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December 1996

English
Original: French

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Multinational Programming and
Operational Centre
Gisenyi (MULPOC)

Fourth Meeting of the Intergovernmental
Committee of Experts

22 - 25 April, 1997
Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)

WOMEN AND
DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL MAGAZINE OF INFORMATION OF MEMBER STATES OF EASTERN
AFRICAN AND INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS SUBREGION

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WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT

**Annual Information Bulletin of East African Countries and the Indian
Ocean Islands ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1. ■ December 1996 ■**

SUMMARY

- Editorial	3
- Women in the socio-economic development process in some countries of the eastern African subregion	4
- Integration of women in the socio-economic development process in some countries of the east African and Indian Ocean Islands subregion: National structures for the development of women	21
- Health and education	23
- Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women	39
- African Development Bank for Women	46
- Books and media reports	47
- Announcements	49

**Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine
of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■
December 1996 ■**

Editorial ■

Editorial

■ **A year after the Fourth World Conference on women held in Beijing, China: "Follow-up on the implementation of the Conference Platform of Action "**

The Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing, China from 4 to 15 September 1995 on the theme Equality, Development and Peace. This Conference was the culmination of a series of international meetings on the same objectives namely: the Mexico Conference held in 1975 during the United Nations Decade for Women 1976 to 1985; the Copenhagen Conference held in 1980 which adopted the programme action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women and finally the Nairobi Conference held in 1985 which adopted the Nairobi's Strategies for the Development of Women until year 2000 as well as other regional, subregional and national conferences specially devoted to the preparation of the fourth conference.

The main success of the Fourth World Conference held in Beijing was the establishment of a World Platform of Action aimed at resolving problems hindering the development of women in the world. The Conference created a dynamic process and synergy to enable women face the many challenges in their daily lives and to face the challenges of the 21st century. The conference also sought to enable women to participate more effectively and more efficiently in the decision-making process on socio-economic development issues as well as the determination of priorities to be implemented during the period 1996 to 2001. The main thrust of this Platform is essentially: sensitization, decision-making, literacy, poverty disease, violence, national structures for the development

of women, refugees as well as the promotion of

technologies for the development of women.

It is worth noting that the countries in the East Africa subregion had been highly mobilized for the events leading to the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing and these countries participated massively and actively at the highest national level.

It is now one year since this important gathering came to a pompous close. At this stage both women and men from the subregion should ask ourselves whether we have made step forwards towards the achievement of the recommendations and conclusions of the Beijing conference through our daily activities as well as through our national socio-economic development process by reinforcing or improving our activities and programmes that were highlighted at the Beijing conference. Do we also ask ourselves whether we simply put the numerous documents that we carried home after the Beijing Conference into the drawers of our offices! Will our actions and initiatives be still be hindered by the traditions and prejudices of yesteryears which were totally rejected during the Beijing Conference as well as during previous meetings? Women and men of our subregion let us be vigilant or else the energy that we used for the preparation and during the Beijing Conference would only serve as one step forward and two steps backwards.

The Editorial Board

Women and Developpement ■ Annual Magazine of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996
■

Women in Socio-economic Development in Eastern African and Indian Ocean Islands Subregion ■

WOMEN IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE SUBREGION OF EASTERN AFRICAN AND INDIAN OCEAN SUBREGION.

■ **Eritrea**

"The Government of Eritrea recognizes the important contribution of women in the socio-economic development of the country".

In the traditional Eritrean society women are marginalized and are the subject of discrimination both economically and socially. However, in the new and independent Eritrea women are participating actively in socio-economic life which aims at the reconstruction and development of the country. The recent national statistics confirm this fact.

In the national assembly which is the highest legislative organ in the country, 21 per cent of the members are women. Thirteen per cent of ministers are women and almost 50 per cent of the members of the constitutional Commission are women.

