



# *Network*

The UN Women's Newsletter Volume, Volume 17, No. 2 – May, June, July, August 2013

**A Warm Welcome to**

**The New Executive Director UN Women**

**Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**



UN Women welcomes **Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka** from South Africa as the new Executive Director of UN Women. The UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon announced the appointment on 10th July 2013. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka took oath and assumed her role as the Executive Director of UN Women on 19<sup>th</sup> August. She brings to this position, a wealth of experience in advocating for women's issues with a combination of strategic leadership, consensus building and hands-on management experience. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka was the first woman to hold the position of Deputy President of South Africa from 2005 to 2008. She initially became a Member of Parliament in 1994 chairing the Public Service Portfolio Committee. She was Deputy Minister in the Department of Trade

and Industry (1996-1999), Minister of Minerals and Energy (1999-2005) and briefly served as acting Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology in 2004. She has served as Young Women's Coordinator for the World Young Women's Christian Association in Geneva (1984-1986) and served as the first President of the Natal Organization of Women, an affiliate of the United Democratic Front, when it was formed in December 1983. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka established Umlambo Foundation in 2008 to provide support to schools in impoverished areas in South Africa through mentorship and coaching for teachers and in Malawi through school improvements with local partners.

She holds a Master's degree in Philosophy in Educational Planning and Policy from the University of Cape Town (2003) and a BA in Education from the University of Lesotho (1980). In 2003, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Western Cape. Born in 1955, Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka is married with three children.

## A Heartfelt Valediction to Lakshmi Puri



We also would like to express our deepest appreciation and thanks to Lakshmi Puri who as Acting Head, UN Women steered the agency over the past four challenging months. She worked with conviction to intensify interest and financial support for gender equality and issues before turning over her post to the new Executive Director UN Women, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. She called on development partners to intensify efforts to advocate for gender equality and mainstream gender issues by translating their political commitments into a stronger financial support for the fledgling agency. Ms. Puri will resume her position as Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women.

## *Letter from the Focal Point for Women*



Dear Friends,

Greetings to all our readers.

We are happy to bring you the second edition of Network newsletter for 2013. This issue brings to you news on appointment of the new head of UN Women as well as other gender empowering news from around the UN and worldwide.

As you are aware UN Women in 2013 has been in a transformative phase with leadership changes in process. We are delighted to share news on the appointment by the Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon of the new Executive Director of UN Women. We extend a very welcome to Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka a former Vice President of South Africa as Executive Director of UN Women. She stepped into her new role on 20 August, 2013. We wish her all the success and thank Lakshmi Puri, the outgoing Acting Head of UN Women as she resumes her post as Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women .

As always, the team at NETWORK endeavors to focus each issue on the happenings at the UN as well as globally that impact on advancing gender equality and women empowerment.

In this issue we highlight news on the Annual Session of UN Women Executive Board. We also spotlight on the General Assembly thematic debate on Inequality; Malala Yousafzai's address to the UN Youth Assembly; and passing of Security Council Resolution 2106 on conflict related sexual violence with participation of Angelina Jolie and advocacy for tackling war zone rape a priority

This issue also includes news on the agreement to develop groundbreaking gender indicators to measure gender violence and gaps in other areas by the UN; launch of Beijing at 20 -by ECOSOC –a review of progress on women's rights. Focus on partnerships brings news on EU and UN Women fund for gender equality in Chile and UN Women partnership with Geena Davis on first-ever global gender in film research study.

In bringing actions related to representation of women this edition of Network spotlights on Malian women pressing for peaceful and fair elections. We also bring updates on Gender in the MDGs Report 2013. As always we end with information on latest reports and publications.

We strive to present a wide spectrum of stimulating and enlightening news and trust that you find these narratives inspiring to impact your advocacy and work for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment wherever you may find yourself around the world.

In solidarity,

Aparna Mehrotra

Focal Point for Women in the UN system &

Senior Advisor for Coordination,

Division for UN system Coordination

UN Women

## **Content**

*A Warm Welcome*

*Heartfelt Valediction*

*Letter from the Focal Point for Women*

*Congratulations*

*Around the UN*

*Around the world*

*Violence against women*

*Women's health*

*Women's representation*

*In your interest*

*Recommended reading and watching*

*Recommended websites*

## Congratulations

### Nicole Kidman, UN Women Goodwill Ambassador and Lakshmi Puri, Acting Head, UN Women receive award for work on women's rights.

Actress Nicole Kidman and UN Women Acting Head Lakshmi Puri were honoured by Cinema for Peace Foundation on July 12, 2013 at an evening event in Berlin, Germany. The Government of Germany is among UN Women's leading donors. The Board of the Cinema for Peace Foundation in its decision to honour UN Women and its Goodwill Ambassador said, "Women represent half of humanity, and of its potential. Yet around the world women are still deprived of a life free from discrimination and violence. We applaud the establishment of UN Women as a global champion for women and girls. "Nicole Kidman has helped give a voice to countless women who are survivors of gender-based violence. She is a role model for others."



Acting Head of UN Women Lakshmi Puri and UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman on the red carpet in Berlin.

Nicole Kidman was appointed as UN Women Goodwill Ambassador to promote women's rights worldwide. A strong focus of her efforts has been on ending violence against women. Ms. Kidman has served as the international spokesperson for UN Women's "Say NO – UNiTE to End Violence against Women" initiative, and has travelled to meet with survivors of sexual violence and raise attention to this pervasive human rights violation worldwide.

Cinema for Peace has since 2001 served as a forum to bring together internationally renowned figures from the fields of film, politics and society to raise awareness on humanitarian issues. Assistant Secretary-General and UN Women Acting Head Lakshmi Puri expressed her appreciation for the Foundation's work and award, stressing the need for strong partnerships in light of the persistent challenges for women's empowerment and gender equality.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/7/nicole-kidman-award-and-event-in-berlin#sthash.zSdXQImc.dpuf>

**Aïchatou Mindaoudou Souleymane** of Niger on her appointment as the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Côte d'Ivoire.



United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced on 17 May 2013 the appointment of Aïchatou Mindaoudou Souleymane of Niger as his Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI).

Ms. Mindaoudou will replace Albert Gerard (Bert) Koenders of the Netherlands. Since June 2011, Ms. Mindaoudou has served as the Deputy Joint Special Representative (Political) for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). From August 2012 to March 2013, she was Acting Joint Special Representative and Acting Head of UNAMID, as well as Joint Chief Mediator ad interim.

Ms. Mindaoudou brings more than 20 years of experience and a distinguished career in the Government of Niger, as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and Minister for Social Development, Population and Promotion of Women's Rights. During her country's chairmanship of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), she presided over the ECOWAS Ministerial Council for Mediation and Peace and led the engagement of ECOWAS in advancing peace and reconciliation in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau and Togo (2005-2007).

She earned a PhD in international law at the University of Paris, La Sorbonne, in France, and both her master's and bachelor's degrees in international law at the University of Abidjan in Côte d'Ivoire. Born in Niger in 1959, Ms. Mindaoudou has two children.

## **Around the UN**

### **Annual session of the UN Women Executive Board marks a turning point**

The 2013 annual session of the UN Women Executive Board, was held 25-27 June at UN Headquarters in New York. Member States expressed their strong support to the three-year-old organization through political and financial commitments. Decisions were also adopted on the implementation of the 2011-2013 Strategic Plan and the Report of the UN Women Evaluation Function 2012.



Ms. Puri delivers her opening statement to the 2013 Annual session of the Executive Board on 25 June, 2013.

Speakers overwhelmingly commended UN Women for the impressive results achieved and reaffirmed their strong support for its work. In particular, they commended UN Women's leadership role in supporting the strengthening of international norms and standards on gender equality issues, including combating violence against women, enhancing political participation and leadership, and access to economic empowerment opportunities.

Various Member States also welcomed the roll-out of the System-Wide Action Plan for Gender Equality (UN-SWAP) as a major step forward in the way the UN system holds itself accountable to its gender equality commitments. Acting Head of UN Women Lakshmi Puri, in her concluding remarks on 27 June said that she truly believed that this session marked a turning point for UN Women as member-states acknowledged that UN Women has until now been under-resourced and they have committed to support it both politically and financially. She expressed gratitude for the praise given to UN Women, and acknowledged the constructive advice and recommendations moving forward.

"We believe that the success of UN Women is critical to the quality and effectiveness of the whole UN system," said Tine Morch Smith, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway, which is the leading donor to UN Women (\$25 million) and was among the 10 countries that announced increased contributions, and 50 Governments that voiced their support for UN Women during a special pledging event on 26 June.

Several speakers highlighted the role of UN Women in supporting the incorporation of gender perspectives in the elaboration of the Post-2015 development framework, welcoming the presentation of UN Women's new position paper. Other delegates offered positive feedback on the organization's implementation of the regional architecture that the Board approved last year. Board Members also heard about UN women's work towards implementation of the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/6/annual-session-of-the-executive-board-marks-a-turning-point#sthash.yncBGkNk.dpuf>

#### *Fifty countries voice support for UN Women at pledging event*

During the 2013 annual session of its Executive Board a special pledging event for UN Women on 26 June, was held where fifty Governments voiced their support for UN Women and dozens announced funding commitments. UN Women's programmes and activities are sustained by voluntary financial contributions from Governments, foundations, corporations, organizations and individuals. In 2012,

UN Women received an estimated USD \$218 million in total contributions from Governments, well below its annual operating budget target of USD \$300 million.

Pledges announced at the event include 10 from countries that will increase their contributions to UN Women's regular budget; 14 countries announcing multi-year pledges; and five countries committing funding for the first-time. Among the countries announcing increases, Finland doubled its current contribution, from 7 to 14 million euros (approximately USD \$18 million) next year – making it one of UN Women's top donors.

Another 10 countries also pledged to increase their funding for 2013 and/or future years. Multi-year commitments are imperative to allow UN Women the predictability in its budget situation and allow it to effectively plan for the future, said the Australian Ambassador. First-time donor countries announced at the event include Burundi, Mali, Malawi, Monaco and Romania.

"Even though the situation is challenging, we have rolled up our sleeves, and we have done more with less; we have shown value for money," said UN Women Acting Head and Deputy Executive Director Lakshmi Puri speaking at the event. "Today I call on you to recognize our strong performance and on the basis of our results and achievements, to invest significantly in UN Women in order to give us the necessary stability and sustainability needed to deliver on our mandate."

