

In the course of this challenging research project, we had the kind assistance of a host of committed individuals, organisations and international development agencies. list being too long to cite, we would like to express our special gratitude to the numerous **women's organisations in Africa, the Caribbean & Pacific** who shared their contacts and insights and assisted in putting together this publication. The purpose of this publicatio is to highlight the role of grassroots women in achieving sustainable development. It showcases the outstanding contributions of grassroots women to equitable and sustainable development in the Sub-Saharan Africa, Caribbean and Pacific regions. It examines outstanding challenges and opportunities for advancing women's rights in economic, political and social dimensions of life. Lastly, it sheds new light on women's agency in achieving sustainable development as a critical factor for stimulating learning, knowledge sharing and innovation in development programmes, projects, and interventions. sectors broadly covered by the good practice initiatives include **Women's Political Participation ; Women's Economic Empowerment ; Health ; Ending Violence against Women ; Culture ; Migration ; Urbanisation ; Education ; and Natural Disaster Management and Mitigation**. examine good practice initiatives which are making remarkable strides on women's rights and development, while effectively improving women's status and livelihoods. Draw on the knowledge and expertise of grassroots women to guide policy dialogue and decision-making on aid distribution, management and implementation. Support existing local agendas for **women's rights** that reflect the **priorities of women** themselves and connect with and support the needs of grassroots women, including those in remote areas who are least able to make their priorities heard. Develop **mechanisms** to ensure that funding reaches grassroots women's organisations in remote rural areas and poor urban areas. This could be done through social enterprise, micro-finance, social investment, social entrepreneurship, social development projects and programmes that are contributing to **strengthening local markets** where grassroots women are most active. Ensure that the projects can show potential for replication and scaling up, in particular to the local **policy level** where grassroots women are most active. Support the publication, dissemination and scaling up of the knowledge that grassroots women are producing. They are capably investigating showing viable alternatives to achieve **equitable and sustainable** development goals. In the course of challenging research project, we had the kind assistance of a host of co individuals, organisations and international development agencies. The list bei, we the Caribbean and in putting together highlight develop- o f **deve-** respective Caribbean and oppor- the econo- life. Lastly, it human sustain- for stimulating innovation in deve- and interventions. sec- good practice initiatives **tical Participation ; Empowerment ;** Violence against Women ; tion ; Urbanisation ; **Culture** Natural Disaster Management examine good practice initiatives remarkable strides on **women's** development, to women's rights, improving women's status and liveli- on the knowledge and expertise of women's de- organi. **Women are key actors** to guide poli- and decision-making on aid distribution, management and im- ment. Support existing local agendas for women's rights that reflect the of women themselves and connect with and support the needs of grassroots including those in remote areas who are least able to make priorities. Develop me- to ensure that funding reaches grassroots women's organisations in remote areas and scaling up funding to women's funds or grassroots organisations that have links with civil society. Promote the consolidation and emergence positions in **economic life**. Promote development projects and programmes that are contributing to the a n d that **and** level t he

# ACP Women Actors of Development

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### FOREWORD

*This publication, which forms part of the revised ACP-EU Partnership Agreement (2000), aims to ensure a systematic account of the situation of women and gender issues in all areas of cooperation as well as to promote gender equality. The idea is to have cooperation that «shall help strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the equal participation of men and women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life. [...]». In this framework, the «**ACP Women, Actors of Development**» publication contributes to the achievement of these commitments by highlighting the key role women play across all development sectors in ACP countries.*

*Thirty outstanding initiatives illustrate the vital role of grassroots organisations in the realisation of women's rights, and their important contributions to equitable and sustainable human development. The diversity of good practices is remarkable, not only because of the wide scope of sectors covered - ranging from women's political participation and economic empowerment, health, education, violence against women to migration, urbanisation and natural disaster management and mitigation - but also because of the diversity of organisations working to advance gender equality and women's rights. While all organisations cited have strong connections with local communities, some operate primarily at the grassroots level while others are active in advocacy and accountability work at national, regional and international levels. They not only provide insights into their achievements, challenges and potential for scaling up and replication, but also demonstrate excellence and ability to communicate their work to a broader audience.*

*We are confident that the wide dissemination of this publication, **ACP Women, Actors of Development**, to key development actors in ACP countries and EU partners and the bi-lingual availability in both electronic and printed versions (English/French) will continue to be an invaluable source of knowledge sharing for more inclusive, sustainable and equitable development policies and programmes in ACP-EU development cooperation. For the ACP and its partners, this is a key publication which underlines the importance of investing in women and future generations and an enabling policy environment which responds to the needs and inspirations of women.*

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Political Affairs and Human Development Department  
ACP Secretariat



This publication has been funded by the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the authors and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.



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### I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this publication is to highlight the key role women play in achieving human sustainable development. It showcases the outstanding contributions of grassroots women to equitable and sustainable development on the ground, and in their respective countries across the Sub-Saharan Africa, Caribbean and Pacific regions. In addition, it documents outstanding examples, challenges and opportunities for advancing women's rights, while shedding new light on women's agency in human sustainable development as a critical factor for stimulating learning, knowledge sharing and innovation in development programmes, projects, and interventions.

The sectors broadly covered by the good practice initiatives include Women's Political Participation; Women's Economic Empowerment; Health; Ending Violence against Women; Culture; Migration; Urbanisation; Education; and Natural Disaster Management and Mitigation.

The Publication is structured as follows. Chapters 1, 2 and 3 maps out good practice initiatives which are making remarkable strides on women's right to equitable development while effectively improving women's status and livelihoods. Each chapter presents a brief overview of facts and figures on the general situation of women. These overviews are to be read as companion texts to Annex 1, 2 and 3, where statistical data on women's status is provided. Chapter 3 presents the Good Practices (what works and why, lessons learnt, potential for scaling up and replication at local, national and intra-regional level). It also contains recommendations for policy relevant for EC/ACP development cooperation.

In a nutshell, major findings emerging from the three regions are:

- ***Understanding the context:***

The good practices presented confirm that development projects that take into account the socio-political history of a country or a region are more likely to have a long-lasting impact on local development and, in particular, can better guide policy decisions on where to invest and why.

- ***Grounded knowledge for effective development on the ground: the added value of bottom-up approaches to women's empowerment in local contexts***

Several initiatives stress the importance of indigenous knowledge in projects aiming to empower women economically, showing that grassroots women are a gold mine in the strategic use of money: given their power to project themselves and their families into the future, they are capable savers and investors in social well-being - theirs as well as that of their families, in particular their children.

- ***Rethinking the one-sector approach: the holistic approach is better for policies and practices***

Most case studies demonstrate that grassroots women organise around emerging needs and issues of common concern, either by adopting a *holistic approach* or intervening in several sectors. An important conclusion is that projects that incorporate the holistic and integrated approach tend to be more meaningful to grassroots women, since they are *more relevant to their daily struggles*.



- *The micro-macro link:*

- *key to women's rights and gender equality in sustainable development*

Overall, the case studies show that women are contributing to reshaping policies that are key to ensure more equitable development on the ground. Women's organisations have been effective in promoting local participation, building consensus and raising consciousness at all levels, exercising their creative and proposing power. Undoubtedly, these women are agents of transformative change in local development. Case studies also highlight the importance to act through integrated strategies that interlink the macro level of reforms with the impact in women's lives at the micro level.

- *Linking women's leadership with grassroots women priorities*

A number of case studies demonstrate how women's leadership remains connected and informed by grassroots women priorities. Women's leadership for equitable and sustainable development also encompasses other areas to transform development such as theatre and the performing arts to build future women leadership in public spaces.

- *Greening local development:*

- *Grassroots women are key contributors to resilience to climate change and disaster preparedness*

Several women's grassroots organisations are implementing development initiatives that are proving to be effective in building women's and community resilience to climate change, such as new technologies that are key sustainable urban planning and design or upgrade their own communities thereby improving access to water, better education for their children and improved waste disposal.

- *Transforming socio-cultural norms and traditions*

The case studies demonstrate that to be effective, work aiming at changing social norms and behaviour must be led by organisations that are grounded in the community and are able and willing to engage over long periods of time. In the ACP regions, women are on the move; several grassroots organisations are proactively advocating to eradicate the daily forms of violence impinging on their lives and bodies.

- *Challenges and Obstacles*

Lack of funding poses major challenges to grassroots women. Women's organisations in the ACP regions are often unable to build their organisational and operational capacity in the longer term, let alone replicate or scale up innovative models and approaches.

The initiatives described in this publication show that women have the power to collectively organise, map their communities' needs, replicate and scale up data into policy proposals. These are development practices that deserve funding, since they build on the organising potential of grassroots women, and create sustainable partnerships that do not necessarily depend on outside experts or external funding.



## II. RECOMMENDATIONS

*The following are key recommendations for policy relevant for EC/ACP development cooperation.*

- Draw on the knowledge and expertise of women's development organisations on the ground. Women are key sources to guide policy dialogue and decision-making on aid distribution, management and impact assessment.
- Support existing local agendas for women's rights that reflect the priorities of women themselves, including those in remote areas who are the least able to make their priorities heard.
- Develop mechanisms to ensure that funding reaches grassroots women's organisations in remote rural areas and poor urban areas. This could be done through scaling up funding to women's funds or grassroots organisations that have links with civil society organisations working at that level.
- Promote the emergence and consolidation of women in leadership positions in economic, social, cultural and political life.
- Promote development projects and programmes that contribute to the strengthening of local markets and to women's capacity to generate income. Ensure that the projects can benefit from funding to replicate and scale up, in particular to the local policy level where grassroots women are most active.
- Support the publication, dissemination and scaling up of the knowledge that grassroots women are producing. They are capably investigating and showing viable alternatives to achieve equitable and sustainable development goals.



### III. METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

The methodological framework for this study was grounded in a combined approach which included desk research, online research and direct communications with women's networks and grassroots organisations. The study's focus on women's grassroots organisations was informed by evidence from literature confirming their strong connection with local communities, including those in remote areas who are the least able to make their voices heard, but who nevertheless play a vital role in the realisation of women's rights, and are making outstanding contributions to equitable and sustainable human development.

The desk research focused on publicly accessible sources and materials published by international and interregional bodies, including a mapping of relevant organisations for data collection. In addition, this research project benefited considerably from the information and recommendations received from women's rights actors, organisations and networks known to the research team across Europe and the ACP regions. These sources proved invaluable for the identification of good practice initiatives.

The sectors covered by the desk research were identified by the « African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States » Secretariat, jointly with the European Commission (Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation). They include I) Women's Political Participation; II) Women's Economic Empowerment; III) Health; IV) Culture; V) Ending Violence against Women; VI) Migration; VII) Urbanisation; VIII) Education; and IX) Natural Disaster Management and Mitigation.

Key selection criteria, with a set of key questions guided the analysis and assessment of the good practice initiatives were received. These criteria and guiding questions were:

- **Achievements:** What has worked? What were the key enabling factors that facilitated the achievements? What did not work and why?
- **Demonstrable impact on women's lives and livelihoods:** In what way has the initiative improved women's rights and well-being and resilience?
- **Sustainability:** Does the initiative demonstrate commitment on the part of stakeholders to ensure further action and resources?
- **Potential for scaling up:** In what way has the initiative contributed to any improvements in legislation and policy in the sectors concerned?
- **Potential for replication:** Has the initiative been replicated at national or regional level? If not, what would be the added value for replication of the practice on a larger scale?

The template designed to document good practices initiatives was shared with selected women's networks, women's rights actors and grassroots organisations across the ACP regions to identify successful initiatives demonstrating concrete improvements in the lives of grassroots women with some potential for scaling up and replication. This consultative process was followed up with direct email and telephone communications for further clarifications, information and final editing.

This Project included a milestone event for presenting the preliminary findings of the desk research; a high-level seminar entitled « ACP Women, Actors of Development – outstanding examples, challenges and opportunities » was organised by the ACP Secretariat, jointly with the European Commission (Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation), on March 7th 2014, Brussels. During the seminar, three inspiring women, champions of women's rights from the African, the Caribbean and the Pacific regions shared their actions and experiences in transformative development from the ground: Ms Rosemary Olive Mbone Enie, Cameroon, Ms Flavia Cherry, St. Lucia, and Ms Helen Hakena, Papua new Guinea. The good practice presented by their organisation attests to the transformative power of Pacific women in post-conflict development, both at local and national level. (see p. 60).





## **IV. CHAPTER 1: OVERVIEW OF GOOD PRACTICES AND OUTSTANDING INITIATIVES**

### *Introduction*

This publication aims to highlight the key role women play in achieving human sustainable development, showcasing outstanding contributions of grassroots women to equitable and sustainable development on the ground, and in their respective countries across the ACP regions. It documents good practice initiatives, challenges and opportunities for advancing women’s rights and sheds new light on women’s agency in human sustainable development as a critical factor for stimulating learning, knowledge sharing and innovation in development programmes, projects, and interventions.

The research for this publication has focused on the identification of successful initiatives led by women’s networks or associations which could demonstrate concrete improvements in the lives of grassroots women, with some potential for replication and scaling up. The case studies also reflect the diversity of women-led organisations working to advance gender equality and women’s rights. Some operate primarily at the grassroots level and have a strong connection with communities. Others are active in advocacy and accountability work at national, regional and international levels. Many are self-led organisations, and in various cases, implement projects with support from NGOs and local authorities.

The Publication is structured as follows. Chapters 1, 2 and 3 examine good practice initiatives which are making remarkable strides on women’s right to equitable development while effectively improving women’s status and livelihoods. Each chapter presents a brief overview of facts and figures on the general situation of women which contextualises the good practices in each region, with selected indicators containing the most recent data available in Annex 1, 2 and 3. Chapter 3 synthesises what works and why, lessons learnt, potential for scaling up and replication at local, national and intra-regional level, and makes recommendations for policy relevant for EC/ACP development cooperation.

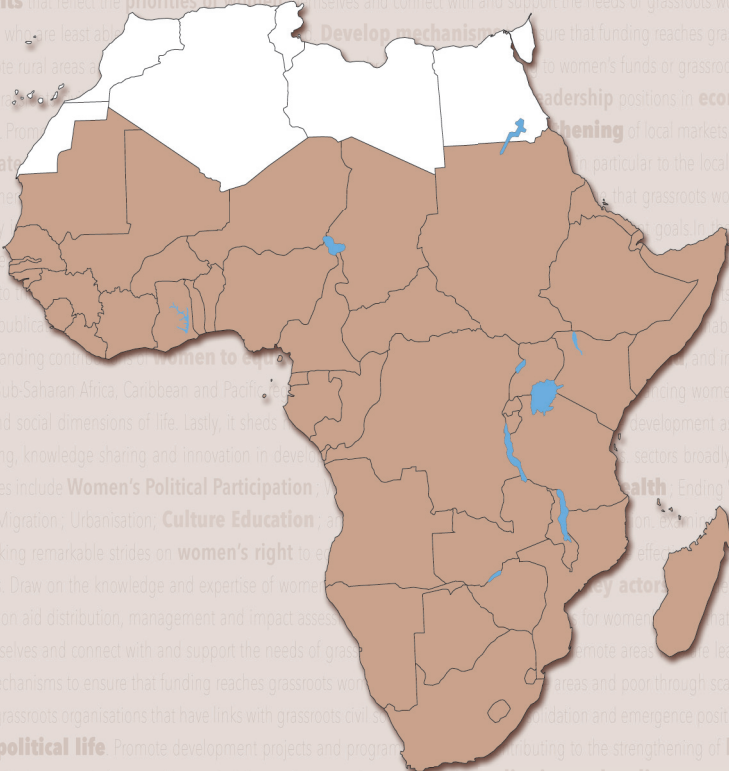
The case studies featured in this publication broadly cover the following sectors:

<b>SECTORS</b>	<b>SPECIFICATIONS</b>
<b>WOMEN’S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION</b>	Women’s representation in political and public-decision making; women’s agency in governance and accountability at local and national levels.
<b>WOMEN’S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT</b>	Advocacy for women’s land ownership; access to local markets and market vendors’ labour rights; capacity building for sustainable livelihoods.
<b>HEALTH</b>	Women’s access to good quality and affordable health and sanitation services, improved sexual and reproductive health, addressing HIV/AIDS.
<b>ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW)</b>	Protecting women and girls from VAW; reintegration and rehabilitation; transforming legal frameworks relating to forms of violence against women.
<b>CULTURE</b>	Promoting cultural diversity and forging inclusive, non-discriminatory societies, combat discrimination against women and fighting stereotypes.
<b>MIGRATION</b>	Protecting women migrant workers from violence/abuse and labour exploitation; supporting women migrants with means of subsistence, access to services and housing, and re-settle in their communities.
<b>URBANISATION</b>	Improving living conditions for homeless women in urban sites; slum upgrading; enhancing access to urban housing and public services; etc.
<b>EDUCATION</b>	Women’s and girls’ access to formal/non-formal education and vocational training; retaining girls and women in formal and non-formal education.
<b>NATURAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT/MITIGATION</b>	Building women’s and community resilience and copying strategies to the effects of climate change; etc.



# 1. AFRICA

- Angola | Benin | Botswana | Burkina Faso | Burundi | Cameroon | Cape Verde | Central African Republic | Chad | Comoros  
 Congo (Republic of) | Congo (Democratic Republic of) | Djibouti | Equatorial Guinea | Eritrea | Ethiopia | Gabon | Gambia  
 Ghana | Guinea-Bissau | Guinea | Ivory Coast | Kenya | Lesotho | Liberia | Madagascar | Malawi | Mali | Mauritania  
 Mauritius | Mozambique | Namibia | Niger | Nigeria | Rwanda | São Tomé & Príncipe | Senegal | Seychelles | Sierra Leone  
 Somalia | South Africa | South Sudan | Sudan | Swaziland | Tanzania | Togo | Uganda | Zambia | Zimbabwe





### 1.1 SUB-SAHARA AFRICA AT A GLANCE: FACTS AND FIGURES

Over the past 15 years, there have been hard won gains on gender equality and women have been a driving force in the development of Sub-Sahara Africa. The region has closed 66% of its gender gap and performs well on the economic participation and opportunity sub-index.<sup>1</sup> The African Union (AU) launched the African Women's Decade (2010-2020) to re-invigorate and accelerate the implementation of agreed global and regional commitments of gender equality and women empowerment, such as CEDAW<sup>2</sup> and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.<sup>3</sup>

The AU adopted a legally binding protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the rights of women. It has been ratified by a growing number of African states, can be used in civil law proceedings and is being codified into domestic common law. The AU also declared the current decade (2010-2020) as the « African Women's Decade », under which member states are required to regularly report on progress.

Many African states have now moved to enhance constitutional protections for African women's rights and equality. Sixteen countries have gender provisions in constitutions that recognise women's equal right to property and inheritance, and the percentage of women landholders has doubled.<sup>4</sup> The last two decades have also seen the emergence of legislation to address violence against women, including sexual violence.

These developments have been accompanied by improvements in African **women's political representation**. The proportion of seats held by elected women in both houses has doubled since 2000 (from 11.3% to 22.5%). Seventeen countries now have quotas for women's political participation at the national or sub-national level.<sup>5</sup> Ten African countries have at least a 30% representation of women in national parliaments, with Rwanda breaking all records early 2014 with 63.8% of its parliamentarian's women.

Though **women leaders** remain the exception in politics, Sub-Sahara Africa now has three female heads of state. Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was the first woman president elected in 2005 as the country emerged from 13 years of civil war; Joyce Banda stepped up in Malawi in 2012, and President Catherine Samba-Panza of the Central African Republic took office in January 2014. Each of these women has taken office amid crisis and transition. Countries like Mali have seen their first female presidential candidates.

*« There's a joke I read the other day - when everything gets messed up, the women are asked to come in and clean up, » says Executive Director for the NGO Women Africa Solidarity, Oley Dibba-Wadda.*

Women on the Rise in African Politics.  
Voice of America, February 08, 2014

Overall the region also made progress in **education**, rapidly closing gender gaps in many countries - girls and boys are now at par with respect to primary school enrolment - though still lagging behind other regions of the world. Several countries in West Africa are among those with the lowest adult literacy rates globally with female literacy rates below 25%, compared with an average for Sub-Saharan Africa of 51%.

1. World Economic Forum, *The Global Gender Gap Report 2013*.
2. UN Convention of the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
3. *The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995.*
4. UN-Women (2012), *Gender Equality and Constitution of Africa*.
5. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) 2012 *SIGI Social Institutions and Gender Index - Understanding the Drivers of Gender Equality*.
6. *Preliminary estimates, ILO Global Employment Trends 2014.*



Sub-Saharan Africa has made significant progress in terms of **women's participation in the labour force**. In 2013<sup>6</sup>, 65.1% of women participated in the labour force compared to a world average of 50.3%. Nonetheless these advances have not improved women's economic empowerment and they have not substantially altered women's lack of decision-making capacity in the household. Gender gaps in employment remain high in terms of pay and labour segregation, with women dominating informal sector employment and vulnerable work.<sup>7</sup>

The **informal sector** plays a key role in African economies, contributing a substantial part of the region's GDP and labour force.<sup>8</sup> Women make up a majority of those employed in agriculture and food production, particularly as unpaid family labour. The recognition of the role women play in agriculture is fundamental to rural development in Sub-Saharan Africa. There are strong and mutually reinforcing links between expanding women's capabilities—through better education, more direct control over resources and a more decisive voice in decision-making—and enhancing food security.<sup>9</sup>

While Sub-Saharan Africa suffers from the highest **Maternal Mortality Rate** at 500 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, maternal death rate has dropped by 41 per cent in 20 years. The 1990 rate of 850 deaths per 100,000 live births declined to a regional average of 500 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2010.<sup>10</sup>

Sub-Sahara Africa is the worst affected region for combined **intimate partner and non-partner sexual violence among women** (15 years +) with a prevalence rate of 45.6 %<sup>11</sup>, particularly in conflict-affected countries in Central Africa. The region also remains severely affected by **HIV/AIDS**, with nearly 1 in every 20 adults living with HIV, with very high levels in Southern Africa countries,<sup>12</sup> accounting for 69% of the people living with HIV worldwide.<sup>13</sup> Sub-Saharan Africa also has the highest maternal mortality rate globally. In 2011, 90% of the total number of pregnant women with HIV lived in sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>14</sup>

7. African Development Bank et al., 2011. «*In vulnerable work, workers are less likely to have formal work arrangements; often lack decent working conditions, adequate social security, and «voice» through union representation. Such work is also characterized by low earnings.*».
8. African Development Bank Group, March 2013 «*It is estimated that the informal sector contributes about 55% of GDP of sub-Saharan Africa and 80% of the labour force. Since informal activities often stay invisible. These are estimates only.*» [www.afdb.org/](http://www.afdb.org/)
9. Africa Human Development Report 2012 - Towards a Food Secure Future.
10. See more at: <http://africa.unfpa.org/public/cache/offonce/news/pid/10767#sthash.YSR66Ges.dpuf>
11. WHO 2013 «*Violence against women: A global health problem of epidemic proportions.*»
12. Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, and Zambia - WHO Global Health Observatory.
13. UNAIDS 2012a.
14. UNAIDS 2012b.



## 1.2 LIST OF GOOD PRACTICES PRESENTED

COUNTRY	ORGANISATION	BEST PRATICE (TITLE)
KENYA   UGANDA	GROOTS Kenya and UCOBAC Uganda	Champions for transformative leadership
SIERRA LEONE	50/50 Group of Sierra Leone	Promoting a Culture of Equal Representation (PACER)
UGANDA	Katosi Women Development Trust	Empowering Women to improve the livelihoods of rural communities in Uganda
MALAWI	Malawi Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS (Manet+)	Our Bodies Our Lives Campaign
ZIMBABWE	Musasa	Pamusa, Restoring hope and dignity for women and girls
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	South Kivu's Women's Media Association (AFEM/SK)	Promoting women's rights and gender equality through media
ETHIOPIA	The Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa	Provision of Adequate Shelter and Holistic Supportive Services to Returned Victims of Human Trafficking in Ethiopia
UGANDA	Slum Women's Initiative for Development	Grassroots Women's Urban Resilience and Security of Tenure
KENYA	Akili Dada	Leadership incubator for girls and young women
CAMEROON	Ntanhah Village Women Common Initiative Group	Grassroots Women Biogas Energy, Soil Conservation and Income Generation



### 1.3 GOOD PRACTICES FROM SUB-SAHARA AFRICA

**TITLE:** ..... Champions for Transformative Leadership  
**ORGANISATION:** ..... GROOTS Kenya and UCOBAC Uganda  
**LOCATION:** ..... Kenya and Uganda  
**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... Local, national and international  
**SECTOR:** ..... Women’s political participation in Sub-Saharan Africa  
**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Grassroots women living in poor communities; people living and most impacted affected by HIV/AIDS and girls (all ages but particularly out of school, young/teenage mothers and college students)  
**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... Partnering with women’s rights, women’s empowerment, democracy and governance organisations in Kenya and Uganda  
**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... UN Women, Huairou Commission, Diakonia Sweden, We Effect, and the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW)  
**DURATION:** ..... 2001 – 2014

#### Objectives:

Ensure that women and their communities are actively participating in governance and accountability mechanisms in their communities, including understanding and influencing budgeting processes at the national and local level.

#### The Development Context:

Development agencies and government initiatives often view grassroots women living in poor communities as just «*victims of poverty, passive and vulnerable recipient of charity etc.*» and not necessarily as agents of change central to shaping development. In the same breath, some development intermediaries including Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs) and NGOs have insufficiently acknowledged community contributions in development work nor invested in its potential to end poverty and improve governance. Grassroots women rarely engage systematically with political structures including political parties as they have been orientated to believe «*politics is dirty*», a patriarch strategy to keep women out of politics. Many grassroots women will only focus to working with development institutions that have no political inclination. The knowledge of the intrinsic relationship between politics, governance, democracy and the development agenda, especially in eradicating poverty is limited or under-utilised by many people living in poverty. Unfortunately, it is a factor extensively manipulated by self-serving politicians and their campaigners.

#### Achievements:

GROOTS Kenya and UCOBAC Uganda supported women living in poor communities to take leadership and drive demand for accountability on resources allocation and policy formulation targeted to development work for many years. Through this work, many women became decision-makers in local development committees and were able to use their own lived experiences to impact on resource allocation and policies especially related to agriculture and health. Many did extremely good work in lobbying elected and nominated policy makers to prioritise grassroots women’s needs. Lobbying was insufficient to influence sustained democratic governance, and both organisations began to support grassroots women to directly engage with political processes including vying for elective positions.

- Grassroots women are equipped with the capacity to map out their own and their communities’ priority issues, enhanced capacity to carry out evidence-based advocacy and inform policies, i.e. the Kenya National Land Policy, County Finance bills and development plans;
- Women are able to directly and effectively shape the development agenda;
- Over 100 grassroots women, core to the decentralisation process under the new constitution in Kenya, are incorporated in the formal decision making process;
- Corruption and gender-based violence in political campaigns has been stemmed down.



### *Key Enabling Factors:*

- Grassroots women began to work as a joint force setting their priority and vision for the change in the political process. Many women registered in their choice of political parties and took over leadership positions or ran for political positions;
- Women mentored and volunteered some members as aspirants. They were not paid as campaigners but, supporting their candidates of choice ensuring the larger community, they rallied behind these candidates. Campaigners paid by politicians can be a vehicle to facilitate violence and corruption, which was significantly stemmed by the organised grassroots women;
- Women systematically brought on board men, who championed why it matters to have gender equality in the political process, becoming campaigners for women candidates;
- Many grassroots women elected to decision-making positions worked closely with those organised in community development work. This ensured that women in political decision-making were not isolated. With continuous feedback on priority issues and checks and balances, politicians stayed on course even with patriarchal and corrupt political structures. This is important because women who support successful women political candidates through these strategies demand a positive good share of the political power accrued.

### *Obstacles/Challenges:*

- Fragmentation of women's empowerment as seen through development work and political participation initiatives. Insufficient financial support for large-scale organising to influence politics in organisations like UCOBAC and GROOTS Kenya, who can translate their wealth of experience in development work to influence women's political participation in Africa;
- The capacity and potential impacts that knowledgeable and empowered grassroots women can play in influencing democracy and governance as collectives is still underrated;
- Political parties and other institutional structures are highly patriarchal and corrupt;
- The approach is highly process-oriented often influencing attitude and cultural transformation that can take a long time. Expectations by donors for short-term results are frustrating.

### *Sustainability:*

- Grassroots women are very conscious about the negative impact unaccountable political structures have had in their lives and are eager to make a change when provided with the right skills and capacities;
- The initiative contributed to ensuring that policies, projects and resource allocation is informed by the priority needs of those most affected;
- Progressive funders who have considered the outcome as part of their flagship project have assisted grassroots women leaders with opportunity to share their experiences nationally and globally. This has been very motivating with considerable positive impact at the communities.

### *Potential for Scaling up and Replication:*

- Those who have most to gain in transformed leadership and governance structures drive the process with a high level of certainty on positive and sustained outcomes. Over 100 grassroots women are now incorporated in the formal decision-making process providing leadership in ensuring adherence of the two thirds gender equality requirement in the 2010 constitution in Kenya;
- Increasing people participation in political processes has proved an effective strategy for replication to engender development and eradicate corruption.