The active participation of women in the liberation struggle as administrators, health officials, head of section of workers, mechanics, drivers and other non-traditional career for women has contributed to the change of mentality vis à vis the status of women in Eritrea. Women can now get married freely and have the equal rights as men. The practice of bride price and dowry has been prohibited by law. Divorce procedures can be initiated by men as well as women. The land law gives every citizen the right to acquire land for the construction of a house as well as for farming on condition that the person has attained the age of 18 years irrespective of sex. A lot of women

have established their own business in Asmara the capital of the country and a growing number of business women can be found in other cities operating numerous business concerns and establishments.

In certain regions of the country women are being trained in fisheries. With the collaboration of the National Union of Eritrea Women, women are undertaking courses in veterinary sciences and are being taught about the handling and preservation of fish. Furthermore, a large number of households are run by women. This is about 37.5 per cent among the refugee population and this is taken into consideration in the PROFERI planning - "Programme for Refugees Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Resettlement Area in Eritrea" through the examination of their felt needs and an assessment of the proposed projects for the development of women.

During the liberation struggle, the role of women was obvious and it had an impact. A third of the army strength was composed of women during the first phase of the demobilization 4,500 soldiers were women. Some had children, others were divorcees and some had lost their husbands during the war.

The Government of Eritrea recognizes the important contribution of women in the economic development of the country and measures have been taken to enable them participate fully in the development of the country. The Government has also taken measures to review traditional practices and laws that are discriminatory against women. These measures which should eliminate the disparities between the sexes in Eritrea are promising for the development of women.

Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996

Women in Socio-economic Development in Eastern African and Indian Ocean Islands Subregion ■

■ KENYA

The Kenyan experience in the promotion of women in the socio-economic development of the country. Previously, development projects tended to marginalize women by isolating them from participating in development opportunities as well as participating in decision making at the national level. Furthermore, despite the contribution of women in community and local development, the projects that were implemented did not take the needs of women into consideration.

During the Plan Period 1994-1996 which is already underway the gender issue will be emphasized through the establishment and the strengthening of the information system concerning women in the key sectors such as health, agriculture, environment, population, planning and education.

The problems related to women have been taken into account in the macro-economic development of the country. The development policies include the concerns of women in the national development programmes in the key sectors that have been mentioned. These concerns are related either to the data system or to the planning process. The gender development policy as formulated by the Government should come into force during the present Plan period as a new direction for project planning as well as its implementation in various key sectors that have been mentioned above.

a) **The question of gender in agriculture, food security and nutrition**

Approximately 80 per cent of the Kenyan population live and work in the rural

areas and derive their livelihood from agriculture principally on subsistence agriculture from their family holdings. According to the survey on the rural work force which was carried out in 1988/1989 about 87 per cent of the female population in the rural areas engage mostly in agriculture as their principal economic activity but often engage in other revenue earning activities outside the farms. Women constitute 75 per cent of the work force on the small farms of whom 95 per cent of these women work on their own small farms. Rural women have two responsibilities as far as agriculture is concerned. The first is the cultivation of food crops. It is their main responsibility and they provide 80 per cent of the required work force. The second is the production of cash crops where they provide more than 50 per cent of the required work force. Furthermore, rural women engage in non-agricultural activities and account for 95 per cent of the work force providing for the maintenance of families and households.

With a view to increasing the role of women in the agricultural sector, certain measures have been taken in the 1994-1996 Development Plan. These are basically:

- To provide greater human and financial resources to research, production, storage and the processing of nutritionally important food crops as well as and the development of less labour intensive technologies to reduce the heavy burden of women on the farm;
- To improve the productive capacity of women on the farms especially through the strengthening of extension services and the provision of appropriate quantitative and qualitative inputs;
- To improve the agricultural planning and the implementation of projects for the

Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996

Women in Socio-economic Development in Eastern African and Indian Ocean Islands Subregion ■

mobilization of greater support for women considering their multiple roles as producers of food and cash crops as well as their roles in the households;

- To increase the access of women to land and increase their access to extension services to improve their participation in rural and agricultural development;

- To collect detailed information on gender by all the agricultural agencies and institutions in order to follow closely the degree of participation by women in the development of the benefits meant for them;

- To ensure that women in the agricultural sector are taken into consideration in training and development programmes on an equal footing with men;

- To ensure household food security through a balanced approach between cash crops and food crops as well as a further improvement in the extension services; and

- To institute policies to encourage collective decision making on land use, the sharing of the benefits between all couples taking into consideration the land inheritance system which discriminates against women vis à vis men.

b) Gender, education and literacy

Despite the role education plays in the socio-economic development, the role of women in education has been limited in view of the meagre resources available. Nevertheless, education is the only factor which can halt the disparities between the sexes in all sectors of development.