Ms. Puri thanked all Member States for their political as well as resounding financial support and vowed to deliver life-changing results worldwide. "Given the crises confronting our world today, from financial instability to climate change, the mission to advance gender equality and women's empowerment remains as visionary and as relevant as ever," concluded Ms. Puri.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/6/fifty-countries-voice-support-for-un-women-at-pledging-event#sthash.QG9im1k4.dpuf>

## **UN General Assembly Holds thematic Debate on Inequality**

As part of international continuing debate and discussion pertaining to the Post-2015 Development Agenda and beyond, on July 8, 2013, the President of the United Nations General Assembly convened a Thematic Debate on the subject of Inequality.

Senior United Nations officials emphasized that the international community must tackle social and economic inequalities between regions and within countries, adding that this is crucial to achieve sustainability and avert future crises.

"If inequalities continue to widen, development may not be sustainable," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said at the General Assembly's thematic debate on inequality. "That is why equity is emerging as a central plank in discussions on the post-2015 development agenda."

Mr. Ban stressed the importance of reducing inequalities at a time when the world is being affected by a series of significant changes, including economic instability, the impact of climate change, and political unrest in many regions.

"Societies where hope and opportunities are scarce are vulnerable to upheaval and conflict," he said. "Social and economic inequalities can tear the social fabric, undermine social cohesion and prevent

nations from thriving. Inequality can breed crime, disease and environmental degradation and hamper economic growth.”

Mr. Ban noted that the anti-poverty targets known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have been “remarkably” successful, but added that progress has been uneven, and underlined the importance of the post-development 2015 agenda addressing these inequalities and promoting shared prosperity.

Following Mr. Ban’s remarks, eight high level representatives from UN agencies, Ministries and international development banks including Mr. Anthony Lake, Executive Director of UNICEF and Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Acting Head of UN Women—the two UN agencies that have been co-facilitating an open consultation on Addressing Inequalities in relation to the Post-2015 Development Agenda—presented to the assembly.

Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Acting Head of UN Women, during her general assembly address asserted that “gender inequality is the mother of all inequality.” Moreover, besides the poverty implications, Ms. Puri strongly stated that “violence against women is a violation of UN Human Rights conventions” and must be dealt with as part and parcel of addressing inequalities more generally. She outlined three key target areas for addressing gender inequalities in the post-2015 development agenda: (1) protecting women from violence; (2) enhancing the capabilities of women and girls (health, education, land rights and equal pay), and (3) allowing women to have a voice and participate in decision-making in both the private and the public sectors including government, civil society, etc.

Ms. Puri offered that countries with a higher status of women enjoyed better economic health. Therefore, she offered, that addressing inequalities just made good economic sense. Ms. Puri concluded that by reducing gender inequality, significant progress could be made in all other development targets including environment, education, health, economic growth, etc.

In his remarks, UNICEF Executive Director, Mr. Anthony Lake echoed Mr. Ban’s declaration that inequalities were widening globally and criticized the “alarming disparities” in today’s world where the top 20% of earners own 70% of the wealth, and the bottom 20% of earners only own about 2% of wealth.

One of the highlights of the day’s proceedings was the “Lunchtime Side Event” co-hosted by the Government of Denmark, UNICEF and UN Women. The side event was an opportunity to present key findings and conclusions from the Addressing Inequalities Thematic Consultation and High Level Meeting that took place in Copenhagen in February 2013. UN Women and UNICEF co-led the Global Thematic Consultation on Inequalities. The consultation revealed that gender-based inequality remains one of the most pervasive forms of inequality, found in all societies, and affecting a larger proportion of the world’s population than any other form of discrimination. The global inequality consultation concluded by stating that “a new Post-2015 Development Agenda should therefore include not only a universal goal for gender equality and the empowerment and advancement of women and girls, but also ensure that gender and other dominant inequalities are mainstreamed in all relevant areas through disaggregated targets and indicators.” The Secretary-General also affirmed that gender equality and women’s empowerment is at the centre of the UN development agenda. The presentations at the side event sparked lively discussion on, among other things, the need for a “data revolution” including designing research instruments that drill down below the averages to reveal inequalities both between and within nations. Participants also agreed that no matter what the next post-2015 steps might look like, it was imperative to include the voices of those most affected by poverty in the consultative process.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/7/un-general-assembly-thematic-debate-on-inequality#sthash.fsSbQOE.p.dpuf>

## Malala Yousafzai addresses UN Youth Assembly



Education activist Malala Yousafzai from Pakistan marked her 16th birthday, on Friday, 12 July 2013 at the United Nations, New York by giving her first high-level public appearance and statement on the importance of education. She addressed hundreds of young people at the United Nations Youth Assembly, urging them to use education as a weapon against extremism. Malala became a public figure when she was shot by the Taliban while travelling to school last year in Khyber Pakhtoon Khwa Province, Pakistan -- targeted because of her committed campaigning for the right of all girls to an education. Flown to the United Kingdom to recover, she is now back at school in the UK and continues to advocate for every child's right to education

"Let us pick up our books and our pens. They are our most powerful weapons. One teacher, one book, one pen, can change the world," Ms. Yousafzai said, in an impassioned address to the UN Youth Assembly.

Secretary General Ban Ki-moon dubbed July 12th – Ms. Yousafzai's 16th birthday – 'Malala Day' in honour of her heroic stand to ensure education for all. The meeting, which featured nearly 1,000 youth leaders, was addressed by former United Kingdom Prime Minister Gordon Brown, in his capacity as UN Special Envoy for Global Education, Vuk Jeremić, President of the General Assembly, and Ahmad Alhendawi, the Special Envoy on Youth.

Ms. Yousafzai told the gathering that the Taliban's attack nine months ago changed nothing in her life, except that "weakness, fear and hopelessness died."

"The extremists were, and they are, afraid of books and pens," she said. "The power of education frightens them. They are afraid of women." She urged worldwide action against illiteracy, poverty and terrorism.

This call to action was delivered just as the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization (UNESCO) Education for All Global Monitoring Report, launched a new policy paper spotlighting that globally, the number of children out of school has fallen from 60 million in 2008 to 57 million in 2011. However, 28 million children out of school live in the world's conflict zones, and more than half of those are women and girls.



Malala Yousafzai rallies youth to stand up for universal education at the United Nations Youth Assembly event

"So here I stand," Ms. Yousafzai declared before the Assembly, "one girl among many. I speak – not for myself, but for all girls and boys. I raise up my voice – not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard.

Describing the terrible October 2012 incident that only strengthened her resolve, she said the Taliban shot her on the left side of her forehead. "They shot my friends too. They thought that the bullets would silence us. But they failed," she said, adding that the incident instead gave birth to "thousands of voices."

Telling the Assembly that she was focusing on women's rights and girls' education because they were suffering the most, Ms. Yousafzai called upon world leaders to change their strategic policies in favour of peace and prosperity.

"We call upon all Governments to ensure free compulsory education for every child all over the world," she said, also calling on Governments to fight against terrorism and violence, to protect children from brutality and harm.

In his [remarks](#), Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed Ms. Yousafzai, praising her courage and determination.

"Malala chose to mark her 16th birthday with the world," Mr. Ban said, noting the strong support she has received from millions of people all over the world is a clear sign saying: "Malala, you are not alone. We are all with you, standing behind you."

Mr. Ban reiterated the UN's commitment to give access to quality education to every girl and boy through its Global Education First Initiative which has three priorities: to put every child in school, improve the quality of learning, and foster global citizenship.

"No child should have to die for going to school. Nowhere should teachers fear to teach or children fear to learn. Together, we can change the picture," he said.

Mr. Ban also encouraged the students gathered at the Youth Assembly, to continue to voice their concerns on issues that matter to them.

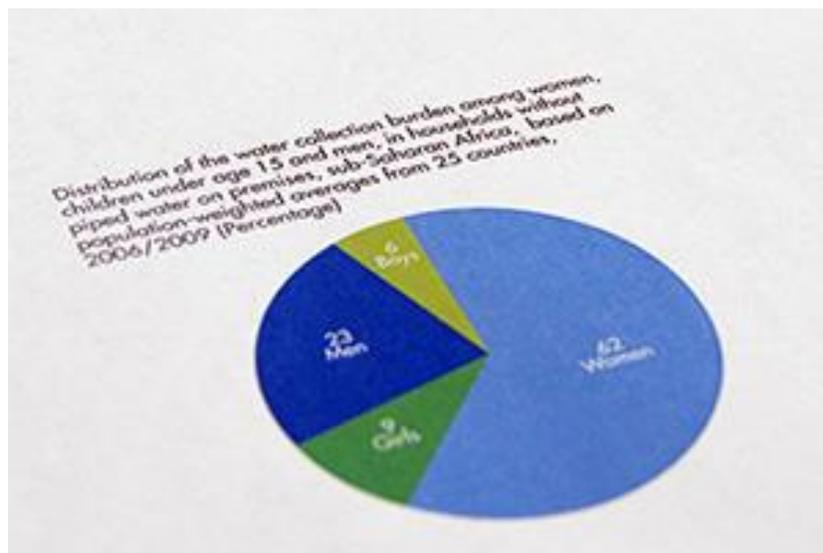
President of the General Assembly Vuk Jeremić underlined the urgency of providing access to education to every child regardless of factors like geography, gender, disability, language, wealth and ethnicity, and called Member States to act quickly to avoid further disparities in education levels.

Opening the proceedings, Mr Brown told the Youth Assembly: "You cannot say there is anything other than an education emergency that we need to solve." With that in mind, he hailed young people as "the new superpower in the world" with the capability to overcome all obstacles to access education.

On 17 June, Mr. Brown launched a worldwide petition calling for urgent action to ensure the right of every child to safely attend school. Ms. Yousafzai was the first signatory and since then more than one million people have signed the petition.

### To improve data collection, UN agrees on ground-breaking gender indicators

Data collection on social and economic development has come a long way, particularly since the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) — the eight anti-poverty goals internationally agreed upon more than a decade ago. Yet, much remains to be done, particularly in the area of gender statistics, which can help to illustrate the impact development policies have on women's lives. For example, only a little over one-third of Governments regularly generate statistics on their citizens' access to clean water, which directly impacts the women who spend hours collecting it; and while the figures are somewhat higher when it comes to measuring violence against women, only 41 per cent of States do so regularly. But very little of this data can be compared between countries because of differences in how violence against women is currently being measured.



This situation is about to change due to a recent development of new gender indicators, which were agreed by the United Nations Statistical Commission as a guide for national and international data compilation. They include a new set of nine ground-breaking indicators specifically designed to measure violence against women in all its aspects, including physical, sexual, psychological and

economic violence as well as a separate minimum set of 52 gender indicators developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics.

The minimum set covers economic structures, participation in productive activities and access to resources, education, health and related services, public life and decision-making, and human rights of women and girls — all of which were highlighted in the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action.

