intelligence on possible future fighters are important strategies in this regard. Providing support to women's regional and national platforms working

to promote peace and security is also essential. In the Sahel region, this includes strengthening nascent networks like the Sahel Women's Platform. Such support must also extend to women's groups at community levels, and underline training support to build their capacity to monitor and identify early warning signs of violent extremism. New alliances, including with female imams who are preaching tolerance and offering a progressive interpretation of Islam, must likewise be stressed. Additionally, investing in economic empowerment of women in communities that are vulnerable to radicalisation is an important strategy to advance prevention and to support community cohesion.

Funding more inclusive and sustainable approaches

Inclusive and sustainable approaches to preventing violent extremism require that we engage civil society organisations and women's groups as partners and stakeholders. This effort also requires that preventative strategies and actions do not serve to undermine or weaken women's organisations working at community levels, who could be allies in efforts to halt the spread of radicalisation.

The international community must match positive political declarations with funding. The 2015 Secretary-General's report on Women, Peace and Security called for a commitment of at least 15% of all funds dedicated to countering violent extremism to projects which address gender and women's empowerment priorities. We must translate this commitment into action in the period ahead. ■

About the author



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Humanitarian crises are not temporary, nor are sexual and reproductive health needs

by Robin Drysdale

Women and girls are disproportionately affected in humanitarian crises and face multiple sexual and reproductive health challenges in these contexts. International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) have been providing much needed support to vulnerable communities through their global federation of member associations, who provide contextualised, timely and tailored interventions drawing on local partners' knowledge and expertise. However, recent shifts in the global political landscape are concerning and threaten to undermine IPPF's mission and impact on the ground.



Internally Displaced Persons Camp in Sudan. Photo: UN Photo/Flickr

We live in a time when crises, whether brought on by human causes or natural disaster, have displaced more people than at any point since the Second World War.

The needs of those driven from their homes are not transitory. Refugees now find themselves facing impermanent conditions for an average of 20 years. They must resort to living in temporary shelters or makeshift accommodation, and their refugee status often leaves them ineligible to access public healthcare and education.

The United Nations (UN) reports there are more than 125 million people worldwide in need of humanitarian assistance. Of those, a quarter are women and girls between the ages of 15 and 49. And one in five of these women and girls is likely to be pregnant.

A woman who has been forced to flee is particularly vulnerable. More than 60% of maternal deaths take place in humanitarian and fragile contexts, according to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). At least half of these women's lives could easily be saved. And yet women and girls affected by humanitarian crises face other risks too. A breakdown in civil order following disasters consistently increases the occurrence of sexual violence, exposure to sexually transmitted infections including HIV, and unintended pregnancies.

After the 2015 cyclone in the Pacific Island nation of Vanuatu, a counselling centre recorded a 300% spike in gender-based violence referrals. Likewise, a study with Syrian refugee women displaced by conflict found that more than 50% experienced reproductive tract infections, almost a third

had experienced gender-based violence, and the majority had not sought medical care.

IPPF are at the forefront of delivering life-saving services. Our Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme in crisis and post-crisis situations (SPRINT), established in 2007 and supported by the Australian Government, has ensured access to essential sexual and reproductive health services for women, men and children in times of crisis.

Under the banner of our new IPPF Humanitarian division, the SPRINT initiative is now part of a global movement that seeks to provide all those affected by crises worldwide with dignity, protection and care.

As a federation of 142 locally-owned but globally connected member associations, IPPF have a unique model for providing these vital humanitarian services.

Our focus on valuing local solutions means our responses are rapid and sustainable. We see it as vital to be on the ground before, during, and after crises. Member associations work to mitigate against sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues ahead of a crisis to reduce negative impacts, and remain afterward to assist communities to recover and rebuild their lives.

When Cyclone Winston struck Fiji in February last year, IPPF's local member association, the Reproductive and Family Health Association of Fiji (RFHAF), was already preparing to mobilise teams of volunteers and health staff.

Initially, SRH was not prioritised at a national level, thus the first challenge was to convince the Government of Fiji and lead agencies of the critical importance of including SRH issues in the response. With support from IPPF and SPRINT personnel, RFHAF successfully advocated with the government to include reproductive health concerns into the post-cyclone needs assessment, and supported the Government in carrying this assessment out.

Coordination and collaboration was critical as the damage was across an extensive area on several islands. Working in partnership with the Ministry of Health (MoH), UNFPA, Red Cross Society and local non-government agencies, RFHAF provided SRH care to remote areas identified as being worst hit by the cyclone. Colleagues from SPRINT and RFHAF split into three teams, moving into the field simultaneously to conduct 37 mobile medical missions to reach women and girls, with vulnerable pregnant women and new mothers prioritised.

Comprehensive follow up beyond the initial response post-cyclone was a particular challenge for an organisation of just 11 staff. To address this, RFHAF leveraged their existing partnership with the MoH to facilitate training and handover of SRH service provision to district nurses and sub-divisional health centres, once these facilities were again operational.

The response in Fiji utilised the Minimum Initial Service Package for Reproductive Health, which IPPF helped to pioneer. Commonly referred to as 'the MISp', the package is a series of priority life-saving interventions that IPPF seek to implement as soon as possible following a crisis.

The MISp functions as a coordinated series of priority actions to: (i) Prevent and manage the consequences of sexual violence; (ii) Reduce the transmission of HIV; (iii)

Prevent maternal and infant mortality; and (iv) Plan for a return to comprehensive services as soon as the situation stabilises.

Through SPRINT, we have responded to 71 emergencies reaching almost a million clients over the last ten years. We have become experts in the implementation of the MISp across a vast array of contexts. In 2015, IPPF member associations reached 2.3 million people in crises globally.

Whilst we are immensely proud of our achievements, we're also cognisant that our ongoing capacity to provide vital reproductive health care in humanitarian settings hinges upon continued access to essential commodities and funding.