The overall situation, however, shows

that girls are at a disadvantage at all levels of education such as access, participation as well as opportunities to complete their education and to perform well. There is a wide gap between the sexes concerning their performance in national exams, in their choice of subjects both at the secondary and university level as well as in their choice of careers. This gap was principally due to prejudices which exist in the educational system in favour of boys. Furthermore, school materials and courses in schools for girls restrict their choice as far as scientific subjects are concerned. With regard to literacy a survey carried out by Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) in 1988 showed that certain districts had reached a literacy level above 70 per cent while others were below 40 per cent. On the other hand, while women are in the majority in most literacy classes, female literacy is far behind male literacy in almost every district. The ongoing development plan has a large number of programmes to strengthen female literacy to further enhance the education of women. The ongoing development plan seeks the following:

- To create a comprehensive data on the situation of young girls with particular emphasis on the rural and urban poor, on nomads, on school dropouts, on adolescent mothers as well as the dissemination of such data for appropriate planning;

- To initiate community mobilization and sensitization for support to young girls and in particular to impact the socio-cultural dynamics and the households and to eliminate the difference in treatment between boys and girls;

- To initiate a programme for the adequate supervision of and follow-up on school dropouts with particular reference to adolescent mothers and to pursue an immediate change in policy to facilitate their rehabilitation and return to the

Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996

Women in Socio-economic Development in Eastern African and Indian Ocean Islands Subregion ■

educational system;

- To initiate a progressive elimination of all stereo types sexual themes in the learning material and school textbooks as well as the supply of adequate learning materials;

- To accelerate the implementation of educational programmes in family life and to improve the capacity of parents and teachers to be more receptive to advice and support as well as the provision of learning materials; and

- To improve the student environment of young women and in particular the improvement of quality of work due to the introduction of advanced knowledge and adequate learning materials.

c) Gender, health and population

The crucial role of women as providers and promoters of family and community health has been recognized in the preceding development plans. In the institutions dealing with health promotion and prevention, the majority of cases treated could have been prevented at the household or by the general public and more particularly by women. All the actors at the different levels have been informed about the ways and means of preventing these diseases which have resulted in the increase in the life expectancy and the reduction in the rate of infant mortality in the country.

The status of women at birth, at the adolescent or adult age and particularly during pregnancy and maternity has a link with the prestige of future generation especially young women. The capacity of women to provide adequate nutrition and health care is crucial for the guarantee of an acceptable and desirable life style of the entire population.

d) Gender, environment and energy

The problem relating to the conservation of environment and the search for alternative source of energy to fuelwood has become so important that special emphasis has been made in the present development plan. However, any policy designed to promote sustainable environmental energy system should take into account the participation of women. Women especially those who live in the rural areas are also owners and users of the land. They are also responsible for the provision of household fire wood. The future of the environment therefore remains in their hands. The Government in collaboration with the private sector is undertaking the following activities in the present plan:

- To create greater consciousness among those who prepare development policies and those who execute development policies as well as among women, men and the general public concerning environmental issues;

- Protect the environment from man made damage, toxic waste and other natural causes through well implemented policies;

- Identify alternative energy sources; and

- Develop technologies to promote greater efficiency in the use of energy.

e) Community development and gender

The philosophy of community development is to improve the quality of life of communities by encouraging participation of its members in the pursuit of objectives to increase individual development and the achievement of socio-economic development for the community as a whole. On this basis community

Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996

Women in Socio-economic Development in Eastern African and Indian Ocean Islands Subregion ■

development programmes have been formulated for specific groups. One of the groups targeted and identified as capable of social mobilization in group activities is the Women's Group. The preceding development plans acknowledge that the activities of the women's group constitute the most significant indicator in the assessment of the participation of women in the socio-economic development of the country.