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**TITLE:** ..... Promoting a Culture of Equal Representation (PACER)  
**ORGANISATION:** ..... The 50/50 Group of Sierra Leone  
**LOCATION:** ..... Sierra Leone, West Africa  
**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... National - Kailahun and Koinadugu districts and the capital, Freetown  
**SECTOR:** ..... Women's political participation  
**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... All women and girls in Sierra Leone, in particular grassroots women, women and girls from age 11, school pupils including members of 50/50 School Clubs, urban women from every district in Sierra Leone, Female Parliamentarians and women in decision-making positions  
**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... The 50/50 Group of Sierra Leone and Oxfam  
**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... Co-funded by DFID (Department for International Development UK) and UNDEF (UN Democracy Fund)  
**DURATION:** ..... Five-year joint project (September 2005 – September 2010)

**Objectives:**

The overall development objective of the PACER project is to position women to be equal and active participants in elective political leadership and decision-making in Sierra Leone.

**The Development Context:**

Women in Sierra Leone are disproportionately affected by poverty and marginalised at all levels of decision making. Rural communities are characterised by a strong patriarchal culture where traditions, customs and religious beliefs significantly influence and regulate the behaviour of women and men in almost all spheres of life. This curtails women's right to take up leadership positions and access property and justice, and is directly associated with the high incidence of violence against women. It also relegates women to secondary roles in different spheres of the life of their communities. Access to productive resources like land is unequal, while teenage pregnancy, early marriage, poverty and illiteracy levels are very high amongst women.

**Achievements:**

Since 2000, the 50/50 Group of Sierra Leone, a women's organisation working for women's equal inclusion in politics has grown into a nationally recognised organisation actively engaged in building a new post-war Sierra Leone. The Group provides capacity building to women who want to contest for parliament, district council or chiefdom positions, disseminates information to women about governance mechanisms and connects women involved in politics. The 50/50 Group, in cooperation with other women's groups, such as the Women's Forum, and the National Organisation of Women, drafted the Sierra Leone Women's Manifesto to lobby and advocate for at least 30% of all elective and appointive positions in politics and the public sector to be held by women.

- *Building the capacity of women candidates.* The project directly trained 282 women aspirants for the council elections and carried out awareness raising at grassroots level on the electoral process and the importance of women's leadership.
- *Increasing women's involvement in the public sphere.* It supported seven of the 16 elected women parliamentarians and 291 women local council aspirants in the districts of Kailahun and Koinadugu of which 31 were nominated as candidates and nine were elected.
- *Gaining the support of influential men.* One of the key factors behind women's success in Koinadugu was the project's ability to gain the support of influential men in the district, including religious and traditional leaders and former council members.
- *Building solidarity between women.* A noticeable difference during the 2008 elections was that women were much more willing to support women candidates.
- *Building communities' trust in women leaders as a force for change.* The project ensured that communities got to understand that women aspirants, candidates and councillors are often motivated to get involved in politics by their desire to bring development to their communities and in particular to help their fellow women and not for their selfish gains.

**Key Enabling Factors:**

- Developing an understanding of the national and local socio-political and cultural contexts;
- Identification of key power brokers and potential





allies. Paramount chiefs, chieftom speakers, teachers, religious leaders, traders, party activists and local women's groups helped to identify potential women aspirants and encourage women to stand for election;

- Training trainers with PACER-developed materials, who then trained aspirants through interactive exercises and self-reflection that educated and built confidence and solidarity amongst women. Aspirants deciding to stand as candidates were further supported through the nomination process with further education and training. Successful candidates attended workshops to build strong campaigns, work on their strengths and recognise barriers;
- Working with women's groups and other stakeholders to mobilise support for women candidates. Campaigns included voter education programmes and contributed to a sense of solidarity amongst women.

### **Obstacles/Challenges:**

- **Lack of self-belief and confidence.** Low education levels, a lack of value placed on women's contributions, and a restriction on women's roles in society mean that many simply do not see a place for themselves in decision-making structures.
- **Low literacy levels.** Literacy is particularly low among rural women; as low as 2% of women are literate in some wards. This impacted on women's self-belief and willingness to be potential political candidates, but is also used to justify women's absence from public life.
- **Discriminatory attitudes.** Although there has been some shift in attitudes towards women as leaders at grassroots level, discriminatory attitudes remain entrenched in other areas, particularly within political parties and among traditional authorities.
- **Violence.** Whether verbal, physical or threatened, violence is a very real fact in many women's lives. Standing out by aspiring to public office often increases this violence.
- **Lack of finance.** Without the resources to campaign, a woman has little opportunity to create the vital support amongst voters on a large enough scale to make her a viable contender.
- **The electoral system.** The first-past-the-post system decreases the space for women's representation. The combination of strong, male-dominated parties and the party nomination systems makes it hard for women to be selected as party candidates.

### **Sustainability:**

- While significant challenges and barriers remain, some advances have been made in policy and legislation, including the passage of key gender laws such as the 3 Gender Justice Laws and the Sierra Leone National Action Plan (SILNAP) for UNSCR 1325 and 1820;
- The organisation built a network of talented women to run for office and continues to play a key role in mobilising women for national and community elections and influencing the country's legislative agenda for gender related acts including the 30% quota campaign;
- Acquiring sustainable funding remains a challenge to the continuation of the initiative.

### **Potential for Scaling up and Replication:**

- Although the outcomes in terms of numbers of elected women were different, the two districts share many common experiences and are able to point to similar lessons for future work particularly beneficial for scaling up and replication in the remaining 12 electoral districts;
- Recognising the need for on-going leadership training for women and girls, the Group started the creation of the Gender and Women's Leadership Training Institute, including a 24-hour radio station and hostel where women can stay when travelling from the rural areas.

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**TITLE:** ..... Empowering Women to Improve the Livelihoods of Rural Communities in Uganda  
**ORGANISATION:** ..... Katosi Women Development Trust  
**LOCATION:** ..... Uganda, Mukono District (Katosi landing site north of the shores of Lake Victoria)  
**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... Local communities in Mukono district  
**SECTOR:** ..... Women’s economic empowerment; health; leadership and political participation  
**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Grassroots rural women  
**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... International donors and Local Embassies’ development cooperation offices  
**DURATION:** ..... 1996 – to date

**Objectives:**

Empower women economically, socially and politically so as to improve rural livelihoods.

**The Development Context:**

Fishing communities like many rural communities have high levels of poverty, the majority depending on land and water for survival, deriving food and income from crops, livestock and fishing. Vulnerability is high due to the high dependency on natural resources amidst a highly increasing population. Poor infrastructure, access to health, water and sanitation and education further exacerbates the poverty situation.

**Achievements:**

Starting as a women’s group of 26 in 1996 to support women enter the lucrative fishing activity in Katosi, KWDT gradually diversified and embarked on a comprehensive women empowerment approach by establishing a set of integrated programmes; economic empowerment, improvement of health, building leadership skills to engage in local and political leadership. KWDT aligned economic empowerment as the first stepping stone for women’s empowerment. To date 445 members are organised in 17 rural women groups to equitably access knowledge, skills and resources elevating women’s self-esteem, status in the community, reducing vulnerability for the widowed and inspiring many to compete for leadership positions in the community. «I was referred to as a ‘widow’ in the community but now they call me ‘the woman with a cow’» Nakafu Margaret of Muwumuza Women’s Group.

**Key Enabling Factors:**

- **Putting women at the centre of development.**  
The guiding principle is to ensure that women are at the centre of all development initiatives. This guarantees women’s involvement and participation in decision making on all issues,

such as selecting the first beneficiaries, engaging in monitoring repayment for resources accessed on credit as well as mentoring and supporting each other.

- **Supporting women effectively to fulfil this role.**  
With affirmative action, many leadership positions require a percentage (up to 30%) of women to be included in the management. KWDT thus ensures that women have the required knowledge and skills to effectively occupy leadership positions and take on implementation roles. Women are trained in group work skills, resolving conflict, group dynamics, good governance practice and records keeping.
- **Skills development.** Women are trained and equipped with skills to enter traditionally male dominated roles; construction of rain water harvesting tanks, biosand water filters, and eco-san toilets, all of which are now effectively performed by women.
- **Employing self-management and participation for all.** This has enabled women to learn from ongoing initiatives on how to address challenges, with the intention of transferring the technical «power» and capacity that enables them to tackle many more development challenges themselves.

**Obstacles/Challenges:**

- Working with illiterate women is quite challenging, considering the different levels and types of illiteracies among women who are given the same training and expected to perform at the same level. In addition, women’s groups are not homogenous; they include married, single, widowed, young and old women, etc. with different needs;



- The capability of group leaders and group members to train/mentor each other or to accurately pass on information to fellow members varies considerably, hampering success of some programmes;
- Lack of funding in areas/sectors that are pertinent for empowering women e.g. training and coordination activities. Some partners want to fund the construction of a well but not the critical community work involved, such as strengthening women's capacity to mobilise other community members and to sustainably manage the well, which is crucial to sustainability of local initiatives;
- Funding is also not responding to the needs of local communities. The community may need access to rain water harvesting tanks, biogas and support in cultivation of indigenous food crops but instead funding available may be for green energy and innovative approaches, in crops that are not local food crops.

### *Sustainability:*

The demand for KWDT services and membership is steadily growing. A self-sustaining revolving scheme has been established in consultation with the members, which guarantees the continuity of work once external donor funding expires. Women's efforts have been recognised and awarded time and again, at the community, national and international levels<sup>15</sup>. As a member of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers<sup>16</sup>, KWTD has been involved in the formulation of the UN/FAO International guidelines for securing sustainable small scale fisheries, holding national civil society consultations and engaging in intergovernmental negotiations in Rome.

### *Potential for Scaling up and Replication:*

The KWDT model has the potential for scaling up and replication but there are key factors that need to be put in place for it to succeed:

- Community initiatives: Start local, let people grow in their self-determination, to meet challenges, and identify which actors they want to bring on board;
- Building strong groups that enhance participation by all and democratic decision making requires capable leaders. This process is slow and requires long-term support to the women leaders and group members. Ensuring that self-organisation is geared towards the eradication of the problems that communities are facing is key for replication. For KWDT, economic empowerment has seen women aspire to achieve all other areas of women's empowerment, socially and politically.

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15. E.g. the RIO + 20 Women Good Practice Award, Rio de Janeiro (2012), the 3rd Kyoto World Water Grand Prize, Marseille France during the 6th World Water Forum (2012); the Best Performing NGO in Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Water and Environment Uganda (2009).

16. A network of small scale fisher organizations that works to sustain small scale fishing communities.



**TITLE:** ..... Our Bodies Our Lives: The Fight for Better Anti-Retroviral Medicines (ARV) Campaign  
**ORGANISATION:** ..... The Malawi Network of Religious Leaders Living with or Personally Affected by HIV and AIDS (MANERELA +) a registered national organisation for Religious Leaders and people living with HIV and AIDS support groups and faith Organisation in Malawi  
**LOCATION:** ..... Malawi, Lilongwe  
**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... National, district and community level  
**SECTOR:** ..... Health, HIV/AIDS  
**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Grassroots rural and urban women living with HIV and AIDS  
**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** .... Malawi Human Rights Commission, Malawi Health Equity Network, Centre for the Development of People (CEDEP), Human Rights Consultative Committee (MHRCC), Society for Women and AIDS in Malawi (SWAM), Malawi Network of Religious Leaders Living with or Personally Affected by HIV and AIDS (Manarela +), Paradizo AIDS Trust, Malawi Network of people living with HIV and AIDS ( MANET +), (NAPHAM) National Association for People living with HIV/AIDS, Ministry of Health, HIV and AIDS Unit, Coalition of women living with HIV, CBOs, FBOs, Teachers Living with HIV (TILIPO) and Health workers living with HIV and AIDS  
**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... Just Associates (JASS)  
**DURATION:** ..... 2012 – to date

**Objectives:**

Wider access to better Anti-Retroviral Medicines (ARV) and health care.

**The Development Context:**

In Malawi, women account for more than half of the almost one million people infected with HIV (57%). With 150,000 people in need of antiretroviral therapy (ART), Malawi is among the 20 countries identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as having the highest unmet need for treatment.

Many Malawian women who receive antiretroviral therapy (ART) face physical side effects that often lead to complications for them including health problems, stigma and discrimination.

**Achievements:**

Since 2008, women community-based organisers across Malawi have been involved in an ongoing leadership and organising process to enhance their capacity for strategic action at local level. The sustained process of building the organizing capacity and leadership of activist leaders has brought women from diverse organisations and networks together to develop a national campaign to access better antiretroviral therapy (ART) and treatment literacy, launched late 2012.

The dynamic *Our Bodies, Our Lives* campaign connects a range of local civil society organisations to campaign for wider access to better Anti-Retroviral medicines (ARVs) and health care. The movement creates a supportive environment free of stigma and discrimination by promoting effective networking among associations and support groups of people living with HIV and AIDS.

It forms a web of solidarity of associations or groups supporting HIV positive persons and the affected. It facilitates a free flow of information and advocacy for greater involvement and acceptance of people living with HIV and AIDS at all levels of society. They work in 22 districts in Malawi and have reached close to (five thousand) women have benefited from the campaign to date.

**Key Enabling Factors:**

- Women activists’ research to understand women’s experiences of ARVs in their communities formed a key part of the campaign mobilization. Through popular education women were trained in human and women’s rights and feminism, and these skills helped building a vibrant network/ movement of women advocating for their health rights and strengthening the collective power of women;
- This process generated a series of urgent and provocative messages to President Joyce Banda



and the Malawian government, highlighting the devastating impact of Stavudine<sup>17</sup> on women's bodies, the stigma and discrimination they experience, the need to connect women's access to quality ARVs with access to other critical resources including fertiliser and savings loans in order to live healthy lives are some of the demands women put on the table;

- The campaign contributed significantly to building the women's movement in Malawi and to establishing partnerships with organisations that were otherwise not working with MANERELA+, an example of the effectiveness of movement building within faith-based communities;
- The projects' forum where women's issues were tackled with both secular and religious media increased the visibility of the initiative. The engagement of media partners facilitated the dissemination of information about the project's interventions and mobilised more support from women.

### **Obstacles/Challenges:**

- The high degree of external dependence for funding for HIV programming and the government's responsibility to find local resources to support ARVs and related programmes;
- While currently covering 22 districts in Malawi, the initiative has not yet managed to broaden its reach out to a broader group of women because of funding restrictions.

### **Sustainability:**

The initiative demonstrated the commitment of stakeholders in various ways. Firstly the 'Our Bodies our Lives' campaign influenced the government's policy on ARVs with the president's commitment to ensure that Stavudine, should be replaced with the new ARVs dispersed by the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2013. This initiative was supported by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and Global Fund who supplied the new ARV regimen which was widely covered by the media. The campaign also advocated for the full participation of women living with HIV and AID in

poverty reduction programmes such as the on-going Farm Input Subsidy Programme, Social Cash Transfers, and Food for Work and Cash for Work Programmes to attain food self-sufficiency and remain healthy and productive. A major challenge remains the financial sustainability: an estimated 95% of resources for HIV treatment in Malawi is externally funded.

### **Potential for Scaling up and Replication:**

There is broad interest among women in Malawi to be involved as they observed their friends being empowered under this initiative, so there is clear potential to broaden their outreach. The campaign has also many lessons to learn about opening safe spaces for women to interrogate issues of power, organise collectively, and demand a say at the decision-making table. The demand for ARVs is also about holding governments accountable, pushing for just governance and respecting women's rights to bodily integrity. The added value of replicating this initiative intra-regionally will be learning best practices from women in other regions and sharing experiences and success stories. This will help in strengthening the impact of the initiative as women will learn more about changing their lives for the better.

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17. Stavudine is a drug prescribed to treat HIV infection which can cause serious, life-threatening side effects (messages to President Joyce Banda).



**TITLE:** ..... Pamusasa<sup>18</sup> Restoring Hope and Dignity for Women and Girls  
**ORGANISATION:** ..... Musasa  
**LOCATION:** ..... Zimbabwe  
**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... National, provincial, and local rural/urban community level  
**SECTOR:** ..... Violence Against Women and Girls  
**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Poor women and girls in both rural and urban communities  
**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... Ministries: Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development, Education, Social services, Justice, the Police, Home Affairs, and Women’ parliamentary caucus, Community based structures (anti-domestic violence clubs, survivors’ clubs)  
**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF, Actionaid, Oxfam, Plan International, Embassies (British, Netherlands), SIDA, DFID, WFD, HIVOS, Stephen Lewis Foundation and Womankind  
**DURATION:** ..... 1988- to date

**Objectives:**

- Women and survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV) are empowered to make informed decisions about their situations;
- Gaps in legislation addressed through the formulation of new laws and the revision of laws to align them with the new constitution;
- Social transformation at household and community level promoted through addressing retrogressive beliefs, attitudes, behaviours, laws and policies;
- Enhance a peaceful environment for women and girls to fully participate in peace building and development.

**The Development Context:**

Violence against women is widely accepted in Zimbabwe. According to a recent VAW baseline study,<sup>19</sup> about a quarter (26%) of women in Zimbabwe experienced some form of violence (psychological, emotional, economic, physical or sexual) perpetrated by an intimate partner in the period 2011-2012. Thirteen percent of men in the country admit to perpetrating some form of violence against their intimate partners during the same period. The government passed the Domestic Violence Act but it is not fully implemented; the police and courts have limited resources and many women are not informed about the law.

**Achievements:**

Musasa is working from four offices across the country with projects in all ten provinces. Through its outreach programmes it has established direct relationships with poor women in both rural and urban communities and has strong links with grassroots based women’s organisations. Central to their work is providing safety and security through direct relief and services to survivors of gender based violence (GBV) through counselling services, legal support, health, temporary shelter, life skills, and emergency cash. Musasa recently launched a «one stop centre» for survivors of GBV which provides all services under one roof, and established community-based shelters to provide safety and protection right at community level. All services are supported by a 24 hour toll-free line which reaches out to people across the country.

The next level is ensuring that women can stand up for their rights and can economically empower themselves to be able to assert and claim their rights. The last step is a process of reintegration and rehabilitation linked with economic empowerment. Musasa especially looks for options that transform the lives of the women and girls beyond small projects limited to helping to put food on the table. The organisation is currently linking girls

18. An indigenous tree that provides shade in the villages and the organisation does just that: provide a shade for women and girls escaping from violence.

19. Peace begins @ Home, Violence Against Women Baseline Study Zimbabwe. Mercilene Machisa and Kevin Chiramba. [#sthash.pFl131sW.dpuf](http://www.genderlinks.org.za/article/violence-against-women-baseline-study-zimbabwe-2013-11-20)



with micro finance institutions who take responsibility for training and disbursing loans through the money Musasa seeded with them. The money is given at lower interest rates to open bank accounts and this proves really empowering for women and girls and reduces their further vulnerability to violence. In 2013 Musasa managed to reach about 10500 women and girls. With the one stop care and counselling centre launched, as well as the community-based shelters in the process of rolling out in different communities, it is expected that this number will significantly increase.

### **Key Enabling Factors:**

- The direct services have facilitated and provided for evidence based advocacy and programming both at local and national levels;
- Empowering women through information, training as well as creating and strengthening community based structures allows them to mobilise and undertake advocacy for improvements in laws and policies both at local and national levels;
- Investing in women's emergency needs as well as their long term strategic needs to be effective in the provision and safety for women;
- Creating partnerships with government allows for government support and buy in as well, creating a wider network of outreach. Setting up community-based shelters, with government taking leadership has created a sense of community as well as government ownership;
- Combining direct services, advocacy, social transformation, peace building, research and documentation brought together diverse groups, including academia, government, parliament, grassroots, UN, local/international NGOs, as well as links with both traditional and religious institutions for social transformation.

### **Obstacles/Challenges:**

- Mobilising whole communities of men, women, girls, leaders etc. for social transformation is a major challenge. To be effective, you have to be sensitive to women and girls' vulnerabilities which may hinder their opening up in front of men or traditional leaders;
- Setting up of community shelters at Chief's homesteads proved challenging, as women did not regard the spaces safe for them to come to;

- Engaging government on perceived sensitive issues like sex workers and lesbian' rights has been a great challenge especially given the government's attitudes;
- It was found difficult to work on politically motivated violence against women especially during national processes like elections as Musasa is then labelled as 'opposition'. Women human rights defenders are especially targeted for daring to stand up and challenge men.

### **Sustainability:**

Musasa has created a brand at both national and community levels. At national level it established its credibility as the 'go to' organisation on policy, legislation as well as public influence on matters of violence against women because their advocacy and lobbying is evidence based.

The organisation also has well-established links with all segments of all Zimbabwean media. The community based structures implementing the Musasa model on a small scale can be sustained even when funding expires through the relationships created and commitments made by local partners and government.

### **Potential for Scaling up and Replication:**

The Musasa model has a very good potential for scaling up nationally and regionally because the model has been tested and refined over 26 years and a number of lessons can be drawn for replication.

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**TITLE:** ..... Promote Women’s Rights and Gender Equality through Media / Promotion et Défense des Droits de la Femme à travers les Médias

**ORGANISATION:** ..... The South Kivu’s Women’s Media Association / Association des Femmes des Médias du Sud Kivu (AFEM/SK)

**LOCATION:** ..... Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Bukavu, South Kivu Province

**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... Local, provincial, national, and international

**SECTOR:** ..... Culture, Violence against Women

**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Grassroots rural women, women journalists, secondary school, and university students, local, provincial and national authorities, international criminal court

**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... Medias, Media professional organisations, Women organisations

**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... Cordaid, Diakona, Eastern Congo Initiative, France Expertise international, Jewish World Watch, National Endowment for Democracy, Norwegian Church Aid, DUF, Kvinna till Kvinna, Fondation Euro-Arabe, VDAY

**DURATION:** ..... Founded in August 2003 to date

**Objectives:**

To promote women’s rights and gender equality in the DRC through media.

**The Development Context:**

According to a report published in October 2013 by the Ministry of Gender, Family and the Child, at least 40 women are reported raped every day in the DRC. The report confirms that a total of 29,354 cases of sexual violence are registered in seven provinces, including North and South Kivu between 2011 and 2013. Eighty-one per cent of the sexual violence cases are rape cases; ninety-eight per cent of the victims are women. As the conflict is fought within communities, violence occurs mostly in homes, villages, and in the fields where people work, and is mainly perpetrated by foreign rebel groups (FDLR, LRA, ADF-NALU) and local rebels. Domestic violence, rape by former troops living within communities, and by men in positions of power—including police officers—is common. Impunity is one of the issues which increases the situation of sexual violence.

**Achievements:**

AFEM is an all-female journalism band with over forty members using radio to change the position of women in society through educational programming, news reporting, and by providing skills training for future journalists. To achieve their goals, AFEM successfully employs three main strategies:

**1. Capacity building**

- Strengthening the capacity of rural women organised in Listeners’ Clubs on human rights,

leadership, democracy, good governance, and women’s political participation, sexual and gender-based violence. Currently 26 Radio Clubs are functioning, each with 25 members who convey the information to at least 25 other rural women. Many women became candidates in local elections and have been transformed into community leaders because they know how to condemn, claim their rights, and sensitise others by using the influence of the media;

- Strengthening the professional capacity of girls’ journalists in journalistic techniques, new technology, investigative journalism, etc. accompanied by professional internship in media deemed professional. To date 60 women journalists have been trained, contributing to the integration of gender in the media;
- Training students of Bukavu town on gender mainstreaming. More than 400 students and pupils from 8 schools and universities are grouped in clubs of activists for gender (CAGE - Club d’Activistes pour le Genre) to monitor gender discrimination in schools and universities and raise gender awareness, even in their families. CAGE institute Kasali produced a Cartoon Book that educates on girls’ right to education and equitable sharing of household chores.

**2. Information and mass communication**

- AFEM broadcast daily radio programmes in 23 partner radio stations involving the rural women from Listeners’ Clubs, giving a voice to survivors





to tell their testimonies by paying for the airtime. AFEM recorded more than 500 testimonies from survivors of rape and sexual violence and produced sensitisation posters, spots, educational flashes and a magazine «Mama Voice».

### 3. Lobbying and advocacy

- The Listener's Clubs lobby local authorities for local decision making, holding dialogues with authorities to plead for solutions such as illegal taxes and the right to inheritance. Some women are nominated as customs guardians<sup>20</sup> and participate in the local Security Council;
- AFEM organises dialogues between the provincial government and women journalists on the news that affects women and gender based violence;
- AFEM's national advocacy is directed at national deputies elected in South Kivu's province for gender-sensitive laws such as the revision of the family code;
- Internationally, AFEM testified at the International Criminal Court at The Hague and before the U.S. Senate to denounce the situation of sexual violence in Eastern Congo.

### Key Enabling Factors:

- As violence intensified in the DRC, AFEM focused their reporting on women, health and human rights, particularly on eradicating sexual violence used as a weapon of war and on exposing government corruption by utilising and training women-led radio clubs and social activists;
- By engaging rural communities and promoting women's professional role in the media, AFEM creates media that are grassroots and relevant to the issues eastern Congo faces today;
- Working with women throughout the DRC through the Rural Women Radio Clubs where women who have been raped and tortured share their stories, break their silence and speak about their experiences has been a major achievement for AFEM.

### Obstacles/Challenges:

Lack of peace and security and challenges of customs and traditions that forbid women to speak in public. Women journalists are therefore not well accepted in

society, although they are gradually changing these attitudes. By recording testimonies of survivors and exposing the perpetrators of violence, AFEM reporters face great danger when conducting their work, whilst also instilling fear in the women they are aiming to protect. There is also lack of financial resources to realise all their programmes like a centre for leadership capacity building and a thematic radio for women to broadcast their programmes.

### Sustainability:

AFEM works with 350 women who are part of rural community radio clubs that educate the masses on the importance of women's rights, while providing professional skills to aspiring journalists and employment opportunities for working journalists. AFEM is partnering with 23 Radio stations who jointly elaborated a charter on gender equality in Medias.

### Potential for Scaling up and Replication:

Since AFEM's 2006 campaign «Challenging the silence: women media against sexual violence» to give voice to the voiceless women, survivors expanded their campaigns to reach international audiences, where they convinced other journalists to join their fight to save women in South Kivu from rape and torture as a weapon of war. AFEM/SK recently expanded its activities with the creation of AFEM/NK.

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20. In Mwenga nominated by the local chief and in Walungu allowed by the administrator.



**TITLE:** ..... Provision of adequate shelter and holistic supportive services to returned victims of human trafficking in Ethiopia

**ORGANISATION:** ..... Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA)

**LOCATION:** ..... Ethiopia

**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... National

**SECTOR:** ..... Ending Violence Against Women (VAW)

**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Poor migrants and trafficked women deported back to Ethiopia from Middle East and Gulf countries

**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... Good Samaritan Association (GSA)

**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... Small Amounts allocated from SIHA regional programmes

**DURATION:** ..... September 2013 - April 2014

**Objectives:**

Improve the welfare, entitlements and rights of trafficked and domestic labour migrant women and girls in Ethiopia:

- By providing direct support to traumatised repatriated Ethiopian domestic labour migrant women for improved and sustainable reintegration;
- By raising awareness and enhancing protection to reduce vulnerability amongst women and girls to dangerous and illegal elements in domestic labour migration.

**The Development Context:**

Ethiopia is among the source countries of many women and girls exposed to trafficking. Each year thousands of Ethiopian women and girls are trafficked across international border to mainly Middle East countries for labour and sexual exploitation purposes and subjected to multiple human rights abuses in destination countries. Ethiopia is both a country of origin and transit for trafficked women and children; trafficking is both external but also within the country (rural to urban centres).

This initiative addresses the need for providing basic food and shelter for victims of human trafficking. Recognising the extreme emotional and psychological vulnerability of repatriated Ethiopian women and girls involved in illegal trafficking and domestic labour migration, the Good Samaritan Association established

the Shelter in 2004. Support focused specifically on women and girls displaying the greatest and most severe manifestations of trauma and most in need of comprehensive palliative care and support on return to Ethiopia. The Association has been collaborating closely with the immigration authority at the Addis Ababa airport to obtain referrals to the service and support to repatriated traumatised domestic workers.

**Achievements:**

- Between Jan - Dec 2013 the shelter provided psychosocial support, medical services, re-integration support, and counselling and life skills education to 283 women migrants and responded to psychosocially traumatised returned migrant women; 75 victims who received psychosocial support and medical treatment have been reunited with their families;
- Vulnerable women, girls and their families have been educated about the dangers of trafficking and the risks of pursuing labour migration in the domestic sphere.

**Key Enabling Factors:**

**1. Collaboration between the local association and regional expert organisation**

Collaborating between the local NGO Good Samaritan Association in Ethiopia and the regional Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA) in project implementation ensured compliance with the Proclamation<sup>21</sup> and

21. *The Charities and societies law in Ethiopia that strictly monitors and hinders Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) work especially human rights and advocacy work.*



minimized risks. SIHA's significant experience in protecting and improving women's situation in the region was invaluable. This included extensive research and advocacy to address the ambiguous parallel formal and traditional legal systems perpetuating violations women's human rights in Oromo. This created awareness and was used extensively by the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association in Legal aid work.