Accurate data is critical to inform policies such as women's better access to healthcare and education, or to push for international attention to often-ignored issues such as unpaid domestic work and its impact on women's rights and choices. The new indicators are also important as a guide to collect national data, which is crucial for planning and budgeting. At a global level, being able to measure and compare the progress made with reliable data provides an important basis for setting global norms and standards, as well as for effective policy and development assistance.

"Reaching agreement on these indicators represents a significant breakthrough after many years of lobbying by civil society and the international community," said UN Women Acting Head Lakshmi Puri. "Efforts by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, particularly the UN Statistics Division, have been instrumental to develop this minimum set. UN Women has been fully engaged in this process. We especially applaud the first-ever agreement on indicators on violence against women as a crucial step to improve efforts for prevention, protection, prosecution and provision of services to survivors of violence."

The nine specific gender violence indicators will measure the total number and age of women subjected to physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence, as well as to the practice of female genital mutilation. They will also measure the severity and frequency of the violence and the survivor's relationship to the perpetrator.

The minimum set of 52 gender indicators will measure economic factors such as the gender gap in wages, the proportion of the population with access to credit, the average number of hours spent on unpaid domestic work (including separate information on housework and childcare), and the percentage of firms owned by women, to name just a few. In terms of education, health and other areas, measures include enrollment rates, the maternal mortality ratio, adolescent fertility rates, child marriage, etc.

The impetus to develop a specific set of indicators to measure violence against women dates back to a 2006 resolution of the General Assembly. It is also one of the five key outcomes of the Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign, launched in 2008, which states that "data collection and analysis systems are institutionalized and periodic surveys are undertaken on prevalence of various forms of violence against women and girls." Similarly, the historic agreed conclusions of the 57th Commission on the Status of Women in March 2013 called on States to improve data collection and analysis of violence against women.

The minimum set of gender indicators is a testimony to the increased recognition of the importance of gender statistics in evidence-based policymaking. As the Millennium Development Goals have shown, having adequate statistics is critical for monitoring international agreements. Hence, with the MDGs' 2015 deadline approaching and the need to devise a new global roadmap for development (known as the post 2015 agenda), it has become all the more pressing to get adequate indicators and baselines for future monitoring.

In parallel and linked to the minimum set, the UN has been working with national statistical offices to develop common standards and improve how they collect official data. As an example, UN Women and the UN Statistics Division, in collaboration with the World Bank and OECD are now

working on a new initiative called Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) to accelerate existing efforts to generate comparable gender indicators on health, education, employment and develop standards to measure entrepreneurship and assets from a gender perspective. These standards will be developed and tested in several countries over the course of three years.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/6/to-improve-data-collection-un-agrees-on-groundbreaking-gender-indicators#sthash.eQaD8Kya.dpuf>

## Around the World

### ICPD Human Rights Conference Opens with Strong Calls for Equality for Every Person

The ICPD International Conference on Human Rights was held in Noordwijk, The Netherlands from 7-10 July, with strong appeals to promote and protect the rights of every person, without any distinction. The event was convened by the Dutch Government, UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Representatives from more than 130 countries took part in the conference which was opened by the Secretary-General of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Renée Jones-Bos. It also heard statements from the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, who welcomed progress since the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), but emphasized the need to press on until the human rights of every person are protected and fulfilled.

#### *Translating lessons learned into a roadmap for the future*

UNFPA Executive Director, Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, speaking on the opening day, said that he urged all to listen to everyone's voices attentively, to try to understand what it's like to be systematically forgotten, to be left behind; when persistent and multiple discrimination gets in the way of accessing lifesaving services; when there is nowhere to go to be heard and claim your rights. These are stark realities for millions of people, particularly for women and girls in developing countries.



Dr. Osotimehin speaks at the opening of the ICPD Conference on Human Rights.

Dr. Osotimehin recounted some of the gains made since the Cairo Conference: maternal death has nearly halved, access to family planning has increased in many countries and the ability to decide on the number and spacing of children are recognized as human rights. There has also been a remarkable increase in women's participation in political, economic and cultural life, as well as a growing number of national institutions to address gender equality and women's empowerment, he added. "Where treatment is accessible, HIV has changed from a death sentence to a chronic, manageable disease," he said, adding that about 9.7 million people accessed treatment last year.

The Executive Director also mentioned many of the challenges that remain. More than 60 countries still criminalize the transmission of HIV, access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive

rights is still far from universal, and some 222 million women in developing countries lack access to modern family planning.

“Too many women give birth too young, too often or with too little time between pregnancies to survive,” said Dr. Osotimehin. “Nearly 160 countries have implemented laws to increase the legal age of marriage to 18, but child marriage is still commonplace in many countries. If current trends continue, 142 million girls will be married in the next decade. Marriage usually deprives girls of their right to education.”

In many places, the Executive Director said, women continue to be seen as second-class citizens. And girls’ potential continues to be squandered, despite the links between their education and economic growth. “These are not just human rights issues, they are also important development issues,” he added.

“The ICPD Beyond 2014 review is not about celebrating history, it’s about making it,” Dr. Osotimehin continued. “It’s about translating the lessons we have learned over the past 19 years into a roadmap for the future, and developing a credible framework for tracking future progress. This is essential not only for advancing the ICPD agenda, but also ensuring that the post-2015 agenda and the new international development framework speak to the needs and aspirations of people around the world”.

## Beijing at 20: ECOSOC launches review of progress on women’s rights

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in Geneva kick-started on July 24<sup>th</sup>, Beijing+20, a process to assess how far Member States and other stakeholders have come in implementing the commitments made at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, in 1995. This action was part of a resolution on the future organization and methods of work proposed by the Commission on the Status of Women which ECOSOC adopted.



Participants at the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum meeting held in Huairou, China, as part of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China on 4-15 September 1995.

Since 1995, the Commission on the Status of Women has played a central role in monitoring, reviewing and appraising progress achieved and problems encountered in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action – the most comprehensive global policy framework to achieve the goals of gender equality, development and peace, which world leaders committed to in 12 critical areas of concern.

At its annual sessions, the Commission has focused on particular priority themes in an effort to accelerate implementation. It led the first five-year review in 2000, when the 23rd special session of the General Assembly adopted a political declaration and further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Commission also conducted comprehensive reviews in 2005 and 2010, which both resulted in declarations on the occasion of the 10- and 15-year anniversaries of the Beijing Conference.

The review and appraisal process launched on July 24<sup>th</sup> by ECOSOC will include: comprehensive national-level reviews to be undertaken by all States of the progress made and challenges encountered; regional reviews to be undertaken by the five UN regional commissions; and a review and appraisal at global level, to be undertaken by the Commission on the Status of Women at its 59th session in March 2015. At that time, the Commission will also assess opportunities for strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda, currently under consideration by UN Member States.

ECOSOC strongly encouraged Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly. In this regard, it called upon Governments to collaborate with relevant stakeholders at all levels in their preparations for the 2015 review.

"This comprehensive review and appraisal process is critical for ensuring accountability by Member States for commitments made to the world's women and girls nearly 20 years ago in Beijing," said Acting Head of UN Women Lakshmi Puri. "While much progress has been made, in no country in the world has true equality for women and girls been achieved."

Ms. Puri stressed the timeliness of the review process, which coincides with the target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. As Member States, the UN system and other stakeholders redouble their efforts during the 1,000 Days of Action drive, targets directly related to women's well-being lag behind many of the others.

"The Beijing+20 review is not only an opportunity to critically assess progress as well as remaining gaps and challenges," said Ms. Puri. "Even more importantly, we must turn it into a galvanizing process for implementing the norms, policies and measures identified in the Platform for Action, for reaffirming and strengthening political commitment, mobilizing all stakeholders, and making the investments needed at all levels to achieve gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment. UN-Women will be a strong and committed partner to Member States, the UN system and civil society as we work towards this common goal."

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/7/ecosoc-launches-beijing-plus-20-review#sthash.Q85qdvGV.dpuf>

## **European Union and UN Women to fund initiatives for gender equality in Chile**

The European Union and UN Women signed an agreement in Santiago, Chile on 14 June, 2013 establishing a joint fund to support projects from civil society organizations that promote gender equality in Chile. These projects will focus on three strategic areas: eliminating violence against women, women's economic empowerment and women's political participation and leadership. The 520,000-euro fund, which will support up to 15 projects over the next two years, is a pilot cooperation programme aimed at strengthening the capacity of Chilean civil society organizations working on gender equality. Beneficiaries of this initiative include non-governmental organizations and networks with sectorial, regional and nationwide coverage. The first call for proposals is scheduled for the second semester of 2013.

The signing ceremony was led by the European Union Ambassador to Chile, Rafael Dochao Moreno, and UN Women Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Moni Pizani.

Ambassador Dochao Moreno highlighted the joint efforts of the EU and UN Women to enhance the gender equality agenda in Chile. "Despite considerable economic and social advances, there is still an important gender gap in Chile. For this reason, the European Union supports civil society to reduce this gap with a clear objective: to contribute to ending the irrational violence that has caused so many deaths in the world."

For her part, Moni Pizani stressed that inequalities between women and persist in all countries, regardless of their levels of development or income. "Therefore, it is crucial to continue supporting these efforts, including in middle-income and upper-middle-income countries, such as Chile. UN Women has traditionally been an important interlocutor with civil society and we are well aware of the value of their experience and knowledge to advance gender equality."

The European Union and UN Women signed a Memorandum of Understanding in April 2012, agreeing to cooperate in areas of mutual interest and to promote gender equality and women's empowerment globally.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/6/european-union-and-un-women-to-fund-initiatives-for-gender-equality-in-chile/#sthash.JzLBkqLL.dpuf>

## **Violence against women**

### **Security Council strengthens efforts to end impunity for conflict-related sexual violence**

The Security Council on 24 June, 2013 sent a strong signal to perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict that their crimes will not be tolerated, adopting a new resolution (UNSCR 2106) on sexual violence in conflict. The resolution will strengthen efforts to end impunity for a scourge that affects not only large numbers of women and girls but also men and boys. In three previous resolutions – 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1960 (2010) – the Council affirmed that sexual violence, when committed systematically and used as a tool of war, is a fundamental threat to international peace and security, requiring an operational security and judicial response.



During a debate on women and peace and security, the 15-member body unanimously adopted resolution 2106, by which it emphasized more consistent and rigorous investigation and prosecution of sexual violence crimes as a central aspect of deterrence, and ultimately prevention. This resolution, which adds greater operational detail to previous resolutions on this topic, reiterates that all actors, including not only the Security Council and parties to armed conflict, but all Member States and United Nations entities, must do more to implement previous mandates and combat impunity for these crimes.