The groups serve as entry point for various Government programmes into the community especially in health, hygiene and other income-generating activities. Government subsidies and support by donors to the communities especially to rural women have been channelled through these women's groups.

The findings of the census on women's groups which was carried out in 1991 by the Women's Bureau showed that there were 23,164 groups with a total membership of 968,941 with men accounting for 11 per cent of membership. These groups are engaged in various development activities including agriculture, maize processing, handicraft, furniture making industries and water projects.

For several years women's groups have been supported by the Kenyan Government, non-governmental organizations, development agencies as well as voluntary organizations. The objectives of these preceding plan have enabled women to earn cash and to uplift their socio-economic status as well as that of their families.

At times these programmes have increased the burden of women and in some cases these programmes have focused on such development areas as economic well-being without the basic support of certain sectors such as health and transport. The development of the community has thus been treated in isolation of

the development process rather than a principal avenue for an integrated development. The objectives of the present plan for community development is to develop a coordinating process which will sustain the development of communities in the planning, implementation and assessment of the development in all the socio-economic sectors as a whole.

The strategies to attain the overall community development objective during the Plan period are:

- To improve the coordinating mechanism between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and all the other sectoral ministries, departments and divisions involved in community development;
- Ensure the availability of the staff involved in community development especially staff for multi-disciplinary sectors;
- Develop a system of popular participation in the development of programmes and projects;
- Conduct periodic studies to identify the real needs of the communities;
- Develop special and significant approaches for the development of specific community objectives of groups such as women's groups, youths as well as the aged and the handicapped.

f) Gender problems related to water and hygiene

Access to drinking water affect women directly. In the regions where water-borne and other diseases are endemic, rural women are more exposed because their work revolves around water. They fetch water particularly for

Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996

Women in Socio-economic Development in Eastern African and Indian Ocean Islands Subregion ■

the washing of clothes and farm irrigation. Access to water also affects women. They have to walk long distances in search of water. In the semi-arid and arid zones for example women and girls have to walk long-distances in search of water. Women more than men are faced with water supply problems and hygiene. They can be a strong force in the future management and maintenance of major water installations as they are the principal users.

The Kenyan objective in the planning of water supply is to provide clean and potable source of water at least within a five kilometre radius in the high- and low-potential zones in the year 2000.

In this respect, the Government, the NGOs, and donor agencies will support the efforts of the community to plan, develop, maintain and manage the water supply system. The real participation of women in water programmes will also be increased. Emphasis will be placed on the management and use of water, public health, household and personal hygiene. Great efforts will be made to increase access to safe drinking water, to the water supply systems, to wells and to the various efficient methods for water conservation. This will benefit the community and women. Indeed, women would be spared of the burden concerning the search for water, that is walking long distances and will also provide them with more time to concentrate on other productive activities. As principal user of water, women will also be exposed to water-borne diseases.

Efforts will also be made in the development of appropriate low-cost technologies especially in the construction and water sectors. These measures will also lead to savings and time-saving for women. Other programmes will lead to the provision of sewage system and other

hygiene facilities at the same time in the rural and peri-urban areas. Another planned programme is the training of personnel responsible for water development by the Ministry responsible for regional land reform and water development.

With the introduction of cost-sharing system, all the community water systems and projects will be under the supervision of their respective management committees. Under this system, women will be active participants. In order to promote low-cost in water and hygiene management, the Government is seeking support from donors and NGOs. These activities will be undertaken by the Ministry for Regional Land Reform and Water Development, the NGOs, the donor agencies as well as the local communities. The Ministry of Culture and Social Services (Women Bureau) will also ensure that gender issue is also taken into consideration.

The issue of sustainable and affordable technology is also crucial in the development of access to safe water and the removal of solid and liquid waste. Such technologies should be developed and should take into account the division of labour between men and women. The technologies that do not discriminate between men and women should enhance the reduction of the particularly heavy burden on women in the rural areas. In certain areas in Kenya for example the use of horse-cart and ox-cart for the transportation of water to households is on the increase. This change means that men are now the transfer of responsible for the transportation of water as women do not have access to horse-carts or ox-carts. The result, therefore, is that men have taken responsibility for the collection of water thereby reducing the burden of household activities on women.