The need to prioritise SRH alongside other humanitarian interventions has never been clearer, yet the changes in global politics towards more conservative agendas threaten to undermine IPPF's mission. Changes affecting the global political landscape are also having a significant impact on humanitarian assistance; not only is this assistance becoming more limited, but it is also being steered towards more traditional humanitarian priorities such as child health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene. We are faced with the paradox of SRH issues in crises continuing to rise and become more pervasive, yet funding for this life-saving work has been directly hit due to the reintroduction of the 'Global Gag Rule' by the US Administration. This rule, also known as the "Mexico City Policy", disqualifies non-US non-government organisations from receiving US global health assistance for providing abortion counselling, referrals or services, as well as prohibiting any form of advocacy related to abortion. In effect, the policy serves as a terrifying barrier for women and girls globally in being able to access health services.

In an unprecedented global climate, where conservative politics are seemingly determining the fates of women and girls in aid-recipient countries, our need for donor funding and support for our work has never been more critical. It is going to take bold leadership and sustained investment to change the course of crisis-affected women's and girls' lives in the coming years. The recent commitments made by governments and other donors at the She Decides conference, amounting to EUR 181m, are wholeheartedly welcomed. But given that more than 500 women and girls continue to die each day from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth in disasters, more needs to be done. IPPF will never stop fighting to ensure that women and girls in crises cannot only decide, but also thrive. We call on the global community to join us in this fight. ■

About the author



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Gender budgeting in sub-Saharan Africa

by Janet G. Stotsky

Rwanda and Uganda are two sub-Saharan African countries that have achieved success with gender budgeting—an initiative to use fiscal policy and administration to address gender inequality and women's and girls' advancement. This short article highlights their efforts.

Gender budgeting is an initiative to use fiscal policy and administration to address gender inequality and women's advancement. A large number of sub-Saharan African countries have adopted gender budgeting. Two countries that have achieved notable success in their efforts are Uganda and Rwanda, both of which have integrated gender-related goals into budget policies, programmes, and processes in fundamental ways. Other countries have made more limited progress in introducing gender budgeting into their budget-making. Leadership by the Ministry of Finance is critical for enduring effects, although non-governmental organisations and parliamentary bodies in sub-Saharan Africa play an essential role in advocating for gender budgeting.

Gender budgeting can spur growth in sub-Saharan Africa

Gender inequality in access to education and adequate health care and in paid employment and entrepreneurial activities remain pervasive in sub-Saharan Africa. The region continues to lag the world in gender equality, even as it has seen improvement in recent years in most indicators of gender equality and measures of women's advancement. It is critical to address gender inequality because a growing body of research demonstrates that gender equality contributes to stronger and more inclusive growth.

Sub-Saharan African countries were among the earliest countries in the world to adopt gender budgeting - the use of fiscal policy and fiscal administration to advance gender equality and women's development. Our review of gender budgeting in sub-Saharan Africa found that Rwanda, Uganda, and South Africa have achieved some successes with

gender budgeting, chiefly through changes in fiscal policies or budget-making procedures to address gender-related goals.

Gender budgeting is not a zero sum game

In the countries with the most success in gender budgeting, there was a clear consensus by officials in government that gender budgeting would contribute not only to the well-being of women and girls but to the welfare of society as a whole.

In the region, we found that, in the countries where gender budgeting seems to be most effective, Ministries of Finance are taking the lead. For example, Ministries of Finance in Rwanda and Uganda have mandated that other ministries or levels of government responsible for social welfare and economic development try to address gender gaps and women's needs in their budgets. Parliamentarians also played a catalytic role in these countries.

Non-governmental organisations and donors were helpful in generating research and applying pressure to support changes in fiscal policies in these countries. Donors have also provided important financial support to gender budgeting efforts.

Gender budgeting in Rwanda

Rwanda is a low-income, agricultural-based developing country in Africa that has made impressive progress in rebuilding after civil conflict in the 1990s. Although Rwanda has made significant strides in closing gender gaps, women still remain at a disadvantage in key areas, including economic empowerment.

The legislative background for gender equality supports gender budgeting

The Constitution of 2003 includes equal rights for women and men and mandates at least 30 percent women in all decision-making positions. Women constitute about two-thirds of the lower house of parliament, and are well represented in judiciary and cabinet positions, and as provincial governors, district council members, and mayors in charge of social affairs.

The Constitution also provides the basis for gender-responsive laws across a variety of areas including in the areas of inheritance, land, and property rights, and protection against gender-based violence. To address gender inequality and protect women's rights, Rwanda established a Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, a Gender Monitoring Office, and a national women's council.

Enshrining gender budgeting in the law and identifying well-specified outcomes are critical

Gender budgeting in Rwanda is an ongoing process. The current initiative dates back to 2008. One crucial step was that Rwanda, drawing on the model of Austria, enacted in 2012/2013 an organic budget law, which incorporated gender budgeting formally into budget laws and made Gender Budget Statements mandatory. The gender budgeting framework in Rwanda importantly assigns the lead role to the Ministry of Finance in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion and spending ministries.

Rwanda has taken the significant step of integrating its gender budgeting initiative into its reform of public financial management to put in place programme or results-based budgeting



Minister for Women, Children and People with Disabilities Lulu Xingwana addresses The Women & Budget Initiative Inaugural Luncheon 2012 held at Mount Nelson Hotel in Cape Town, South Africa. Photo: GovernmentZA/ Flickr

through sectoral identification of gender-related goals and identification of desired outcomes. Rwanda started its gender budgeting efforts with four pilot Ministries of Education, health, agriculture, and infrastructure, a useful acknowledgement of the importance of gender equality in both the social and economic sectors. After rolling out the initiative to the entire national government, it also extended the initiative to the subnational level (called districts), an important recognition that subnational government is also responsible for critical public services in health, education, infrastructure, and other areas.