It emphasized that “effective steps to prevent and respond to such acts significantly contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security; and stresses women’s participation as essential to any prevention and protection response...”

The Council recognized the need for “more timely, objective, accurate and reliable information” as a basis for prevention and response, and requested Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and relevant United Nations entities to speed up the establishment of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence.

Perpetrators of sexual violence must be held accountable said Ban Ki Moon at the outset of the meeting. “Sexual violence, whenever and wherever it occurs, is a vile crime. It must be exposed and met with the anger and action that it deserves,” he continued, stressing that those who hold power and influence have a special duty to step forward and be part of a global coalition of champions determined to break this “evil.”

*UN Women welcomes the unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 2106 on conflict-related sexual violence*

UN Women welcomed the unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 2106 (2013) on 24 June, being the sixth resolution on Women, Peace and Security, and the fourth one focused on conflict-related sexual violence. UN Women is particularly encouraged that Resolution 2106, co-

sponsored and supported by several dozen countries, affirms the centrality of gender equality and women's political, social, and economic empowerment to efforts to prevent sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations. It also emphasizes the importance of implementing the full range of commitments emanating from resolution 1325, and recognizes UN Women's efforts in this area. UN Women applauded the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence, Ms. Zainab Bangura, the members of UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, and the Security Council, led by the United Kingdom.

See more at: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45253>

*Angelina Jolie urges Security Council to make tackling war zone rape a priority*



Angelina Jolie at the UN Security Council

Progress in ending sexual violence in conflict can occur if the Security Council makes this a priority, actress and the Special Envoy of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Angelina Jolie told Council members, during the debate on women, peace and security. "If the United Nations Security Council sets rape and sexual violence in conflict as a priority, it will become one and progress will be made. If you do not, this horror will continue, she stated.

The United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary William Hague chaired the meeting as current president of the Security Council. Also participating were Zeinab Hawa Bangura, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict; lawyer and activist Jane Adong Anywar, and American actress Angelina Jolie, who Mr. Ban described as a "tireless" advocate on this issue.

## **EU-wide protection for victims of domestic violence becomes law**

European Union Ministers of Justice agreed on June 3, 2013 at the Council of the European Union to pioneer a Europe-wide protection order for survivors of violence.

The new regulation complements the 'European protection order' adopted in December 2011, extending its application from criminal to civil matters. It will guarantee that victims and survivors of domestic violence can rely on restraint or protection orders issued against the perpetrator in their own country when they travel or move to another EU country.



Justice Ministers from the EU Member States adopted the European Commission's proposal for an EU-wide protection order for victims of violence, particularly domestic violence.

Regulations are the most direct form of EU law – as soon as they are passed, they have binding legal force throughout every Member State, on a par with national laws. This 'European protection order' will accompany the range of recent criminal and civil justice and legislative measures to crack down on human trafficking, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children, and to strengthen the rights, support and protection of victims of crime.

With the adoption of this regulation, the EU fulfills one of its pledges under the COMMIT initiative, launched by UN Women in 2013 in the lead up to the 57th Commission on the Status of Women as a call to Governments around the world to take concrete steps to end violence against women and girls. In addition to the European Union's own commitment, to date, 57 countries have joined the initiative so far, 16 of them EU Member States.

This European Protection Order is the result of the legislative package on victims' rights adopted by the European Commission on 18 May 2011 and is also guided by the European Commission's Strategy for Equality between Women and Men 2010-2015, which includes ending gender-based violence among its priorities. According to data quoted in this strategy, 20 to 25 per cent of women living in the EU have suffered physical violence at least once during their lives, with intimate partner violence as the most common form experienced.

UN Women is actively engaged in policy dialogue with the European Union and has supported a number of processes to address violence against women. This collaboration is cemented under a partnership agreement between the EU and UN Women, signed in 2012, to enhance gender equality and combat sexual and gender-based violence. Specifically, the partnership includes a commitment to provide more support and protection to survivors of violence, and increase access to justice and services for those women affected. The partnership also aims to fight impunity for perpetrators of gender-based violence.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/6/eu-wide-protection-for-victims-of-domestic-violence-becomes-law/#sthash.8Pgllc5s.dpuf>

## **Syrian women refugees face forced early marriages and restricted mobility: UN Women report**

On the occasion of World Refugee Day, UN Women on 19 June launched a new programme and released the findings of a new report on gender-based violence among Syrian refugees in Jordan. The report finds that rates of early marriage are strikingly high (one-third are married as children), that restrictions on the mobility of women and girls limit their access to work and aid supplies, and that 83 per cent of Syrian refugees are unaware of services for survivors of violence, which are now limited.

The report, led by UN Women in partnership with the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development and The Queen Zein Al-Sharaf Institute for Development (JOHUD/ ZENID), was commissioned by a joint UN task force, which also includes the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in addition to partner organizations Save the Children International, the International Rescue Committee, the Jordanian Women's Union, and Un Ponte Per (UPP).



A line of Syrian refugee women, some carrying children, cross into Jordan from southern Syria in February 2013. :

According to UNHCR, more than 1.6 million Syrians have fled the country's civil unrest since March 2011 and sought shelter in neighbouring countries, including 472,764 in Jordan (as of 3 June 2013) – a number that is expected to double by year's end.

Since humanitarian relief was initially directed towards refugees based in the Za'atri refugee camp (now home to more than 100,000), UN Women decided to focus the assessment on other communities, where two-thirds of Syrian refugees are currently residing. It targeted urban refugees living in 11 out of Jordan's 12 governorates (provinces). The findings are based on data collected through questionnaires distributed to 613 refugees including women, girls, boys and men from different households; 34 focus group discussions held in all regions; and 45 in-depth interviews with key informants, community leaders and service providers from all regions.

The report finds widespread child marriage – more than 33 per cent of participants were married when they were still children, and half of all respondents believed that the normal age of marriage for girls is under 18. Many respondents also perceived that the marrying age has further decreased

since their displacement to Jordan, as impoverished refugee families seek dowries and one less mouth to feed.

Findings indicate that Syrian refugee women also face major challenges in accessing basic resources and specialized services due to their restricted ability to leave home without a male family member. This makes it harder for women to engage in economic activities, receive education, participate in social activities, or receive aid supplies. One-fifth of girls never even go outside their homes in Syria and displacement has made it even less likely.

The report concludes that the longer the situation of displacement is prolonged, the greater the likelihood of higher rates of child labour for boys and early marriage for girls.

The study also reveals the lack of specialized and confidential services available to Syrian women and children who are survivors of gender-based violence, such as psychosocial counseling and legal support, and a lack of knowledge about such services even when available, with an overwhelming 83 per cent of Syrian refugees unaware of any services for survivors in their community.

To respond to the lack of services, a new joint programme was launched in the refugee community of Zarqa, northeast of Amman. To be implemented by UN Women, UNFPA and UNICEF, in partnership with Jordan's Ministry of Social Development (MOSD), Ministry of Health (MOH), Family Protection Department (FPD), and other relevant NGOs, the project aims to increase survivors' access to comprehensive, life-saving protection including health, psychosocial and legal services in three areas in Jordan (Mafraq, Irbid and Zarqa). It will include access to shelters, legal aid and case management, as well as to quality health services, including reproductive health services adapted to age and gender.

The study and this new project build on UN Women's work with Syrian refugees in Jordan, including economic empowerment and protection initiatives which began in January of this year and are already reaching some 3,000 women and children. They include sexual and gender-based violence protection, information and psycho-social activities such as an abuse hotline which has been used by at least 2009 Syrian refugees, health-awareness sessions attended by 216 women in Madaba, Al-Hussein and Hittin Camps, and recreational activities involving 276 children.

Since September 2012, UN Women has also been part of a Regional Response Plan, which now involves 13 UN agencies and 17 NGO's and international organizations in the region. UN Women is an active member of the Gender-Based Violence Working Group and has a dedicated Adviser working to ensure gender equality is mainstreamed across humanitarian sectors.

As part of the UN Women Regional Office for Arab States' cooperation with the League of Arab States, a strategy for women, peace and security was also recently developed and launched in May, in line with Security Council Resolution 1325, which calls for women's engagement in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The strategy will serve as both a protection and empowerment tool, focusing on prevention, participation, protection, relief and recovery.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/6/syrian-women-refugees-face-forced-early-marriages-and-restricted-mobility-un-women-report/#sthash.KXnUpnI4.dpuf>

## **Women's health**

## **WFP/UNFPA launch new partnership to improve nutrition for pregnant and breastfeeding women**

The World Food Programme (WFP) and UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, launched a new partnership to improve nutrition among pregnant and breastfeeding women to ensure the next generation of children achieve the best possible start in life. The new initiative, which took off launches ahead of the "Nutrition for Growth" summit in London on 8 June, aims to address the nutritional needs of women throughout pregnancy and breastfeeding. The goal is to reduce the number of low birth weight babies and stunted children, who as a result, grow up blighted by health problems and experience a detrimental impact on their learning and economic potential.



Mothers and their children wait in line at the nutrition center in Bamako, Mali.

WFP Executive Director, Ertharin Cousin said "When a mother consumes a nutritious and balanced diet before and after giving birth, her baby thrives". She added that "Providing women, particularly adolescent girls, with access to nutritious food cements the next generation's opportunity for a healthy and productive future". The partnership between WFP and UNFPA supports the "1000 Days" initiative, which focuses on improving nutrition in the first 1000 days between the start of woman's pregnancy and her child's 2nd birthday.

UNFPA Executive Director, Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin explained that "As the global community enters a final push to achieve the MDGs, Maternal Health remains the goal that lags furthest behind", adding "Maternal nutrition can play an essential role to improve pregnancy outcomes for both the mother and her newborn child.

Under the partnership, WFP and UNFPA are planning to roll out pilot programmes in Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone and Zambia, where they will focus on improving nutrition among women prior to, during and after pregnancy, continuing until the child reaches 6 months of age.

## WHO report highlights violence against women as a 'global health problem of epidemic proportions

### *New clinical and policy guidelines launched to guide health sector response*

Physical or sexual violence is a public health problem that affects more than one third of all women globally, according to a new report released on 20 June by WHO in partnership with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and the South African Medical Research Council.

The report, ***Global and regional estimates of violence against women: Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence***, represents the first systematic study of global data on the prevalence of violence against women – both by partners and non-partners. Some 35% of all women will experience either intimate partner or non-partner violence. The study finds that intimate partner violence is the most common type of violence against women, affecting 30% of women worldwide.