### 2. Formation of an NGO Forum

SIHA's broad based network of over 70 civil society organisations in the Horn of Africa, including 15 in Ethiopia, ensured the local Association was well linked with a broad range of civil society actors, extending the outreach and impact of the action and scale up lesson learning and knowledge sharing. This was specially facilitated through the formation of an NGO forum on trafficking and community sensitisation activities associated with psychological trauma as a result of trafficking in Ethiopia.

### 3. Recommendations and advocacy at regional and international levels

SIHA's regional knowledge, connections and capacity helped in bringing the issues and recommendations identified through the research to regional and international arenas<sup>22</sup> ensuring traumatised trafficked women's voices were heard widely and encouraging increased attention and solidarity.

### Obstacles/Challenges:

- Commitment by the government to support health facilities and legislation is very limited;
- Recognition and support from donors is not forthcoming. SIHA's efforts to acquire funding focusing on advocacy and awareness have not yet been successful.

### Sustainability:

- Support provided through the shelter eased women's rehabilitation into Ethiopian society, reduced vulnerability and stigma and improved their reintegration outcomes;

- Communities gained trust in the local organisation due to the services rendered;
- The Shelter remains in place although operating with very limited capacity;
- Local authorities are increasingly aware of the extent of human trafficking;
- There is continued commitment from CSOs and the community though less from government and international organisations in terms of provision of support.

### Potential for Scaling up and Replication:

Considering the scale of trafficked and domestic labour migrant women and girls in Ethiopia this initiative has potential for scaling up and replication nationally and regionally.

This requires extensive advocacy and awareness-raising efforts drawing attention to the conditions of traumatised women deported back to Ethiopia, improving the response services and enhancing the prevention and protection components.

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22. e.g. African Union, Human Rights Council, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Gulf Centre for Human Rights, Arab League.

23. <http://www.sihanet.org/news/sudan-ethiopian-woman-gang-raped-seven-sudanese-men-convicted-%E2%80%9Cindecend-acts%E2%80%9D>  
<http://sihanet.org/sites/default/files/resource-download/Between%20Modrenisem%20and%20Heritage%20compressed.pdf>



**TITLE:** ..... Grassroots Women’s Urban Resilience and Security of Tenure  
**ORGANISATION:** ..... Slum Women’s Initiative for Development  
**LOCATION:** ..... Uganda  
**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... Local, Jinja Municipality  
**SECTOR:** ..... Land and housing for women, urban resilience and climate change  
**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Grassroots women  
**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... Huairou Commission, Local councils, Jinja Municipality, CBOs affiliated with SWID, Ministry of Water and Environment, National Agricultural Advisory Services  
**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... Huairou Commission (USA), Comic Relief (UK)  
**DURATION:** ..... 2003-present

**Objectives:**

- Enhance women’s control over land, not only because of their important role in agricultural production but also because control of land is essential for women to live with dignity. Women’s names on certificates of title to land not only protects them from relatives and in-laws who would grab the land, but also enables them to have access to credit;
- Facilitating women’s access to and ownership of land to increase grassroots women resilience in urban communities, including food security practices, livelihood development and awareness raising.

**The Development Context:**

In urban communities in Jinja Municipality<sup>24</sup> public land, where many grassroots used to carry out urban farming, was sold off to investors and wealthy community members. This rendered many grassroots women poor, particularly because they had no access to or control over their own land for food production. These communities also faced problems with floods caused by poor drainage system maintenance and poor solid waste management practices. The drainage channels were blocked by solid wastes causing water to stagnate. This became a breeding ground for mosquitoes and increased malaria occurrence, with the water often ending up flooding into people’s homes.

**Achievements:**

*Improved economic and social status for grassroots women*

- The holistic approach to security of tenure and resilience building helped grassroots women improve their food security and nutrition as well as reduced poverty in urban communities. Grassroots women also increased their incomes at household level as a result of replicating

- best farming practices of planting high quality seeds with high outputs for both household consumption and income generation from surplus yields;
- Organising established leadership structures enabled women to engage with decision makers and solicit for resources to implement resilience initiatives. Through their leadership and training, women’s sense of confidence, negotiating capacities, participation in community development forums and interaction with local authorities improved. The role of grassroots women also increased in community resilience committees.

*Increased security of tenure*

- Almost 120 women of one of SWID’s Core Group benefited from the revolving loan fund and achieved security of land tenure, reducing eviction pressures, improving shelter and the ability to meet basic needs such as improved access to water and roads. Another 12 women from an affiliate group to SWID benefited through acquisition of land for housing construction. The fund enabled women to demarcate the land and receive individual ownership;
- Over 100 women gained knowledge in savings and loan management, governance skills, record keeping, business management and plans geared towards self-reliance. More than 200 women acquired loans that allowed them to not only purchase land and start housing construction but also to boost businesses. This improved their general livelihood and health, particularly for those living with HIV/ AIDs, and enabled them to pay their children’s school fees;<sup>25</sup>
- 120 women are still in the process of purchasing land and houses and processing land titles. The fund increased community stability by reducing

24. Walukuba-Masese, Mpumudde and Kakira.

25. 20 children from SWID members’ families have been able to graduate with diplomas and degrees which helped improve family status.



the numbers of speculators buying out women's land as women have increased purchasing power and power to voice their rights.

### Key Enabling Factors:

#### *Food Security Practices:*

- Growing organic vegetables for household consumption and income generation through selling of surplus products in 4 communities.<sup>26</sup> with 300 grassroots (85% women);
- Establishment of community-led demonstration gardens; educational facilities operated by grassroots activists at community level to demonstrate sustainable gardening techniques;

#### *Awareness Raising and Leadership Training*

- Training 30 grassroots leaders from 6 grassroots community-based organisations involved in resilience work strengthened their leadership capacities in the area of resilience and climate change adaptation. Using the Training of Trainers Methodology 107 grassroots women disseminated the information to fellow grassroots activists in their respective CBOs affiliated to SWID.

#### *Security of Tenure*

- Establishment of a Revolving Loan Fund increased economic opportunities and strengthened women's groups and savings associations' capacity to undertake more financially viable enterprises, and facilitated the group's negotiation for a credit guarantee fund with banks, micro credit institutions, government and donors;
- The cyclical or rotational borrowing strategy whereby a cluster of members' access a loan as a group, with their loan repayments then lent out to another cluster.<sup>27</sup>

### Obstacles/Challenges:

The revolving loan fund had to overcome a number of major challenges, but many still remaining today. One of the most critical was the overwhelming number of women needing loans to boost their agri- or petty business or purchase land and commence housing construction. Grassroots women also had to overcome a number of discriminatory practices related to traditional landownership, and stigma and suspicion regarding their organising around land ownership.

### Sustainability:

- SWID's organising methodology of raising awareness on DRR and security of tenure, community outreach to local authorities and men, and NGO partnerships facilitates the political will and buy-in of many authorities;
- The savings and loan scheme enabled women to leverage additional funding, expanding the number of beneficiaries from 30 members at the start to 300 grassroots women;
- Framing the security of tenure issue as one that affects the entire community, ensured local authorities commitment and credibility in land ownership and decision-making in DRR;
- SWID received further visibility and commitment as primary champions of women's land and inheritance rights nationally and internationally by their participation in international events.

### Potential for Scaling up and Replication:

- Growing organic vegetables for household consumption and income generation through the sale of surplus products was scaled-up in other communities.<sup>28</sup> In 2011, 150 grassroots women got involved in food security initiatives and in 2012 the number increased to 300 grassroots women, negotiated access to land from local authorities to scale up food security initiatives;
- Establishment of community-led demonstration gardens expanded through the Community Resilience Fund, attracting other organisations<sup>29</sup> for learning exchanges with SWID.

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26. Walukuba-Masese, Kakira, Mafubira and Buwenge.

27. The borrowing or group lending criteria is based aggregate personal savings performance. The person is expected to have 20% saving before accessing a loan. The loans are specifically geared towards securing land and housing as well as boosting individual businesses.

28. Kakira and Buwenge.

29. Kawempe Home Based Care Alliance and UCOBAC from Kampala.



**TITLE:** ..... Leadership Incubator for Girls and Young Women  
**ORGANISATION:** ..... Akili Dada<sup>30</sup>  
**LOCATION:** ..... Kenya  
**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... National and local  
**SECTOR:** ..... Women/girls education and leadership  
**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Women and girls aged 13-35 from poor backgrounds whose commitment to the underserved is transforming their communities  
**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... PACE (Promoting Access to Community Education), Independent Television Service (ITVS) and others involved in the implementation of the initiative, partnership with government through governmental schools  
**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... Foundations and other non-governmental organisations, including the Ford Foundation and Segal Family Foundation  
**DURATION** ..... Founded in Nairobi in 2005-to present

**Objectives:**

Supporting innovation in leadership for young women from poor backgrounds in Kenya.

**The Development Context:**

The lack of educational opportunity is directly linked to the severe under-representation of women (especially women from poor backgrounds) in decision-making processes across all sectors in Kenya. Akili Dada addresses this gap by investing in bright, innovative young women aged 13-35 through two core programmes: Young Changemakers and Innovation in Leadership. The young women Akili Dada works with are intelligent and active members of their communities, but because of their context and family situation are at great risk of dropping out of school, entering early marriages or the low-wage workforce.

**Achievements:**

Akili Dada works as a « *leadership incubator* » by providing strategic and holistic support to talented young women from poor backgrounds. In their Young Changemakers Programme they support high school age women through comprehensive scholarships for high quality secondary education, personalised mentoring by a network of peers and professional Kenyan women and a leadership development programme grounded in community service. The Innovation in Leadership Programme provides invaluable opportunities to Akili Dada alumnae and Fellows through direct financial assistance, mentorship

and leadership development focused on the necessary skills for university and professional life, and success of their social ventures, respectively.

High school scholarships are only offered once 100% of the necessary funds have been raised to pay for a student's entire secondary education. Once accepted into the scholarship programme, students must maintain high grades, design and implement 3 social change projects a year in their home communities, engage in mentoring sessions and participate in three residential leadership academies a year. To date 32 girls completed secondary school, 39 girls are in school and 15-20 new scholars will be selected in 2014. The organisation also works with 200 Akili Dada club members in their partner schools as well as 120 girls from a government run 'Juvenile' school for girls.

All of Akili Dada scholars in the Young Changemakers Programme are among Kenya's top 1% of students nationwide and received full scholarships to universities in Kenya and abroad. Each of their scholars is leading community service projects at home and in school, from building bridges to tree planting and peer mentoring. Through the scholarships, the organisation recorded improved livelihoods at the household level. For example families have been able to pay off loans or school fees for the other children or take out loans to start a business because they do not have the burden of school fees.

The Akili Dada Fellows programme awards year-long fellowships to young women leaders engaged in social change

30. Akili means Intellect, ability, strategy, knowledge, competence while Dada means Sister - a term of endearment, respect, and familiarity among women.



projects of their design. The programme serves as an incubator providing financial, intellectual, mentoring, and networking resources to young women as they grow their projects to scale and sustainability. The programme grows out of the belief that African women, especially those from poor communities, are best positioned to design solutions to the challenges facing those communities. The goal of the programme is to build the capacity of some of the continent's most innovative young women changemakers to drive solutions to some of the biggest challenges facing African society.

### **Key Enabling Factors:**

Investing in talented young women from poor backgrounds by providing:

- Direct financial assistance including comprehensive scholarships enabling brilliant but poor girls' access to the top high schools they have qualified for but cannot afford to attend. They also provide seed funding and stipends to Akili Dada Fellows to allow young women from marginalised communities to grow their social change projects to scale and sustainability;
- Personalised and group mentoring by a cohort of dedicated professional women committed to blazing the trail and supporting their younger sisters' journeys to success;
- Rigorous leadership skills training based on a service learning pedagogy where young women learn how to lead by designing and driving social change projects in their marginalized home communities. This curriculum is largely focused on growing their projects sustainably, including skills trainings as financial management, resource mobilisation and negotiation;
- Keeping young women at the centre of their work. Akili Dada exists to serve the young women it works with and the communities they come from. From programme design to communications, the organisation keeps young women at the core.

### **Obstacles/Challenges:**

Akili Dada made a conscious decision to prioritise quality and innovation over scale, which requires them to go deep rather than wide at this stage. Consequently they have sometimes been excluded from some large funding opportunities due to their limited number of direct beneficiaries. Currently the organisation is exploring ways of documenting their work, ensuring they are capturing all the number of people indirectly impacted by their work to tell their story better.

### **Sustainability:**

The work of Akili Dada has been recognised globally and the organisation has received numerous awards<sup>31</sup> including the 2011 African Achievers International MDG Awards for their grassroots work toward achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Akili Dada continues to include and amplify more voices of young women through for example hosting leadership forums for university students and young women from all over Kenya. To ensure sustainability beyond donor funding the organisation has been building an endowment fund and is working to have two of its training curricula adopted by government learning institutions.

### **Potential for Scaling up and Replication:**

Akili Dada believes justice is served when there's a diversity of voices at the decision-making table and that girls and women from poor backgrounds have intimate knowledge of the problems facing their communities, and are therefore well equipped to develop solutions. The added value of scaling up and replicating the Akili Dada Model is that it would avail more space for girls and women to participate as key actors in the challenges facing them and gives them hands on skills to tackle these issues. The primary condition necessary to succeed is keeping the girls and young women at the centre and the key focus of the work. Any decisions taken and resources need to be focused on them. This initiative cannot be about an individual but rather the groups served.

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31. <http://www.akilidada.org/press/>



**TITLE:** ..... Grassroots women biogas energy, soil conservation and income generation project  
**ORGANISATION:** ..... Ntankah Village Women Common Initiative Group  
**LOCATION:** ..... Cameroon, North West Province, Mankon area  
**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... Local level  
**SECTOR:** ..... Women's economic empowerment  
**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Grassroots rural women, urban women (Mankon Village is part of Bamenda town) and women living with HIV/AIDS  
**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... GEF Small Grants Programme of UNDP Cameroon, Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund, Positive Action Children Fund, Ntankah Village Common Initiative Group, Strategic Development Initiatives  
**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... GEF Small Grants Programme of UNDP, Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund, Positive Action Children Fund  
**DURATION OF THE INITIATIVE:** .... June 2012-September 2013 (in terms of funding but still ongoing)

**Objectives:**

Protect the local natural resource base and enhance community resilience by promoting renewable fossil energy, sustainable natural resource management and agroforestry among local community members, in particular women.

**The Development Context:**

Soil degradation and erosion are the principal environmental risks in the region, putting natural resources, agriculture and food security at risk. Heavy rains coupled with unsustainable farming practices are causing lower crop yields, loss of traditional medicinal plants, decreasing game animals, reduced forest cover, increased landslides and bush fires, poorer nutrition, reduction in access to fuel wood, and increasing vulnerability, poverty and marginalisation. One of the characteristics of the Mankon area is the prevalence of slash and burn known as Ankarra which causes the destruction of soil organic matter and thus infertility. Women are the main users of forest resources (fuel; wood for domestic purposes) as well as the main practitioners of agriculture. Both these activities cause extensive deforestation, soil erosion and carbon emission, all of which ultimately lead to turbulent weather patterns, climate change and unpredictable crop yields. This in turn reduces women ability to feed their homes and communities causing increased vulnerability to risk and disasters leading to reduced resilience and hence a vicious cycle. To break this conundrum, women need to be economically empowered and their capacity to use alternative or renewable energy enhanced.

**Achievements:**

The initiative reduced women's dependence on fuel wood, charcoal and kerosene use by promoting the exploitation of simple biogas plants which uses animal manure and household waste. Additionally, when the waste is removed from the bio-digester, it's used for enhancing soil fertility by being applied to the fields. Many of the women doing farming are HIV+ and also have to collect wood from the forests which is very strenuous. The fact that they can have access to biogas is a great relief for them. The initiative strengthened the capacity of women in natural resource management, soil fertility management and contributed to the reduction of climate change through harnessing of methane gas for domestic fuel use.

The initiative set up a women's small livestock promotion and development centre which developed and distributed improved breeds of day old chicks, rabbits, piglets, and poultry, and also produced mushrooms as well as serving as a training or capacity building centre for group members, students and the community on a fee-paying basis. At least 100 women were trained to construct and use 15 simple biogas units based on pig and poultry manure; 100 community members were trained on sustainable natural resource management; and participating women engaged in income generation and access to microfinance.

**Consequently:**

- Women were more empowered and knowledgeable on natural resource management, combating climate change and gained greater self-esteem.





- Women were able to carry out alternative income-generating activities;
- Women gained access to micro-finance without bureaucratic bottlenecks faced in banks;
- Great sense of ownership by project participants;
- Availability of clean and cheap energy source.

### *Key Enabling Factors:*

- Grassroots women participation;
- Simple and low external input technologies;
- Availability of funding/market for produce and products;
- Transparency and accountability in the use of funds;
- Regular monitoring and evaluation.

### *Obstacles/Challenges:*

- Loans were not always repaid timely by some women;
- In some cases a loan was taken for one purpose and used for another;
- Additional costs of following up defaulters and legal fees;
- Water spillages and wetting of litter in poultry houses leading to disease outbreaks;
- Problem of vermin or rats destroying feed/ feedstuffs and mushrooms;
- Some recalcitrant community members still insist on practicing Ankara or slash and burn agriculture, claiming some crops do not do well unless grass is burnt.

### *Sustainability:*

The initiative was mostly a capacity building initiative, hence the knowledge acquired ensured that participating women would continue their activities following the end of the project especially the micro-finance and income generating activities. The income raised by women permitted some of them to actually establish land deeds

in their own names as well as challenge discriminatory practices in law courts. Additional incomes enabled some women to enter into local politics. The initiative demonstrated commitment of stakeholders such as the government, the UN, NGOs and women's organisations. It also showed that grassroots women, when effectively supported, can identify their own problems and seek adequate solutions using the resources at their disposal.

### *Potential for Scaling up and Replication:*

There is considerable potential for scaling up and replicating this initiative in communities globally to ensure a constant supply of domestic energy, increasing incomes as well as combating climate change, ensuring sustainable agriculture and building resilient communities. Enhancing opportunities for grassroots women organisations and building on similar experiences will contribute significantly to sustainable and equitable development.

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in the course of this challenging research project, we had the kind assistance of a host of committed individuals, organisations and international development agencies. The list being too long to cite, we would like to express our special gratitude to the numerous women's organisations in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific regions; outstanding challenges and opportunities for advancing women's rights in the economic, political and social dimensions of life. Lastly, it sheds new light on women's agency in human sustainable development as a critical factor for stimulating learning, knowledge sharing and innovation in development sectors broadly covered by the good practice initiatives include Women's Political Participation; Women's Economic Empowerment; Women's Health; Ending Violence against Women; Culture; Migration; Urbanisation; Culture Education; and Natural Disaster Management and Mitigation, examine good practice initiatives which are making remarkable strides on women's right to equitable development to women's rights, while effectively improving women's status and livelihoods. Draw on the knowledge and expertise of women's development organisations on the ground. Women are key actors and sources to guide policy dialogue and decision-making on aid distribution, management and impact assessment. Support existing local agendas for women's rights that reflect the priorities of women themselves and connect with and support the needs of grassroots women, including those in remote areas who are least able to make their voices heard. Develop mechanisms to ensure that funding reaches grassroots women's organisations in remote rural areas and poor through scaling up funding to women's funds or grassroots organisations that have links with grassroots civil society. Promote the consolidation and emergence of women in leadership positions in economic social and political life. Promote development projects and programmes that are contributing to the strengthening of local markets and to women's capacity to generate income. Ensure that the projects can show potential for replication and scaling up, in particular to the local policy level where grassroots women are most active. Support the publication, dissemination and scaling up of the knowledge that grassroots women are producing. They are capably investigating and showing viable alternatives to achieve equitable and sustainable development goals.

# 2. THE CARIBBEAN

Antigua & Barbuda | Bahamas | Barbados | Belize | Cuba | Dominica | Dominican Republic | Grenada | Guyana | Haiti | Jamaica | Saint Kitts & Nevis | Saint Lucia | Saint-Vincent and the Grenadines | Suriname | Trinidad & Tobago





### 2.1 THE CARIBBEAN AT A GLANCE: FACTS AND FIGURES

The Latin America and Caribbean region has closed 69% of its overall gender gap<sup>32</sup> and performs well on the educational attainment and health and survival sub-indexes. All countries in the Caribbean are signatory to the CEDAW<sup>33</sup> and non-governmental women's organisations contributed significantly to providing an enabling environment through advocacy, sensitisation and information dissemination. Most countries have constitutional prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of sex and a number of legal reforms have been won, including the inheritance rights of unmarried women, common-law spouses, and children born out of wedlock in response to the high numbers of female-headed households across the region (between 30-50%).<sup>34</sup>

Caribbean countries also advanced in **women's political participation** and their access to decision-making spheres. Several countries<sup>35</sup> have been able to elect female heads of state over the course of women's involvement in politics in the Caribbean, including Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller of Jamaica and Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. While there has been increased women's representation in politics, in 2013 only 80 out of 543 elected representatives are women.<sup>36</sup> Two countries, Guyana and Grenada have over 30% representation in the House of Representatives and the Dominican Republic, the only country which adopted a quota law, women occupy only 10% of the senate seats and 21% of the seats in the House of Representatives.

Overall the region achieved **gender parity in education** and in most countries there is a reverse gender gap in education - women have more average years of schooling than men. The participation of boys in the education system has declined progressively through secondary and tertiary levels. At the secondary level, girls are far more likely to be enrolled than boys regionally – this disparity is particularly profound in Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago.<sup>37</sup>

Although access has been universalised national figures overlook differences within each country, especially between capital cities and rural areas, between groups of different racial, ethnic, social class, and others who suffer discrimination and have serious difficulties in accessing and remaining enrolled in school. In some countries the **early school drop-out rate in primary education** surpasses 30%<sup>38</sup> and urban women finish their education cycle to a greater extent than indigenous women living in rural areas.

32. World Economic Forum, *The Global Gender Gap Report 2013*.

33. *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*.

34. Dr. Sharla Blank, *Journal of Arts and Humanities (JAH)*, Volume -2, No.-4, May, 2013.

35. *Dominica, Guyana, St. Lucia, Bermuda, Jamaica and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago*.

36. *ECLAC Gender Equality Observatory of Latin America and the Caribbean Annual Report 2012 – A look at grants – support and burden for women*.

37. *Committee of NGOs of CSW for Latin America and the Caribbean, «A look from Latin America and the Caribbean on the Millennium Development Goals and the Post-2015 work,» 2014*.

38. *Guyana, Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname*.



While there is a definite increase in **women's share of the employment** in the non-agricultural sector in most Caribbean countries, and despite the fact that women are pursuing higher education in larger numbers than men, their position remains confined to the services sector, the caring professions, and other low waged, labour intensive areas of the labour market. There may be no real difference in self-employment rates of men and women but there are considerable gender differences in quality, measured not only in terms of average earnings but also in work conditions and income security.

The **income gap** between women and men, while narrowing in recent years, remains wide. Women's unemployment in non-rural sectors is twice as high as men's in some countries<sup>39</sup> and even worse among young people with the highest rates registered among young women. **Domestic work** is mostly, but not exclusively, performed by women many of whom are migrants. In Latin America and the Caribbean one in four female wage employees is domestic worker.<sup>40</sup> As a result of women's activism in the region and globally the rights of domestic workers is now enshrined in the ILO convention 189 on Domestic Work, which came into force in 2013 and to date is only ratified by Guyana.<sup>41</sup>

Levels of **adolescent childbearing** are high and have only recently begun to decline - the adolescent birth rate declined from 80 births per 1,000 girls in 1990 to 78 in 2000, and to 68 in 2010. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that adolescent girls, in general, face greater barriers than adult women in accessing reproductive health services.<sup>42</sup>

**Maternal mortality** in the Caribbean remains high with 190 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2010. The lack of statistics on cases of all forms of violence against women and girls, including femicide, is a common characteristic in all countries. Partial studies and registers show **violence against women and girls**, including sexual violence, is increasing in most of the countries of the region, as well as the seriousness and magnitude of the injuries, resulting in a rise in femicides.<sup>43</sup>

While the region has seen the sharpest decline in the number of people newly infected with HIV, **HIV prevalence among adults** is about 1.0% [0.9%-1.1%], which is higher than in any other region outside Sub-Saharan Africa. An estimated 95 % of HIV-infected pregnant women in the Caribbean received effective antiretroviral drugs necessary to prevent the transmission of HIV to their children in 2012.<sup>44</sup>

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39. SISTREN Theatre Collective and Women's Resource and Outreach Centre. «Wheel and Come Again»: Assessing the Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals 2015, Caribbean Regional Report, 2014.

40. ILO «Who are domestic workers» April 2013.

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## 2.2 LIST OF GOOD PRACTICES PRESENTED

COUNTRY	ORGANISATION	BEST PRATICE (TITLE)
JAMAICA	Jamaican Household Workers Union	Empowering household women workers in Jamaica
HAITI	AFASDAH	Support to the socio-economic development of local women producers/Appui à la Promotion Féminine
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Tu-Mujer/You,Women	Mainstreaming gender equity and active citizenship in health and sanitation public policies
GUYANA	Red Thread	Organising for the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act
HAITI	REFRAKA-Women's Community Radio	Campaign « 16 Days of Activism: Let us Mobilise to end Violence Against Women »
HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (BORDER ZONE)	COLECTIVA MUJERES	Programme to improve the living conditions and to empower trans-borderwomen
GUYANA	Women Across Differences (WAD)	Comprehensive empowerment programme for adolescent / teenage mothers
JAMAICA	Construction Resource and Development Centre (CRDC) Jamaica and Groots International	Grassroots women skilled in hurricane-resistant roofing and safer housing: Putting safe construction in women's hands
JAMAICA	GROOTS JAMAICA in partnership with the Huairou Commission and the Sistren Theatre Collective	Urban safety through women's eyes: the safety audits project
GUYANA	« Grassroots Women Across Race, » a sister organisation of Red Thread Women:	Organising with mothers and other grassroots carers in Guyana for access to basic social services in urban communities



## 2.3 GOOD PRACTICES FROM THE CARIBBEAN

**TITLE:** ..... Empowering Household Women Workers in Jamaica  
**ORGANISATION:** ..... Jamaica Household Workers Union-JHWU  
**LOCATION:** ..... Kingston, Jamaica  
**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... National  
**SECTOR:** ..... Women’s Political Participation, Decent Work, Sustainable Livelihoods  
**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Domestic workers, gardeners, migrant women workers living in poverty and facing labour exploitation  
**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... Tripartite partnership: Jamaica Employers Federation, Jamaica Confederation of Trade Union, Government and Trade Union  
**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... UN Women, ILO  
**DURATION:** ..... 2 years (2011-2012)

### Objectives:

Empower domestic workers and ensure decent working conditions and wages. Protect the rights and interests of domestic workers and the elimination of gender inequality through sensitisation and awareness-raising programmes. Contribute to the implementation of Decent Work for domestic workers and Free Movement of Domestic Workers within the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). Sensitise the public on the value of domestic work.

### The Development Context:

In Jamaica, domestic workers/household workers, are integral to the country’s labour force. In 2010, there were 58,500 households with employed persons, and at least 100,000 domestic workers nationwide. Domestic work is the largest single female occupational category of workers. Women domestic workers contribute to national development through the performance of their paid and unpaid work. Their jobs are key to the socio-economic development of the country. Yet, they are amongst the most vulnerable workers, and their contribution to the formal economy (both the productive and care economy) remains largely invisible.

Domestic women workers face multiple forms of discrimination that contravene the principles of ILO decent work: long working days, low wages, no overtime pay, and limited access to social security. Some employers refuse to pay statutory deductions to the National Insurance Scheme which provides them with maternity leave benefit. They also face various forms of abuse (sexual, emotional, and physical, forced labour and wrongful dismissal). The majority of Jamaican domestic

workers are between 25-65 years old, and struggle to combine their roles to look after their own families. Most of them started as child domestic workers; some are migrants from rural areas, and others are survivors of internal human trafficking. Today most of them are single mothers (with 3-6 children each), with little education.

### Achievements:

The political agency of domestic workers has been enhanced. The women of the Network have developed and used their leadership skills to organise themselves into a formal Trade Union, and from there engage in a high-level impact advocacy work which has yielded major results at the micro and macro level. At the micro level, they have improved the livelihoods of domestic workers, and their capacity to claim decent work conditions. At the macro level, they are contributing to government’s ratification of ILO Convention 189. On a broader level, they are contributing to correcting social inequalities in the country, since they played a key role in the government’s decision to increase the minimum living wage for all Jamaican workers in 2012.

Concrete improvements in women’s livelihoods. Thanks to their «skills for life» training programme, many domestic workers have upgraded their professional competencies. Some young women have made the transition from domestic work into higher-paying jobs in Jamaica and overseas. The workshops with employers and employees to sensitise both parties about their rights and obligations has been a great success. Now the Jamaica Employers Union is working in partnership with the JFHU to sensitise employers island-wide about the Decent Work Convention.



### Key Enabling Factors:

- Sustaining excellent relationship with employers, government and trade union. Tripartite dialogue has been a key enabling factor;
- Their strategy to assist members with job placement to ensure that they remunerated with fair wages and terms and conditions congruent to decent work. Employers and employees call or walk in to the JHWU to make their employment requests;
- Support from UN Women. Through a UN Women's project, the JFHU could become a recognised UNION and influence policy changes that have been empowering to women household workers. Domestic workers are now visible, they now know their rights overall, and are doing their work with pride and by choice, and not by circumstances.