Monitoring and evaluation are essential

An unusual and critical part of Rwanda's initiative was the establishment of a Gender Monitoring Office to evaluate outcomes and hold ministries and other government entities accountable for delivering on their gender-related objectives. This office is responsible for producing an annual report, which is published and demonstrates a

serious intention of the government to hold itself accountable for identifying important objectives, incorporating the means to achieve these objectives into budgetary programmes and policies, and measuring progress on outcomes. A final key part of Rwanda's initiative is that it has engaged civil society and the research community in budget analysis and evaluation of outcomes, which provides another means to provide feedback to the authorities for strengthening their programme.

Altogether, Rwanda shows that it is possible to embed gender budgeting into the normal budgetary processes of a national government and subnational governments to address identified gender gaps and girls' and women's needs.

Gender budgeting in Uganda

Uganda is another low-income, mainly agricultural, developing country in sub-Saharan Africa. Like Rwanda, it has made significant progress in economic growth and gender equality, even while much remains to be done.

It demonstrates an alternative route to gender budgeting

The Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development initiated gender budgeting by including in the Budget Call Circular in 2004/05 an annex with guidelines on how to address gender-related goals in the budget for sector ministries and local governments. The initial focus was on the Ministries of Education; Health; Agriculture; Justice, Law, and Order; Energy; and Water and Sanitation. Sex-disaggregated data were used to inform discussions on the budget. In response to the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development's observation that many sectors were providing only general statements about how they planned to address gender inequality, it has strengthened the approach over time by requiring that sectors submit specific actions to address gender inequality. Ministries, departments, local governments, and agencies are asked to demonstrate how they are promoting gender equality and related objectives in the Sustainable Development

Goals. In addition, they must identify goals with specific targets related to gender equality and measure progress towards these goals by collecting data disaggregated by sex, age, disability, and geographic location.

It has achieved some successes but identifiable outcomes are still limited

Some achievements on gender-related fiscal policies in recent years include Parliament's decision to remove the 18 percent value added tax (VAT) on agricultural inputs and equipment for fiscal year 2014/15, benefiting farmers, the majority of whom are women. The recent introduction of the Certificate on Gender and Equity Compliance to monitor sectoral compliance with gender-related goals and the linking of intergovernmental transfers to local governments to programmes on gender equity are innovative and suggest a genuine commitment to achieving gender equity and addressing women's needs through the budget.

The Ugandan experience suggests that governments can address gender-related goals through the budget by setting clear and well thought-out priorities in different sectors of the economy.

South Africa

South Africa has had two distinct gender budgeting efforts, both of which led to some fiscal policy and administrative changes. However, both initiatives waned, even though the government indicates that it remains firmly committed to gender equality and addressing women's needs. Over time, several fiscal policy or programme changes at the national level were attributed to gender budgeting or related initiatives including the zero rating of paraffin (i.e., kerosene) in the VAT in 2001 to reduce the tax burden on poor women who rely on this source of fuel and some social spending programmes that were seen to have disproportionate benefit to female-headed homes and businesses.

Summing up: keys to success

Our assessment of gender budgeting efforts in sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere suggests that there are several keys to success:

- the leadership of the Ministry of Finance is critical;
- the ministries/departments of government must identify important and achievable objectives, consistent with gender-related national development goals;
- the government must adopt policies consistent with these goals and fund programmes and the administration to achieve them;
- in countries where subnational governments play a critical role in provision of public services, gender budgeting should extend to these governments;
- international organisations (such as UN Women) and donors provide important technical and financial support;
- non-governmental organisations, academic scholarship, and advocacy play at times a catalytic role. However, government involvement is essential for success;
- monitoring of outcomes and evaluation are essential;
- collection of appropriate data and use in supporting analysis is critical for policy development and evaluation;

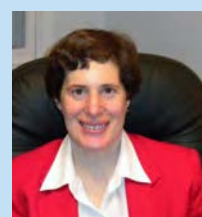
For low-income countries, policy implications include:

- align gender budgeting goals to national development plans and ensure that their objectives are clear, ambitious, and fit into the budget process;
- improve access of girls to secondary and tertiary education and participation in science, technology, and math education;
- keep gender-oriented health goals as priorities, including reducing maternal mortality and

- HIV/AIDS where it is prevalent;
- improve the supply of electricity and water to households as well as cooking technologies to reduce unpaid time demands on women and girls;
- assess key sectors of the economy in which women could participate more fully and productively;
- extend fiscal incentives to individuals and employers and to financial institutions to encourage greater women's participation in economic activities;
- focus on agriculture, where women often play a predominant role;
- eliminate gender-based inequalities in tax, financial, civil, and other laws, and ensure women's rights to ownership and control of property are equal to men's rights; and
- improve the administration of justice, law, and order, to reduce violence against girls and women.

This paper is adapted from Stotsky, Janet G., Lisa Kolovich, and Suhaib Kebhaj (2016), Sub-Saharan Africa: A Survey of Gender Budgeting Efforts, IMF Working Paper 16/152, Washington, DC: International Monetary Fund. ■

About the author



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Illicit financial flows and promoting gender equality through tax systems

by Crystal Simeoni

Tax has historically been seen as an overly technical issue reserved for experts in the field. However, it is clear that it can be used to address inequalities and especially gender inequalities, and so it is an area that must be recognised as a feminist issue.

Every year representatives of member states of the United Nations gather in New York for the annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The United Nations defines it as “the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women”. These representatives come from across the world to take stock of progress made in the fight for gender equality and to set solid policies to advance this work.

Tax justice and women's rights

The theme of this 61st CSW was “Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work”, and it was the battlefield for a wide range of issues affecting women's ability to enjoy their rights of movement and political, economic and social participation. Fitting into this theme was the issue of tax

justice and its intersection with women's rights.