The study highlights the need for all sectors to engage in eliminating tolerance for violence against women and better support for women who experience it. New WHO guidelines, launched with the report, aim to help countries improve their health sector's capacity to respond to violence against women.

### *Impact on physical and mental health*

The report details the impact of violence on the physical and mental health of women and girls. This can range from broken bones to pregnancy-related complications, mental problems and impaired social functioning.

"These findings send a powerful message that violence against women is a global health problem of epidemic proportions," said Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General, WHO. "We also see that the world's health systems can and must do more for women who experience violence."

The report's key findings on the health impacts of violence by an intimate partner were:

- ***Death and injury*** – The study found that globally, 38% of all women who were murdered were murdered by their intimate partners, and 42% of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence at the hands of a partner had experienced injuries as a result.
- ***Depression*** – Partner violence is a major contributor to women's mental health problems, with women who have experienced partner violence being almost twice as likely to experience depression compared to women who have not experienced any violence.
- ***Alcohol use problems*** – Women experiencing intimate partner violence are almost twice as likely as other women to have alcohol-use problems.
- ***Sexually transmitted infections*** – Women who experience physical and/or sexual partner violence are 1.5 times more likely to acquire syphilis infection, chlamydia, or gonorrhoea. In some regions (including sub-Saharan Africa), they are 1.5 times more likely to acquire HIV.
- ***Unwanted pregnancy and abortion*** – Both partner violence and non-partner sexual violence are associated with unwanted pregnancy; the report found that women experiencing physical and/or

sexual partner violence are twice as likely to have an abortion than women who do not experience this violence.

- *Low birth-weight babies* – Women who experience partner violence have a 16% greater chance of having a low birth-weight baby.

“This new data shows that violence against women is extremely common. We urgently need to invest in prevention to address the underlying causes of this global women’s health problem.” said Professor Charlotte Watts, from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

#### *Need for better reporting and more attention to prevention*

Fear of stigma prevents many women from reporting non-partner sexual violence. Other barriers to data collection include the fact that fewer countries collect this data than information about intimate partner violence, and that many surveys of this type of violence employ less sophisticated measurement approaches than those used in monitoring intimate partner violence.

“The review brings to light the lack of data on sexual violence by perpetrators other than partners, including in conflict-affected settings,” said Dr Naeemah Abrahams from the SAMRC. “We need more countries to measure sexual violence and to use the best survey instruments available.”

In spite of these obstacles, the review found that 7.2% of women globally had reported non-partner sexual violence. As a result of this violence, they were 2.3 times more likely to have alcohol disorders and 2.6 times more likely to suffer depression or anxiety – slightly more than women experiencing intimate partner violence.

The report calls for a major scaling up of global efforts to prevent all kinds of violence against women by addressing the social and cultural factors behind it.

#### *Recommendations to the health sector*

The report also emphasizes the urgent need for better care for women who have experienced violence. These women often seek health-care, without necessarily disclosing the cause of their injuries or ill-health.

“The report findings show that violence greatly increases women’s vulnerability to a range of short- and long-term health problems; it highlights the need for the health sector to take violence against women more seriously,” said Dr Claudia Garcia-Moreno of WHO. “In many cases this is because health workers simply do not know how to respond.”

The report’s authors stress the importance of using these guidelines to incorporate issues of violence into the medical and nursing curricula as well as during in-service training.

WHO began to work with countries in South-East Asia to implement the new recommendations from the end of June 2013. The Organization will partner with ministries of health, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and sister United Nations agencies to disseminate the guidelines, and support their adaptation and use.

## **Women’s Representation**

### **UN Women Partners with Geena Davis on First-ever Global Gender in Film Research Study**

On July 1<sup>st</sup> UN Women announced its partnership with the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media on a global study to analyze the depiction and representation of female characters in family

films. The Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, with support from The Rockefeller Foundation, has commissioned the study from Associate Professor Stacy Smith of the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism at the University of Southern California. It will examine the top-grossing international movies in Australia, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Russia, Spain and the United Kingdom. It is the first such study ever undertaken.

"There is no doubt that gender stereotypes in the media are influential socio-psychological factors in how women and girls are perceived. They also influence their self-esteem and relationships between the sexes," said Lakshmi Puri, Acting Head of UN Women. "We cannot let the negative depiction of women and girls erode the hard gains that have been made on gender equality and women's empowerment. We hope that the study will address factors that positively impact the perception of women in society, positive role models of women and girls and men and boys, and the value of respectful relationships that can foster and benefit from women's empowerment," she added. While research into the consequences of media exposure is complex, there is a general consensus among health professionals, researchers and educators that high levels of media exposure to negative imagery are related to negative outcomes for children and adults. These outcomes include effects in the areas of academic performance, body image, early sexual behaviour, and social and cultural behaviours and beliefs. These effects may also affect future life and occupational choices for women. Previous research by the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media revealed that gender parity still does not exist on-screen. In family films, only 28.3 per cent of all speaking characters were female. This translates into 2.53 males to every one female. Not only are girls and women under-represented on-screen, but many are depicted in a stereotypical and sexualized light. Occupationally, few women held positions of power on screen. Only 3.4 per cent of business leader characters and 4.5 per cent of high-level politicians were female. "By virtue of the dearth of female characters of substance in the media kids see, we are in effect teaching our children that women and girls don't take up half of the space in the world. We're teaching them to see that boys are doing the important and interesting things in society," said Academy-Award-winner Geena Davis, the leading advocate for positive change in gender portrayals in the entertainment industry. "Media images have an enormous impact on children's self-esteem and aspirations. This is why we decided to launch a global gender in media study: if girls see it, they can be it." "The Rockefeller Foundation is pleased to support this important study that is sure to bring a discerning eye to the ways girls and women are portrayed and perceived," said Rockefeller Foundation Associate Director, International Development, Sundaa Bridgett-Jones. "We hope the findings will be a clear call to resist the culture of casual stereotypes that so negatively impact global achievements in gender equality." The Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media will present the findings of the study during the 2nd Global Symposium on Gender in Media in fall 2014.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/7/geena-davis-institute-research-press-release/#sthash.37smpyNf.dpuf>

## **Malian women press for peaceful, fair elections**

Since March 2012, Mali has undergone one of the most serious security and political crises in its history, marked by the occupation of three of its main regions (Kidal, Timbuktu and Gao) and a coup d'état. Collaborative efforts at the national, sub-regional, regional and international levels have enabled the gradual recovery of all the regions under occupation and the gradual return of displaced populations and local government.

The presidential election of 28 July will enable Mali to start the reconciliation and reconstruction process. A total of 27 candidates, including one woman, are running for the presidency. The dominant themes of the campaigns are the consolidation of peace; the re-establishment of the State; economic revival and employment, particularly youth employment; the establishment of good governance; reform of the education sector; development of the micro-finance sector; and the implementation of a health policy for all. Equality and the empowerment of women are addressed through proposals for the creation of specific women's funds, attention to rural women, as well as in women's strategic positioning in governance.

Malian women represent only 10 per cent of Parliament and are a mere 8 per cent of elected members to local government. During the last presidential elections in 2007, Mali's first-ever woman candidate received less than 1 per cent of the votes cast.

For the upcoming elections, UN Women has supported the Malian Government in the creation of a "Gender and Election" strategy and action plan. Launched by the Prime Minister in May 2013, this strategy focuses on increased participation and representation of women in general elections from 2012-2015 and improving women's representation in national political bodies.

As part of these efforts, with support of UN Women and its partners the Netherlands, UNDP and the European Union, four initiatives are being implemented by civil society women's organizations and the Ministry of Gender with a view to stronger women's participation in the electoral process. They aim to encourage women to go to the ballot and vote on the basis of a "gender" analysis of the candidates' programmes. It is estimated that nearly 2 million women and young people would be reached by these initiatives prior to elections either directly or through media coverage.

UN Women supported the creation of a women's oversight platform for fair and violence-free elections in Mali, inspired by similar women's electoral "situation rooms" in Senegal and Sierra Leone. Active in Mali since mid-July 2013, the platform is a space where Malian women voters can exchange views and information. Every day, speakers come and debate side-by-side on a series of crucial issues, such as the importance of women's vote, the impact of electoral violence on their vote, the role of young people in elections, the role of the media in preserving peace, etc. The practical aspects of voting are also covered, such as the distribution of National Identification Number voter cards as well as the different stages of vote-counting.



Traoré Nana Sissako, president of the women's oversight platform for Mali's elections, displays her National Identification Number voter card

The platform has had 2,500 women and youth visitors, so far. To expand the platform's reach, a [website](#) specifically dedicated to the platform's activities was launched on 23 July. Updated daily, it includes a discussion board, allowing Internet users to engage in debates.

Nana Sissako, the platform's president, says this initiative gives women the opportunity for the first time to voice their concerns and to understand the different candidates. "This is something that just wasn't done before. Women are going to be able to express their concerns to the candidates so that they can possibly review their programmes in light of the concerns expressed. Women are no longer going to vote for T-shirts or tea, but for programmes. They are going to vote for "meaningfulness and accountability."

All the presidential candidates have been invited to the platform to present their programme, and outline their gender equity and women's empowerment mandates. Moussa Mara, of the "Yelama" party, was the first candidate to appear on the oversight platform and said, "If I am elected, 30 per cent of my Government will be women."

Alongside the oversight platform, the National Women's and Young People's Caravan for Peace will also enrich the electoral dialogues... During the two rounds of the presidential election, the Caravan will tour the entire country, calling for peaceful elections in the post-election period. Supported by public figures, including celebrities and artistes, as well as women from neighbouring countries such as Ivory Coast, Guinea and Senegal, the Caravan will facilitate community debates around the need for fair and peaceful elections and also aim to prevent post-electoral violence.



Malian female presidential candidate Haïdara Aïchata Cissé meets with civil society on the campaign trail.

The pan-African network "Women in Law and Development in Africa" (WILDAF), a UN Women partner, is mobilizing support for the the sole woman candidate for the Malian presidential election, Haïdara Aïchata Cissé, known as "Chato". An elected Member of Parliament for Bourem in the Gao region, as well as a businesswoman and trade unionist, Mrs. Haïdara is featuring women strongly in her programme. She wants to facilitate rural communities' access to finance and resources for economic activities, along with providing support to the most disadvantaged mothers for their children's education, and improve social security.

"There is nothing inevitable about gender inequality," she said. "It's a matter of political priorities ... for without women it is impossible to steadfastly follow the road to prosperity. When all's said and done, it is women who reflect a country's development. My central theme is around the development and place of women. These two aspects are linked. It is the same challenge to be highlighted."