### Obstacles/Challenges:

Reaching domestic workers in deep rural parishes and sustaining the 10 new chapters.

### Sustainability:

Members are highly committed, and successfully uplifting the image of Jamaican domestic women workers as political agents, capable of contributing to policy reform on labour legislation. The Minister of Labour and Social Security, Government officials and representatives of trade unions have joined in the JFHU campaign to ratify the ILO Convention No.189. JFHU is engaged in structural dialogue with the Prime Minister, pushing for ratification of C189.

The laws are now being amended to have the convention ratified. They are also working with employers' federation to prevent resistance and delivering workshops to educate employers and employees about their rights and obligations. Their work has been instrumental in getting the domestic workers' agenda in the public domain, and has generated a lot of media attention for the organisation. Moreover, their «Skills for life» programme includes collaborating with the Government's Human Employment and Resource Training Programme (HEART). Some domestic workers are going to school and are enrolled in this Programme.

### Potential for Scaling up:

Tripartite partnership has been crucial for scaling up their campaigning into policy reform at the macro level. In coherence with the Decent Work Convention (ILO Co. 189), the Jamaica Employers Federation, government and Trade Union have joined forces to have this Convention ratified.

### Potential for Replication:

The Union is already working on strategies to expand their good practices, and strengthen their parish chapters, so as to serve domestic workers outside of Kingston. So far, household workers around the country have set up 10 other chapters. Membership has increased by over 50%. They have also built a regional network in the Caribbean (*Caribbean Domestic Workers' Network*, launched in Barbados in November 2011). The organisation is now being used as a model by UN Women and ILO to show how domestic workers can effectively organise and have an impact on policies and practices affecting their socio-economic status, at national and international level.

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**TITLE:** ..... Support to the socio-economic development of local women producers  
**ORGANISATION:** ..... Asosyasyon Fanm Sent Terez Davila-Haiti - AFASDAH  
**LOCATION:** ..... Désarmes, Région de l'Artibonite, Plateau Central, Haïti  
**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... Local, across communities  
**SECTOR:** ..... Women's socio-economic empowerment, sustainable livelihoods, environmental protection  
**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Grassroots rural women: 900 members of AFASDAH  
**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... Multi-partnership (governmental development agencies, local authorities, local women producers)  
**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... Public institutions (Coopération Agricole des Paysans Organisés de l'Artibonite) and European NGOs (Broderlijk Delen, Trocaire)  
**DURATION:** ..... 2010- April 2014

**Objectives:**

AFASDAH is a local women's organisation working to empower community women producers in the Artibonite. This good practice led by the women of AFASDAH summarises the outcomes of a multi-year programme (2010-2014). The main goal is to empower all 900 women members of AFASDAH so that they become economically self-sufficient. Specific objectives of this initiative are:

- a) The productive capacity of the unit in charge of transforming agricultural products is strengthened;
- b) AFASDAH members become economically autonomous;
- c) Women's income is increased and community development benefits from this.

**The Development Context:**

The extreme poverty affecting the region of Désarmes and Lachapelle has worsened in recent years. In this region, poverty is a heavy burden in women's lives, as it results in food and economic insecurity, lack of decent income (women's annual income for 2008 was below US\$ 80). The lack of opportunities to earn a living prevents women from projecting themselves and their families into a sustainable, healthy and dignified future. The situation of women heads of households is particularly critical, as is the case with 60% of the members of AFASDAH, who are the sole responsible for ensuring the livelihoods of their children and extended families. In order to combat the extreme poverty affecting women in the region, and motivated by the broader goal of reinforcing local development to ensure sustainable livelihoods for their community, the women of AFSDAH decided to start working on this initiative

before external funding came in 2010. The main idea was to equip women with trading skills and machineries, and, at the same time empower them to become key local actors of inclusive socio-economic development, sustainable production and environmental protection. This way, the initiative intended to eradicate poverty and meet the big challenge of reducing the wasting of agricultural produce through a culture of reutilisation and revalorisation.

**Achievements:**

Increase in women's social and economic development: increase in income, in productivity and in trading power. Concrete evidence of these achievements:

- a) Increase in income (from US\$ 100 in 2011 to US\$ 375 in 2013);
- b) Increase in productivity: (50kg of fruit and cereals per month in 2009; 1500 kg per month in 2013), including an increase in their production of seedlings (from 3000 plants in 2008 to 85000 plants in 2013);
- c) Increase in trading power (80% of AFASDAH products are consumed in the local market).

More sustainable production methods are preserving the environment, and women are recognised as capable agents of socio-economic local development: 50% of profit is shared amongst women producers, 30% is invested in equipment; 20% is invested in their skills enhancement. In addition to controlling their income, they can now decide upon their sexual and reproductive health rights.





### Key Enabling Factors:

The commitment and hard work of the women themselves, as shown in the good functioning of the organisation. The appreciation of men in the communities where they operate. Support by local authorities and international NGOs who have enabled their access to know-how, better technology and new machineries. Technical support from key government development entities and experts who know the region.

### Obstacles/Challenges:

Demobilisation of the organisation due to the departure of some women leaders. Strategies to counter this challenge:

- Permanent dialogue between AFASDAH members, between leaders and community;
- Participatory planning (members actively participate during the planning and execution phases);
- Community mobilisation (frequent information sessions and workshops on valorisation of local products, how to develop agro-ecological value chains);
- Good governance culture (frequent updates to members, info-sharing with community).

### Sustainability:

This initiative already existed before the funding source came. External funding has supported their efforts, but women are leading the process all along. The high degree of commitment by the AFASDAH women themselves is a sign that the activities will continue when the external funding source is no longer there. Technical support from local authorities is ongoing. Furthermore, the community is aware of the benefit AFASDAH women are bringing to collective social, economic, and ecological development: there is more access to nutritional food and at very accessible prices; local agricultural products have been valorised and this has created new niches for income generation for men and women in the community.

### Potential for Scaling up:

This initiative is in line with the EU priorities of improving food security in Haiti, and in the region of the Artibonite in particular. For example, it offers interesting elements for scaling up interventions in the area of food security for women and children, more specifically in terms of development programmes aimed at decreasing chronic malnutrition and community access to health and affordable food that is in keeping with local productive models and customs.

### Potential for Replication:

This initiative shows that support to grassroots women producers makes social and economic development more effective, equitable and sustainable on the ground. Second, the intervention strategy applies an integrated approach (technical support, capacity-building to improve women's productive skills, and empowerment to build women's trading and financial capabilities). It also incorporates a concern with profiling women's agency for environmental protection through valorisation of local knowledge in agriculture and greening of the community. Third, it has spill-over effects that benefit the socio-economic development of the community as a whole, since their successful recuperation of indigenous plants, fruit and other cereals has not only created new market niches in the local market but also helped to combat chronic child malnutrition. Increase in regular consumption of an endogenous nutrient (benzolive) has contributed to a 26% decrease in malnutrition. All these are key elements to eradicate poverty, gender inequality and build community resilience. If scaled up and replicated, they could facilitate moving forward in achieving MDGs, especially Goals 1 and 3.

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### Change story :

*«I am Prélène Vilsaint, 44, and mother of 5 children. I am the head of my household. Before, I could not send my children to school or feed them. Since I am a member of AFASDAH, I cultivate and sell my produce in the local market. I earn 100 USD per week. I can now assume the financial responsibility of the wellbeing of my family.»*





**TITLE:** ..... Mainstreaming gender equity and active citizenship in health and sanitation public policies  
**ORGANISATION:** ..... YOU-WOMEN  
**LOCATION:** ..... Municipality of Bayaguana, Province of Monte Plata, Dominican Republic  
**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... Local  
**SECTOR:** ..... Health and Sanitation  
**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Diverse grassroots leaders (poor women/men, young/adults), women's community organisations, local syndicates and businesses, local authorities, vulnerable groups exposed to STD, HIV-AIDS, girls affected by early pregnancy, community members in general  
**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** . TU-MUJER in partnership with local development actors in Bayaguana: Community based organisations, women's and youth's networks, local authorities, and businesses  
**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... Canadian government; Family Health International, USAID, Asamblea de Cooperación por la Paz-Fundación CIDEAL, Spanish Development Cooperation (AECID), Municipality of Bayaguana, Gildan, a free zone company  
**DURATION:** ..... One year: May 2007 -May 2008

**Objectives:**

- a) Strengthen the capacities of community-based organisations, grassroots women's organisations, and young leaders for a more effective struggle against sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and HIV-AIDS and adolescent pregnancy;
- b) Contribute to participatory local development through changes towards gender-responsive health and sanitation policies.

**The Development Context:**

In the Dominican Republic, 58% of people affected by HIV are women. The Monte Plata Province shows the lowest levels of human sustainable development and high levels of violence against women and girls (VAW&G). The municipality of Bayaguana ranks amongst the 5 poorest regions in the country and has high levels of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and HIV/SIDA. Lack of sexual education causes high rates of pregnancies in adolescents (24.6% of girls under 19 years have been pregnant; the national average being 20.6%). The prohibition of abortion is another cause of the high rate of maternal mortality (127.8 cases per 100,000 born alive babies compared to the national average (81.9 cases/100,000 born alive ones). These figures do not comply with the benchmark established in the MDGs (57 per 100,000 born alive babies). Moreover, pervasive physical and sexual violence are often the cause of unwanted pregnancies, handicaps and femicides. Even though women's reproductive rights and their right to sexual orientation have not been considered in public policy or in the public education curriculum, a landmark progress took place in April 2014, when public authorities and the

private sector formally committed themselves to include women's sexual and reproductive health rights in their agendas. This commitment was formalised by the signing of the «National Pact for the Educational Reform in Dominican Republic for 2014-2030.»

**Achievements:**

This action is a pilot experience that TÚ, MUJER has accompanied since 2003. This project has achieved the following results:

**At the grassroots level:**

- a) Enhanced capabilities of grassroots women leaders, community-based organisations and youth networks on how to effectively handle STD/VIH/AIDS, adolescent pregnancy and VAW&G. This was achieved through thematic training workshops (726 participants, 56% were grassroots women leaders);
- b) *Increased community awareness* on transmission mechanisms, deconstruction of myths and social taboos about HIV-AIDS. Increased self-esteem and better social integration of people affected by the diseases, especially women;
- c) *Increased use of hospital services and treatment.* Before the project, men and women affected by HIV-AIDS did not dare to use services out of fear of stigmatisation;
- d) *Increased community influence in local public policies.* Women and youth networks, can better influence agendas and decisions by local authorities responsible for health, sanitation and education;
- e) *Recognition of the key contribution of women leaders* who are health promoters. They are the pillar of the Municipal Observatory of Violence



against Women, and play a key role as development actors on the ground. They go from door-to-door, bringing relevant information on VAW&G, how to prevent STD, HIV-AIDS; and where to go in case they need public services and accompaniment.

### *At the public authority level:*

*Better public service delivery.* The Municipality and Ministry of Education became actively involved in the initiative. A hospital unit specially devoted to integral attention and training on HIV-AIDS was built. Thanks to public investment and awareness, women now have better access to public services.

### *At the public policy level:*

Creation of three policy instruments:

1. The Municipal Council to Combat STD, HIV-SIDA, set up on the basis of gender parity (50% men and women);
2. The Municipal Plan to Combat STD, HIV-SIDA for 2008-2015. This Plan is gender-sensitive and contains the strategic guidelines included in the 2007-2017 National Plan of Gender Equality of the Women's Ministry;<sup>45</sup>
3. The Municipal Committee for Social Audits in the Health Sector, which ensures that health care and services offered by the municipality meet the needs of men and women affected by STD, HIV-AIDS.

### *Key Enabling Factors:*

The integrated approach (health and education) and multi-partnership nature of this initiative (public-private association). The bottom-up approach of the intervention strategy, which was based on the priorities of local women and men. The training component, which increased commitment at the local level.

### *Obstacles/Challenges:*

- a) Stigma and discrimination towards men and women living with HIV/AIDS;
- b) A patriarchal culture which affects women and young girls, and puts them at a higher risk of being affected by sexually transmitted diseases;
- c) Financial sustainability for the systematic development of the training programmes has not been achieved yet. Project-based funding, instead of programme funding, is preventing future projection of this initiative.

### *Sustainability:*

The sustainability of this initiative is guaranteed by

- a) The good operation of the Unit of Integral Attention of the hospital, constructed and equipped by Association YOU, WOMAN with support from international development agencies;
- b) The expertise of the community mobilised by the trainings and educational campaigning;
- c) The commitment and work of the health community promoters;
- d) The approximately 40 information points and distribution centres for contraceptive and STD-HIV-AIDS prevention.

### *Potential for Scaling up:*

This initiative demonstrates that bottom-up development initiatives are effective tools to influence public policies in a way that responds to women's and girls' health and sanitation priorities. Second, it shows the added value of the inter-sector and multi-partnership approach (private, public and community) for pushing gender-responsive budgeting, greater local governance and higher levels of satisfaction amongst development actors and beneficiaries. In 2010, this initiative was selected as good practice by the European Union in the Dominican Republic (2008-2015).

### *Potential for Replication:*

Other municipalities in the Province have expressed their interest to implement similar initiatives in their territories, but they have not yet allocated resources needed to replicate the experience.

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45. <http://tumujer.org/pdf/SIDA2008-2015.pdf>



**TITLE:** ..... Organising for the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act  
**ORGANISATION:** ..... Red Thread  
**LOCATION:** ..... District 4 in Georgetown, Guyana  
**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... National  
**SECTOR:** ..... Ending Violence Against Women  
**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Diverse Grassroots Women - Indigenous, Afro, Indo and mixed races survivors of violence  
**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... Domestic Violence/Rape Survivors Self Help Groups and Grassroots Women Across Race  
**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... UN Women, USAID  
**DURATION:** ..... 2009, Ongoing

**Objectives:**

Educate Women about the rights and services available to them and to organise with them across race and geography to fight in their own defence.

**The Development Context:**

Red Thread works to building relationships with key institutions, to ensure that the law is properly implemented and justice is being served. Red Thread is a women’s organisation that’s a strong advocate for women’s and children’s rights and provides services to vulnerable populations in Guyana. Red Thread’s goal is to organise with women, beginning with grassroots women, in order to cross divides and transform women’s structural conditions of subordination and exclusion. Their organisational objectives are:

- To work for women’s care work to be re-valued and properly remunerated;
- To work towards the achievement of equal pay for work of equal value;
- To work against all forms of violence, especially against women and children, and support victims of such violence;
- To build solidarity among women across divides and to oppose all forms of discrimination including discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, class, dis/ability, age, sexual identity, and HIV status. One of Red Thread’s added values is that they work to cross race divides thus ensuring that all organising is across race divides and includes indigenous women.

**Achievements:**

- a) Training programme, setting up of survivors groups and the impact of our drop-in outreach services;
- b) More women educated about the laws, speaking out and ready to fight in their own defence;
- c) Red Thread has been involved in training workshops with magistrates and the police in relation to the gaps in the proper implementation of the Domestic Violence Act (DVA). As a result we have seen changes in the way some of the police and magistrates are handling cases. In addition access to a Protection Order is now made easier at some courts.

**Key Enabling Factors:**

Using two booklets that we produced (A Household Guide to the Domestic Act, and Domestic Violence: A National Problem) to inform grassroots women about the nature of domestic and of the legal protections that are available.

In addition, organising various actions for example, picket demonstrations, TV talk shows, Street Theatre to highlight the issues. As well as facilitating survivors telling their stories to the law enforcement, justice and health officials and the production of a video titled «Voices of Survivors.»



**Obstacles/Challenges:**

Getting the DVA to work in the interior areas in the absence of police stations in some communities, the absence of daily court sessions and the fact that many of the houses are not properly secured, women being fearful to continue with their cases, the absence of material support for example, access to housing and jobs for survivors to stay out of abusive relationships, in some cases the lack of family and community support.

**Sustainability:**

Survivors and the women who have been trained are very committed to informing themselves and other women about the law and providing support.

There have been changes in the way some of the police and magistrates are handling cases. In addition the access to a Protection Order is now made easier at some courts.

**Potential for Scaling up:**

Outcomes are encouraging: changes are occurring in the way some of the police and magistrates are handling cases. In addition access to a Protection Order is now made easier at some courts.

With adequate finances more intensive work can be done to scale up actions of this sort into the policy and intervention level.

**Potential for Replication:**

Replications is ongoing but there is a need for expanding outreach so as to replicate in many other places and in a more consistent way.

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Facebook: Red Women - Crossroads Women's Centre

**Change story:**

*« As a survivor of domestic violence and rape the training enabled me to insist that the police take my case seriously and it helped me to overcome the feeling of shame. I'm now able to provide support for other women in violence situation. »*





**TITLE:** ..... Campaign « 16 Days of Activism: Let us Mobilise to end Violence Against Women. »

**ORGANISATION:** ..... Rezo Fanm Radyo Kominoté Ayisen-REFRAKA (Haitian Women's Community Radio Network)

**LOCATION:** ..... Haiti

**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... National

**SECTOR:** ..... Gender in Communication, media work linked to VAW

**TARGET GROUPS:** ... Peasant women between 27-60 years, with low levels of schooling or access to formal education. School children, professionals and academics involved in community radios and community based-development in remote areas of the country

**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... REFRAKA, Société d'Animation et de Communication Sociale (SAKS), University Women's Collective (CFU), members of the National Coordination for Women's Rights (KONAP)

**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... UNIFEM- Haiti

**DURATION:** ..... November 2010-july 2011

**Objectives:**

*General:*

Contribute to eliminating violence against women and girls in Haiti.

*Specific:*

- a) Use community radios as a means to raise awareness of grassroots men and women of the forms of violence affecting women and girls, and their impact on women;
- b) Mobilise all 25 community radio stations members of REFRAKA and enhance the staff's awareness and knowledge of issues related to VAW&G;
- c) Contribute to changing gender stereotyping on women and images that justify/perpetuate VAW&G in the media.

**The Development Context:**

Throughout the history of Haiti, grassroots women have been increasingly vocal and active in social, political, and economic issues. Unfortunately, their voices and proposals for non-discriminatory and non-violent local development are seldom heard; worse, even, they never make it to the centres of decision-making power. The importance of community radios for mobilising Haitian grassroots men and women in a shared struggle against VAW&G cannot be overlooked. Haiti is a country where 45% of men, and 49% of women are illiterate, and where radio messages have the power to reshape people's views on discriminatory gender norms and stereotypes, and make people take action to prevent and eradicate everyday forms of violence endured

by women and girls. In this context, REFRAKA operates to give a voice to women and girls living in rural remote areas and in conditions of poverty and social exclusion. REFRAKA is a women's community radio network; it includes 25 member stations in 9 of Haiti's ten geographic departments. The present initiative is an example of the Network's engagement in the struggle to end violence against women and girls in all its multiple forms.

**Achievements:**

In the framework of the current project, REFRAKA worked in partnership with AHECS and KONAP. Together, they managed to achieve the following:

- a) The network trained about 150 women as journalists, programme hosts, and production technicians. The impact of this training is that women and men presenters working in community radios are now more skilled and possess more knowledge for better struggle against VAW;
- b) The areas covered by the 25 community radios have a better understanding of the significance of eradicating violence against women;
- c) Rural men and women have increased their awareness of the impact of violence against women on women themselves and society as a whole;
- d) REFRAKA's radio programmes, advocacy and campaigning played a key role in eradicating stereotyped images and representations on women that are used to justify and naturalise different forms of VAW, in particular sexual violence.



### Key Enabling Factors:

- The strong collaboration between a popular communication women's network such as REFRAKA, the academic sector (AHECS), and a National Gender Machinery (KONAP);
- Involving men in popular campaigning and mobilisation on ending VAW&G;
- The strong collaboration between REFRAKA and international networks of community radios (the World Association for Christian Communication -WACC, RIF, AMARC-World Association of Radio Presenters);
- The proactive involvement of all 27 community radios and key Haitian development and media agents.

### Obstacles/Challenges:

Before the earthquake of 2010, REFRAKA had managed to enhance the skills of many women communicators in various radio stations: they made programmes about local issues, produced nation-wide shows which were aired on member stations. They also managed to produce a monthly radio-magazine on gender-related topics (ex. women's political advocacy, gender relations, violence, HIV-AIDS). They also had a 30-minute show called «Own Your Body, Care for Your Body.» This show targeted girls (aged 11-15) in community schools, and discussed debates on girl's bodies and health, relations between girls and boys. The 2010 earthquake destroyed REFRAKA's premises and their equipment. In spite of this, REFRAKA continues to actively network with their national and international partners such as RIF (Réseau International des femmes) and AMARC (the global association of community radios).

### Sustainability:

REFRAKA's work is a unique asset in Haiti. It is a radio network run by women for women and men to live in equality and free from any form of violence. Members are women communicators who are actively working to eradicate VAW&G in local contexts throughout the country. For this reason, and especially in the context of post-earthquake reconstruction, REFRAKA fills an important gap in Haiti's local development, since they amplify the voices and proposals of rural grassroots women, especially in the area of violence against women and girls. The sustainability of this action is demonstrated by the commitment of REFRAKA members, who have not only continued to broadcast educational material produced during the project's life, but also created their own productions to continue

the work that the funding source facilitated. Recently, REFRAKA began a project in collaboration with WACC. They will organise training workshops to empower 15 women from 5 community radio stations. The goal is to use community radio as a tool to make programmes that directly address the problems and challenges they face, and make the concerns of Haitian rural women more visible to local authorities. For more information, go to: <http://www.waccglobal.org/articles/wacc-helps-raise-the-voices-of-haitian-women#sthash.QkTDdcnX.dpuf>.

### Potential for Scaling up and Replication:

Financial constraints have prevented REFRAKA from replicating this initiative. It is crucial to continue replication and expand the outreach of this action. In Haiti community radios reach men and women in most remote areas, where other means of communication are rare or non-existent. Moreover, awareness-raising amongst illiterate grassroots men and women in rural areas is more effectively done through radio programmes. Community radios are an unparalleled means of communication; they can be effective tools to reshape mind-sets, to influence public policies and to mobilise communities in the pursuit of eradicating VAW&G.

### Contact person:

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**TITLE:** ..... Programme to improve the living conditions and to empowerment Trans-border Women  
**ORGANISATION:** ..... COLECTIVA MUJER Y SALUD  
**LOCATION:** ..... Border Zone between Haiti and Dominican Republic (DR)  
**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... Trans-border communities between Haiti and the Dominican Republic  
**SECTOR:** ..... Migration, VAW, HIV-AIDS, women's socio-economic empowerment  
**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Men/women in the trans-border zones (migrants, Haiti-Dominican and Haitian women, Dominican men/women), public authorities, service providers and users of reproductive health services, social organisations and journalists  
**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... National Congress, Public Ministries, Gender-Aware Journalists Network, Women's organisations in both sides, 2 municipalities, Committee for social auditing of the health sector in Elías Piña, Network of community based promoters in Bellader  
**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... UNIFEM, Margaret Sanger International; Spanish Development Cooperation Agency (AECID), EU, UN-Population Fund, Christian AID  
**DURATION:** ..... 3 years (2007 to 2013)

**Objectives:**

*General:*

Contribute to the improvement of the living conditions and leadership capacity of diverse women living in the trans-border zones.

*Specific:*

1. Contribute to ending violence against women (VAW) in the trans-border zone, in particular migrant and women in transit;
2. Contribute to the socio-economic autonomy of trans-border women;
3. Strengthen their capacity to influence local policy, and improve services related to health, HIV-AIDS, violence, disaster prevention/mitigation.

**The Development Context:**

Haiti and the Dominican Republic share a 380 km border zone comprised of 16 municipalities in the Haitian side and 5 provinces in the DR side. Elías Piña province has 6 municipalities, and is one of the poorest in the country. Comendador, its main municipality, has a high migrant population that is subject to violence and labour exploitation. In Bellader, an important bi-national market in the country takes place twice a week. This market is the main source of income for Haitian and Dominican women. Violence against women in the trans-border zone is a vicious cycle, and takes specific forms (i.e. sexual violence in non-official crossing points, economic abuse by border authorities in the official transit zones). Perpetrators can be family members, intimate partners, border authorities, controllers in the market, truck drivers who take women to the market, employers or strangers on streets. A majority

of migrant women live in poverty. Domestic workers earn US\$ 23/35 per month, mostly in the informal economy. Violence against trans-border women has not been a priority for authorities. A legislative framework, as well as awareness-raising and anti-discrimination campaigning are urgently needed to ensure that they are entitled to their citizens' rights in both sides. For this reason, since 1997, COLECTIVA MUJER Y SALUD, in collaboration with GARR on the Haitian side, has been working to empower trans-border women. Trans-border women are migrant, Haitian, Dominican and Dominican-Haitian women whose lives are determined by the complex dynamic of living between the two borders of a zone known as «no one's land.» There is a specific group of women called «in transit.» They are constantly crossing from one border to the other. Many are market vendors who come to sell their products in one side and go back home to the other side after the market is over.

**Achievements:**

- *Reduction of risk and vulnerability to violence against women in the trans-border zones,* increase in number of cases denounced, increase in awareness and change of attitude vis-à-vis HIV-AIDS risk. For example, in one region, 23.7% of women reported to have used condoms in their last sexual intercourse of high risk in 2007. In 2013, the figure was 29.6%.
- *Socio-economic empowerment of trans-border women.* Migrant women know where to seek help, how to identify risk, and the services at their disposal. A team of «intercultural mediators»





accompanies those who do not speak Spanish. The quality of the service received by these women has improved, and their economic autonomy was reinforced through skills-training in small-scale business, and non-traditional jobs for income generation. A network of women vendors was formed, and are pushing for improvements in these markets, warning relevant authorities against discrimination and abuses against women vendors.

- **Improvements in normative frameworks on VAW.** A new proposal for an Organic Law on Violence against trans-border women was drafted. This Law has been approved by the DR Senate and has been presented to the Women's Ministry in Haiti.
- **Strengthened capacities of health authorities.** A formal training programme helped them to reduce the level of prejudice and discrimination vis-à-vis migrant women, and to understand the link between VAW and HIV-AIDS better.
- Construction of empirical evidence on the risks endured by trans-border and migrant women. This was achieved through 2 ground-breaking studies:
  1. A baseline on the link between VAW and HIV-AIDS;
  2. A study titled: «*Fann nan fwontyè, Fann toupatou - Mujeres de la Frontera Baja-Mujeres en Tránsito.*» The first has become a reference to authorities and social organisations; the second sheds light on the multiple forms of violence endured by women in the trans-border zones.
- **Community mobilisation.** A group was set up to work on health awareness raising campaign in bi-national markets. They undertake actions on preventing cholera and *dengue* in both sides of the border zone. The number of occurrences dropped during 2011, 2012 y 2013.

### Key Enabling Factors:

The integrated and multi-partner approach of the initiative (governmental and non-governmental actors working together). The proactive involvement of trans-border women was crucial for the success of the whole experience. The peer-to-peer replication model was very successful: women replicated with their peers the knowledge and skills acquired.

### Obstacles/Challenges:

Pervasive anti-Haitian prejudice. Acute poverty and multiple inequalities hinder women's development

efforts and hamper their economic autonomy. There are no long-lasting solutions to the constant displacement of women due to lack of legal documentation or economic reasons.

### Sustainability:

This initiative mobilised a wide range of development actors (public authorities, civil society, organisations, women's and migrant organisations). These actors are committed and continue to use its outcomes at their own level and in their specific locations.

### Potential for Scaling Up to the Public Policy Level:

This initiative offers tools to tailor development interventions to women who are often invisible subjects in local development. It also offers insights on how to collect empirical data on the economic and intangible cost of violence against migrant and displaced women in trans-border zones. This data is key for policy makers to make the appropriate decisions, and for policies to reflect the reality of violence as endured by migrant, poor women on the ground.

### Potential for Replication:

COLECTIVA continues to work with local groups in joint collaboration with GARR in Haiti. All the material used is bilingual. Trans-border women have also been replicating, and have created bi-national networks to combat VAW. A key moment for them is their annual gathering on «No-One's Land» to commemorate the International Day Against Violence.

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**TITLE:** ..... Comprehensive Empowerment Programme for Adolescent/Teenage Mothers  
**ORGANISATION:** ..... Women Across Differences (WAD)  
**LOCATION:** ..... Georgetown, Guyana  
**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... Cross section of local communities  
**SECTOR:** ..... Education, sexual and reproductive health rights  
**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Adolescent/teenage mothers from poor backgrounds age 12-19 years  
**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... Support Network include the Guyana Responsible parenthood Association, David Rose Health Centre, Campbellsville Health Centre, Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, Child Protection Agency (Ministry of Human Services), Food for the Poor (NGO)  
**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... UNFPA (only donor)  
**DURATION:** ..... 2008-to present

**Objectives:**

To provide a safe and friendly learning environment for pregnant adolescent girls and adolescent mothers to acquire adolescent sexual and reproductive health information, so as to reduce unplanned pregnancies, build their self-confidence, enhance their life skills and educational / entrepreneurial competencies for a better quality of life.