The African Union (AU) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) set up a high level panel to look into the phenomenon of Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) from Africa. Their report, released two years ago, conservatively puts the amount of financial flows illicitly leaving the continent at US\$50bn. Therefore, for gender economic activists, the correlation between the amount of money developing regions such as Africa lose against the backdrop of already under-resourced social services that are mostly used by women is stark and extremely worrying. Maternal health care and girl child education are classic examples of marginalised services in many of our countries. The lost billions of dollars takes away from funding that could have gone into services that women in the global south so desperately need.



Women's Leadership Forum during International Women's Day in N'Djamena, Chad, 7 March 2017.
Photo: USAFRICOM/Flickr

Two years ago the world met at the Financing for Development meeting in Addis Ababa, and the outcome of that meeting for many developing countries was that they would have to rely a lot more on domestic resource mobilisation (DRM), and taxation is a large part of DRM. However, to ensure the collection of enough revenue for development through a progressive taxation system, the state must collect taxes fairly as well as distribute them equitably. It is for this reason that the issue of tax and gender justice was amongst the issues brought up at the 61st CSW. There was a concrete push to have taxation recognised as a women's rights issue, but also a focus on illicit financial flows which was largely pushed by the global south and specifically African voices who feel the effects of IFFs a lot closer to home.

IFF is not a mere technical issue

It was greatly disappointing to hear the American government's closing statements where they relegated illicit financial flows to illegal activities such as bribery, tax evasion, money laundering and corrupt practices, whereas from the African High Level Report on Illicit Financial Flows, it encompasses a lot more: 60% of all IFFs are through commercial activity. They also said that discussions of these topics are best left to technical experts with "the appropriate expertise and mandate to address these issues". From an African perspective, we know that issues of IFFs are very closely connected to human rights and within that realm – women's rights. At the heart of it, IFFs are simply big corporations not paying their fair share of tax, which in turn puts a burden on citizens of the country in which they are operating. The most marginalised bear most of the brunt – a lot of the time, this being women, either as exploited workers in the lowest parts of the value chain, or subsidising care work which governments are not able to pay for – taking care of the young, the old and the sick.

Tax as a feminist issue

It is widely accepted that tax has a vital role to play in creating more equality for women, and a number of things can be done to move in that direction. At a very basic level, tax must be recognised as a feminist issue as its implications for women are too large not to be considered in the fight for women's equality from a financing and redistribution angle. At national levels, we must continue to push for progressive tax systems that ensure gender budgeting takes place, making sure that tax revenues are raised and spent in ways that promote gender equality.

National tax systems must also be formulated so as not to discriminate against women by, for example, having an over reliance on flat consumption tax which is a burden usually carried by women as they buy day to day goods for their households. Tax systems should be recalibrated to collect more direct tax from income, wealth, high net worth individuals and to ensure that big multinational companies also pay their fair share of tax.

There is also some work to be done at international levels with the push for a more inclusive global tax body to be set up within the auspices of the United Nations, as currently global rules around tax are being set up by the OECD which does not take into consideration the priorities of countries in the global south who are indeed the biggest net losers in terms of IFFs. Currently, the global tax architecture is regressive and flawed and in fact goes a long way in facilitating tax avoidance, creating a bias in favour of not only high net worth individuals, but - importantly - big multinationals that operate in the global south, especially in the extractive sector.

These recommendations were what civil society, especially from Africa, pushed for at the 61st CSW this year, and it is our hope that the seeds of change regarding tax have been planted. We now start the journey of ensuring they bloom to bring us a few steps closer to realising women's equality for the generations to come. ■

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Gender equality essential to confront climate change impacts

by Sven Harmeling and Emma Bowa

Involving men and women equally in decision-making processes results in more sustainable climate action. CARE's community-based projects prove that through capacity-building efforts, men and women can play complementary roles.

Climate change exacerbates injustice and gender inequality

Climate change and climate variability threaten the livelihoods of billions of people, while further exacerbating the world's greatest inequalities. People living in poverty, who are the least responsible for greenhouse gas emissions, bear the brunt of climate change impacts. The UNFCCC recognises that women commonly face higher risks and greater burdens from climate change impacts in situations of poverty. In addition, the majority of the world's poor are women; that means that women must play a critical role in addressing climate change.

Climate action should therefore seek to reduce, if not eliminate, inequalities. In CARE's view, climate action needs to tackle differential vulnerability, including gender inequality and contribute to promoting, respecting and fulfilling all human rights. This should happen in addition to undertaking ambitious mitigation action to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees and scaling-up adaptation action. The severity of disasters does not depend only on the magnitude of the event, but also on the socio-economic and political conditions of the affected populations.

Women as change agents

While general gender gaps can be quantified, gender norms and relations

are very context-specific. Involving men and women equally in decision-making processes brings many rewards. Not only are they able to share their perspectives with each other, but their joint participation in climate change mitigation and adaptation planning also results in more sustainable resilience building.

Through the Adaptation Learning Programme (ALP), for example, CARE has improved the participation of women in adaptation planning and budgeting at the community and local government levels, leading to improved relations between men and women in decision-making processes on climate change adaptation. The improvement is due to a combination of both advocacy and capacity building efforts. In addition to the increasing number of women in decision making processes, the women are able to participate more actively and meaningfully in the processes, because their capacity on adaptation planning, disaster risk management, managing uncertainty and equality has increased through ALP. The models and approaches used in ALP encourage gender responsiveness to ensure increased interactions and engagement between and amongst men and women for more effective resilience strategies and outcomes.