Culled from: "The Development Plan of the

Republic of Kenya 1994 to 1996".

■ **Zaire**

"The daily routine of the rural women in Zaire".

a) Overall socio-economic context

The present socio-economic contexts is characterized notably by the suspension of ties between Zaire and its principal external partners and the destruction and deterioration in the factors of production which have led to the growth in unemployment in the cities. Civil servants have not been paid salaries resulting in the breakdown of the civil service. There has also been a reduction in the purchasing power of the population. The tertiary sector as well as informal and private initiative have been developed following these problems. Small businesses have also been developed in the urban sectors as well as small-scale services and in particular, vegetable gardening and small-scale stock farming.

b) Women in the cities and agriculture

A large number of women living in the urban centres took up agriculture to face up to the challenge posed by the economic crisis. The supply of vegetables in the cities such as fresh tomatoes, spinach, sorrels, amaranths etc. was done to a large extent by women farmers living in the peri urban areas. They also supply stock farm products such as live chicken, eggs, pork, goat meat and mutton. Women living in the urban areas are also in the majority in the trade involving agricultural products from both peri urban and rural areas.

c) Rural women and nutrition

Generally, the nutritional situation of the rural women has suffered greatly as a result of the socio-economic crisis that Zaire is now experiencing for more than ten years. The average daily food intake consumption is estimated at 1,800 calories per persons whereas the vital minimum required is 2,020-2,150.

The rural women in Zaire, eat basically starchy foods namely cassava, banana, maize, yams, sweet potatoes and rice to a little extent. The protein intake in the food supply comes basically from fish, beef, chicken, game, caterpillars, and other edible insects. Palm oil which is widely used is the main source of lipids.

The quality of the diet is not only dependent on household revenue but also depends on traditions and the literacy level of women. It is worthy it to note in this respect that women generally in Zaire and in particular those in the rural areas are not very literate when compared to men. Indeed, according to the final report of the national survey on the situation of children and women carried out in 1995 by the Ministry of Planning and National Reconstruction in collaboration with UNICEF, UNDP and WHO, the division of the population into five year plus age groups the level of literacy showed that in 1984, 41.7 per cent of the population of Zaire was illiterate. The illiterate population is made up of 27.9 per cent women against 13.8 per cent men. Effort therefore should be made in training in order to raise the literacy level of rural women in this country so that they can participate better and more effectively in national, socio-economic activities and to improve their nutritional and health status.

Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996

Women in Socio-economic Development in Eastern African and Indian Ocean Islands Subregion ■

d) Rural women and agriculture

Small holders produce 80 per cent of the national food crops. Most of these small holders are women who use traditional method of agriculture involving basic and rudimentary techniques. Activities such as pre-planting, planting and harvesting are generally done manually with the use of basic tools such as machetes and hoes.

The use of intermediate technology for the preparation of the soil (double cropping) was introduced in certain regions of the country notably in Bandundu, Western Kassai, Kinshasa, North and South Kivu and upper Zaire but it has not spread to other parts of the country.

The most appropriate agro-food technologies relate mainly to post planting activities notably the preservation and processing of harvested products. Simple techniques aimed at increasing work efficiency and improvement of the quality of processed and preserved products as well as the reducing the burden of women have transmitted mainly by the national extension services, the national appropriate technology services and the NGOs. These technologies are mainly cassava and other vegetable grinding machines, groundnut decorticating machine, paddy rice threshing machines, improved cooking stoves, mixers for palm oil, wooden wheel barrows for the transportation of agricultural products, maize shredders and kerosene hatchers.

Several factors account principally for the low agricultural productivity of women in Zaire. These are the low purchasing power of most Zairois, low capacity to make savings as well as the lack of credit for socio economic development activities and the inability to strengthen food security in general. These

situation has led to low capacity earnings in the rural areas and the lack of appropriate mechanisms for the mobilization of savings.