**The Development Context:**

Guyana is listed among the six countries of the Caribbean with the highest prevalence of teenage pregnancy,<sup>46</sup> seriously affecting the girls’ education. In most cases, girls drop out of schools, are unable to re-enter the education system, and end up being unemployed with an unfinished education. This problem is being addressed through the Comprehensive Empowerment Programme for Adolescent/Teenage mothers. The adolescent/teenage mothers involved derive from a cross section of communities in Guyana. Most come from single-parent and dysfunctional homes, poverty, abused during childhood, low achievers, are engaged in risky behaviours, involved in abusive intimate relationships, and suffering from low self- esteem. Many of the pregnancies are unplanned, some resulting from coerced sexual experiences and some from forced transactional sex out of poverty. Most have no support at home for child-care and many of the adolescent mothers have reported being mistreated by health professionals when attending appointments and accessing contraceptives.

**Achievements:**

- The programme positively impacted on the lives of the adolescent mothers by reducing the likelihood of another pregnancy, encouraging the pursuit of educational and employment goals, and building self-confidence. Evaluations and feedbacks from beneficiaries revealed that 85% of the adolescent mothers’ capacities are enhanced, they can negotiate with their partners, relate with their families, have visions for their lives and bring about changes for themselves and others;
- Addressing the need for a more in-depth understanding of adolescent mothers’ lives through a socio-cultural-economic base line study and a more in-depth study « The Plight of Adolescent Mothers », informed the development of a comprehensive approach which includes personal development, function literacy, entrepreneurial and other life skills;
- Incorporating entrepreneurial skills training were effective for keeping adolescent mothers motivated and sustained interest to earn an income and provide for themselves as well as their child /children. In addition, the personal development, sexual reproductive health, and functional literacy information built their self-confidence and enhanced their social functioning;
- To date, over 258 girls have successfully completed the programme: 90% of the beneficiaries utilise different forms of contraceptives and have not conceived another child; 75% are currently pursuing

46. The State of World Population 2013, UN Population Fund (UNFPA)



opportunities to continue their education. Some have opted to continue their secondary education, while others have joined skills training programmes at technical institutes etc., three of the adolescent mothers are presently attending the University of Guyana. Several are gainfully employed, some with the private sector and others are self-employed.

### Key Enabling Factors:

- One of the key success factors was the psychosocial support provided. Many of the adolescent mothers have emotional problems that needed to be resolved before they could open up to learning. Peer exposure of shared experiences of pain, self-doubt, and abuse, fear of the future and feelings of rejection proved to be powerful for gaining care, acceptance, empathy and love. An enforced confidentiality code also ensured a high level of trust between staff and beneficiaries;
- The mentorship aspect allowed young mothers to be attached to a friendly and caring adult for support and guidance. Graduated adolescent mothers also provided « big sister » support to the new group of adolescent mothers which really motivated others and former beneficiaries organised themselves into a sub- group entitled « Young mothers for change »;
- Home visits conducted to meet parents (mostly single parent mothers and/or grandmothers many adolescent mothers themselves) were essential to address the fragile and abusive relationships, lack of trust and support for the development of the adolescent mothers. Staff also assisted in accompanying adolescent mothers to health centres and monitor their health cards.

### Obstacles/Challenges:

- The programme operates out of a small office in Georgetown with limited staff, limited financial resources, inadequate physical space and lack of privacy to effectively accommodate a more robust programme for the adolescent mothers;
- Existing attitudes and perceptions that educating adolescent on sexual reproductive health will encourage them to engage in sexual acts; limited access to family planning without parental consent;
- Adolescent mothers have no support at home for child care and are forced to have their babies with them during sessions, which requires additional support (food, cradles, baby clothing);

- Lack of a policy for the re-entry of adolescent mothers into the educational sector and for ongoing psycho-social support within the schools when the girls are able to return to school.
- As the only intervention in Guyana targeting adolescent mothers, the referral rate is very high and the organisation is unable to respond to the needs of many adolescent mothers.

### Sustainability:

The Comprehensive Adolescent programme has been recognised at various events and conferences in Guyana and throughout the Caribbean and Latin America and WAD collaborates with other actors and NGOs on policy and programme initiatives. Annually approximately 150 adolescent mothers are referred to the programme from the Georgetown public hospital, the child care and protection agency and the health centres. WAD is currently creating partnerships (including UNFPA) to address the lack of policies and legislation for re-entry of adolescent mothers into the educational system and building institutional support towards financial sustainability.

### Potential for Scaling up and Replication:

Considering the prevalence of teenage pregnancy and the high demand for the Comprehensive Empowerment programme for adolescent mothers there is a clear potential for expanding the initiative to other communities in Guyana, as well as main office in Georgetown.

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**TITLE:** ..... Grassroots Women Skilled in Hurricane-Resistant Roofing and Safer Housing: Putting Safe Construction in Women's Hands<sup>47</sup>

**ORGANISATION:** ..... Construction Resource and Development Centre (CRDC), and GROOTS International

**LOCATION:** ..... 28 communities in Kingston, Jamaica

**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... Community, local development

**SECTOR:** ..... Gender-responsive disaster preparedness and risk mitigation, upgrading urban cities

**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Grassroots women, women from minorities, girls, rural/urban women

**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... The American Jewish World Service (AJWS), GROOTS International and the Huairou Commission

**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... USAID through the PADF GROOTS International, Huairou Commission and AJWS

**DURATION:** ..... Since 1994-ongoing

**Objectives:**

Empower grassroots women leaders to gain awareness and acquire skills to address disaster risk, map physical vulnerabilities in their communities, and learn construction techniques that help protect their houses against hurricanes.

**The Development Context:**

The CRDC was founded in 1984 to provide training for the Construction Industry. It also initiated the Women's Construction Collective. In 1988, following the passage of Hurricane Gilbert, the CRDC saw that existing reconstruction programmes did not take measures to mitigate future disasters, were not gender sensitive, and did not engage community participation; especially women. As a result, communities were unprepared to cope with disasters. CRDC began working with communities in eight parishes to rebuild safer houses, conducting training that emphasised disaster mitigation through safe construction practices. In 1994 CRDC launched a project called «Safe-Roof Retrofitting Project», educating 17 hurricane-prone communities on how to build hurricane-resistant roofs. The Project reached 1,050 households, half of which were headed by women. CRDC recognised that women were an integral part of reconstruction and thereafter focused on training women on how to use the expertise and tools CRDC had built up. Following the passage of Hurricane Mitch in 1998, CRDC undertook «vulnerability

mapping» in nine communities. The aim was to help communities tailor disaster resilience strategies to their own developing needs and priorities. In 2006, CRDC selected 28 women from 28 other communities to be trained in disaster risk analysis/ reduction through safe construction and vulnerability mapping.

CRDC also worked with women to identify priorities in disaster recovery, to turn them into experts in safer construction techniques and to promote the techniques to contractors, while taking their expertise back to their communities and training more women themselves. Since half of the households rebuilt with safer roofing were headed by women, CRDC trained a large number of women in disaster resilience. As the women's expertise built up, CRDC undertook an initiative with GROOTS International and AJWS to enable the women to train other women and communities on disaster preparedness techniques. In 2011, following the earthquake in Haiti, CRDC, supported by GROOTS International and the Huairou Commission, and along with women from Peru, trained Haitian women in brick-making techniques.

**The training had two components:**

- Women would be able to construct better blocks to make their houses more resistant;
- Women would form groups to produce these blocks for income generation.

47. An earlier version of this Good Practice was published under the title «Grassroots Women Skilled in Hurricane-Resistant Roofing, Safer Housing: Putting Safe Construction in Women's Hands» (UN 2007, pp. 27-30). The current version has been updated by the Director of CRDC.



### **Achievements:**

- Six parishes benefited by adopting safer building techniques;
- 1,050 households incorporated the safe-roofing techniques (50% headed by women). This initiative has gendered disaster risk reduction by training women on practical techniques to identify vulnerabilities in their communities and build safely;
- Grassroots women have developed expertise through the training process and are able to train community members. This positions them as experts in disaster mitigation and also enables them to help other communities build disaster resilience;
- The women experts have participated in community and regional exchanges where they have trained other women in disaster mitigation techniques. They have also participated in international conferences, during which their experiences in disaster mitigation helped inform policy makers;
- National recognition of roof strengthening techniques through the Retrofit Project;
- Dissemination of over 5,000 copies of the Retrofit Booklet;
- Regional capacity building of women (Honduras, Peru, Guatemala, Haiti) has taken place.

### **Obstacles/Challenges:**

How to break with the historical marginalisation of female workers in the building sector. Getting builders/contractors to continue to incorporate the practice of building better. The builders were reluctant because the practice and materials involved were more expensive. But with the relevant information on the desired standards, house owners were able to challenge the builders. Grassroots communities need financial and institutional support to scale up the initiative.

### **Sustainability:**

This initiative places women as key actors of disaster preparedness and community resilience, as they become skilled in vulnerability mapping in their communities and learn how to construct disaster-resistant housing with safe building materials. Sustainability is ensured through enhanced community expertise: the women experts do not leave after the projects are completed. The initiative generates income while providing low-cost housing to poor communities. The initiative places grassroots women at the centre of disaster recovery and resilience-building by enabling them to take ownership and leadership of disaster risk reduction activities.

### **Potential for Scaling up:**

The community disaster experts have continued the training and transfer of knowledge and skills to other in-country communities and abroad (Peru, Honduras and four other Caribbean countries). The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management has approached the CRDC to train local builders in safe roof techniques and through ODPPEM the project could scale up to beneficiaries island-wide. Local authorities have also requested CRDC to conduct training for them. The Sanitation Support Unit Project and the Advancing Cooperation for Sanitation and the Environment were programmes supported by USAID to settle water and sanitation issues within communities. Both programmes have had significant impact in the parishes of St. James and St. Thomas. CRDC continues to work with communities across Jamaica to strengthen the participation of women and poor communities in water and sanitation programmes.

### **Potential for Replication:**

CRDC has updated and distributed training material that is being used for replication. They recently produced a booklet on the «safe roof concept» which was endorsed by the Construction Industry Council (the umbrella organisation for the Jamaican Construction Industry). They are currently looking at ways to incorporate local materials in the production of housing and have just completed a training session with some Colombians who have trained local builders, including women to use bamboo to construct houses.

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**TITLE:** ..... Urban Safety through Women's Eyes: the Safety Audits Project  
**ORGANISATION:** ..... GROOTS JAMAICA in partnership with the Huairou Commission, Construction Resource and Development Centre and The SISTREN Theatre Collective  
**LOCATION:** ..... Urban inner cities in Kingston: Newlands, in Clarendon - Canaan Heights  
**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... Local, community-based development  
**SECTOR:** ..... Urbanisation and violence against women (VAW)  
**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Grassroots women, women from minorities, girls (6-15), rural and urban women, women in decision-making, Local Authority, planning authorities  
**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... UNDP, Local Government – Municipality of Portmore and Clarendon Parish Council, 2 Police Divisions (St. Catherine and Clarendon), the U. of Technology, the Social Development Commission  
**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... UNDP, Huairou Commission  
**DURATION:** ..... From 2010 - 2012

**Objectives:**

*General:*

Make the city a safe place for women and girls.

*Specific:*

- a) Empower grassroots women to develop their own safety agendas priorities and have a voice in urban decision making at the level of local government;
- b) Develop grassroots women's expertise in gender-responsive urban planning and design;
- c) Influence public policies and decision making relating to improving women's and girls' safety in urban spaces, and gender-responsive urban planning in local government;

**The Development Context:**

According to data produced, Jamaica's cities are amongst the most violent in the region. In several communities, women have expressed fear of leaving their homes because of crime. The coming together of over 80 community leaders to a workshop on safety audits provided the spring board for the launch of the Jamaican group (GROOTS) and redirected focus on women's safety in cities. UN-HABITAT, working with UNDP, drafted the proposal and the bilateral agreement was developed. In Newlands and Canaan Heights, (2 inner-cities), violence and crippling fear are holding women and girls back from exerting their full participation in sustainable and equitable community development. For this reason, grassroots women who are members of GROOTS Jamaica are using community safety audits, self-help groups, popular theatre, and other initiatives to improve the safety in their communities and influence upgrading of unsafe urban sites that pose latent threats

to women and girls (for example non-electrified urban areas and streets, open drains, unsafe corners and bus stops, abandoned buildings, dangerous roads, etc.). These threats prevent them from achieving social and economic agency, and from fully contributing to the development of their communities and society as a whole.

**Achievements:**

- *The project's bottom-up approach.* Working from the grassroots level, the project has reached the local policy level and is influencing decision-making in city planning. This strategy has been key to profile women as key contributors to gender-responsive city planning and design.
- *Through safety audits, grassroots women are recognised as key development actors.* They are showing where upgrading is urgently needed and have made concrete proposals for upgrading places that represent threats to women's and girls' integrity. These proposals have been submitted to relevant local authorities, who have included them in the agenda of local government.
- *Enhanced awareness by public local authorities (LA) on the need to invest in upgrading urban spaces so as to ensure safe cities for everyone, and in particular, for women and girls.* Before the safety audits project LA did not pay much attention to safety issues regarding women and girls. Now, they consider safety audits as a key tool to achieve safe cities and an added value for achieving gender-inclusive urban planning and design. The safety audit conducted in Clarendon resulted in the naming of streets in Canaan Heights. Councillor



Carla Watts, Chair of the Safety Committee (SC) in the Clarendon Parish Council, has advocated for proper street lights as well as houses for vulnerable women identified by the audit. In addition, the Mayor of this Council signed a memorandum of understanding with the women of the Community to improve the conditions as part of the Delhi and Beyond initiative. In Newlands, a Safety and Security Committee (SSC) was added to the Council; one community leader has been appointed to sit on the Council in order to keep the Municipality informed of safety concerns for women and girls.

### Key Enabling Factors:

- Strong commitment and involvement by grassroots women members of GROOTS and women living in involved communities;
- Numerous training workshops to enhance grassroots women's expertise in conducting safety audits;
- Awareness-raising activities such as popular theatre and workshops by the SISTREN THEATRE COLLECTIVE have been key to mobilise the whole community;
- Training and capacity building to police and local authorities. Support from key local authorities;
- Creation of a healing space for women victims of VAW has boosted their self-esteem and psychological empowerment.

### Obstacles/Challenges:

Consistency of local authority to follow through on agreements made, especially when there is a change in leadership. Danger of losing the Partnership principle (Local Authority and Community women working together). Although the programme has been launched in other parish councils the thrust to get community women on Council to advise about crime and its effect on women has not gained the momentum that was hoped.

### Sustainability:

The Local Authority has launched Safety and Security Committees in other Parish Councils. This demonstrates their willingness to ensure women and girls' safety in community development.

Second, this is a multi-partnership initiative, which increases the level of commitment and ownership on the ground. Third, for the first time in Jamaica, grassroots women are being recognised by local authorities as key contributors to gender-responsive city planning and design.

### Potential for Scaling up:

There is growing interest by planning authorities to scale up and replicate the safety maps developed by GROOTS and implemented by grassroots urban women in poor neighbourhoods.

This project is part of a broader global initiative promoted by UNFPA and UN Women: «SAFE CITIES and UN Habitat: I am a Girl.» Other groups like *Women in Cities International* and *Jaghori* have been promoting the use of Safety Audit tools.

### Potential for Replication:

Local authorities are already thinking of replicating this experience in other communities. Hanna Town was proposed as the next community where this experience will be replicated. Funding however has been an issue.

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This best practice is available in video version at:

<http://vimeo.com/45837425>

### Inspiring quote:

*«I feel good being a part of the Safety Committee as the safety audit has now provided protection for our young girls .. and there is now more socialising with the police and the citizens».*

**Jhona ELLIS**  
grassroots woman in the inner city of Canaan Heights.

*Impact quote from a local authority «The broad aim of the committee is to improve the safety and security of citizens in the Municipality and strengthen governance by increasing citizens participation at the Municipal level». »*

Former Mayor of Portmore - George LEE  
Source: Municipal Connection - Portmore's Newsletter.



**TITLE:** ..... Organising with Mothers and other Grassroots Carers in Guyana for Access to Basic Social Services in Urban Communities

**ORGANISATION:** ..... Grassroots Women Across Race, » a sister organisation of Red Thread Women: Crossroads Women’s Centre

**LOCATION:** ..... Campbelltown, an Indigenous community located in Region 8 in Guyana

**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... Grassroots community

**SECTOR:** ..... Upgrading urban slums, women contribute to healthy and sustainable livelihoods

**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Grassroots women in the communities of Campbelltown

**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... Red Thread and the grassroots groups in Mahdia

**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... UN Women

**DURATION:** ..... From 2005 to 2012

**Objectives:**

Through strong solidarity links and coalition-building, Grassroots Women Across Race and Red Thread collaborate to achieve the shared goal of ending all forms of VAW, in particular, the forms of violence impinging on socially excluded and multiply discriminated women. In addition to this, they work to eradicate poverty, upgrade the physical conditions in their communities, and enhance their access to basic social services (e.g. better roads, potable water, adequate education and health). Together, they engage in discussions with relevant public authorities in areas crucial to ensure their right to sustainable livelihoods.

**The Development Context:**

The community organisation «Grassroots Women Across Race» is a member of the Red Thread network. They began in 2005, when two Red Thread members visited their community and talked with them about domestic violence. Up until 2012 the community-based network had expanded its constituency to include women from other poor indigenous and afro-descendant communities.

**Actions: what they did:**

We brought all the women’s groups in Mahdia, Campbelltown , Prince Ville, Micobie and Tumatumari together to discuss the problems since each group meets on a monthly basis to discuss these issues. We then raised the issues in public through marches, pickets, meetings and discussions with the various authorities: the regional executive officer, regional health personnel, police and ministers of the government. We also

distributed flyers to communities and visitors. In relation to water, we organized two pickets, one in Central Mahdia in front of the Regional Executive Officer’s office and the other one in front of the Guyana Water INC. in Georgetown, demanding that we get potable water in our communities to make our work as mothers, aunts, and grandmothers easier. We wrote letters to the two newspapers to expose the fact the we had not received water in our communities for over six months and the price we have to pay to unscrupulous business owners who have vehicles to fetch from the creeks to sell. In addition Red Thread along with us, organised a picket demonstration outside of the Guyana Water Incorporation Office in Georgetown. We stretched our organising work to include problems in our various communities that are affecting us as women, such as rape, child abuse, unhealthy living conditions, bad roads, no potable water, inadequate education and health.

**Achievements:**

Despite the conditions of precariousness and social exclusion in which they live, the women of the Grassroots Women Across Race organisation have empowered themselves socially and politically, and have played a key role in improving the living conditions of their communities. In terms of livelihoods, some battles have been won:

- Roads were upgraded, although this was done mainly during or after our pickets and/ or when government officials visit;
- A separate garbage site was cleared and people are using it.





- Schools were given more teachers but all are not qualified and trained;
- People in our communities as well as the authorities are aware of the work we are doing as women's groups and respect us for it;
- Dwellers in Mahdia and Campbelltown are now receiving potable water but not all of them, since individual households are asked to run their own pipelines from the main pipes to their separate homes.

### Key Enabling Factors:

Solidarity and commitment with women's and community well-being. Empowering alliance-building with Red Thread.

### Obstacles/Challenges:

The Regional Executive Officer claimed that he was committed to ensuring that they get water but only focused on some communities and not others, the Government officials going into the communities with a lot of promises which did not materialised.

### Sustainability:

Commitment and involvement by the members of the organisation. Recently, they have expanded their organising to include poor diverse women from other communities; for example women from Central Mahdia, who are mainly Afro, and women from Princeville, Micobie and Tumatumarie, who are mainly Indigenous.

### Potential for Scaling up:

This experience shows that diverse grassroots women contribute to upgrading and improving public policies and interventions in hinterland communities. One example is that thanks to the Networks's advocacy work with local authority, communities now have improved access (not perfect) to electricity, telephone and the internet.

This shows that diverse grassroots women should be considered in decision-making processes of urban, rural and hinterland development. They are key to ensuring sustainable and decent livelihoods for themselves and their children.

### Potential for Replication:

The experience has been replicated in other communities for example, Princesville protested about the potholes on their roads and were able to get authorities to fill them. However, there is always need for replication so that the communities could enjoy a better livelihood (potable water, proper roads, adequate drug supply).

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### Change story :

*« We have proved that when women get together and organise we can change things. » (A member of the Network)*

Credit photo: Red Thread and Grassroots Women Across Race





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# 3. THE PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

**Culture; Migration; Urbanisation; Education; and Natural Disaster Management and Mitigation.** examine good practice initiatives which are making remarkable strides on women's right to equitable development to women's rights, while effectively improving women's status and livelihoods. Draw on the knowledge and expertise of women's development organisations and actors to guide policy dialogue and decision-making on aid distribution, management and impact assessment. Support existing local agendas for women's rights that reflect the priorities of women themselves and connect with and support the needs of grassroots women, including those in remote areas who are least able to make their priorities heard. Develop mechanisms to ensure that funding reaches grassroots women's organisations in remote rural areas and poor urban areas. This could be done through scaling up funding to women's funds or grassroots organisations that have links with grassroots civil society. Promote the consolidation and emergence of women in leadership positions in economic, social and political life. Promote development projects and programmes that are contributing to the strengthening of local markets and to women's capacity to generate income. Ensure that the projects can show potential for replication and scaling up, in particular to the local policy level where grassroots women are most active. Support the publication, dissemination and scaling up of the knowledge that grassroots women are producing. They are capably investigating and showing viable alternatives to achieve equitable and sustainable development goals. In the course of challenging research project, we had the kind assistance of a host of individuals, organisations and international development agencies. The list below, we express our special gratitude to the women's organisations in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific who shared their contacts, insights and assisted in putting together this publication. It showcases the outstanding challenges and opportunities for advancing women's rights in the economic, political and social dimensions of life. Lastly, a new light on women's agency in human sustainable development as a critical factor for stimulating economic growth, social progress and environmental sustainability.

- Cook Islands | East-Timor | Fiji | Kiribati | Marshall Islands | Micronesia | Nauru | Niue | Palau
- Papua New Guinea | Samoa | Solomon Islands | Tonga | Tuvalu | Vanuatu

Support existing local agendas for women's rights that reflect the priorities of women themselves and connect with and support the needs of grassroots women, including those in remote areas who are least able to make their priorities heard. Develop mechanisms to ensure that funding reaches grassroots women's organisations in remote rural areas and poor urban areas. This could be done through scaling up funding to women's funds or grassroots organisations that have links with grassroots civil society. Promote the consolidation and emergence of women in leadership positions in economic, social and political life. Promote development projects and programmes that are contributing to the strengthening of local markets and to women's capacity to generate income. Ensure that the projects can show potential for replication and scaling up, in particular to the local policy level where grassroots women are most active. Support the publication, dissemination and scaling up of the knowledge that grassroots women are producing. They are capably investigating and showing viable alternatives to achieve equitable and sustainable development goals. In the course of challenging research project, we had the kind assistance of a host of individuals, organisations and international development agencies. The list below, we express our special gratitude to the women's organisations in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific who shared their contacts, insights and assisted in putting together this publication. It showcases the outstanding challenges and opportunities for advancing women's rights in the economic, political and social dimensions of life. Lastly, a new light on women's agency in human sustainable development as a critical factor for stimulating economic growth, social progress and environmental sustainability.

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### 3.1 THE PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES (PIC) AT A GLANCE: FACTS AND FIGURES

The Pacific is a region whose social and political history is informed by conflict, peace-restoration, and structural exposure to natural disasters. In this context, women have approached many post-conflict situations as an opportunity to promote a more inclusive idea of local development, and as a means to consolidate a culture of gender equality in political, social and economic life.

Two decades after regional leaders endorsed the Pacific Action Plan stating the goal of **30% of women in political and public decision-making**,<sup>48</sup> data shows that some progress has been made. In Papua New Guinea, there are 3 women parliamentarians since 2012, and more women can be found in local governments and governmental bodies.<sup>49</sup> However, the rate of women in leadership positions across the Pacific remains pervasively low (from 4.28 in 2008, 6.2% in 2013, to 5.7% beginning of 2014).<sup>50</sup> In 2013, out of 111 seats, only 2.7 % of seats in national parliaments in the Pacific were filled by women (the proportion for Tonga was of 3.6%, and of 2% in Solomon Islands).<sup>51</sup> Moreover, in 3 Pacific Island Countries there is still no woman in Parliament. In comparison, the world average of all elected members is 21.7% women and 81.6% men. At the level of local government, the scarce statistical evidence available shows that representation of women ranges from 0.6% in Tonga, 3.9% in Solomon Islands<sup>52</sup>, to 36.5% in Marshall Islands.<sup>53</sup>

Multidimensional **poverty and hardship** constitute major threats to equitable human sustainable development in the region.<sup>54</sup> Poverty and hardship jeopardise women's right to **sustainable livelihoods** on the ground. In addition to working and earning a steady income in an increasingly cash-based economy, women are often confronted with the major task of ensuring access to basic services such as healthcare, safe water, schools, electricity and telephones. In many Pacific Island Countries, an important part of the population lives below the National Basic Needs Poverty Line.<sup>55</sup> **In terms of employment**, regional rates for vulnerable employment remains alarmingly high (F: 63.1%/M:56.0 %) <sup>56</sup> compared to the so-called developed economies and the European Union (F: 8.3%/M:11.3%). If the indicator of economic class is used to calculate employment shares, one can see that the gap between the poor and the rich remains high as well (68.7% are near, moderately or extreme poor, and 6% are rich; with a developing middle class averaging 25.3%).<sup>57</sup> These figures show that even when poverty levels are decreasing, gender, economic class, and other forms of inequality remain a major challenge for the equitable human sustainable development in the region.

48. «Small Island States (SIS) - Action Plan Advancing Women's Participation in Decision Making Processes 2010-2015.» <<http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/SIS%20Regional%20Action%20Plan%20Women%20in%20Decision%20Making.pdf>>

49. SIS- Action Plan 2010-2015.

50. Estimated from country data at <[www.ipu.org](http://www.ipu.org)> Situation as 1 Feb 2014. Data includes Timor-Leste but not Australia and New Zealand.

51. Source: [www.ipu.org](http://www.ipu.org). Data updated as per Dec. 1 2013. Pacific Island countries other than Australia and New Zealand, situation as of 1 December 2013. <http://www.ipu.org/parline-e/ToolboxParline.asp>>

52. UNDP 2010; «Women's Representation in Local Government in Asia-Pacific: Status Report 2010.»

53. Pacific Women in Politics <<http://www.pacwip.org>>; UNDP 2010, *ibid*.

54. Pacific Regional MDGs Tracking Report-2012. PIFS 2013.

55. <<http://www.oxfam.org.nz/what-we-do/where-we-work/poverty-in-the-pacific>>

56. Projected Estimates taken from ILO 2014. p.91. cf. Stats Overview in Annex.

57. Estimates are for 2011; projections for 2012 show a slight reduction for the extreme poor quintile (living with less than 1.25 US\$ a day), a moderate increase for the developing middle class (living with 4 to 13 US\$ a day), and a moderate increase for the (developed) middle class and above (living with more than 13 US\$ a day). Cf. ILO 2014, p. 102.



Traditionally, in the Pacific region women and girls have been **discriminated against in health, education and the labour market**. This has had a negative effect in their actual freedom to choose and control the terms of their own development and emancipation. Even though sufficient data was not found to assess the gender inequality index (GII) for the PIC region, extant country-based data shows that progress is not even across the countries. GII for Tonga is 0.46; for Papua New Guinea it is 0.16<sup>58</sup>; and countries like Kiribati have made progress in one of the indicators of the GII, namely gender parity in primary and secondary education.)<sup>59</sup> Stronger action from Pacific leaders is needed to achieve faster progress towards MDGs.<sup>60</sup> As the latest UN-Human development Report shows, countries and regions with high levels of gender equality between women and men also experience a more equal distribution of human development.

**Violence**, in multiple forms and degrees, continues to hamper women's efforts towards equitable and sustainable development. Data shows that women in the Pacific region endure some of the highest levels of violence against women in the world: In Papua New Guinea, 55% of women have been forced into sex against their will; 58% of women have experienced physical and emotional abuse in relationships. Moreover, 97% of patients treated for domestic violence injuries were women. In East Timor, 1 in 4 women has been physically assaulted by her partner in the past 12 months; 16% of married women reported sexual coercion by their husbands during the previous 12 months. In Fiji, 66% of women have been abused by their partners; 44% of these women have been abused while pregnant; 30% of rape victims are 11 to 15 years old; 75% of victims did not report violence to police or see a doctor.<sup>61</sup>

Pacific leaders have taken account of the negative impact of violence on equitable socio-economic development, and have recently pledged «to act to end violence against women by progressively implementing a set of essential services to women and girls who are survivors of violence, enacting and implementing domestic violence legislation to protect women from violence and impose appropriate penalties for perpetrators of violence».<sup>62</sup>

Data also shows that **women and men are living longer**, and there has been an increase in **urbanisation**. Compared to men, women are living longer. This means that in the future, women will be a majority of the population in urban sites (UN-HABITAT 2013, p.7, 10). This fact calls for gender responsive policies in urban planning and design, for further public investment in better provision of good quality and affordable basic social services, along with a comprehensive strategy of efficient resource allocation for socio-economic development in rural areas, so that migration to urban cities becomes a choice rather than a necessity.