For example, in ALP sites in Garissa, Kenya, during seasonal adaptation planning processes informed by climate information, the men consult the women regarding markets and prices before making decisions on what to plant. This is because women are more involved in trade, while the men are engaged in pastoralist and agro-pastoralist activities. Following advisories from these seasonal adaptation planning forums, some families reported that they are doing more joint decision-making at the household level, because women now have increased income due to their involvement in group savings and loans groups, and their increased access to early warning information. The women reported that they are now able to make decisions to set aside money for buying vaccines for animals or water during anticipated dry spells, instead of having to wait for external support.

CARE's approach to resilience, development and climate action

The CARE 2020 Program Strategy sets out a vision to fight inequality to overcome the poverty injustice. The strategy has three priorities: increasing resilience, strengthening gender equality and women's voices, and promoting inclusive governance. CARE is convinced that the underlying causes of poverty and social injustice include



Climate Smart Kenya. Photo: C.Schubert/Flickr

gender inequality, poor governance, and vulnerability to shocks that arise from factors such as climate change. Therefore, CARE aims to strengthen poor people's capacities to anticipate, absorb, adapt and transform in the face of uncertainty, shocks, risks and opportunities that come along with climate change.

CARE seeks to identify the drivers of change, adaptive capacity and the changing dynamics among men and women in communities. As climate change impacts are starting to be felt, men and women are changing livelihoods strategies - which requires innovations and risk-taking. This creates new spaces for women and men to engage differently, which in turn alters the expectations and perceptions of their role.

Engaging in governance and policy influence

The UNFCCC recognises the importance of involving women and men equally in international climate change negotiations as well as in policy processes at

the national level. Within the Paris Agreement, 'Parties acknowledge that adaptation should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach.' The Paris Agreement is going to be implemented at the regional, national and local levels through more localised strategy and policy documents, including National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions at the country level.

CARE engages directly in these processes at the national level to ensure gender responsive planning and budgeting. It also works towards strengthening the technical capacity of women to ensure a stronger level playing field in negotiations and decision-making processes. ■

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Women's struggle in food value chains

by Hanne Knaepen and Karim Karaki

Women are structurally disadvantaged at the various stages of the dairy value chain. Although positive stories are emerging, more efforts are needed. Yet this is not a women's struggle alone; involving men in consultation processes and implementation is crucial.

Women in sub-Saharan Africa play a key role in informal and formal stages of food value chains, including as producers, processors, traders and consumers.

At the same time, fostering food value chains has become both a priority and a challenge for many stakeholders in Africa, including regional and national policy makers, donors and private sector actors such as farmers' organisations. This is important in the broader context of economic transformation and the need to create more and better jobs - with a particular focus on women and youth.

To be efficient, any intervention affecting food value chains should look at the link between more productive and efficient value chains, and gender equality. These two aspects are traditionally dealt with in silos. The following example of the Kenyan dairy value chains shows well how to better link the aforementioned dimensions.

Challenges for women in the dairy value chain

Milk consumption in Kenya has increased considerably in recent years. This has led to new employment and income generating business opportunities along the dairy value chain. This process, also known as dairy intensification, involves new practices such as the introduction of high-yielding cows, complementary feed production and feeding strategies, such as improved fodder and better disease control. These practices require appropriate access to finance, complex technical knowledge, and better extension and veterinary services.

This in turn may offer different challenges and opportunities for men and women, since they do not have the same access to resources. It also implies a potential shift in traditional gender roles at the household and the market levels. For example, women's access to credit from formal financial institutions is much lower than men's, pushing them to look

for unreliable and inadequate sources of funding, such as friends and family. As a result, women micro-businesses tend to operate in the informal sector, using low-level technologies and limited information. They thus stay behind, stuck in their traditional, less profitable roles in the production node of value chains.

In the context of intensification and commercialisation of dairy, a recent FAO study shows that even in the case where women are hired workers, their workload increases as they are often assigned a supervisory role that requires constant presence at the farm to guide the often unreliable male farm workers (Katothya, 2017). Investing in labour-saving technologies such as piped water, milking and fodder processing machinery is critical for female farmers, not only in easing their work, but also attracting farm workers.



Factory Worker at Sunflower Seed Oil Refinery. Worker scrapes seed pulp from extraction machine in Dodoma, Tanzania. Photo: IFPRI Images/Flickr

Women from commercialised systems also provide more labour than those from non-commercialised households. Therefore, intensification and commercialisation of dairy increase women's workloads and require them to spend dairy income on new tools and practices instead of on food and household wellbeing. At the same time, dairy processors offer less employment to women, as they employ mostly men. This all illustrates that, without gender-sensitive accompanying measures, the dairy value chain development may actually undermine women's empowerment.

Positive stories

When dairy development programmes effectively target women, results show that women are more willing to switch to sustainable management practices and to find effective solutions to constraints they typically face, such as renting land for producing more fodder varieties. Recently, a number of gender-sensitive extension services have emerged in Kenya, initiated by government-related organisations or development partners. For instance, the Kenya Women's Veterinary Association has worked together with the government to build the capacity of women in livestock and disease management. It has improved women's capacity to control certain cattle diseases through the formation of women groups. However, in most cases positive gender transformative programmes emerge from funding agencies, rather than from grassroots initiatives or from the local private sector (Gallina, 2016).

Modernising the dairy value chain generates both positive and negative impacts on the role of women, the resources they control and their decision-making power. This in turn can affect the household income and power relations, nutrition levels and investment in education. Close monitoring of value chain programmes to avoid unintended negative effects on the household economy and nutrition is therefore important.

Towards gender sensitive development of value chains

To achieve the modernisation and sustainable development of value chains while ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment, three points should be taken into account:

1. It is not a women's struggle alone; any development intervention aiming to improve the livelihoods of economic actors along value chains, needs to consider the local political, socio-economic and cultural dynamics to offer equal opportunities, rights and responsibilities to women and men. Therefore, involving both women and men appropriately in consultation, design and monitoring processes is crucial.
2. Power relations between men and women are often aggravated by other socio-cultural factors, such as age, being a migrant, being part of an ethnic minority or being handicapped. All these factors will influence access to information, finance, skills and education, communication technology, social and business networks, hard and soft

infrastructures. Therefore, an integrated gender approach is needed.