In the lead up to the elections, supported by UN Women, the "Woman: It is Your Primary Right to Vote" campaign was also launched in early July by the Minister for the Promotion of Women, Children and Families, Alwata Ichata Sahi. The campaign which started in two regions of Mali, involving more than 5,000 women and young people, is being rolled out across Mali.

According to Rachelle Mian, Country Director of UN Women in Mali, the engagement of women throughout this electoral process is encouraging.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/7/malian-women-press-for-peaceful-and-fair-elections#sthash.IgReFPVM.dpuf>

## **IAEA Promotes Female Involvement in the Workforce**

A workplace without enough women is missing out on 50% of the finest minds on the planet.

So to encourage more young women to pursue careers in the sciences later in life and become interested in the work of the Agency, the IAEA hosted *Take Your Daughter to Work Day* on 25 April 2013. Dozens of young women toured areas where the public does not normally have access - like the Safeguards Imagery and Nuclear Security Laboratories.

Head of the Department of Management and the IAEA's only female Deputy Director General, Janice Dunn Lee, addressed the girls and their parents during the day-long programme.

She extolled the virtues of having mentors and advisors, the importance of team sports, which "teach you how to win, but more importantly how to lose," as well as the importance of a science background. "Study math, science and engineering, if you have the interest. Even if you don't do anything directly in those disciplines, having that knowledge will open up many more doors," she said.

Dunn Lee also encouraged attendees to pursue careers as a route to financial independence, stability and security.

## **In your interest**

### **In Rio de Janeiro's favelas, a new online tool tackles violence against women and girls**

UN-Habitat studies show that women in urban areas are twice as likely as men to suffer some form of violence, especially in developing countries. In Brazil, sexual violence is a problem. Although reported cases reflect only a fraction of actual occurrences, data from the Rio de Janeiro State Secretariat for Public Security in 2012 show that compared to 2011, there was a sharp 23.8 per cent increase in cases of *estupro* (crimes which include rape and other violence) reported to the police in Rio de Janeiro.

In recent years, the Brazilian Government has invested heavily in mobile telephone networks and in broadband. "LAN houses" (establishments offering public Internet access) have also become popular across the country, including in the *favelas*.

Leveraging this wider access to technology, on International Women’s Day, 8 March 2013, UN Women, UNICEF and UN-Habitat launched an online website which also works as a smartphone app that brings together information on support services for women and girls who are survivors of violence.

“The objective is for the tool to be used by women and girls. Even if they are familiar with the Maria da Penha Law, which is the Brazilian law against gender-based violence, they don’t know exactly where to go to get help, which service to request or where to get more information about their rights,” explains Rebecca Tavares, UN Women Representative in Brazil.

With a large part of the population using mobile technology and computers in the *favelas*, the online tool was created so that anyone with a smartphone or computer and Internet access can use it to get information about assistance and services for survivors of violence. It provides abuse hotline numbers, information about rights, as well as the responsibilities and locations of Specialized Women’s Attention Centres, which provide psychological, social and even legal support. The tool also details steps to take after being raped, along with geographical positioning systems so users can locate the closest women’s centre, police station, medical centre and public prosecutor’s office.

At the same time, young women leaders in various marginalized communities are being trained by the NGO Cedaps (Health Promotion Centre, in Portuguese) to teach their peers about the website/app, and how to identify and address gender-based violence.

They are also using smartphones to take photos and videos of safety risks such as faulty infrastructure, obscured walking routes and lack of lighting, in order to create interactive digital maps of the *favelas*, which are being shared with local authorities and used to develop targeted interventions.



To build on this tool, UN Women and partners have initiated a new collaboration with Microsoft which will help to assess how this and other safety apps are actually used by women and girls in shantytowns, and access to services can be further improved. Along with Rio de Janeiro, other cities participating in this project include New Delhi and Marrakesh.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/6/rio-de-janeiro-apps-to-end-violence-in-favelas/#sthash.keCEUHpj.dpuf>

## **Art and commitment mix in vibrant hues to end violence against women**



Artists from a variety of disciplines and from countries across Latin America and the Caribbean took part in a workshop in Panama from 28-30 September 2011, where the idea to create the regional Artists Network was born. Photo credit: UNiTE Campaign

The Latin America and Caribbean Artists' Network for the UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, was created in 2011 by several artists as a result of a UN-Women-sponsored workshop in Panama and attended by 30 artists from all over Latin America and the Caribbean region. Today, the expanded regional Artists' Network has 71 members ranging from musicians, to visual and performing artists, graphic designers, actresses/actors, film directors, etc.

Recently the Network welcomed several new artists, including internationally-known singers Julieta Venegas from Mexico and Rochy Ameneiro from Cuba, as well as Cuban-American film director Catherine Murphy and Panamanian actress Sara Rodríguez.

"These new members are a testimony that people from all artistic disciplines can contribute in order to raise awareness in society about the really serious problem of violence suffered by millions of women and girls. The solution to this problem lies in everyone engaging, as the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon has often reiterated," recalls Nadine Gasman, Manager for the Latin American and Caribbean Region of the UNiTE campaign.

Young people and artists can support the Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign. Firstly, they can help with spreading the word and education about the campaign itself; then they can engage in practical activities to set an example as a Network, and to raise visibility," says Matías, explaining his reasons for joining.

At their performances, exhibitions and other public events, members of the regional Artists Network speak out on the issue of violence; they also discuss it during interviews and with other artists in a Google Group and their blog. They also incorporate their advocacy against violence in their art.

"Being part of the Network makes us think. It makes us aware that violence against women is a global problem, and that it can be confronted through the empowerment of women, and with the support of men," adds Ágata Surma, a U.S.-born visual artist based in Panama and a founding member of the Network.

In December 2012, the Network organized an online exhibition, its first collaborative project. Using songs, videos, photographs and other innovative art, 15 artworks created by members of the Artists' Network dealt with the realities of gender-based violence through an [Online Exhibition](#).

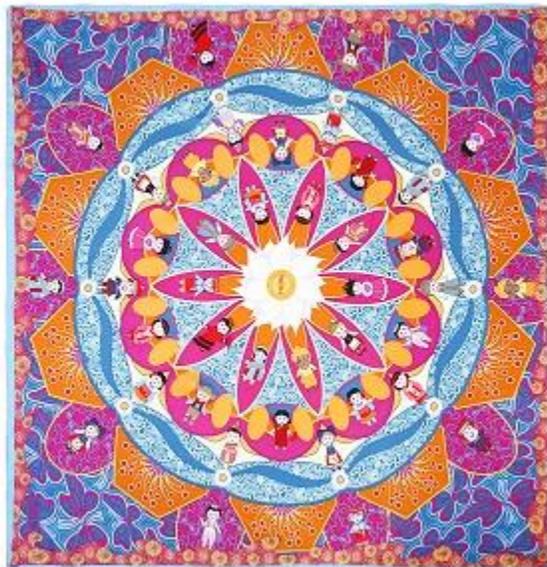
In the coming months, they are also planning to launch "Joy," a new song in English, Spanish and Portuguese, which was jointly produced by a range of artists, including Paola Villacís and Tião Simpatia from Brazil, composer Miguel Solaris from Costa Rica, the late Masud Sadiki from Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidadian calypso artist David Rudder.

“Through music, performance and drawing, we, the artists – and I mean ‘we’ because I also participated in the exhibition – are seeking to open up the campaign to the general public,” says Bárbara Fetis, an actress from Spain who has made Panama her base. Since August, she has coordinated the UNiTE Artists’ Network and was the force behind the exhibition. “In this way, we want to call attention to the themes that the campaign is dealing with, and the campaign goal: to create a peaceful society based on mutual support that successfully puts an end to violence against women.”

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/5/art-and-commitment-mix-in-vibrant-hues-to-end-violence-against-women#sthash.6K0ZUy6u.dpuf>

### **Mexican designer finds a muse in UN Women**

Mexican designer Cristina Pineda, explains the concepts that her brand, Pineda Covalín (which reflects her last name and that of her business partner Ricardo Covalín) integrated in designing a collection inspired by UN Women. “The main elements consist of a geometric design or mandala that symbolizes the force governing the universe and where representations of women from Different world cultures can be found.



This scarf by Mexican designer Cristina Pineda seeks to use cultural images to promote social change to achieve gender equality, and non-violence.

The Pineda Covalín brand has left its mark on the international market by using designs of various indigenous peoples as well as distinct shapes and figures from popular artisan crafts, which, over time, have become aesthetic icons of Mexico’s multiculturalism and ethnic diversity. Cristina’s work reflects the cultural diversity and through her creations, Pineda Covalín has continuously elevated the richness of Mexican folk traditions and cultural roots through her famous designs for scarves, ties, bags and other personal use items.

In 2012, Cristina attended a global youth leaders' meeting in Panama hosted by UN Women, UNFPA, and UNDP. Learning about the work of the entity, soon she joined forces with UN Women and created a special collection of products that was officially presented in March 2013 in New York to UN Women, during the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The collection was designed to show the diversity of women and their potential as agents of change. The designs resonate with symbols of the earth. In addition to the flower petals, the designs include motifs of butterflies which symbolize their entrepreneurial flight patterns and message of freedom and metamorphosis. The bright colours the designer says symbolize the joy, beauty and strength which women and girls all over the world can achieve.

Cristina's designs underline her conviction that "sustainable development can only be achieved when women, men, young people and children enjoy complete equality and when all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls are eliminated."

The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development 2013 calls for concrete steps to support diversity by raising global awareness of the importance of intercultural dialogue, diversity and inclusion, by building communities committed to diversity, and by combating bias and stereotypes.

Cristina echoes this message: "Because we have a voice we can rise to promote a change of consciousness and a future of peace and development. We are all part of this transformation." In addition to promoting a culture of non-violence and of non-discrimination against women and girls, the Pineda Covalín brand will donate a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of these designs to support UN Women's programmes in Mexico.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/5/mexican-designer-finds-a-muse-in-un-women#sthash.EtpPHAt6.dpuf>

## **The World's Most Powerful Black Women 2013**

FORBES published its 2013 annual list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women recently. Of the 100 women featured, 11 are black, of whom 3 are Africans. They include political leaders, corporate executives, heads of non-governmental organizations, top government functionaries and a first lady. These are the 11 black women who matter the most.



Michelle Obama

President Barack Obama's wife continues to leverage her platform as America's first lady to fight childhood obesity and promote healthier eating and lifestyles. She is more popular than her husband by far, with 67% of American citizens viewing her in positive light as opposed to her husband's 47%. But it's easier to be loved by a lot of people when you spend more time smiling on TV than running the country. This year she has appeared on Jimmy Fallon and Katie Couric's shows. She even announced the Best Picture for the Academy Awards. Michelle Obama is a Harvard grad and former corporate attorney.