Moreover, the rural women have no access to savings and credit as the banking system operates an excessively high interest rate. Furthermore, the main criteria for the acquisition of credit is financial viability. An adequate bank guarantee for a bank loan therefore is out of the reach automatically of rural women who are low income earners. Credit and other bodies concentrate their operations on financing the marketing of the main cash crops. They only give little importance to the financing of food crop production and this is an area where rural women play an important role. According to the data provided by the report of the Bank of Zaire in 1990 credits provided for food crop production only represented 3.5 per cent of the total agricultural credit.

Socio-economic contribution and agro food productivity of rural women in Zaire have been very limited in view of their low investment capacity due to low incomes and a lack of credit. The rural women have not been able to fully develop their production potential because of low savings in rural areas, and the lack of credit and low level of training. Therefore, the productivity of rural women in Zaire is relatively very low.

The difficulties in gaining access to effective agricultural inputs (such as improved seeds, mineral fertilizers, agricultural tools, etc.) as well as constraints limiting the access of rural women to information and agricultural extension services have contributed to the maintenance of this state of affairs.

In addition to providing a large portion of basic foodstuffs to the household and the

Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of
Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996
■

Women in Socio-economic Development in Eastern
African and Indian Ocean Islands Subregion ■

community, rural women in Zaire undertake daily household activities. These are mainly caring for children and the elderly, cooking and fetching water and fire wood.

To do all these she is compelled to work for more than ten hours per day. Table No. 1 below indicates the daily routine of the rural women in Zaire.

**Table 1: Data showing the daily routine
of the rural women in Zaire**

Times	Activities
05:00 - 08:00 hrs	Domestic work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cleaning of the house and the compound - Cleaning of cooking utensils - Preparation of the first meal of the day - Caring for children and the elderly
08:00 - 08:45 hrs	Departure on foot to the farms
09:00 - 13:00 hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farm work - Related farm work - Collection of wood - Harvest - Fruit picking - Laundry on streams
13:00 - 15:00 hrs	
15:00 - 15:45 hrs	Return to the village
16:00 - 17:30 hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Domestic work - Fetching water from wells - Pounding - Sifting - Milling - Preparation of the second meal
18:00 - 19:00 hrs	Family dinner
19:00 - 20:30 hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Domestic work - Caring for children and the elderly - Other less important activities

Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996

Women in Socio-economic Development in Eastern African and Indian Ocean Islands Subregion ■

Table 1 above shows that the rural women in Zaire work an average of 10 to 15 hours a day. She works longer hours during the planting seasons and less hours during the period between planting seasons.

The daily routine of the rural women in Zaire also shows that she has little time to devote to educational or leisure activities besides Sundays. Sunday is basically a day of rest for most rural communities and it is taken up by traditional activities in the community.

The data taken from different regions of Zaire on the daily routine of rural women show that the situation differs from zone to zone in accordance with tradition and local customs. On the other hand, the routine of the rural women is also linked with the physical environment in which she lives, her professional activities, the level of training of members of her family as well as the scope of socio-cultural and trade activities in her region. It is also worthy to mention that the daily routine of the rural women in Zaire is also influenced by the agricultural calendar and by the change of planting season as outlined above. On planting seasons, it should be noted that Zaire is situated very near to the equator. Thus, the part of the country situated on the northern hemisphere has two planting seasons (season a: from February to July and season b: from August to January). The part of the country situated in southern hemisphere also has two planting seasons (season a: from August to January and season b: from February to July).

Taken from: "The Survey on Strengthening Food Security for Women in the rural areas of Zaire. ECA/MULPOC-Gisenyi, July 1996".

■ Ethiopia

Identification of NGOs and Projects Implementing Women Activities for the Socio-Economic Development: A review of selected NGO's implementing projects for women and children.

Prepared by: Women Affairs Department Prime Minister's Office of The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

1. NGOs and ethiopian women promotion

It is well known that women and children constitute the major portion of the Ethiopian Population. When we consider the situation of women, particularly their income, we will find out that they are engaged in tiresome and low paid activities such as fetching water, collecting of firewood from a distance, cleaning etc... In the rural areas, although women contribute more in terms of labour, they have no right to own nor manage property. Even those who are employed are getting low pay because the majority are hired as low level workers due to cultural and traditional practices which hinder them from exercising their rights as equals to men.