3. More gender-disaggregated data to inform stakeholders of the appropriateness of applying a gender-sensitive lens and accompanying measures (for both men and women) in their value chains interventions is needed. Such data coupled with an understanding of the cultural, socio-economic and political context allows designing context-specific and innovative responses, such as the redesign of credit instruments or financial services.

ECDPM will support these efforts and will keep working on gender-related issues, with a view to provide independent policy analysis, advice and dialogue facilitation. ■

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Engaging men and boys for gender equality: What do women have to do with it?

by Angelica Pino

We can do it! An insider's feminist view on Sonke Gender Justice – Can a “men's organisation” become an inclusive organisation implementing the strategy of engaging men and boys for gender equality?



Woman teaching men, MIDA and women from the diaspora. Photo: IOM | UN Migration Agency/Flickr

I still remember one of my first conversations with a male colleague at Sonke when I had just joined the organisation in 2010. As a women's rights and feminist activist in Latin America and Africa, I was new to the strategy, the still relatively new world of 'engaging men and boys for gender equality'. The discussion centred on a training project on sexual and reproductive rights with religious leaders, and who should facilitate the training. I found myself arguing that we would have to send one of the male colleagues – most of them at Sonke at the time, anyway – because...would these traditional leaders listen to a woman?! To the credit of my colleague, he thought a woman colleague could do it. And that was the beginning of my learning curve in the new world of engaging men and my re-empowerment as an activist.

Fast forward to April, 2017, and I find myself sitting in a training workshop of one of the MenEngage networks, and suggesting that the hashtag for the training could be #WomenLead. The proposal causes a bit of controversy and giggles in the room full of mostly men. I am convinced more than ever of the need to 'engage men and boys' for gender equality. But I am also more aware than ever of the need to see it as it is: one of several strategies to achieve gender equality, and not the silver bullet that will overnight end centuries of inequalities. Most importantly, as an activist, I am aware of the need to constantly make men in the streets, male leaders, and men in gender equality organisations accountable for their words and actions.

As an organisation, Sonke Gender Justice has gone through a number of changes over the years to address

what has been perceived by the traditional women's rights movement as a lack of accountability and the perpetuation of yet another men's club. For a start, we have now a 50/50 staff component and women in senior management positions, including a co-director. This is far from the roughly 70% men and 30% women I encountered when I joined Sonke, with women mostly in junior positions. But many questions remain: is equal representation enough? Do we have empowered women trainers that can confidently stand in front of traditional and religious leaders and 'teach' them about their role in the struggle for gender equality, without 'sugar coating' the message? Have we made a substantial contribution to dismantle patriarchy within the organisation and in the communities where we work? Have we changed the discourses and practices of what engaging men and boys for gender equality means? Most importantly, can we positively show that women's lives have changed for the better?

The 50/50 game and token appointments

Numbers do matter, but they are meaningless without real power. As we have seen in political spaces, increasing the number of women in gender equality organisations implementing men's engagement strategies will not advance equality, unless women take positions of power and run with feminist principles. Sonke has made concerted efforts not only to employ more women, but also to promote them to senior management positions, but more needs to be done in this regard. There might, for instance, be a need to create women's forums to provide safe spaces to discuss specific needs and challenges encountered within and outside the organisations, such as surprising patriarchal attitudes from male colleagues, as well as the sometimes overt antagonism from women in other gender equality organisations.

The *role model* temptation, learning the hard way

Directly linked to the point above is the old discussion about role models and good men. Historically, most organisations working in the field of engaging men and boys were mostly staffed by men. This led to the perception that these were the good men, who fashioned themselves and were perceived as role models in the gender sector and society in general. They were the ones in the know, the ones who would not only teach, but would lead the change. The pitfalls of the approach were clear when campaigns were run and these good men became the only ones seen as capable – in an 'innovative fashion' – to teach equality and how to end violence against women to others, whether men or women.



Source: Voicemalemagazine.org

In South Africa, the approach became very prominent and led to civil society and government initiatives where prizes would be given to selected 'best men of the year' in communities across the country. The standards were not always clear, and we had situations where good men had turned from abusers to 'changed' men, just to be caught abusing their partners again a few months later. Sonke Gender Justice also developed during its initial year a flagship campaign called One Man Can (OMC), which was based on the belief that change starts at the individual level, before moving to community spheres. As our work became more intense in communities, though, we realised that many women were attending the workshops and community events. In some cases, they outnumbered men.

So we had to ask the hard question: how can we still call it One Man Can campaign, when we have women mobilising for change? Are we not making women's contributions invisible in the quest to count and show mostly the men's participation and – hopefully – change? In the past years, we have consciously tried to move away from the OMC name, but we continue targeting men as agents of change, supporters of women's struggles in the gender equality quest.

The role model strategy has its benefits, particularly when it comes to making public figures and leaders accountable for their actions and commitments, but it should not become the centre piece of any strategy to engage men and boys, as it



South Africa Sonke One Man Can Demonstration. Photo: CWGL/Flickr

reinforces the notion of change coming from good, illuminating men, and not from communities and women.

WE CAN DO IT!: “I don’t know whether we will be able to continue with the workshop tomorrow...I hope they come back.”

Those were the concerned words of a female colleague running a One Man Can workshop in a township in the East Rand area of Johannesburg. The workshop aimed to discuss violence against women, the services available in the area for victims of sexual violence and how could the community – including men – support victims. The workshop was well attended by a good number of men, including a policeman who indicated that they were expecting a male facilitator, so he was not sure they would take part in the workshop. My colleague’s response was, “I know how to run this workshop; you are welcome to leave, but I hope you stay. I am here to stay”. In the end, everyone stayed and the workshop ended on a very positive note.