**Oprah Winfrey** *Media Mogul, U.S.A*

In 2011, Oprah ended *The Oprah Show*, her highly successful syndicated talk show, after a 25 year-stint. The richest African-American and queen of talk still remains one of the world's most respected media moguls. Her cable channel, the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN), wobbled at first but has improved its performance thanks in part to a lucrative deal OWN secured with Comcast CMCSA - 1.93% last year to earn subscriber fees and increase the number of households that carry it to 83 million. Also, a string of immensely popular exclusive TV interviews such as disgraced cyclist Lance Armstrong and gay NBA player Jason Collins gave Oprah's network a boost. Oprah is one of the world's most philanthropic women. She has given away over \$400 million over the course of her career, including spending an estimated \$100 million on the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in South Africa.

**Ursula Burns** *CEO of Xerox, U.S.A*

Under Burns' leadership, Xerox has transformed its image as a manufacturer of printers to a full-fledged services business. In 2010, Xerox acquired business process outsourcing firm Affiliated Computer Services (ACS). Xerox now gets half of its revenue from service businesses like managing electronic ticket transactions, road tolls and parking meters. Ursula Burns started at the bottom as a summer intern at Xerox in 1980. She joined the company fulltime one year later after obtaining her Masters' Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Columbia University. She became Vice-President in 2000 and was named CEO in 2009.

**Beyonce** *Musician, U.S.A*

Jay-Z's wife keeps making money, raking in millions from old hits as well as from business ventures such as her clothing line, House of Dereon, and numerous endorsement deals. Her \$50 million contract with Pepsi gives her creative control of a massive ad and concert collaboration. Her 15-minute Super Bowl performance in February drew an estimated 104 million sets of eyeballs around the world. One of the best-selling musicians of all time, Beyonce has earned 17 Grammy awards to date.

**Rosalind Brewer** *President and CEO, Sam's Club, Wal-Mart Stores*

Brewer is CEO of Sam's club, a discount membership club and the 8<sup>th</sup> largest retailer in the United States. The \$56.4 billion (revenues) division of Wal-Mart has 6,200 locations in the U.S, Brazil and China and boasts over 47 million members. Brewer, 50, was appointed in January last year to head Sam's Club. A former executive at Kimberly-Clark, she joined Wal-Mart in 2006 and previously served as president of the retail giant's Eastern U.S. business division.

**Joyce Banda** *President, Malawi*

Banda spent her initial year in as Malawi's first female president pushing for rapprochement with the international donor community while grappling with spiralling inflation. Malawi, one of Africa's

poorest nations, depends on foreign aid for roughly 40% of its revenue and Banda has been travelling the world over, persuading global financial institutions to restore the dollars and Euros frozen during the regime of her predecessor, Bingu Wa Mutharika. But her decision to devalue Malawi's currency by 50% — to meet IMF conditions — has resulted in soaring costs for food and fuel and widespread protests.

**Ertharin Cousin** *Executive Director, World Food Programme, United Nations, U.S.A*

In April 2012 Cousin was appointed executive director of the world's largest humanitarian organization. Her job entails overseeing a staff of more than 15,000 people in about 78 different countries in raising awareness and providing solutions for international struggles with hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition. In her first year on the job Cousin and her staff focused on fighting hunger brought on by drought in West Africa and civil war in Syria. Her agenda for the rest of the year is to transition from food aid to food assistance in an attempt to shift from handouts to self-sustenance.

**Helene Gayle** *President & CEO, CARE, USA*

In 2006, Gayle was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of CARE USA, a leading humanitarian organization which actively fights poverty in 87 countries. Last year, during a food crisis in West Africa's Sahel region which left millions of people in need of emergency relief, Gayle led CARE on the ground in Chad, Niger and even Mali, helping more than 750,000 people with emergency assistance, providing access to food as well improving access to water, sanitation and hygiene. Last year alone, CARE reached more than 83 million people in 84 countries with a budget of \$586 million, responding to natural disasters, climate change and other causes of global poverty.

**Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, *Minister of Finance, Nigeria*

Nigeria's revered Minister of Finance and Coordinating minister of the economy oversaw a 6.5% increase in GDP from 2011 to 2012. Nigeria is the third largest economy in Africa with nearly \$50 billion in foreign reserves. In 2011, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, a seasoned economist and administrator, left her position as a managing director at the World Bank to take the job as finance minister of Nigeria at the urging of Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan. It was her second coming. Between 2003 and 2006 she had served in the same capacity under Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo where she helped secure a debt write-off of \$18 billion from Nigeria's creditors.

**Risa Lavizzo-Mourey** *President, CEO, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*

Lavizzo-Mourey heads the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the largest healthcare foundation in the U.S. She became the CEO in 2003, a position which has her overseeing an estimated 800 grants, a \$10 billion endowment and annual disbursements of \$350 million towards improving health and health care. Lavizzo-Mourey is the first woman and the first African-American to head the foundation.

**Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf** *President, Liberia*

Africa's first female head of state won the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize for her work in promoting Liberian reconciliation and in atoning for Liberia's history of civil war. She was re-elected for a second term the same year, reneging on an earlier promise to run for only one term in office. But the Harvard-trained economist has done well. She successfully negotiated for debt relief from international creditors, including a \$4.9 billion debt waiver from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

## Recommended reading



UN Women Annual Report 2012-2013 documents UN Women's work to foster women's empowerment and gender equality around the world. It highlights some of the organization's initiatives during the year and provides summary financial statements, a list of new programmes and projects, and contact information.

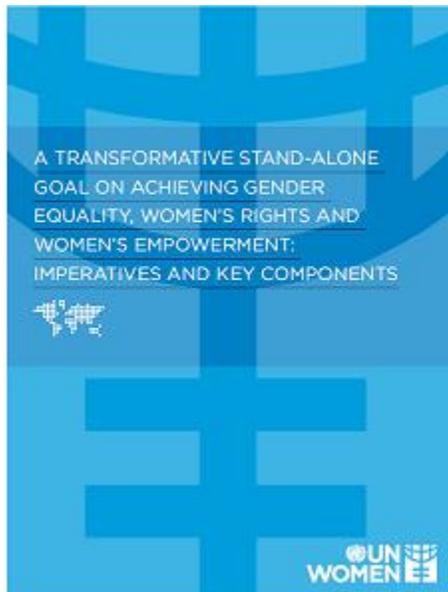
See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2013/8/annual-report-2012-2013#sthash.Ba6ObMjN.dpuf>

### **UN Women launches global call for a transformative agenda to make gender equality a reality**

*Position paper calls for freedom from violence, equality in capabilities and resources, and women's voice to be the cornerstones of a stand-alone gender equality goal*

Drawing global attention to the persistent factors that block the achievement of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment worldwide, UN Women has launched a call to galvanize the gender equality agenda and ensure concrete action that will enable women and girls to truly live

as equal citizens everywhere. In a position paper released on June 24, UN Women offers clear direction on policies that are necessary to usher meaningful and lasting transformation, so that women's and girls' rights can be universally secured.



The call for a transformative framework to achieve gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment comes in the midst of a global conversation about the legacy and next steps after the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) — eight internationally agreed goals with a timeline of 2015, which have been the blueprint for action to reduce poverty since the year 2000. Intergovernmental and UN-led processes are currently under way to inform and design a post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With the MDGs set to expire in 2015, studies show that the goals have spurred significant progress, but yielded uneven results, including continuing lack of progress on reducing maternal mortality. About 800 women die every day due to childbirth and other pregnancy-related complications. Other gaps include: persistent gender wage gaps, with women being paid 10 to 30 per cent less than men; low representation in parliaments, with only 1 in 5 legislators being women; vulnerable employment, with nearly two-thirds of women largely outside the protection of the law in 2011; and violence against women and girls, with nearly in 1 in 3 women impacted during their lifetimes.

UN Women's position paper emphasizes that the post-2015 agenda must build on the achievements of the MDGs, while avoiding their shortcomings. It underlines that for the realization of women's rights, it is critical to address the structural causes of gender inequality, such as the pandemic of violence against women, unpaid care work, limited control over assets and property, and unequal participation in private and public decision-making.

"Momentum is growing for gender equality and women's empowerment and, in recent weeks, we have seen increasing support for a goal on gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment in the post-2015 development agenda," said Lakshmi Puri, Acting Head of UN Women. "UN Women is putting forward this paper as a contribution to this discussion, both as a synthesis and a starting point for the mobilization needed to shape a new generation of development goals. At the heart of our approach is the need to address structural causes of gender

discrimination and violence against women that continue to impede progress for women and girls around the world. This is why we call for a comprehensive stand-alone goal, as well as gender mainstreaming in all areas of the new framework," she added.

UN Women is proposing a stand-alone gender equality goal grounded in human rights with an integrated approach that addresses three critical target areas:

- Freedom from violence against women and girls. Concrete actions to eliminate the debilitating fear and experience of violence.
- Gender equality in the distribution of capabilities – knowledge, good health, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights of women and adolescent girls; and gender equality in access to resources and opportunities, including land, decent work and equal pay to build women's economic and social security.
- Gender equality in decision-making power in public and private institutions, in national parliaments and local councils, the media and civil society, in the management and governance of firms, and in families and communities.

Along with the stand-alone goal, UN Women is also calling for integration of gender equality concerns throughout the other priority areas of the post-2015 development agenda.

A key feature of the MDGs was the inclusion of targets and indicators to monitor performance. Echoing the broad consensus that this feature needs to be retained and strengthened in the new framework, UN Women proposes indicators under each target to monitor and evaluate change. These are based on internationally agreed standards and have been chosen on the basis of their relevance, methodological soundness and measurability.

UN Women is also hosting an online discussion to get your feedback and ideas for making sure that a stand-alone gender equality goal is included in the post-2015 agenda. Join the conversation at [www.worldwewant2015.org/node/357447](http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/357447).

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/6/un-women-launches-global-call-for-a-transformative-agenda-to-make-gender-equality-a-reality/#sthash.XYM6EBa5.dpuf>

## **New UNICEF report on female genital mutilation/cutting: Turning opposition into action**

A groundbreaking new report released by UNICEF finds that, while much progress has been made in abandoning female genital mutilation/cutting, millions of girls are still at risk – and sets out key steps needed to eliminate the practice for once, and for all. More than 125 million girls and women alive today have been subjected to FGM/C in the 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East in which it is concentrated, and 30 million girls are at risk of being cut within the next decade

*In Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A statistical overview and exploration of the dynamics of change*, UNICEF compiles and analyses data from 74 nationally representative surveys that were conducted over a 20-year period in 29 countries across Africa and the Middle East in which FGM/C is practised.