Even though progress has been made in terms of official data availability in **Pacific Island countries**, there is still a dearth of data on the relative **status of women** vis-à-vis men, and the status of diverse communities (indigenous, women with disability, youth, and LGTTB persons). Further resources are needed to improve availability of disaggregated statistical data, both at the local, national and regional level.

58. UNDP-HDR 2013 «The Rise of the South,» pp.156-159.

59. «Asia-Pacific Aspirations: Perspectives for a Post-2015 Development Agenda.» UN-ESCAP 2013.

60. Cf. the Manila Declaration by Parliamentarians and Civil Society on the MDG acceleration and the Post-2015 Agenda.

61. «Violence against Women in the Asia-Pacific Region» <[https://unwomen.org.au/sites/default/files/UNW\\_VAW\\_web%20\(3\).pdf](https://unwomen.org.au/sites/default/files/UNW_VAW_web%20(3).pdf)> undated.

62. Cf. «Annex 1» of the «43rd Pacific Islands Forum Communiqué: Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration,» <<http://www.pacwip.org/resources/news/2012/43rd-pacific-islands-forum-communique-annex-1-pacific-leaders-gender-equality-declaration.html>>



**3.2 LIST OF GOOD PRACTICES PRESENTED**

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>BEST PRATICE (TITLE)</b>
<b>PAPUA NEW GUINEA</b>	Leitana Women's Development Agency	<b>Strengthening the community and building an equal and peaceful society</b>
<b>SOLOMON ISLANDS</b>	WARA	<b>The Women's Savings Clubs: Grassroots Women Shaping Development</b>
<b>PAPUA NEW GUINEA</b>	Tulele Peisa Inc., a local NGO working to empower women and communities	<b>Relocated Carterets Women rehabilitate cocoa plots to adapt to new challenges and create self-sufficient Initiatives</b>
<b>FIJI</b>	The Viseisei Sai Health Trust's mobile clinic unit	<b>Community Health Workers training and Deployment Project</b>
<b>MARSHALL ISLANDS</b>	Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI)	<b>Initiative for Better Response to Address Violence Everywhere (iBRAVE)</b>
<b>FIJI</b>	Fiji Women's Rights Movement	<b>GIRLS - Grow, Inspire, Relate, Lead, and Succeed - «Time to Tell Theatre Project</b>
<b>FIJI</b>	Friend Fiji	<b>Developing Enterprises for Sustainable Income</b>
<b>VANUATU</b>	The Nguna-Pele Marine and Land Network in Vanuatu	<b>Climate Change Adaptation, Enhanced Food Security and Alternative Income Opportunities through Solar Fruit Drying</b>
<b>FIJI, SOLOMON ISLANDS, BOUGAINVILLE - PNG, TONGA</b>	FemLINKPacific	<b>Women's Weather Watch: Communicating Gender Equality in Disaster Risk Reduction, Response and Management</b>
<b>MARSHALL ISLANDS</b>	Kora in Okrane (KIO)	<b>One Smokeless Stove per Home Initiative: RMI</b>



### 3.3 GOOD PRACTICES FROM THE PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

**TITLE:** ..... Strengthening the Community and Building an Equal and Peaceful Society  
**ORGANISATION:** ..... Leitana Nehan Women’s Development Agency (LNWDA)  
**LOCATION:** ..... Bougainville, Papua New Guinea  
**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... Several communities across the province  
**SECTOR:** ..... Women’s Political Participation and ending violence against women  
**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Grassroots women aged between 30 – 55, Girls 13 – 29 years; specific target groups (men, minority and business groups; women in isolated regions)  
**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... Femlink, Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre  
**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... NZAID, UN-Women, UNDP, US Embassy  
**DURATION:** ..... 2 Years, from 2011 - 2013

**Objectives:**

Increase grassroots women’s access to decision making in politics at the local and the provincial level; promote a culture of non-violence and piece-building in community development and gender relations between grassroots men and women.

**The Development Context:**

Enhancing women’s access to political participation is key to achieve equitable and sustainable local development. Papua New Guinea has one of the lowest scores in women’s political participation in Parliaments: out of 111 seats in Parliament, women occupy 3 seats (2.7%)<sup>63</sup>. In the province of Bougainville, women are still a minority in decision-making in local government. Throughout Papua New Guinea, gender-based violence is a serious issue and a major barrier to development, with serious effects on women and their community;<sup>64</sup> In the Highlands, close to 100% of women experience violence and access to support services is limited. The Bougainville Province is a post-war society. Many men suffer from trauma and demonstrate violent behaviour. Engaging with men and youth in changing attitudes towards women is key to achieving long-lasting peace and gender equity in community development. For this reason, the LNWD women are actively engaged in advocacy work, workshops and broadcast radio programmes to raise awareness in village communities on issues that are key to ensure women’s rights in development: gender-based violence, male

advocacy, peace building, legal literacy, voter education, and women’s dispossession of their land rights. This is a form of economic violence seldom included in policies. In the traditional land ownership model, women could own and cultivate the land. When extractive industries arrived in the Bougainville province, women were excluded from land discussions or simply dispossessed of their right to land. For this reason, the LWDA women area actively working to eradicate this specific form of VAW.

**Achievements:**

**On women’s political participation.** Successful lobbying for more women in provincial government and in decision-making over land issues. Results: of 18 members, 3 women are now members of the Autonomous Government. 13 women are local magistrates in the village courts. Three more places have been set aside for women in the 2015 election.

**On women’s access to land rights.** Increase in number of women who own titles to land, particularly government land. 5 local women are land mediators and more women are now taking part in land mediations. Now, in Bougainville, women are sitting down with men and discussing land disputes. Before the programme, they were less visible as land negotiators.

**Ending Violence Against Women.** Young girls have become strong community leaders: they lead the radio programmes, and are contributing to increased

63. According to 2012 data. <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>

64. <http://www.iwda.org.au/our-work/safety-and-security/safety-security-in-papua-new-guinea/>



awareness on the need to eradicate VAW within the community. Evidence of this is the high number of calls received during the broadcasting. Their radio programme has contributed to an increase in the number of victims and survivors seeking counselling, and an increase in women denouncing cases of violence. There has also been an increase in local authorities enforcing legislation to protect women. Thanks to their workshops and mobilising campaigns, changes in mentalities and attitudes (especially men's) are beginning to happen.

### **Key Enabling Factors:**

Women's active participation and involvement in the peace process. Support from the community members and some men allies who advocated for women's call for the inclusion of 3 allocated seats for women in the Autonomous Bougainville Government. Cooperation with the local police, hospital and court. Their holistic approach: women's political participation is intertwined with awareness raising on violence against women, gender and human rights in community development.

### **Obstacles/Challenges:**

Men's resistance to women's political leadership due to cultural beliefs about men and women. Second, male domination on issues related to land rights and control of productive resources. Even when women own the land, they do not always control what is done with it (land has actually been sold to foreign companies without their being consulted). Changing entrenched attitudes is not an easy process. They are working with perpetrators of VAW on issues relating to gender equity and human rights. Their strategies to overcome these obstacles are awareness-raising campaigns, multi-pronged training programmes to engage male advocates to champion women's rights and women's political participation (role-modelling). Alliance-building with other local social (women's groups, local churches, local police, public authorities, hospital staff).

### **Sustainability:**

There is strong ownership and commitment from members. Network members have acquired skills to assume effective grassroots leadership, and ensure good governance within LNWD. Their awareness workshops are highly appreciated by grassroots communities, especially poor men and women living in very remote areas, with little or no access to electricity or means of communication. There is close collaboration with community leaders (women, church leaders, youths, local chiefs, and local Government) to develop capacity in organisational management, community development, governance and peace building.

Their intervention model (multi-pronged strategy) ensures sustainability, since it aims at increasing public awareness on gender and human rights in community development.

### **Potential for Scaling Up:**

Changing the dominant male-driven culture is key. This action is contributing to enhanced awareness by men that women are not taking over from them but wanting to work with them. Actions like this can be scaled up if more resources are invested in empowering women as women and also bringing men and women together to discuss and renegotiate gender relations as they are lived by both on the ground. Furthermore, grassroots women need further support to be able to collect quantitative and qualitative data from their own perspective. It is important to have these numbers, since it would make policies at the local level more relevant to women's lives and livelihoods on the ground.

### **Potential for Replication:**

Workshop participants are applying their learnings in their interactions with other community members. As a result of the workshops, many men have become outspoken advocates for the rights of women and children in the home, the village and the country. Their Radio programme has inspired other local organisations in Bougainville who have started gender-awareness radio programmes. This programme also inspired another organisation in Solomon Islands.

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**TITLE:** ..... The Women's Savings Clubs: Grassroots Women Shaping Development<sup>65</sup>  
**ORGANISATION:** ..... The West 'Are'Are Rokotanikeni Association (WARA)  
**LOCATION:** ..... Malaita, Solomon Islands  
**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... Community  
**SECTOR:** ..... Women's Economic Empowerment, linked to improvements in women's sustainable livelihoods and community development  
**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Communities, grassroots women  
**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... WARA, in collaboration with IWDA  
**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... AusAID through IWDA, EU Micro-Project  
**DURATION:** ..... 1999 to 2013 and beyond

**Objectives:**

The objectives of WARA are to:

- a) Empower women economically through skills and knowledge and make them self-reliant;
- b) Teach women the art of savings, banking and business development;
- c) Enhance women's potential in business development.

**The Development Context:**

The West 'Are'Are Rokotanikeni Association (WARA) is a rural-based volunteer women's organisation. Its main focus is on women's savings and loans that empower members to achieve sustainable livelihoods through financial literacy training. The organisation provides access to savings services, small loans and financial literacy training including household budgeting, managing finances and basic bookkeeping. Traditionally, rural Solomon Islanders did not need to depend on money because the environment satisfied most of their needs. Society was built around an expectation that people would assist other community members through barter and mutual assistance systems. Today people need cash for expenses such as school fees, medical bills, clothing or travel to find work in Honiara, or buy households tools or attend funerals. As a result, rural Solomon Islanders are being drawn into a cash economy. This has led men and women into growing cash crops or harvesting forests while women also engage in selling excess produce from their garden, or from fishing at the market.

**The Micro-finance context in rural Solomon Islands.**

There are no formal banking services available in rural areas

of Solomon Islands and fees for simple banking transactions are high. It is often hard for women to reach banks because it is expensive to travel to town. On the other hand, women are busy caring for children and elders, cooking, tending the vegetable garden and selling excess produce. They may also need the permission of their male family members to travel. Literacy and numeracy levels in rural Solomon Islands are very low, so understanding finances, banking and saving is also a problem, particularly for women who have lower literacy and numeracy rates than men. Gender inequality also reduces women's ability to manage their finances. Men are often seen as the household head, responsible for making decisions about finances.

**Achievements:**

The savings club is living up to its name Rokotanikeni, which means «a group of women coming together to address issues and build alliances together.» Women's Savings Clubs not only provide opportunities for women to save money in this remote area, they are also building their individual leadership skills and confidence and establishing a network of women determined to transform their communities. The women meet regularly to deposit money in savings clubs and develop financial literacy and livelihoods skills. They have also built a space where women feel safe to share expertise, support and stories.

**Improving sustainable community development:** In rural areas, less than 5% of the population has access to electricity. Households are dependent on expensive kerosene-powered lamps for lighting. These provide light for only a limited area, so people find it difficult to do much once it is dark. Recently, over 200 members of WARA decided to

65. This Good Practice borrows extensively from the following sources: «Women Leadership and Economic Empowerment Banking on Boat» (AusAID 2013); «Economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods in Solomon Islands.» (IWDA online article n/d); «Women's microfinance lighting up the community, Solomon Islands,» (Global Education online article, n/d).





use their savings to purchase solar panels that were being offered at a subsidised price through the Ministry of Rural Infrastructure. Solar panels will provide lighting, making the community safer, and assist people to study at night. They will also power radios, television, computers and telephones, improving communication with people outside their village. The solar panels will also provide power for other electrical devices such as televisions, radios and mobile phone chargers, which will assist people to access important information and communicate with each other. In the future, there will be phone banking services to enable people to make direct payments.

### **Key Enabling Factors:**

Organising around shared development goals for the well-being of women, their children and their communities, women put aside their differences and work together towards shared development goals that would help them to effectively combat the poverty and economic precariousness affecting their lives and livelihoods. Women know what it means to save and they already have skills in saving, through saving shell money. Culturally, women own and keep their own separate purse from men. Secondly women work on a voluntary basis in managing their funds. They are willing and committed. They demonstrate strong leadership without remuneration a development drive that comes at a huge cost to them. However, the outcome has been great and empowering for the women themselves.

### **Obstacles/Challenges:**

Huge personal costs and expensive travel costs from Honiara to the villages. Travel is the most expensive item. Communication between Honiara and rural women is also costly and sometimes not effective but have improved since the installation of mobile phones.

### **Sustainability:**

The programme is sustainable because it is founded on leadership, voluntarism, commitment and good will by women. The administration of the Association is small, focused and manageable. It is needs-based and producing change.

### **Potential for Scaling Up:**

There is growing interest by Pacific development and financial actors to understand and document the value

of women's savings clubs, to improve development and policy interventions. In this context, this initiative is part of an ongoing study undertaken by the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP) of the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), in partnership with the Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI).<sup>66</sup> The purpose of the study is to document existing savings' club methodologies and suggest methods to make all savings clubs robust and sustainable. The CBSI and PFIP believe it is important to understand savings clubs as an access point for financial services in remote rural areas, where banks are rare or non-existent. They also believe it is important to explore links with formal financial services from commercial banks and micro finance institutions. In this context, a workshop on savings clubs was hosted by in Honiara (24-27 February 2014). Forty participants attended the workshop, including savings club practitioners, leaders, facilitators, NGO staff and institutions promoting savings clubs, development partners, donors, private sector and policy-makers.<sup>67</sup>

### **Potential for Replication:**

Already, the model has been replicated in North Vella, Western Province and Gizo, Western province as well. It is easy and practical for women to manage such a scheme but demands strong leadership and commitment.

### **Contact person:**

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66. The PFIP is a joint initiative of the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and UN Development Programme with additional funding support from the Australian Government and the EU/ACP Framework Programme

67. «Savings Club Workshop,» Press Release by the PFIP; 03 Mar, 2014.

< <http://www.pfip.org/media-centre/press-releases/savings-club-workshop.html?&printerfriendly=true#sthash.ZZx80Jaa.dpuf>



**TITLE:** ..... Relocated Carterets Women rehabilitate cocoa plots to adapt to new challenges and create self-sufficient Initiatives

**ORGANISATION:** ..... Tulele Peisa Inc., a local NGO working to empower women and communities

**LOCATION:** ..... Tinputz, Bougainville Island, Papua New Guinea

**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... Local – Home grown relocation program

**SECTOR:** ..... Women's economic empowerment (linked to climate change, sustainable livelihoods, and relocation of displaced communities)

**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Mothers relocated (50 -52 years old). They are the most vulnerable to climate change and rising sea levels

**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... The Christensen Fund, Bread for the World, the Lutheran Church of Germany, Displacement Solutions – Australia and Friends of the Earth Australia and Friends of Tulele Peisa Collective in Brisbane

**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... The Christensen Fund, Bread for the World, Lutheran Mission of Germany, Misereor; small groups and committed individuals  
Finland Embassy in Canberra funded this initiative from 2009-2012

**DURATION:** ..... Phase 1: 2009-2012. Current phase: January 2014 – December 2016

**Objectives:**

*General:*

Carterets Islanders will live sustainably wherever they are.

*Specific:*

- a) Provide life skills training in empowering Carterets women who have relocated from an island community as fisher folks to working in their gardens daily;
- b) Contribute to small family cash incomes through rehabilitation of cocoa and coconut management, harvesting and cocoa sales;
- c) Promote food security by learning about growing and planting seasonal crops on short, medium and long term.

**The Development Context:**

Multidimensional poverty is a major threat for relocated men and women and their families. Poverty and hardship impinges on their livelihoods (lack of access to adequate housing, basic services such as water and sanitation, food security, income-generation opportunities, etc.) Cocoa and coconut rehabilitation, food inter-cropping and food security empowerment are all aspects of alleviating poverty in the lives of these relocated families who hardly have land on their island. Due to food scarcity on the Carterets, relocated women have created opportunities to ensure livelihood sustenance in their new homes. The challenge being addressed at the present stage is to equip women with skills and knowledge in order to alleviate poverty, improve the quality of food production, improve access to nutritional food supplements, and ensure income security through the yields of cocoa and coconut for cash incomes.

**Achievements:**

- Quality shelter provided by Tulele Peisa for the relocated is nearing completion. Replanting of 720 cocoa and coconut trees in each of the families' 1 hectare blocks;
- Cleaning of dried cocoa beans is led by the Carterets women who spend at least 5 days each month helping to clean the cocoa before Bougainville Cocoa Net Ltd exports to Hamburg, Germany;
- **Enhanced women's access to land tenure.** Each woman head of household owns 1 hectare of land allocated for food crops and cash crops.
- **Income-generation and socio-economic development:** Women have raised their own funds by involving themselves in community activities; with little funds they are selling some store goods. Harvesting cocoa beans and selling to other farmers for much needed family cash to pay for medical and school bills. The relocated families especially the women have greatly improved the nutrition and diet of their children through gardening and rehabilitation of their cocoa/coconut plots. They produce and provide for their families and also sell surplus food on the road side or even to the host community members who come and buy from them.

**Key Enabling Factors:**

- **Community work and commitment.** Each morning (except Sundays), one of the woman leaders in the community rotates in each of the family gardens, helping to hoe, clean the cocoa and coconut blocks as well as replanting. Notion of «Caring and Sharing» is very much alive in our community. With support from the Management of Tulele Peisa,



the community got together and appointed one of the relocated family men to become the Station Manager of the community. His role is to police the community and report to the organisation anything peculiar in the community.

- **The integrated approach of the Relocation Programme.** Tulele Peisa uses the 18 step process as a guide to provide direction and guidance on how the organisation progresses through its relocation programme. In a very careful manner it has developed and implemented a fully home grown relocation programme respectful of the community's culture and tradition.

### Obstacles/Challenges:

**Internal:** Lack of proper and essential tools for gardening and managing cocoa and coconut family plantations.

#### External:

- a) Lack of recognition by respective Bougainville and PNG Government machinery. Tulele Peisa is approaching certain Public Service Departments and building relationships with those departments. So far very good relationships and trust have been built with the Office of Climate Change and Development- OCCD);
- b) Lack of support from the Council of Elders at the local level including the Atolls District Administration. Tulele Peisa has developed a community approach by following two major activities, namely the Chief Exchanges and the Young People's Speaking tours. These activities encourage chiefs from the mainland to go to the Carterets and witness the lack of proper diet faced by the islanders due to limited food supplements.

### Sustainability:

- a) **Community Ownership.** The relocation initiative of the Carterets Islanders to Tinputz on mainland Bougainville is now being viewed as a locally home grown relocation programme that has been initiated by the islanders themselves. The Programme is

working due to commitment and determination by the team of employees and the Governing Board.

- b) **This is a multi stakeholder initiative.** The government and policy makers of the OCCD have played a part in advocating the relocation issue to the UN Framework on the Convention on Climate Change. Tulele Peisa Inc. is working closely with the Department of Lands and Physical Planning and the OCCD in Port Moresby. Thanks to a EU-funded project, Oxfam International is currently doing a project called WASH in the relocated community. The Christensen Fund is supporting this initiative through cultural and biodiversity preservation of the islanders.

### Potential for Scaling Up:

The vitality of this relocation programme enhances women's capacity to take decisive decisions about their livelihood and sustainability. It will also enable 1,700 of a total of 2,700 Carterets Islanders to be relocated to mainland Bougainville in a way that it will enhance their capability to care and provide for themselves and their families in a sustainable way. This is a key issue to cut down food dependency from the Atolls District Administration. This innovative initiative deserves scaling up into larger relocation programmes and policies seeking to ensure sustainable livelihoods and women's economic empowerment in the face of the climate change crisis affecting Pacific Islanders.

### Potential for Replication:

The replication of this programme will take place in Tearouki, Mabiri and Tsimba. In these areas, land has been gifted by the Catholic Church to Carterets people who have been heavily impacted by climate change and rising sea levels. An 18 step process was developed in 2007 and in a careful way the team of Tulele Peisa Inc. have developed the process from this concept.

#### Contact person:

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### Inspiring Testimony:

« Tulele Peisa has initiated this relocation programme which is providing an opportunity for us, Carterets Islanders who had little hope of survival on the islands. The Carterets Islands were home to us for many generations and we love the sea. However, the same sea we love is now turning against us and destroying our lives, forcing us to abandon our islands and seek refuge elsewhere. Our future is bleak and uncertain. We need help to rebuild our lives in our new homes. »



**TITLE:** ..... Community Health Workers training and Deployment Project  
**ORGANISATION:** ..... The Viseisei Sai Health Centre (VSHC)  
**LOCATION:** ..... Lautoka, Nadi and Ba in Fiji  
**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... Local/regional  
**SECTOR:** ..... Health and Reproductive Rights  
**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Grassroots rural women, women from minorities, girls (School girls from 12 to 13 age range), rural women in decision-making, school teachers, university students, faith based groups, Youth groups, Women's group representatives, Zone and district nurses  
**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... Community, Ministry of health, Ministry of education, Ministry of Women, Youth and social welfare, local village and community heads  
**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... The European Union Delegation for the Pacific  
**DURATION:** ..... Nov 2012 to Nov 2014

**Objectives:**

The project aims to empower rural girls and women through awareness-raising and knowledge on reproductive health and reproductive health rights, in combination with the provision of health care services. It also aims at improving their access to good quality reproductive health services. The clinic applies a comprehensive approach to women's health, and has a programme aimed at building the capacities of rural health workers and advocates.

**The Development Context:**

The Fiji Ministry of Health has identified the following reproductive health issues, which the project aims to address:

1. Low contraceptive prevalence at less than 30% with high unplanned pregnancy rates;
2. Teenage pregnancy rates are 10% of all deliveries;
3. High STIs mainly among the under 25;
4. Cervical cancer is unacceptably high and is the number one cause of cancer deaths in women;
5. Pap Smear prevalence is low at less than 10%;
6. Poor access to health care particularly for the rural people;
7. 40% of the rural population live below the poverty line.

**Achievements:**

Major achievement: increased access by women and girls to adequate health services, as evidenced in:

- a) Increase in number of women using health services: 3200 women have undergone breast checks, 2500 Pap smears were performed, contraceptives were prescribed as required and gynaecological problems addressed. Family planning and STI counselling have also been provided. 200 women were referred to clinics at VSHC or Lautoka Hospital for specialist management;

- b) Increase in number of women, girls and men attending rural educational/awareness sessions on sexual and reproductive health (RH) rights issues. Up till March 2014, 7500 women, girls and men had attended;
- c) Educational packages in reproductive health (RH) have been developed, reinforcing the pedagogical potential of this project. Community women health workers get to know how to use them, and they find the tools useful;
- d) Rural women and girls have enhanced their knowledge, access and control of their reproductive health. Pre and post education questionnaire shows an improvement in understanding;
- e) Initiatives taken by the community health workers have been effective to improve health standards among women and within communities. Several programmes have been implemented by the them, with the assistance of the VSH Centre (healthy cooking programmes, volleyball sessions and walking; clean up campaigns, vegetable gardening programmes, senior and young people's education session).

**Key Enabling Factors:**

Two senior RH Specialists/educationists have trained the nurses and health educators. One of the specialists goes out with the team to the rural areas. There is a holistic approach to health and well-being. RH health is taken as a basic human right of women. They all believe in EMPOWERMENT of women as a crucial factor in advancement of a family, society and country. The project is close to the community, understands their cultures and traditions and has been well received by them.



### Obstacles/Challenges:

- Women and girls are still shy and laid back in coming forth for care and education;
- Giving the responsibility for their wellness back to the community. The main challenge is to make people aware of the key role they play in taking control of their own health;
- Recognising that the Community Health Workers (CHW) are not another branch of the nursing cadre but that they are a unit whose work is solely for wellness promotion;
- Even though the communities acknowledge that the Community Health Workers represent them, it is not always easy for them to be accepted on the ground. For this reason, there is a model of accompaniment: the health promotion officer from VSHC together with a worker from the Non Communicable Diseases team of the Clinic works with the CHW in whatever activities they do, so that the people can see that they play an important role in their communities.

### Sustainability:

Several factors ensure the sustainability of this initiative:

- Trained personnel will continue this work and has a domino effect: 113 women's advocates, 60 CHWs, 92 school teachers, 225 university students, 161 youth and 50 nurses have been through this training on RH. They will continue to be advocates for RH in the community;
- The Community Health Workers Programme is in line with the Ministry of Health national work plan that is to be implemented at a national level;
- The programme was received with a lot of enthusiasm from interested men and women who wanted to give time to their individual communities;
- Out of 75 community health workers 60 are women. They are beginning to be accepted in chiefdoms and

villages where traditional cultural norms and customs present some challenges, and where special protocol and formalities are required. The will, strength and stamina of Community Health Workers has gained the respect and recognition from the villages and settlements: «we are really seeing another driving force for the Viseisei health centre.»

### Potential for Scaling Up into Broader Practice and Policy Level:

The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Women have been looking at the data produced by this project for future policy directions. The model takes into consideration local circumstances, cultural norms and traditions. This approach assumes a holistic view of health that is inextricable from community's well-being. At the heart of this model is to improve awareness and control of reproductive health and rights among rural women. The model also aims at empowering rural women through the figure of the community female health worker. It also addresses MDG3: Girls educated, not becoming victims of their reproduction, realising their full potential as human beings, participating in the community through employment, finance etc. will help reduce all the RH risks mentioned above.

### Potential for Replication:

This initiative has not been replicated yet but with funding it is hoped that it can be replicated.

### Contact person:

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<http://www.viseiseihealth.org/projects/community-health-workers-program> | YOUTUBE video at <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/public-health/blog/good-practice-promoting-womens-reproductive-health-and-rights-fiji-video-interview-europeaid--0>

### Change story :

*«The wellness of many women is affected by their poor reproductive health. There is a high rate of unplanned pregnancies with a high unmet need for contraception. Sexually transmitted infections and gender-based violence are other challenges that need to be addressed. There is a strong belief that the empowered woman can contribute even more to society if she can achieve wellness by maintaining good physical, mental, spiritual and social health.»*

Ass. Professor Swaran NAIDU, Medical Director of VSHC.





**TITLE:** ..... Initiative for Better Response to Address Violence Everywhere (iBRAVE)  
**ORGANISATION:** ..... Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI)  
**LOCATION:** ..... Majuro, the capital of the Marshall Islands, and five selected outer atolls/islands (Ebeye, Jaluit, Ailinglaplap, Mili, and Wotje)  
**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... National, local, community level  
**SECTOR:** ..... Ending violence against women  
**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Women, young girls and men and boys from the capital city and 5 selected atolls  
 Other target groups: The police department, health care providers and legislators  
**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... Ministry of Internal Affairs, Public Safety Department, Ministry of Health, Pacific Regional Rights Resources Team  
**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention  
**DURATION:** ..... From 2010 to 2014

**Objectives:**

iBRAVE has been implemented in local communities through a two-pronged project whose main strategic components are: (1) public awareness raising and (2) legislation and policy reform. The objectives are to:

- a) Increase the level of understanding about violence against women and domestic violence (VAW and DV) among family and community members, first responders and law makers;
- b) Develop first response protocols specifically for the police department and health care providers;
- c) Establish policy and legislation to protect and prevent violence against women.

**The Development Context:**

There is an exceptionally high rate of domestic violence in the Marshall Islands. Results from a WUTMI survey concluded that about 80% of women have experienced some form of abuse, while another 2007 report showed that about 30% of women face some form of violence mostly by their current partner. The research also showed that there were no response protocols for the police, medical providers, and families when addressing the issue. Although the police and health care providers have policies to address offenders and victims, they lack knowledge and the ability to address perpetrators and victims of VAW and Domestic Violence. Moreover, in some areas of senior leadership, there is still a lack of interest or will within the legislature to comply with CEDAW and enact legislation to address VAW. For these reasons, WUTMI decided to start her initiative called iBRAVE.

**Achievements:**

In Majuro and outer island and atolls over 3,000 people were trained on the 2011 Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act. They also raised awareness on attitudes to violence against women and domestic violence. This has been a success due to efforts made to develop partnerships with local leaders, mayors, women’s groups, schools, and other community leaders. These stakeholders were included in the planning and implementation of awareness sessions, including content and logistics of educators delivering sessions in remote communities. WUTMI also conducted hundreds of domestic violence awareness sessions reaching over 5,000 people throughout the targeted areas.

**Impact on women’s lives:** This initiative contributed to enhanced understanding of legislation and of the negative impact of DV and violence against women in communities. More women are coming forward to talk about personal experiences with DV and violence, and taking action in such ways as leaving the violent situation. There is also less acceptance of DV and VAW as a Marshallese cultural norm. Increasing number of communities are requesting awareness sessions, increasing participation in awareness activities such as the 2013 «16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign».