This anecdote is unfortunately not isolated and it illustrates the challenges encountered by women working in this space. After years of women contributing to the development and adaptation of curriculum materials; of running workshops in communities where both women and men are present; of tirelessly conducting door to door campaigns and information and education talks in townships and rural areas of South Africa; of conducting research and creating tools to measure change; of contributing to the academic production in this field, women are still questioned in terms of the capacity to implement this strategy, and we still have organisations or teams that are staffed mostly by men. The underlying thinking is that only men can do it; however, as probed by my

colleague, we can do it.

Will navel gazing contribute to social change?

Many of the theoretical frameworks on which the work with men and boys rest come from the public health and psychology fields. They have been highly influential in the way the strategy has been implemented across the world.

The masculinities studies have emphasised individual analysis and change, which definitely has a part to play in the strategy, but the overemphasis on this aspect has led to misunderstandings in terms of how to implement a strategy that should lead to social, not just individual change, and led by the oppressed, not by the oppressor. The misled reading of the strategy has led to a proliferation of ‘men’s organisations, men’s groups, men’s forums among civil society, and also government structures, which have a mixed bag of objectives, and many with a ‘men’s rights’ agenda.

In South Africa, Sonke is still invited to give talks to men’s forums in government departments – particularly during Women’s Month and 16 Days of Activism, *nogal!* – and to address in the same space issues as divergent as violence against women, child abuse, HIV and AIDS, men’s health and well being, mental health, just to name a few. In many instances, the request is for men facilitators. In line with our strategic vision, we now promote presentations to inclusive groups and by mixed teams. In these spaces, we also reinforce the message: men as partners in the struggle for gender equality, not as leaders, not as victims, and becoming conscious of their privileges and power.

Long duree and accountability: Lessons from the feminist movement history

Long-term societal and cultural changes don't happen overnight; millennial patriarchy will not end because a new strategy becomes popular among civil society, government and donors. Most importantly, any innovative strategy in the gender equality field has to take into account the history of the women's rights and feminist movements.

This approach, which sounds like an oxymoron to old feminists, was not always what I encountered when I entered the new terrain of engaging men and boys. Maybe because of our exasperation with the slow change in the face of extreme violence against women and other forms of structural violence, maybe because we need to respond to the pressure from donors to be really innovative, new generations of gender activists – fortunately many men – have implemented a strategy without acknowledging the gains from the past and the need to learn and adapt from it. Sonke has understood the danger of this approach and has developed training courses that put an emphasis on sharing the history of the women's rights movement and the advances already made.

Men activists need to understand that they have a supportive and not leading role in furthering gender equality, and must resist the temptation to rename and reclaim gains from the women's movement. This approach is consistent with the need for accountability identified by MenEngage formations across the world, and which only in recent years has become a key ethical and programmatic consideration. The accountability is not only towards donors and women's rights organisations and networks; it extends well beyond them.

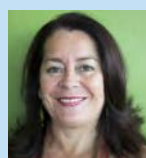
Have we made a difference in women's lives? The golden accountability question

This is a key question that remains mostly unanswered when it comes to the strategy of engaging men and boys for gender equality and to end gender-based violence. Sonke has been a partner in studies conducted at the request of donors in different settings across the world, and there are positive findings. Sonke has also made concerted efforts to strengthen

its research and monitoring and evaluation capacity, and we have partnered in a number of randomised control trials aimed at probing the long-term impact of the work. Furthermore, we have collected qualitative evidence through stories of change, photo voice and digital stories, mostly among men.

However, the voice of women in communities remains largely silent. We have been asked in several forums: what about the women? What do they say about the men in the community? Do they experience less violence? As we move forward and try to instil a feminist culture at Sonke, we need to increase our efforts to credibly respond to this question. ■

About the author



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The Weekly Compass



Want to know the direction in which development cooperation is sailing? Stay informed of all the latest news on EU-Africa and EU-ACP development cooperation with the ECDPM Weekly Compass (WECO) Newsletter.

The Africa Competitiveness Report 2017: Addressing Africa's Demographic Dividend

Weekly Newsletter, 15 May 2017

A careful and thorough analysis of economic indicators and latest trends, this report - published every two years - highlights some significant progress made on a number of crucial competitiveness dimensions over the past decade. The authors provide some specific policy recommendations to speed up job creation for the ever increasing young population entering the job market.

The European Commission proposes enhanced partnership with Africa in a new Communication

Weekly Newsletter, 8 May 2017

On Thursday last week, the European Commission and the High Representative/ Vice-President Federica Mogherini have presented a proposal to the European Parliament and the Council for an enhanced partnership with Africa. The Communication tackles a number of key issues in areas such as peace and security, governance, migration and job creation. The communication is issued ahead of the Africa-EU Summit, which will take place in November this year in Abidjan and whose specific focus will be on youth, a shared priority for Africa and Europe.