Starting from May, 1991, the Government of Ethiopia has been doing its best to ease the political, economic and cultural problems of women by supporting Women in their efforts to improve their status. Accordingly, women's Affairs departments have been established in all government offices. A National Policy on Women has also been issued. Moreover, attention was given to Women's issues internationally.

Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996 ■

Women in Socio-economic Development in Eastern African and Indian Ocean Islands Subregion ■

The Government of Ethiopia has also issued a policy on disaster prevention and management which aims at addressing the root causes of vulnerabilities to disasters. For the implementation of this policy, the government had already established strategies that have changed the essence and the direction of previously existing relief management practices.

The main aim of this new policy is helping the community to develop culture of self-reliance rather than dependency. In order to achieve this goal, the government directs those relief implementing NGOs, both Indigenous and International, to focus on sustainable developmental activities through linking relief to development. Both Relief and Development Oriented NGOs are expected to support the government in its endeavours to manage disasters. The Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC), the responsible governmental organization mandated to ensure implementation of the policy, has prepared a guideline for NGO's operation, and evaluates their activities as per the guideline. The guideline, among others, encourages NGOs to incorporate Gender issues into their projects since women and their children are the first victims of disasters whenever and wherever they occur.

2. Objectives of NGO's

Several NGOs are now designing projects in which Gender issues are included. In most cases their objectives are identical regarding women. The following are the most commonly observed objectives in the projects of the NGOs considered for this review:

- i) To increase women's family income by increasing working capital;

- ii) To establish saving and credit schemes;
- iii) To promote the production of indigenous traditional crafts;
- iv) To provide skill training of various types;
- v) To reduce the involvement of women in environmentally destructive economic activities; and
- vi) To reduce the work load of women.

To implement these objectives, the following inputs are made available by NGOs:

- i) Provision of grinding mills, bakery, sewing and knitting machines and seed capital to business groups;
- ii) Money for the purchase of goat, poultry etc.,
- iii) Provision of capital and skills training for initiating credit and savings schemes.

3. Ongoing activities of NGOs with particular reference to Ethiopian Gemini Trust and Good Shepherd Family Care Service

Non-governmental Organization involve either in development or relief oriented activities. In both cases, they are supporting the Government's policy on Disaster Prevention and Management. According to their objectives, they give special attention to sustainable

economic activities so that the society, particularly women, can become self-reliant through their participation in the several programmes designed to address their problems.

"The application of gender analysis to a wide range of policies and programmes is therefore, critical to poverty reduction strategies.

Moreover, since women's issues have now become an international concern, the Government as well as NGOs are working towards strengthening women's all rounded capacity. To minimize poverty and gender inequality, NGOs address gender related programs through awareness creation, giving loans for credit and saving groups, horticulture, petty trading, provision of grinding mills, sewing machines, encourage traditional handicrafts and related services to ease women's workload and increase their productivity.

Projects: Ethiopian Gemini Trust

i) **Project Title: Integrated urban Development Programme for Destitute Mothers with Twins**

Project Location: Region 14, W/3 Keb. 47
No. of Beneficiaries: 800 Mothers with their families
Beneficiaries residence region 14 and surroundings.

"The greatest gift you can offer someone in the third world is the ability to earn their own living". The aim of Gemini Trust is to support poor families with twins and triples. To this end, the project is implementing income generating activities such as spice processing, jewellery making, basket and mattress production, together with bazaar sales and market research. Besides these activities, Gemini provides the following facilities for the

beneficiaries:

- Food for breast feeding mothers and their children;
- Health care for whole families;
- Materials to school children (books, clothing and day care facilities); and
- Upgrading of residential areas.

By gaining access to credit, the parents of twins are developing positive attitudes towards saving, and are motivated and encouraged to get involved in decision-making.