**Improvements in legislation or policy in the sectors concerned:** Lobbying to RMI Parliament by WUTMI resulted in the passing of the Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act by Parliament in September 2011. Since then, there has been a targeted effort to enforce the legislation, especially in relation to police and health protocols in response to domestic



violence incidences. To this end, the Ministry of Justice endorsed the Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Response Protocol in July 2013. WUTMI has been working intensely with the Ministry of Health to develop similar protocols for health professionals, and after several meetings a final draft is near completion and expected to be ratified by the end May 2014. A more generic Domestic Violence (DV) response protocol document is being developed for other agencies and services which may come in contact with DV situations in the course of their daily work. WUTMI has also engaged in relevant training in these protocols (for example with the police). The National Gender Policy is currently being developed with a large number of government and NGOs stakeholders; WUTMI is involved. Thanks to WUTMI's work, women's issues have been included in RMI National Strategic Plan and several Climate Change policies and initiatives.

### Key Enabling Factors:

Strong and respectful relationships with key traditional leaders, Mayors, women's groups, government and non-government agencies and services within the RMI.

### Obstacles/Challenges:

iBRAVE raised awareness, but when women sought to change their circumstances, there was no specific counselling or support services, including safe houses/refuges, for them. Difficulties in recruiting and maintaining skilled staff. Staff turnover was high, which led to lack of continuity of the project. This also effected the implementation due to periods when there were no personnel in key positions. Contract perimeters with funding body were changed. Also payments were often delayed, resulting in activities being delayed and staff unpaid. Awareness sessions were less effective when delivered to a mixed audience of men and women. This was due to cultural difficulties in discussing intimate partner issues. Thus, where possible, sessions were delivered in a gender specific manner.

### Sustainability:

WUTMI has Chapters in 22 of the RMI Outer islands and atolls. These women are now empowered to address incidences of DV and VAW in their communities and have skills to support victims. WUTMI will continue to provide resources and support to these communities by way of our diverse activities (for example our Annual Conference; daily contact through a radio located in the WUTMI office, weekly AM radio broadcasts on a range of issues relevant to women, including DV and VAW, visits to outer islands and atolls as part of other project deliverables, e.g. climate change, solar project).

### Potential for Scaling Up:

iBRAVE has already been scaled up to RMI National Policy level with the passing of Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act, and subsequent development of response protocols by key agencies, such as Police, Health/Hospital. iBRAVE findings have also supported the move towards incorporating *gender and violence against women issues into policies and plans* such as the National Strategic Action Plan, our National Gender Policy and climate change policies, and the Joint National Action Plan on Climate Change. There is evidence showing that iBRAVE has had a direct impact on achieving MDG3 (Promote Gender Quality and Empower Women), MDG4 (Reduce Child Mortality); MDG5 (Improve Maternal Health) and MDG 6 (Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases).

### Potential for Replication:

The next logical step following the iBRAVE success would be to establish a Domestic Violence counselling service and safe houses for the victims of DV within the Marshall Islands. Such a service could continue with awareness raising, but in a more sustainable way. Awareness raising is not an empowering tool if there is no infrastructure or political will that enable women to take control of their children's and their own lives. Marshallese women need grass roots services and support if they are to change their circumstances and achieve equality and equity at all levels of society.

### Contact person:

**Kathryn M. RELANG**, Executive Director | <http://www.wutmirmi.org/> | Facebook: WUTMI (Women United Together Marshall Islands).





**TITLE:** ..... GIRLS - Grow, Inspire, Relate, Lead, and Succeed – «Time to Tell Theatre Project.»  
**ORGANISATION:** ..... The Fiji Women’s Rights Movement (FWRM) in collaboration with IeT Consultants Informal Education and Theatre Consultants} formally known as WAC (Women’s Action for Change)  
**LOCATION:** ..... 16 communities around Fiji  
**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... Community, local  
**SECTOR:** ..... CULTURE linked to eradicating Violence against Women  
**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... GIRLS in the 10 – 12 year-old group  
**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... This project is proudly supported by the International Women’s Development Agency and Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women: FLOW (Dutch Government)  
**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... Dutch Government (via FLOW)  
**DURATION:** ..... 3 years (2012-2014)

**Objectives:**

The Project GIRLS - Grow, Inspire, Relate, Lead, and Succeed – is a year-long theatre programme, designed to empower 10- to 12-year-old girls and strengthen their knowledge on the rights of the girl child. Through creative arts increase the confidence and ability for young girls to express themselves in relation to their human rights and to have agency over their bodies.

This theatre programme will provide a platform for GIRLS to speak out about issues that affect GIRLS lives and barriers they face and how they can overcome them. The main goal for the FWRM GIRLS Time to Tell Theatre Programme this year is to educate GIRLS participants in a creative manner using outdoor activities and theatre to access some form of civic empowerment on the basis of feminist and human rights principles. Our three key objectives this year are to:

- Build the capacity of young girls to be confident and express their views using outdoor learning and theatre;
- Conduct a year- long GIRLS Theatre programme that promotes girls’ awareness of human rights, feminism and gender;
- Build the capacity of young girls to recognise and be aware of gender norms in relation civic responsibility, democracy and accountability.

**The Development Context:**

The Fiji Women’s Rights Movement (FWRM) has been at the forefront of the women’s movement in Fiji since 1986. FWRM believes that it is key to highlight issues of sexual, emotional, and physical violence because they are common realities in the lives of many girls in today’s Fiji. Starting in 2013, in collaboration with WAC, the FWRM has been working with 27 young girls on their theatre production *Time to Tell*, supported by the International Women’s Development Agency.

*Time to Tell* is a collection of six stories that emerged from two-days of storytelling between participants in the FWRM GIRLS project. In these stories, the young actors enact situations that many children face on a daily basis. They show the silence after abuse, the impact of abuse on children, how important parental support is and how kindness and love are the most important ingredients in everybody’s lives.

**Achievements:**

The theatre programme gave these 27 Young Girls the space needed to work together, sharing ideas and getting their stories and having them to write scripts which was later weave into a play that covered four stories, and brought in issues of bullying and possible solutions including some the girls themselves had come up with – court case, life sentence. The storytelling gave the young girls an opportunity to express their feelings on discrimination based on sexual orientation. The entire programme worked very well in view of the





number of girls that continued to the end. Many of them never missed a session. The GIRLS rehearsals ran from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM and most of the time we saw most of the girls attending. The form of rehearsals included beginning with yoga and games that enable the girls to develop confidence and self-discipline and to become more creative in their actions, whilst helping them to think faster and react quicker. The use of games is essential as it teaches without them being aware of what it is teaching and the results are not always immediate. However, as feedback from parents has shown, all the girls gained confidence and are more able to speak about what bothers them or what they are unhappy about.

The performances were followed by guided group discussions on the plays' themes, including the impacts of abuse and violence on children concepts of gender, discrimination, creation of a space for women's self-expression of the traumatising and crippling impact of violence in their lives. The students listened to the play, and the feedback showed that they learnt a lot and had ideas of what could be done to help children to be able to tell parents when something goes wrong.

### *Sustainability:*

FWRM believes that it is of utmost importance to highlight issues of sexual, emotional and physical violence because they are common realities in the lives of many girls in Fiji today. The transformative impact of this initiative for us was that we felt the process of workshop and rehearsals worked well – the amount and the level of performance being better than might be expected from 11 and 12 year olds. A comment from one of the Oceania audiences expressed it well: «all the girls looked so confident and comfortable on stage which was a delight to see.» From the feedback garnered from the three performances we see that the children learnt about sexual abuse and the importance of telling their parents. This in itself is very important.

This initiative brings awareness and constructive personal and collective change into community development. Through theatre, diverse young girls come together and develop themselves as actors into a common reflection on how to eradicate violence and social injustices from the community.

### *Contact :*

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### *Change stories:*

*Through GIRLS I learnt how to be confident, honest and how to stand up for myself. I learnt that we have helped each other and we need to respect each other.”(Lanieta Delores, 12)*

*“I am more confident now. I’m not that talkative but now I’m learning how to express myself. I have learnt how to succeed and how to relate to people from different cultures. My life changed when I came into this programme. Learning to talk helps me not to feel so scared at school”.*  
{Tanya Tei, 12}





<b>TITLE:</b> .....	Developing Enterprises for Sustainable Income (DESI)
<b>ORGANISATION:</b> .....	Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises and Development (FRIEND)
<b>LOCATION:</b> .....	Fiji Islands/Pacific
<b>INTERVENTION LEVEL:</b> .....	National
<b>SECTOR:</b> .....	Technical and vocational training; agriculture; sustainable livelihoods
<b>TARGET GROUPS:</b> .....	Rural women
<b>MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:</b> .....	N/A
<b>FUNDING SOURCES:</b> .....	The European Union
<b>DURATION:</b> .....	2 years from 2012-2014

**Objectives:**

DESI is an initiative to enhance women’s access to technical and vocational training. It focuses on providing rural women from sugarcane belt areas with skills for sustainable supplementary incomes aimed at sustaining or improving their family livelihoods in the face of the challenges faced by the sugar industry.

**The Development Context:**

An essential part of the ACP/EU Partnership Agreements used to be the so-called Sugar Protocol which granted a preferential price and quota access on the European market to 18 sugar producing ACP countries. On 20 February 2006, upon the request of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the EU Council adopted a Reform of the EU Sugar Regime, which introduced a significant reduction in the EU price for the Sugar Protocol countries (36% over 4 years, i.e. 2006-2009). The interim Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) concluded with Fiji in December 2007 granted Fiji a quota-free access on the European markets after September 2009. By 2015 all EU imports from ACP countries should be quota free and duty free without any price support mechanism. This time-line is currently under discussion with the EU. These decisions will have an important impact on sugar exporting ACP countries, which have been relying on the EU market for the past 30 years, under the Sugar Protocol.

With the downturn of the sugar industry and expiring land leases women and men from farming as well as land leasing families have had to step out of homes to sustain themselves. Loss of leases relate to inability to meet the rising costs of cane production as well as the land issue being exploited for political gains. With limited skills, education and work experience, finding supplementary income sources remain a challenge for many.

**Achievements:**

- The rural women utilise their knowledge and skills of preparing jams, pickles, chutneys and other food products for income. FRIEND conducts food processing skills workshops and takes charge of product development, packaging and marketing for sustainable livelihoods ventures;
- More than 500 women have undergone trainings since the start of the project period. Along with food processing training, women also go through various modules related to social and economic empowerment efforts that is part of FRIEND’s integrated approach on developing sustainable livelihoods. These include active citizenship, community governance, health and hygiene, income generation, disaster mitigation and participatory budgeting;
- The initiative has provided an opportunity for women from families suffering negatively from the downturn of the sugar industry in the country to play an active role in earning supplementary/ alternative incomes for their families. Previously it was an industry primarily seen as a man’s domain with women in supporting roles with no tangible financial returns. These women have been able to emerge as decision-makers in the communities/families and are seen as having significant voices through their contributions socially and financially;
- The range of products developed through DESI has increased. The first two products were launched in 2003. The range was expanding as FRIEND’s outreach to communities increased. Since the EU funding in 2012, the range has seen the launch of additional jams, spices, teas and flours that are marketed under the Friend’s Fiji Style brand name.



### *Key Enabling Factors:*

The key elements are primarily believed to be quality and consistency of supply. While the raw material is sourced from women from areas in the sugarcane belt areas, FRIEND has established quality controls in its production facilities to ensure it meets the requirements of international standards of trade.

The products are not only available in wider local market, but also utilised by top star resorts around the country and promoted as the genuine taste of Fiji. Exporters have also been purchasing and pushing the products in Australia, New Zealand and America to meet the demands of former Fiji residents in their new homes.

### *Obstacles/Challenges:*

Availability of packaging material remains a challenge as the expertise and supply within the country is limited. Most of these supplies need to be sourced across from Asia. The supply of raw materials presents a challenge in terms of volume of production. This drives up the price of finished goods.

### *Sustainability:*

EU donor support has enabled the initiative to expand to current scale. EU assistance has seen the construction of a food production/storage facility with 200 workers in Western Viti Levu while money has also been availed for a similar facility in Northern Vanua Levu.

### *Potential for Scaling Up and Replication:*

- There has been at least one recorded attempt by the national government to replicate the project in Fiji and there have been calls from Tonga, Vanuatu and PNG for assistance in implementation of similar initiatives;

- Scaling up and replication of this practise will mean increasing income opportunities for women in rural areas by enhancing their skills and having them capitalise on local available resources. Many of the beneficiaries have emerged as sole income earners or as main breadwinners for their families. Women always come up and speak of how they have been able to work towards their dreams with a sense of independence and empowerment in the ability to meet their family's needs and requirements without having to rely on anyone else to give them money. They are also being looked at role models and to assume leadership and speak up or take actions on issues affecting them and their communities.

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See BBC video « Why Women Count? » at: <http://www.viewchange.org/videos/why-women-count-fiji-determined-women>





**TITLE:** ..... Climate Change Adaptation, Enhanced Food Security and Alternative Income Opportunities through Solar Fruit Drying

**ORGANISATION:** ..... Nguna-Pele Marine and Land Protected Area Network

**LOCATION:** ..... Several islands throughout Vanuatu

**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... Regional, national, local

**SECTOR:** ..... Climate change adaptation, Food security

**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Grassroots women, and communities

**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... Ms Salome Kalo, with support from the SPC-GIZ programme and in collaboration with Charles Long Wah of the Vanuatu Kava Store, the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD), the Vanuatu Climate Adaptation Network (VCAN), the Vanuatu Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Vanuatu Renewable Energy and Power Association

**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... SPC/GIZ – Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region

**DURATION:** ..... 2011 to present (ongoing)

**Objectives:**

The Solar Fruit Drying initiative aims to identify how women and communities can find innovative solutions to climate change and locally appropriate adaptation strategies based on their existing knowledge and set of skills. The initiative also aims at empowering women financially, knowledge-wise and with decision-making power within their communities, by encouraging families to proactively adapt to climate change and women to exploit the knowledge and techniques of food preservation they possess. Mrs Solome Ben was one of the first women to participate in the Solar Fruit Dryer trainings on Pele has ever since being using the Solar Fruit Dryer. She also facilitated numerous Solar Fruit Drying trainings throughout Vanuatu. She has been providing valuable insight in developing the manual and is now working on improving the Solar Fruit Dryer manual based on her experience in food preservation since she started using the Dryer.

**The Development Context:**

The islands throughout Vanuatu are experiencing many climate change impacts (for example coastal erosion, leaching of soil nutrients and increasing temperatures). Depending on the severity and frequency of these impacts, women and communities who depend heavily on agricultural produce to earn an income or provide food for the family are more likely to suffer the negative consequences of climate change and variability on

crops. The Solar Fruit Dryer is enabling communities to dry their crops (i.e. fruits, vegetables and nuts), and to preserve and store them for future use. The technology is exceptionally useful when harvest is abundant and seasonal, and cannot all be used as it allows for drying and preservation of those fruits, vegetables and nuts. The food conservation potential of this initiative is key to ensure food security for whole communities and is highlighting women’s key potential to ensure sustainable livelihoods in the face of climate change.

**Achievements:**

- Successful trainings were made in Islands such as Malekula, Tanna, Efate, Pele, Nguna, Emae, Buninga, Makira amongst others. Other non-governmental organisations, locally owned private businesses, and individuals have also shown interest in the Solar Fruit Dryer and collected copies of its manual;
- Women that participated in Solar Fruit Dryer trainings have enriched their existing food preservation knowledge and techniques while answering to livelihood needs such as the ability to procure food for their family and generate income;
- Communities have been able to enrich their preservation techniques and knowledge, while at the same time, finding new income generating opportunities from use of the technology;



- The solar fruit dryer adaptation approach has been inserted into the National Forest Policy and will become a part of the new Vanuatu Agricultural Policy;
- The technology was successful due to its being a low-cost investment opportunity: The solar fruit dryer uses the sun's energy to naturally dry and preserve fruits, nuts, fish or meat. The programme encourages villagers to expand the planting of fruit and nut trees as a way to financially benefit from sustainable land use and also adapt to climate change. Moreover, it has been playing a vital role in providing weather and climate data to help making informed decisions related to fruit bearing and anticipate how weather/ climate can affect the activity's operation.

### Key Enabling Factors:

- Accessibility of information (i.e. Solar Fruit Dryer Manual that explains in details the process of food preservation for selected local fruits, nuts, crops and vegetables and a step-by-step description on how to construct a solar fruit dryer);
- Dissemination of the technology and related documents through various networks and participants in trainings);
- Usefulness of the technology (solution to seasonal fruit bearings due to climate change or climate variability);
- Grassroots women are welcoming this environment-friendly technology since it is turning out to be an income generating opportunity for them;
- Island communities of Pele have welcomed this sustainable approach to manage their future while using their lands in ways that help them adapt to climate change and generate financial income.

### Obstacles/Challenges:

Community ownership of the Solar Fruit Dryer through the direction of a Solar Fruit Dryer committee was not successful in one particular island of implementation. The Committee and the social environment did not allow for community members to enjoy the benefits of the technology. It was then suggested that the Solar Fruit Dryer should be individually owned and managed.

### Sustainability:

The initiative has gained great interest amongst NGOs in Vanuatu. Many NGOs in Port Vila have an electronic copy of the Solar Fruit Drying manual for replication

purposes. They have requested copies of the Solar Fruit Dryer manual and training from the Nguna-Pele Marine and Land Protected Area Network. The Vanuatu Climate Adaptation Network has disseminated the technology through its existing network, and has been organising trainings on the solar dryer technology. The project has engaged several public authorities as well. The Vanuatu Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has provided technical backstopping, training and advice to farmers.

### Potential for Scaling Up:

This technology is locally appropriate, inexpensive and effective. It is the type of climate change adaptation technique that empowers women and enables a community to reduce risk. Funding to upscale the dryer out reach is urgently needed. The Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce and Industry has developed proposals to upscale the technology for commercial applications. The Vanuatu Renewable Energy and Power Association has provided PV panels and solar steaming technology and material inputs to enhance the drying process.

### Potential for Replication:

The technology, which has been piloted in a range of nNi-Vanuatu communities, would be applicable to much of the Pacific Region.

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Links to web pages: 1. [www.marineprotectedarea.com.vu](http://www.marineprotectedarea.com.vu) | 2. [http://www.nab.vu/sites/all/files/projects/spc-giz\\_solar\\_fruit\\_dryer\\_bislama\\_manual\\_2013\\_final.pdf](http://www.nab.vu/sites/all/files/projects/spc-giz_solar_fruit_dryer_bislama_manual_2013_final.pdf)





**TITLE:** ..... Women's Weather Watch: Communicating Gender Equality in Disaster Risk Reduction, Response and Management

**ORGANISATION:** ..... FemLINKPacific

**LOCATION:** ..... Fiji, Solomon Islands, Bougainville – PNG, Tonga

**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... Community, local, national, intra-regional (the Pacific islands: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tonga)

**SECTOR:** ..... Disaster preparedness, mitigation and management, resilience to climate change

**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Women working in community radios, men and women involved in community decision making, national media and government officials – national and local

**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... Rural and Regional Correspondents

**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... There is no direct funding support for this action the activity is included as an additional action through our regional community media network

**DURATION:** ..... 10 years, since 2004

**Objectives:**

- a) Rural Women are effectively utilising community media to influence Disaster Risk Management, Strategies and Responses;
- b) These women are provided the necessary support by FemLINKPACIFIC to develop local action plans in order to inform the specific strategies required to address the needs of elderly and disabled persons, as well as to ensure protection of women and children;
- c) Through the Women's Weather Watch campaign FemLINKPACIFIC continues to highlight the leadership of women at community level, and the need to apply gender equality commitments and women's human rights standards – including the Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

**The Development Context:**

Despite the responses by the state and international partners following the devastating floods of Jan.– March 2012 in Fiji, the floods highlighted the lack of sex-disaggregated data at the local, divisional and national level, while showing the need to ensure specific and targeted responses for women – including the elderly and the disabled. There is also an important need to reach out to address the needs of minority groups including LGBTIQ persons, the injured and the sick, people with disabilities, older people, and unaccompanied children. Since the devastating floods of January 2009, we have mobilised with our network members, knowing that many of the community groups and women we work with are not just vulnerable to the impact of the cyclones and floods; they are also responsible for organising their

families, and have innovative ideas for the protection of their homes, property and lives. For example, our Labasa based correspondent reported that 10 out of the 12 women she spoke to in Naodamu (January 2009) were the last to leave the house, and the first to swim back as the flood receded and started cleaning their homes. Women play a crucial role in community radios, and in facilitating a more effective and efficient response to disaster situations. Women in the community media and community radio have the potential to minimise and even prevent massive damages brought about by climate change. Even more important is the potential of community radio to surface the often invisible and silenced voices of vulnerable groups, particularly women, children and the marginalised. They are often overlooked in public and private spaces including the development planning process. FemLINKPACIFIC's Community radio and the Women's Weather Watch are working to fill these important gaps in Fiji and in the region.

**Achievements:**

Thanks to our project, women are recognised for their leadership and not simply as victims of climate change-related disasters. A number of women from our rural networks have been identified as leaders of their community disaster preparedness committees. The Project has resulted in greater visibility of women's specific needs during natural disasters in the national media as well as in national government's strategies. Women from FemLINKPACIFIC's rural network were supported to develop a series of recommendations following the floods of 2012. These were presented to the Divisional Planning Officer Western and included in a scoping study by UN Women. Radio spots were also developed as an action-



learning strategy for radio producers. FemLINKPACIFIC was able to provide input to the National Strategy for Resilience Development on climate change and disaster and risk management in the Pacific, and contributed to demonstrate the impact of natural disasters on rural women's economic security, both as market vendors and as food producers. Indirectly the Women's Weather Watch Reports contribute to ongoing advocacy for gender inclusive strategies which are contributing to government's compliance with CEDAW, and gender-responsive policies in disaster preparedness, mitigation, and resilience to climate change. Nationally, the Fiji Government Gender Policy (February 2014) has prioritised these issues. Regionally, it has committed to continue support and develop a gender aware policy on climate change and humanitarian relief through «The Strategy for Disaster and Climate Resilient Development in the Pacific.» This is a regional initiative towards a common gender aware disaster relief and climate change strategy for the Pacific.

### Key Enabling Factors:

As a result of our community media network we are able to communicate with our team of correspondents at the community level. They are able to text or email reports from the communities prior and during the natural disasters. Having our own community radio network as well means we can stage local broadcasts within the affected communities. This enables women to talk about their experiences and highlight the strategies for action including drawing attention to food security programmes and health priorities.

### Obstacles/Challenges:

Despite progress made in mainstreaming gender in emergency and disaster preparedness/management, there are gaps in prevention and mitigation. Even though women's participation at all levels of risk management and climate change adjustments has been acknowledged, stronger involvement by women in planning and reconstruction processes is needed. Most Pacific countries have national guidelines on adjustment measures, but important gaps remain in incorporating a gender approach in national and local decision-making processes and policy implementation. There is also need for greater recognition and financial support to develop community radio stations which can enhance collaboration with national and local government decision-makers and address women's access to information, particularly for those in rural communities who do not have access to media, as highlighted in the 2006 «People's Communication for Development

Research Report» on Fiji: «*The study verified what most of us do know: that while the Internet and email, computers and mobile phones have much to offer, these were the least accessible to our ordinary women.*»

### Sustainability:

FemLINKPACIFIC's Women's Weather Watch Reports will continue as long as we have a community media network but it does require additional resourcing of communications and broadcast systems as well as rural personnel.

### Potential for Scaling Up:

This initiative has been scaled up to inform national and regional levels of policymaking on gender-sensitive climate change responses. In addition, FemLINKPACIFIC would like to undertake a study which will highlight the potential of community radio as an accessible, inclusive information and communication platform for target groups and local government networks. This study will present a viable community-radio strategy for piloting in 6 rural centres. The goal is to ensure that gender perspectives and the needs of target intermediary groups are incorporated in communication systems for disaster risk reduction, management and response (DRRMR) at local level with the potential for adaptation in other Pacific Island Countries.

### Potential for Replication:

This initiative has not been replicated but FemLINKPACIFIC is keen to enhance the strategy, particularly as it provides women to communicate from within their local communities and provide specific strategies rather than blanket national responses.

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**TITLE:** ..... One Smokeless Stove per Home Initiative: RMI  
**ORGANISATION:** ..... Kora in Okrane (KIO)  
**LOCATION:** ..... Majuro, Mili, Arno, Mejit, Maloelap, Aur, Marshall Islands  
**INTERVENTION LEVEL:** ..... Local/National  
**SECTOR:** ..... Disaster preparedness, food security, sustainable livelihoods  
**TARGET GROUPS:** ..... Women and Children  
**MAIN PARTNERS INVOLVED:** ..... US Embassy, University of the South Pacific, WUTM  
**FUNDING SOURCES:** ..... US Embassy, National Government, Local Governments  
**DURATION:** ..... From March 2013 to March 2015

**Objectives:**

- Sustainable Livelihood: Provide 1000 women with safe, improved cook-stove technology which will ultimately enhance women's and local communities' socio-economic development;
- Health and Safety: Reduce indoor air-pollutants and improve the health and well-being of Marshallese women and children;
- Environment: Decrease green house gas emissions;
- Poverty: Reduce household burden on high fuel costs and women's burden in collecting wood.

Investing in women can lead to progress on all development goals. The Marshall Islands, as a signatory to a number of International Conventions, particularly the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, will benefit significantly from this initiative as it will address at least five of the eight MDGs: [1] ending poverty and hunger; [2] gender equality; [3] child health; [4] maternal health; and [5] environmental sustainability.

**The Development Context:**

Exposure to smoke from traditional cookstoves and open fires causes an estimated 1.9 million premature deaths annually. Women and young children are the most affected. Traditional cookstove smoke contributes to a range of chronic illnesses and acute health impacts such as pneumonia, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cataracts, low birth weight, and other less obvious but equally real risks. Children who are repeatedly exposed to cooking fires experience difficulty in memory, problem solving and social skills. Pneumonia—the second leading cause of death among children in the Marshall Islands—has been linked to

children's exposure to carbon monoxide and toxins in smoke from open fire cooking. Older children and teenagers are particularly at risk of asthma and other health risks.

All of these health consequences are exacerbated by lack of access to good health care, especially in remote outer island atolls. Not only do people with these diseases lack the access to the medication they might require, they lack the education necessary to cope with their conditions. Research by the World Health Organisation states that harmful cookstove smoke is the 5<sup>th</sup> worst overall health risk factor in developing countries. Reliance on biomass for cooking also increases pressure on local natural resources and forces women and children to spend many hours gathering biomass or spend significant household income on purchasing fuel. Inefficient cookstoves also contribute to global emissions of carbon dioxide, a major contributor to global warming.

The impacts of global warming and climate change pose an imminent security threat to low-lying nations such as the Marshall Islands. Marshallese women still use biomass-fuelled cookstoves. According to the 1999 Census, over ninety percent of women in the outer islands still depend on traditional open fire for cooking. As households move up the energy ladder, they typically « upgrade » from burning biomass to kerosene. However, there are high switching costs involved in the transition, including the investment in kerosene burners and the cost of the fuel itself. The costs of kerosene in Majuro have grown dramatically in recent years and it is well known that prices on major commodities in the outer islands are typically another 30% higher than prices on Majuro. This has caused much hardship for families that have traditionally relied on kerosene for cooking.





Despite the severe impacts caused by the traditional use of biomass-fuelled cookstoves, efforts to improve this inefficient and often deadly household necessity have received alarmingly NO attention from government leadership in the Marshall Islands. This project aims at promoting cleaner cookstoves and fuel needed to meaningfully address this important health and climate issue. These cook stoves will have the greatest impact on households at the bottom of the RMI energy ladder, or those households that use biomass as their primary source of cooking energy. Most outer island households, including the 5 target atolls of Arno, Mili, Aur, Maloelap, and Mejit fall into this category.

In an effort to spearhead positive and sustainable change in the Marshall Islands, the KIO Club has identified the need to invest in women by improving livelihoods of outer island communities and protecting our environment. Outer island communities are still underdeveloped and women frequently cook on open fires in poorly ventilated confined spaces. Smoke inhalation from indoor fires is recognised as one of the most prominent causes of a number of health problems, including conjunctivitis, respiratory illnesses, and lung cancer. Our project is a collaborative pilot project to provide safer cook stoves technology to women on 5 outer island communities in the Marshall Islands. The KIO Club is a women's organisation in the Marshall Islands dedicated to providing targeted assistance to socially and economically disadvantaged groups in the Marshall Islands.

### **Achievements:**

Post-delivery surveys have been conducted in Arno Atoll, and feedback has been mostly positive. The benefits of smokeless efficient stoves are multi-fold:

- a) less reliance on gas/kerosene/propane for cooking purposes;
- b) less time on gathering wood;
- c) increased awareness on impacts of traditional cooking methods (health, environment, social).

Moreover, they are improving resiliency of remote communities to climate change by helping them use more efficient cook stoves, and burning less biomass for the same amount of heat. Smokeless efficient stoves are benefiting community health (less indoor pollution), particularly the health of women and children. Furthermore, these stoves are another step in women's empowerment by reducing the effort necessary to gather biomass, and the time spent on cooking. Because

they burn biomass and not fossil fuels their greenhouse gas emissions are zero. They are also reducing the time women spend collecting wood (normally they spend about 8 to 9 hours a week gathering). Stoves to all 5 target atolls will soon be distributed.