Conflict management under the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)

Weekly Newsletter, 24 April 2017

Last week, the Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa took place in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. This annual event brings together African leaders and stakeholders to explore African-led solutions to the challenges of security on the continent. For this occasion, ECDPM has published a new paper that provides an analysis of the promotion of peace and security by African regional organisations through diplomacy, mediation and Peace Support Operations activities under the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). This Discussion Paper by ECDPM's Sophie

Desmidt and Volker Hauck provides an analysis of the promotion of peace and security by African regional organisations through diplomacy, mediation and Peace Support Operations (PSOs) activities under the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

Dossier: Business-civil society organisations (CSO) partnerships

Weekly Newsletter, 10 April 2017

At present, the EU is facing a number of crises in the Neighborhood region and beyond. Most of these crises are either protracted and/or recurring. They are characterised by a high volatility and bring about both the need for short-term humanitarian responses as well as structural challenges in terms of development and fragility, which require more long-term solutions. The European Parliament has commissioned a study that analyses whether the current set of EU instruments constitutes a good basis to the challenges associated with protracted crisis. The study has been conducted jointly by KU Leuven and by ECDPM, whose experts Matthias Deneckere and Volker Hauck have specifically focused on the analysis and evaluation of the EU instruments in response to protracted crisis. ECDPM's research around this topic has also led to one more publication, namely The EU engagement in protracted crises: Towards a comprehensive approach? which appeared in the monthly publication *Nação e Defesa* by the Portuguese Instituto da Defesa Nacional (IDN).

Trade implications of Brexit for developing countries

Weekly Newsletter, 3 April 2017

Now that the UK has triggered Article 50 to leave the European Union, we witness growing speculation about their future relations. Yet, the implications of Brexit go beyond Europe and will significantly affect third countries around the world. In our new video interview, ECDPM's San Bilal discusses the situation of developing countries and their trade agreements with the European Union. Will they continue to have preferred access to the UK market? How can the transition period be bridged, before new deals are in place? And what are the risks and pitfalls along the way?

Talking Points

Our blogs aim to deepen the dialogue on policy issues and get to the heart of the matter in an honest and concise way.



Sealing the leak: Addressing financing around the 2030 Agenda

ECDPM Talking Points blog, Luckystar Miyandazi, 19 April 2017

The theme of the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development this year will be “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”. In this blog, Luckystar Miyandazi explains why sealing the leak of illicit financial flow is essential to finance the success of the sustainable agenda in Africa.



Corruption: A complex method of tax dodging in Africa

Talking Points, Luckystar Miyandazi, 31 March 2017

In this blog, Luckystar Miyandazi looks at the link between corruption and tax dodging in Africa. African countries have a responsibility to ensure stronger and more cohesive institutional frameworks, reinforce policy implementation for good governance and against corruption. At the same time, they should work with international partners to guarantee transparency over who ultimately owns and controls multinational corporations, to expose wrongdoing and to disrupt illicit financial flows. Ensuring that electoral democracy, accountable, rule-based governance and demand for better quality public goods and services improve is a pre-condition for any other action to be successful.



What does the European Parliament say about the EU's international cultural relations?

Talking Points, Greta Galeazzi, 23 March 2017

In a moment of existential crisis for the European Union, culture might seem irrelevant. Yet, for a meaningful refounding of the European project, culture and values need to be at the heart of the debates in Europe.



Egypt under the spotlight: Can it be a safe third country?

Talking Points, Tasnim Abderrahim and Anna Knoll, 17 March 2017

While the EU-Turkey deal, together with the closure of the Balkan route, succeeded in significantly cutting the number of refugees crossing the Balkans, the more perilous Central Mediterranean route is back in the spotlight. Egypt is one of the key points of departure.

Latest ECDPM publications



Desmidt, S., Hauck, V. 2017. Conflict management under the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). (Discussion Paper 211). Maastricht: ECDPM.

This Discussion Paper provides an analysis of the promotion of peace and security by African regional organisations through diplomacy, mediation and Peace Support Operations (PSOs) activities under the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). This work is rooted in a longer-term engagement of ECDPM through the APSA Impact Analysis project, supported by the German government through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and in collaboration with the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) at the University of Addis Ababa. This paper is directed towards a wider audience interested in the African Union (AU) and in the efforts by African regional organisations to promote peace and security on the continent. This work is also addressed to policy makers and practitioners seeking an update on existing information or a different lens to existing knowledge. The findings presented are the result of intensive desk research, covering the years 2013 to 2015.



Mackie, J., Ronceray, M., Spierings, E. 2017. Policy coherence and the 2030 Agenda: Building on the PCD experience. (Discussion Paper 210). Maastricht: ECDPM.

After two decades of stressing the importance of policy coherence, European and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) governments have become accustomed to the need to promote coherence among their policies. In their international cooperation work, the principle of policy coherence for development (PCD) in particular has become accepted, even though it often leads to fierce debate. A whole set of mechanisms and practices have been built up in support of this debate, so as to encourage the search for synergies and inform the trade-offs and arbitration that are often inevitably required.



Kuenkel, P. 2017. Building competences for partnering: how donors can ensure multi-stakeholder partnerships succeed. (Briefing Note 95). Maastricht: ECDPM.

The world's current sustainability challenges require actors in the global society to rapidly shift their way of thinking, acting and, above all, their way of leading transformative change around the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Not surprisingly, SDG goal number 17 encourages stakeholders from business, NGOs, government, donors and communities to partner for change. More and more bi- and multilateral donors promote such partnerships. Many NGOs have started to collaborate with the private sector as part of their own development strategies, while partnerships between companies and governments are on the rise.



Mackie, J., Deneckere, M., Galeazzi, G. 2017. Des moyens à la hauteur des priorités : Enjeux pour les relations Afrique-UE en 2017. (Document « Enjeux » 8). Maastricht: ECDPM.

Il se pourrait que 2016 marque le début d'un changement de cap dans les relations entre l'Afrique et l'Europe, confrontés à des défis majeurs qui rejaillissent sur leurs relations bilatérales. Des difficultés financières persistantes, la guerre en Syrie et en Irak et la menace terroriste à travers le monde poussent les deux continents à durcir le ton, à confiner leur politique étrangère à leurs propres intérêts et à ne plus chercher le compromis. L'élection de Donald Trump en tant que 45ème président des États-Unis pourrait également modifier la donne géopolitique actuelle en reléguant l'Union européenne (UE) et l'Afrique en bout de table dans les grandes discussions planétaires.

Next issue of **GREAT Insights**:
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