"This report is the most comprehensive compilation of statistics and data analysis on FGM/C to date," says UNICEF Statistics and Monitoring Specialist Claudia Cappa. "It's extremely important because it illustrates, for the first time, what we know about how widespread the practice is, the attitudes surrounding the practice and the reasons why this practice is continued. It's also the first report that includes data for countries like Iraq for which we didn't have national figures."

The findings of the report point to a sharp decline in FGM/C in numerous countries in which it is practised. Prevalence has dropped by as much as almost half among adolescent girls in Benin, the Central African Republic, Iraq, Liberia and Nigeria. "In most of the countries surveyed, majority of girls and women who have undergone the practice do not see benefits to it and think that the practice should stop," says Ms. Cappa. "More mothers are aware that FGM/C can lead to their daughter's, or a girl's, death. So, there is a better understanding of the consequences, which, in itself, is very important progress."

Perhaps one of the most striking revelations is the degree of discrepancy between the low support for FGM/C and the high prevalence of its practice. Even in countries in which most girls and women are cut, a significant proportion of the population opposes the practice.

The report sets out some key steps needed to eliminate FGM/C – one of which is finding ways to make attitudes that favour abandonment of the practice visible, so families know they are not alone. Ms. Moneti emphasizes that increasing visibility would generate a chain reaction against FGM/C that would lead to a relatively quick end of the practice.

"FGM/C is a violation of a girl's rights to health, well-being and self-determination," says UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Geeta Rao Gupta. "What is clear from this report is that legislation alone is not enough. The challenge now is to let girls and women, boys and men speak out loudly and clearly and announce they want this harmful practice abandoned."

### **UN High Level Panel releases recommendations for world's next development agenda**



*Eminent Persons from Around the World Call for a New Global Partnership to Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development*

The UN High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda on May 30, 2013 released **"A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development,"** a report which sets out a universal agenda to eradicate extreme poverty from the face of the earth by 2030, and deliver on the promise of sustainable development. The report calls upon the world to rally around a new Global Partnership that offers hope and a role to every person in the world.

The Panel was established by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and co-chaired by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and United Kingdom Prime Minister David Cameron.

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## **Millennium Development Goals Report 2013**

### **MDGs are within reach, but stronger efforts needed**



Thirteen years after the world set the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), countries have made big strides to meet the eight anti-poverty targets by their 2015 deadline, says the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Report 2013. It stresses that the unmet goals are still within reach, but nations need to step up their efforts to achieve them. "In more than a decade of experience in working towards the MDGs, we have learned that focused global development efforts can make a difference," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says in the report's foreword, in which he urges for accelerated action to close development gaps.

Released 1 July, this report is based on a master set of data that has been compiled by an Inter-agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators led by the Department of Economic and Social affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, in response to the wishes of the General assembly for periodic assessment of progress towards the MDGs. The Group comprises representatives of the international organizations whose activities include the preparation of one or more of the series of statistical indicators that were identified as appropriate for monitoring progress towards the MDGs. The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013 shows how the combined actions of governments, civil society and the private sector have made substantial progress in meeting many of the targets, while also pointing out which areas are falling behind and require immediate attention. The report emphasizes that investing in girls and women is key to achieve a number of MDGs including gender parity, universal access to education and improving maternal health.

The targets that have already been met include halving the number of people living in extreme poverty and providing more than two billion people with access to improved sources of drinking water.

Countries have also made great strides on health targets, and are within close reach of achieving them by 2015. These include reducing the mortality rates from malaria and tuberculosis and stopping HIV infections.



Progress has been uneven, and the report points to disparities among regions and between population groups within countries, with people living in rural areas finding themselves at a disadvantage.

The report also states that the global economic crisis has left millions unemployed, and has reduced the amount of development aid for those countries that are most in need. In spite of these developments, the report urges sustained momentum, noting that countries will have to build on MDG achievements when they decide on a post-2015 agenda.

“Redoubled efforts are urgently needed, particularly in regions most behind to jumpstart advancement and achieve maximum gains,” the report says. “The world community should take pride in its accomplishments thus far, while building on existing momentum to reach as many goals as possible by 2015 and to realize gains for all.”

See report at: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/report-2013/mdg-report-2013-english.pdf>

### **The gender dimension of the Millennium Development Goals Report 2013**

According to the Millennium Development Goals Report 2013, launched on 1 July by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, too many women around the world are still dying in childbirth when we have the means to save them; only 53 per cent of births in rural areas are attended by skilled health personnel. In developing regions, women are more likely than men to work as contributing family workers on farms or other family businesses, with little or no financial security or social benefits. The report also acknowledges that persisting gender-based inequalities in decision-making continue to deny women a say in the decisions that affect their lives. Find out more about how women and girls are faring in progress towards each of these goals, and UN Women efforts towards meeting the MDGs by the end of 2015.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/7/the-gender-dimension-of-the-millennium-development-goals-report-2013>

### **MDG Progress Chart 2013**

With two years left until the deadline, several important targets of the Millennium Development Goals have or will be met by 2015 in some regions and sub-regions, but progress in many areas is far from sufficient. The [MDG Progress Chart 2013](#) presents an assessment of regional and sub-regional progress as of June 2013 towards selected key targets relating to each Goal. The chart is available in all UN languages.

See at: <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/News.aspx?ArticleId=74>

### **Passport to involve women more in water programmes**

FAO released a new booklet, "Passport to mainstreaming gender in water programmes: key questions for interventions in the agricultural sector". This can serve as a conduit for improving women's access to an essential resource and rural people's livelihoods.

Securing water is critical to achieve food security and improve rural livelihoods, especially for the women and men living in arid and semi-arid areas. But accessing this scarce resource can be difficult for those engaged in rural agriculture, women in particular.

Despite female farmers' knowledge of crop production, local biodiversity, soils and local water resources, they are frequently not perceived as farmers by planners, engineers, extension staff and policy makers and thus tend to be excluded from making decisions about new agricultural water management systems. Yet, when women have the same decision-making power as men in irrigation, rainwater harvesting, flood control and watershed management, agricultural production can be greatly enhanced.

Designing effective, efficient, equitable and sustainable agricultural water systems is the focus of the publication which highlights how can the same access to water for women and men make a difference in agriculture.

It intends to improve the effectiveness of water management projects and systems, while strengthening the position of rural women or other disadvantaged groups. The 'passport' is designed to help water professionals determine the needs of men and women and how they can take part in making decisions on the types of services, location of facilities and operation and maintenance of irrigation systems. It helps identify the problems that pertain to women and men and any disparities between them during the planning, implementation and monitoring of projects or programmes and to formulate solutions.

Its guiding principles are that the different roles that women and men play are key to understanding the livelihoods of rural people. It recognizes that marginalized men and women are a priority and their participation in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating development activities is essential.

This booklet is an important contribution to FAO's commitment to reducing gender and social inequalities in the water sector.

See at: <http://www.fao.org/gender/gender-home/gender-insight/gender-insightdet/en/c/180106/>

## **Understanding and Integrating Gender Issues into Livestock Projects and Programmes: A Checklist for Practitioners**

This booklet is designed to facilitate gender analysis in projects and programmes in the livestock sector. It identifies the main challenges faced by smallholder farmers, especially women, in small livestock management (particularly poultry and small ruminants) and in dairy farming.

These specific livestock subsectors, including all activities related to dairy farming, have been specifically selected for this study because of women's significant contribution and involvement. This booklet is intended to help livestock experts and professionals involved in field projects and interventions to:

1. Identify the main constraints faced by women and men in accessing, controlling and managing small livestock and dairy farming;
2. Design projects and programmes that address the challenges faced by women and men in access to, control over and management of small livestock and dairy farming.

The booklet consists of two main sections:

The first section provides users with an overview and understanding of key gender issues in the livestock sector, with a discussion of seven broad categories of challenges often faced by smallholder farmers. Special attention is given to the distinct roles of men and women, as well as to the particular constraints faced by women, in the poultry and small ruminant sub-sectors as well as in dairy farming activities.

The second section presents two main tools: a gender checklist and a set of tips and gender analysis tools. The checklist is a useful and important tool for practitioners involved in designing, implementing or monitoring livestock programmes and projects, using a gender sensitive approach. It consists of a series of questions on small livestock, dairy farming and gender related issues. The questions featured in the checklist are meant to guide users in identifying and meeting the needs of men and women throughout all stages of the project cycle in livestock interventions, thereby contributing to improved effectiveness and results. The second tool consists of a set of tips and gender analysis tools to help users better capture the social, economic and cultural aspects that influence the dynamics between women and men in small livestock management and dairy farming, which also improves project and programme results.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3216e/i3216e.pdf>

### **World Bank Video: Women Key to Economic Growth**

Currently, barriers of law and custom stop many women from getting financing for business. Removing those barriers can help overcome the gender gap, and unleash economic growth. World Bank video looks at women as key to economic growth.

See video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntzpj2LXD4>

### **Recommended websites**

#### **Make the Invisible Visible: UNICEF urges louder voices and urgent action to fight violence against children**

Violence against children is all too often unseen, unheard and underreported, said UNICEF today, announcing an initiative that urges ordinary citizens, lawmakers and governments to speak out more forcefully to fight violence against children. The initiative builds on growing popular outrage that erupted following horrific attacks against children, such as the October 2012 shooting of then 14-year-old Malala Yousafzai in Pakistan, the fatal shooting of 26 pupils and teachers in Newtown, Connecticut, in December 2012 and gang rapes of girls in India and in South Africa in 2013.

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Liam Neeson raises his voice in support of a new UNICEF initiative to prevent violence against children. For more information on how you can help END violence against children, visit:

<http://www.unicef.org/endviolence/>

## **INFO**

Employment opportunities

You can find a monthly list of vacancy announcements  
at <http://www.unwomen.org/about-us/employment>

You can read Network online at  
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/fpnetworks.htm>

Network—The UN Women’s Newsletter

Editor-in-Chief: Aparna Mehrotra,

Senior Adviser on Coordination and Focal Point for Women in the UN System, Division for UN system  
Coordination, UN Women

Production: Coordination Division, UN Women

Design and layout: UN System Coordination Division, UN Women, New York

United Nations, 220 East 42nd Street, 18th Floor

New York, NY 10017, USA

Telephone: 1 646 781 4510; Fax : 646 781 4495

E-mail: [network-newsletter@unwomen.org](mailto:network-newsletter@unwomen.org)