### **Key Enabling Factors:**

We've received a high level of local and national support, especially in the area of transportation. Transportation to and within outer island communities is costly and challenging. Through financing and logistical support from the Ministry of Resources and Development (Energy Division) and local government leadership, we were able to successfully distribute the stoves.

### **Obstacles/Challenges:**

We were only able to provide 1 stove per household given the quantity limitations. A number of households in the outer islands have more than 1 family, so many households ended up sharing.

### **Sustainability:**

The Ministry of Resources and Development (Energy Division) has included energy efficient cook stoves as part of its energy policy. Women users are highly enthusiastic.

### **Potential for Scaling Up:**

We are currently applying for 2 additional grant sources to help bring in more stoves to supply every household in the RMI, including the urban centres of Majuro and Ebeye.

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## V. CHAPTER 2: KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. KEY FINDINGS

As a whole, the good practices presented in the previous chapter reiterate the need to incorporate women's proposals in development policies and practices if the aim is to eliminate gender disparities and inequality in ACP countries. In this direction, major findings emerging from the three regions are:

- ***Understanding the context:***

Several case studies highlight the importance of planning, advocacy, and consulting local actors to tailor interventions to specific contexts. They also show that when development projects taking into account the socio-political history of a country or a region are more likely to have a long-lasting impact on local development and can better guide policy decisions on where to invest and why.

Some good examples include the «Our Bodies, Our Lives Campaign» in Malawi, where research on women's experiences of ARVs formed a key part in building a vibrant network/movement advocating for their health rights. Similarly, research by the Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa was used extensively in legal aid work for repatriated Ethiopian women and girls involved in illegal trafficking and domestic labour migration. In Guyana «*The Plight of Adolescent Mothers*» study contributed to an enhanced understanding of adolescent mothers' lives, stressing the need for projects with a comprehensive approach that includes personal development, functional literacy, entrepreneurial and other life skills.

- ***Grounded knowledge for effective local development: the added value of bottom-up approaches to women's empowerment in local contexts***

Experiences such as the Women's Lending Clubs in Solomon Islands, and the AFASDAH women in Haiti stress the importance of indigenous knowledge in women's socio-economic empowerment. They show that grassroots women are a gold mine in the strategic use of money. When women engage in financial and trade activities, they not only ensure their capacity to save for their children's future and for accessing adequate basic services, but also reinforce local economies.

- ***Rethinking the one-sector approach: the holistic or integrated approach is better for effective development policies and practices***

Grassroots women do not necessarily categorise their initiatives according to one specific sector, and implement projects inspired by an idea of multi-dimensional development that is closely related to their specific contexts. Women organise around issues of common concern, adopting a *holistic approach* in some cases, or applying an approach that integrates several sectors. Projects that incorporate the holistic or integrated approach tend to be more meaningful to grassroots women, since they are *more relevant to their daily struggles*. They also have a greater chance of making an impact in women's lives and livelihoods, as well as in the general well-being of their families, communities and relevant local authorities.

In Uganda, the holistic approach of the «Slum Women's Initiative for Development» improved grassroots women's food security and nutrition, allowing for the purchase of land, housing construction, and boosting businesses. This improved women's livelihoods and overall health, particularly for those living with HIV/ AIDs. The Katosi Women's Development Trust in Uganda embarked on a comprehensive women's empowerment approach through establishing a set of integrated programmes: economic empowerment, improvement of health, and building skills to engage in local and political leadership.



In Fiji, the Viseisei Sai Health Trust's mobile Clinic in Fiji emphasises the holistic dimensions of health encompassing social, mental, and spiritual dimensions, showing that local development is strongly linked to women's and girls' right to reproductive health and their right to a life free from any form of violence. In Solomon Islands «The Women's Savings Clubs» interlinks the economic and environmental dimension through gender-responsive micro-finance and environmental management and sustainability.

The case studies demonstrate that holistic approaches enhance *ownership and appropriation* by women on the ground. This can increase the sustainability of the project once the funding source is no longer there.

- ***The micro-macro link: key for women's rights and gender equality in sustainable development***

Case studies also highlight the importance of acting through integrated strategies that interlink the macro level of reforms with the impact in women's lives at the micro level. Even though most cases focus on the local (micro) level, there are several interesting examples of organised women attempting to transform policies at the macro level.

For instance, thanks to the mobilising campaigning and advocacy work done by the Jamaican Household Workers Union, key public decision-makers joined in the shared goals of ratifying the ILO Convention No.189. At the micro level, women of the Union have improved the livelihoods of domestic workers and their capacity to claim their rights. At the macro level, they are contributing to correcting structural social inequalities in the country, since they played a key role in the government's decision to increase the minimum living wage for all Jamaican workers in 2012.

The AFEM Listener's Clubs in South Kivu organises dialogues with authorities advocating solutions on women's situation in their communities, such as illegal taxes, the right to inheritance and the revision of the family code. AFEM also testified at the International Criminal Court at The Hague and the U.S. Senate to denounce the situation of sexual violence in Eastern Congo. In Kenya and Uganda grassroots women of the Champions for Transformative Leadership programme worked to set their priority and vision for change in the political process.

More than ever, women are working towards enhanced political leadership in decision-making, not only to achieve political parity, but also to influence the policies and practices that impinge on their lives, their bodies and their livelihoods. In order to achieve this, they are using their creative and proposing power. Undoubtedly, these women are agents of change on the ground.

- ***Linking women's leadership with grassroots women priorities***

Several case studies demonstrate that women's leadership remains connected and informed by grassroots women priorities.

In Kenya and Uganda many grassroots women elected to decision-making positions in the «Champions for Transformative Leadership Programme» work closely with those organised in community development. Akili Dada's programme in Kenya supports high school age young women through comprehensive scholarships for high quality secondary education, personalised mentoring and a leadership development programme grounded in community service.

In Fiji, the GIRLS! project is using theatre and the performing arts to build future women leadership in public spaces. In a region where women are traditionally associated with the domestic space, the fact that young women leaders are occupying and influencing public spaces is a powerful indicator of the transformative potential of this project.



- *Greening local development: Grassroots women are key contributors to resilience to climate change and disaster preparedness*

Grassroots women's organisations are implementing initiatives that are proving to be effective to build women's and community resilience to climate change. In the Caribbean, women are contributing to new technologies in urban planning and design. In Guyana, women of the grassroots indigenous network « Women Across Race » are upgrading their communities improving access to water, waste disposal, and better education for their children. In the Pacific, the smokeless stoves initiative in Marshall Islands, the solar fruit dryer in Vanuatu, and the solar panel initiative from the WARA women in Solomon Island prove that women are contributing to greening development on the ground, and this is attracting great policy attention from both the development community and public authorities.

- *Transforming Socio-cultural Norms and Traditions*

The case studies demonstrate that to be effective, changing social norms and behaviour must be led by organisations that are grounded in the community and are able to engage over long periods of time. In the ACP regions, women are on the move; several grassroots organisations are proactively advocating to eradicate the daily forms of violence impinging on their lives and bodies.

In the Caribbean, case studies from Jamaica and the trans-border zones between Haiti and Dominican Republic bear witness to women's struggles to break with the culture of impunity surrounding violence against women. In Guyana, peer exposure of shared experiences of pain, self-doubt, and abuse, fear of the future and feelings of rejection by the adolescent mothers proved to be powerful for gaining care, acceptance, empathy and love in the Women Across Differences Programme. In the Pacific, The Fiji Women's Rights Movement has been working with young girls to develop their empowerment in community and society, highlighting issues of sexual, emotional and physical violence - common realities in the lives of many girls in Fiji today.

In Africa, mobilising whole communities of men, women, girls, leaders for social transformation is a long-term process posing major challenges, as Pamusa in Zimbabwe demonstrates. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where customs and traditions forbid women to speak in public, AFEM is recording testimonies of survivors and expose the perpetrators of violence in the DRC.

Throughout the ACP region, women are working hard to produce the cultural, social, and policy changes required to ensure a life free from all forms of violence.

- *Challenges and Obstacles*

Lack of funding poses major challenges to grassroots women on the ground. Even though women's organisations in the ACP regions have taken initiatives to be less dependent on external funding, a majority is often unable to build their organisational and operational capacity in the longer term, let alone replicate or scale up innovative models and approaches. In Kenya, Akili Dada made a conscious decision to prioritise quality and innovation over scale and consequently have sometimes been excluded from some large funding opportunities due to their limited number of direct beneficiaries. In the Pacific and the Caribbean, women's organisations are not able to scale up their empirical research for lack of funding. However, and despite financial constraints, grassroots women have been able to replicate and scale up in specific sectors. The initiatives described in this publication show that women have the power to collectively organise, map their communities' needs, replicate and scale up data into policy proposals. These are development practices that deserve funding, since they build on the organising potential of grassroots women, and create sustainable partnerships that do not necessarily depend on outside experts or external funding.



## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

*The following are key recommendations for policy relevant for EC/ACP development cooperation.*

- Draw on the knowledge and expertise of women's development organisations on the ground. Women are key sources to guide policy dialogue and decision-making on aid distribution, management and impact assessment.
- Support existing local agendas for women's rights that reflect the priorities of women themselves, including those in remote areas who are the least able to make their priorities heard.
- Develop mechanisms to ensure that funding reaches grassroots women's organisations in remote rural areas and poor urban areas. This could be done through scaling up funding to women's funds or grassroots organisations that have links with civil society organisations working at that level.
- Promote the emergence and consolidation of women in leadership positions in economic, social, cultural and political life.
- Promote development projects and programmes that contribute to the strengthening of local markets and to women's capacity to generate income. Ensure that the projects can benefit from funding to replication and scale up, in particular to the local policy level where grassroots women are most active.
- Support the publication, dissemination and scaling up of the knowledge that grassroots women are producing. They are capably investigating and showing viable alternatives to achieve equitable and sustainable development goals.



## ANNEX 1 - STATISTICAL OVERVIEW OF SELECTED INDICATORS FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

SELECTED INDICATORS	WEIGHTED AVERAGE	YEAR	SOURCE		
<b>GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS</b>					
Total population	888,000,000	2013	UNFPA State of World Population 2013		
Percent urban (%)	37	2013	World Population Data Sheet 2013		
Life expectancy at birth F/M (years)	57/55	2010-2015	UNFPA State of World Population 2013		
Fertility rate (total births per woman)	5.1	2012	WB Gender Equality Statistics 2012		
<b>POLITICAL PARTICIPATION</b>					
Women in Lower House (% of total)	22.9	2014	Inter-Parliamentary Union 1-2-2014		
Women in Upper House (% of total)	19.8	2014	Inter-Parliamentary Union 1-2-2014		
Proportion of seats held by elected women in both houses combined	22.5	2014	Inter-Parliamentary Union 1-2-2014		
<b>ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION</b>					
Labour force participation ratio F/M (%)	65.1 / 76.6	2013 <sup>68</sup>	ILO Global Employment Trends 2014		
Unemployment rate F/M (%)	8.4 / 6.9	2013	ILO Global Employment Trends 2014		
Employment to population ratio F/M (%)	59.6 / 71.3	2013	ILO Global Employment Trends 2014		
Employment share in agriculture F/M (%)	61.9 / 60.7	2013	ILO Global Employment Trends 2014		
Employment share in industry F/M (%)	6.5 / 10.9	2013	ILO Global Employment Trends 2014		
Employment share in services F/M (%)	31.6 / 28.4	2013	ILO Global Employment Trends 2014		
Vulnerable employment share F/M (%)	85.5 / 70.5	2013	ILO Global Employment Trends 2014		
Informal employment as a percentage of total non-agricultural employment	66% <sup>69</sup>	2004-2010	ILO Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture, 2013		
Informal employment as a percentage of non-agricultural employment by sex (F/M)	74% / 61%	2004-2010	ILO Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture, 2013		
<b>HEALTH, REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS</b>					
Maternal mortality rate (death per 100,000 live births)	500	2010	UNFPA State of World Population 2013		
Adolescent birth rates per 1,000 adolescent among girls (15-19 years)	123	2000-2010	UNESCO Progress for Children, A report card on adolescents, April 2012		
Adult HIV prevalence (%)	4.7	2012	2013 Report Global AIDS Epidemic		
People living with HIV/AIDS	25,000,000	2012	2013 Report Global AIDS Epidemic		
Women with HIV/AIDS (15+)	12,900,000	2012	2013 Report Global AIDS Epidemic		
AIDS related deaths	1,200,000	2012	2013 Report Global AIDS Epidemic		
<b>EDUCATION<sup>70</sup></b>					
Adult literacy rates 15 and over F/M (%)	51/68	2005-2011 <sup>71</sup>	UNESCO Education For All 2013/4		
Illiterate adults (total)	181,950,000	2005-2011	UNESCO Education For All 2013/4		
Adult female illiterates (%)	61	2005-2011	UNESCO Education For All 2013/4		
Adult literacy rate gender parity index F/M	0.74	2005-2011	UNESCO Education For All 2013/4		
Primary net enrolment ratio F/M (%)	76/80	2011	UNESCO Education For All 2013/4		
Primary gender parity index F/M	0.95	2011	UNESCO Education For All 2013/4		
Total secondary gross enrolment ratio (%) F/M	37/45	2011	UNESCO Education For All 2013/4		
Secondary gender parity index	0.83	2011	UNESCO Education For All 2013/4		
<b>SELECTED INDICATORS</b>					
	<b>CENTRAL AFRICA</b>	<b>EAST AFRICA</b>	<b>SOUTHERN AFRICA</b>	<b>WEST AFRICA</b>	<b>YEAR</b>
<b>VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN<sup>72</sup></b>					
Prevalence of intimate partner violence (%)	65.64 (53.6 to 77.7)	38.83 (34.6 to 43.1)	29.67 (24.3 to 35.1)	41.75 (32.9 to 50.6)	2013
Prevalence of non-partner sexual violence (%)	21.05 (4.59 to 37.51)	11.46 (7.31 to 15.60)	17.41 (11.48 to 23.33)	9.15 (4.90 to 13.41)	2013

68. Preliminary estimates

69. Range: 33% in South Africa to 52% in Zimbabwe to 82% in Mali

70. UNESCO Education For All Global Monitoring Report 2013/14, Teaching and Learning: Achieving Equality for All

71. Data are for the most recent year available during the period specified

72. WHO 2013 Global and Regional Estimates of Violence against Women: Prevalence and Health Effects of Intimate Partner Violence and Non-partner Sexual Violence; Prevalence data by the 21 regions used in the WHO 2010 Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study



## ANNEX 2 - STATISTICAL OVERVIEW OF SELECTED INDICATORS FOR THE CARIBBEAN

SELECTED INDICATORS	WEIGHTED AVERAGE	YEAR	SOURCE
<b>GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS</b>			
Total population	42,200,000	2013	World Population Data Sheet 2013 <sup>73</sup>
Percent urban (%)	66	2013	World Population Data Sheet 2013
Life expectancy at birth F/M (years)	75/70	2013	World Population Data Sheet 2013
Fertility rate (total births per woman)	2.4	2013	World Population Data Sheet 2013
<b>POLITICAL PARTICIPATION</b>			
Women in Lower House (% of total)	17.8	2014	Inter-Parliamentary Union 1-2-2014
Women in Upper House (% of total)	21.2 <sup>74</sup>	2014	Inter-Parliamentary Union 1-2-2014
<b>ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION <sup>75</sup></b>			
Labour force participation ratio F/M (%)	53.6 / 79.5	2013	ILO Global Employment Trends 2014
Unemployment rate 15 + F/M (%)	8.1 / 5.4	2013	ILO Global Employment Trends 2014
Employment to population ratio F/M (%)	49.3 / 75.3	2013	ILO Global Employment Trends 2014
Employment share in agriculture F/M (%)	9.1 / 20	2013	ILO Global Employment Trends 2014
Employment share in industry F/M (%)	11.7 / 27.4	2013	ILO Global Employment Trends 2014
Employment share in services F/M (%)	79.2 / 52.7	2013	ILO Global Employment Trends 2014
Vulnerable employment share F/M (%)	31.6 / 31.6	2013	ILO Global Employment Trends 2014
Female domestic workers as a percentage of total female / total male employment	17.4 / 1.0	2010	ILO Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture, 2013
<b>HEALTH, REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS</b>			
Maternal mortality rate (death per 100,000 live births)	190	2010	United Nations The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012
Adolescent birth rates per 1,000 adolescent among girls (15-19 years)	26 to 97 <sup>76</sup>	1991-2010	UNFPA State of World Population Report 2013
Adult HIV prevalence (%)	1	2012	2013 Report Global AIDS Epidemic
People living with HIV/AIDS	250,000	2012	2013 Report Global AIDS Epidemic
Women (aged 15+) with HIV/AIDS	120,000	2012	2013 Report Global AIDS Epidemic
AIDS related deaths	11,000	2012	2013 Report Global AIDS Epidemic
<b>EDUCATION <sup>77</sup></b>			
Adult literacy rates 15 and over F/M (%)	68/71	2005-2011 <sup>78</sup>	UNESCO Education For All 2013/4
Adult illiterate (total)	3,503,000	2005-2011	UNESCO Education For All 2013/4
Adult female illiterates (%)	54	2005-2011	UNESCO Education For All 2013/4
Primary education net enrolment ratio (%) F/M	70/70	2005-2011	UNESCO Education For All 2013/4
Primary gender parity index	1	2011	UNESCO Education For All 2013/4
Total secondary gross enrolment ratio (%) F/M	61/61	2011	UNESCO Education For All 2013/4
Secondary gender parity index	1	2011	UNESCO Education For All 2013/4
<b>VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN <sup>79</sup></b>			
Prevalence of intimate partner violence (%)	27.09 (20.8 to 33.3)	2013	WHO 2013 Global and Regional Estimates of Violence against women
Prevalence of non-partner sexual violence (%)	10.32 (3.71 to 16.92)	2013	WHO 2013 Global and Regional Estimates of Violence against women

73. 2013 Population Reference Bureau

74. Based on available data for 10 countries in the Caribbean region

75. Preliminary estimates for Latin America and the Caribbean region

76. Guyana, Belize, Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda and Suriname have the highest teen pregnancy rates in the Caribbean

77. UNESCO Education For All global monitoring report 2013/14: Teaching and Learning: Achieving Equality for All

78. Data are for the most recent year available during the period specified

79. WHO 2013 Global and Regional Estimates of Violence against Women: Prevalence and Health Effects of Intimate Partner Violence and Non-partner Sexual Violence; Prevalence data by the 21 regions used in the WHO 2010 Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study.



## ANNEX 3 - STATISTICAL OVERVIEW OF SELECTED INDICATORS FOR THE PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

SELECTED INDICATORS	WEIGHTED AVERAGE	YEAR	SOURCE
<b>GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS</b>			
Total population	11,776,500	2012-Mid-2013	SPC-Population and demographic indicators <sup>80</sup> ; World Bank Indicators
Percent urban (%)	39		SPC- Population and demographic indicators
Life expectancy at birth F/M (years)	69.9/67.5	2001-2012	SPC- Population and demographic indicators; World Bank Data-Indicators <sup>81</sup>
Fertility rate (total births per woman)	4	2012-2013	SPC-Population and demographic indicators; UNICEF «Timor-Leste at a glance.» <sup>82</sup>
<b>POLITICAL PARTICIPATION</b>			
Women in Lower House (% of total)	5.7 <sup>83</sup>	2014	Inter-Parliamentary Union 1-2-2014
Women in Upper House (% of total)	N/A <sup>84</sup>	2014	Inter-Parliamentary Union 1-2-2014
Proportion of seats held by elected women in both houses combined	4.3 <sup>85</sup>	2013	Pacific Women in politics
<b>ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION</b>			
Labour force participation ratio F/M (%)	59.2 / 82	2013	ILO Global Employment Trends 2014 <sup>86</sup>
Unemployment rate F/M (%)	4.4/4.1	2013	ILO Global Employment Trends 2014
Employment to population ratio F/M (%)	56.6 / 78.7 <sup>87</sup>	2013	ILO Global Employment Trends 2014
Employment share in agriculture F/M (%)	39.7 / 40.8	2013	ILO Global Employment Trends 2014
Employment share in industry F/M (%)	16.2 / 21.4	2013	ILO Global Employment Trends 2014
Employment share in services F/M (%)	44.1 / 37.8	2013	ILO Global Employment Trends 2014
Vulnerable employment share F/M (%)	56.6 / 63.9	2012 <sup>88</sup>	ILO Global Employment Trends 2014
<b>HEALTH, REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS</b>			
Maternal mortality rate (death per 100,000 live births)	144 <sup>89</sup>	2008-2010	UNFPA 2010 <sup>90</sup> ; Timor: World Bank online databank
Adolescent birth rates per 1,000 adolescent among girls (15-19 years)	49.4	2010/2011	SPC-Population & demographic indicators <sup>91</sup> ; World Bank Indicators-online data base
Adult HIV prevalence (%)	0.2 <sup>92</sup>	2012	UNAIDS Global Report 2013 <sup>93</sup>
People living with HIV/AIDS	51,000 <sup>94</sup>	2012	UNAIDS Global Report 2013 <sup>95</sup>
Women with HIV/AIDS (15+)	18,000	2013	HIV-Insite-U.of San Francisco-online Database <sup>96</sup>
AIDS related deaths	1,200	2012	UNAIDS Global Report 2013 <sup>97</sup>
<b>EDUCATION</b>			
Adult literacy rates 15 and over F/M (%)	90.7/89.3	2011	ADB-Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific-2013 <sup>98</sup>
Illiterate adults (total)	N/A	N/A	No data found
Adult female illiterates (%)	N/A	N/A	No data found
Literacy rates of 15-24 year-olds (%)	94.7 <sup>99</sup>	2005-2011	SCP-PRISM-National Minimum Development Indicators-2014
Primary completion rate (F/M) (%)	90/91 <sup>100</sup>	2011	World Bank Development Indicators
Primary education net enrolment ratio (%) F/M	93.5/93.3 <sup>101</sup>	2011	ADB-Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific-2013 <sup>102</sup>
Gender parity index in primary level enrolment	0.84 <sup>103</sup>	2011	UNSTATS- MDG Database
Total secondary gross enrolment rate (%) F/M	80 <sup>104</sup>	2011	UNESCO-Institute for Statistics
Gender parity index in secondary level enrolment	1.06 <sup>105</sup>	2011	UNSTATS- MDG Database
<b>VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN</b>			
Prevalence of intimate partner violence (%)	SCP: circa 64% 1:29% <sup>106</sup>		UNAIDS Global Report 2013 <sup>107</sup>
Prevalence of non-partner sexual violence (%)	14.86 (7.48 to 22.4) <sup>108</sup>		WHO Global and Regional Estimates of Violence against women

80. Including countries of the sub-regions of Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia; not including New Zealand and Australia. <<http://www.spc.int/sdd/>>. Data for Timor-Leste was taken from the World Bank online data <[www.worldbank.org/](http://www.worldbank.org/)>

81. <<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.FE.IN/countries?locations=XX>>

82. For Timor-Leste <[http://www.unicef.org/info/country/TimorLeste\\_statistics.html#113](http://www.unicef.org/info/country/TimorLeste_statistics.html#113)>

83. Including Timor-Leste; New Zealand and Australia not included. Data for Cook Islands, Fiji, and Niue not available.

84. Data available only for Palau (23.1% as of 1 Feb 2014). <[www.ipu.org/](http://www.ipu.org/)>

85. New Zealand, Australia and Timor-Leste not included. Data for Fiji not available <<http://www.pacwip.org/women-mps/national-women-mps/>>

86. All references are to this source are preliminary estimates and figures correspond to the South East Asia-Pacific Region, ILO 2014, p.91.

87. cf. ILO 2014, p.91.

88. Projections for 2013 are F: 63.1/M:56.0. See ILO 2014, p.98.

89. Data for Nauru and Tokelau was not found.

90. Pacific SRQ «Achieving the MDGs in the Pacific: Policies and Strategies in Population & Reproductive Health»

91. Average includes countries of the sub-regions of Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia. It does not include New Zealand and Australia. <<http://www.spc.int/sdd/>>. Data for Timor-Leste was taken from the World Bank online data <[www.worldbank.org/](http://www.worldbank.org/)>

92. Estimate is for Oceania, as defined by UN-AIDS. For Timor-Leste estimate is 0.8.

93. <<http://www.aidsinfoonline.org/devinfo/libraries.aspx/Home.aspx>>

94. Not including Timor-Leste. Data from government estimates a 0.88% for 2010. <[http://www.unaids.org/en/dataanalysis/knowyourresponse/countryprogressreports/2012countries/ce\\_IL\\_Narrative\\_Report%11.pdf](http://www.unaids.org/en/dataanalysis/knowyourresponse/countryprogressreports/2012countries/ce_IL_Narrative_Report%11.pdf)>

95. <<http://www.aidsinfoonline.org/devinfo/libraries.aspx/Home.aspx>>

96. <<http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu/global?page=cr01-00-00>>

97. <<http://www.aidsinfoonline.org/devinfo/libraries.aspx/Home.aspx>>

98. ADB's denomination - Pacific region includes Timor Lest.

99. Estimate for South- Pacific Island developing countries; Timor Lest not included.

100. Estimates are for the East-Asia Pacific region.

101. Data includes only Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga and Vanuatu.

102. ADB's denomination.

103. Data available for only 6 of the 15 members of ACP Group of countries (namely Fiji, Marshall islands, Samoa, Timor-Leste).

104. Estimate corresponds to the East Asia-Pacific region.

105. Estimated from data available for only 6/15 Pacific States member of the ACP Group (Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu).

106. Average includes only 4 ACP Secretariat member countries (Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu).

107. <<http://www.aidsinfoonline.org/devinfo/libraries.aspx/Home.aspx>>

108. Figures are for Oceania, including Australia and New Zealand. Timor-Leste is clustered within the East-Asia region, for which data is: 5.87 (0.15 to 11.59). Source: WHO 2013, p.48.





## ANNEX 4 - LIST OF ACP COUNTRIES PER REGION

### AFRICAN COUNTRIES

- Angola
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Cape Verde
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Comoros
- Congo (Republic of)
- Congo (Democratic Republic of)
- Djibouti
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea-Bissau
- Guinea
- Ivory Coast
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- São Tomé and Príncipe
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

### CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint-Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago

### PACIFIC COUNTRIES

- Cook Islands
- East-Timor
- Fiji
- Kiribati
- Marshall Islands
- Micronesia
- Nauru
- Niue
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu



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## Acknowledgement of authors

In the course of this challenging research project, we had the kind assistance of a host of committed individuals, organisations and international development agencies. The list being too long to cite, we would like to express our special gratitude to the numerous women's organisations in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific who shared their contacts and insights and assisted in putting together this publication. All contributors to this publication have generously shared their visuals and/or quotes to accompany their good practices contributing to a lively and accessible document.

Ms. Marguerite APPEL

Dr. Patricia MUNOZ-CABRERA

## **ACP Women, Actors of Development**

«an initiative of the ACP Secretariat, funded by the European Union»

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In the course of this challenging research project, we had the kind assistance of a host of committed individuals, organisations and international development agencies. list being too long to cite, we would like to express our special gratitude to the numerous **women's organisations in Africa, the Caribbean & Pacific** who shared their contacts and insights and assisted in putting together this publication. The purpose of this publication is to highlight the **key role women** play in achieving human sustainable development. It showcases the outstanding contributions of grassroots women to **equitable and sustainable** development on the ground, and in their respective countries across the Sub-Saharan Africa, Caribbean and Pacific regions. outstanding challenges and opportunities for advancing women's rights in the **economic, political and social dimensions** of life. Lastly, it sheds **new light** on **women's agency in human sustainable development** as a critical factor for stimulating learning, knowledge sharing and innovation in development programmes, projects, and interventions. sectors broadly covered by the good practice initiatives include **Women's Political Participation ; Women's Economic Empowerment ; Health ; Ending Violence against Women ; Culture ; Migration ; Urbanisation ; Education ; and Natural Disaster Management and Mitigation.** examine good practice initiatives which are making remarkable strides on women's right to **equitable development**, to women's rights, while effectively improving women's status and livelihoods. Draw on the knowledge and expertise of women's development organisations on the ground. Women are key actors and sources to guide **policy dialogue** and **decision-making on aid distribution**, management and impact assessment. Support existing local agendas for **women's rights** that reflect the **priorities of women** themselves and connect with and support the needs of grassroots women, including those in remote areas who are least able to make their priorities heard. **Develop mechanisms** to ensure that funding reaches grassroots women's organisations in remote rural areas and poor urban areas. This could be done through scaling up funding to women's funds or grassroots organisations that have links with grassroots civil society. Promote the consolidation and emergence **of women in leadership** positions in **economic social and political life**. Promote development projects and programmes that are contributing to the **strengthening** of local markets and to women's **capacity to generate income**. Ensure that the projects can show potential for replication and scaling up, in particular to the local **policy level** where grassroots women are most active. Support the publication, dissemination and scaling up of the knowledge that grassroots women are producing. They are capably investigating showing viable alternatives to achieve **equitable and sustainable** development goals. In the course of challenging research project, we had the kind assistance of a host of co individuals, organisations and international development agencies. The list being too long to cite, we our special gratitude to the **women's organisations** in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific who shared their contacts and insights and assisted in putting together this publication. The purpose of this publication is to highlight the key role women play in achieving human sustainable development. 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