Since 1993, the management committee has set a criteria for the discharge of families who can earn their own living. Accordingly, 40 mothers have now become self-reliant and are loading their own lives. However, the project still provides health services to these families and continued support to their children, till they complete grade 12. School enrolment data of such children is given in the Table No. 2 below.



"An exemplary form of participation at Mauritius. Faced with external competition, the textile industry should increase both effectiveness and efficiency". ■ Afrique Relance UN, Vol. 9 No 3; November 1995. Africa wants to progress from crisis management to strategic long term planning. ■

Table 2: Ethiopian Gemini Trust

Scholastic Year	No. of twins			No. of children			Total
	Male	Female	Sub- Total	Male	Female	Sub Total	
1989-90 (1982 EC)	60	52	112	290	240	530	642
1990-91 (1983 EC)	80	63	143	330	280	610	753
1991-92 (1984 EC)	112	85	197	307	295	602	799
1992-93 (1985 EC)	155	140	197	300	281	581	876
1993-94 (1986 EC)	208	191	399	355	335	690	1089
1994-95 (1987 EC)	249	213	462	393	382	775	1237
1995-96 (1988 EC)	291	260	551	359	344	703	1254

N.B. The number of twins reaching school age is increasing every year.

Furthermore, the project had provided vocational training to six girls who have been trained in the crafting of new ethnic jewellery, and to two boys trained in electricity and auto-mechanics. One other boy obtained a 3rd Grade Driving Licence. One mother was trained in home care.

Among the products, baskets and jewellery are exported to OXFAM-CANADA and spices to OXFAM/UK. Gemini is planning to discharge those who would become self-reliant in due course and accept new members.

ii) Good Shepherd Family Care Service

Location: Region 14 Wo. 13 Keb. 03, 06, 08, 09

No. of beneficiaries: 1,400 children and 1,400 mothers

Although the objective of the project is to support destitute children, it has expanded its support towards mothers and is providing effective service and care to their children. A total of 1400 children and their mothers are

Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996

Women in Socio-economic Development in Eastern African and Indian Ocean Islands Subregion ■

benefiting from the project run by the Good Shepherd Family Care Service.

This organization supports mothers mainly through skills training of various types and provision of credit to enable the beneficiaries to earn their own income from the sale of their products.

In line with the above:

- i) 12 mothers are managing 3 Grinding Mills to share from the profits obtained by collecting milling charges;
- ii) 12 mothers are given 1 Bakery to bake bread, sell and share the profit thereof;
- iii) 20 Electric Injera Baking Ovens were provided for 30 mothers who are now selling Injera for Hospitals;
- iv) 10 mothers are trained in operating Sewing Machines and are providing service within the project centre;
- v) 20 are trained in metal work and are working within the centre;
- vi) 20 are trained in wood work;
- vii) 13 mothers are engaged in Horticulture;
- viii) 1283 are organized and have access to credit and saving schemes.

Besides these activities, the project had opened a Kindergarten and a Day Care Centre for babies to ease the workload of mothers by providing care to their children. Mid-wifery Training, Medical, Clean Water services and construction of latrines are additional activities of the project.

In conclusion, it can be said that, although they differ in the degree and type of service they provide, all NGOs considered for this review are performing one or more of the activities discussed above towards increasing the productivity of women.

4. LIST OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. Rift Valley Children and women Development - Anano Women Integrated income generating and credit programme;
2. World Vision International - Ethiopia Community Based Integrated Rural Development;
3. Christian Children's Fund;
4. World Art Union - Ethiopia Mother and Child Community Based Integrated project in the town of AKAKI;
5. Menshen Fur Menschen - Illubabor Women Development Programme - Merhabete Women Development Programme;
6. Terre Des Homes - programme for income generating activities for women in disrupted family project;
7. Lutheran World Federation Women development programme under community development programmes;
8. Ethiopian Gemini Trust;
9. Good Shepherd Family Care Service Health Child Focused Community Development;

Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of
Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996
■

Women in Socio-economic Development in Eastern
African and Indian Ocean Islands Subregion ■

- | | |
|--|---|
| 10. Hope Enterprises; | 16. Harvest Family support Organization
Rehabilitation and Development; |
| 11. Integrated Holistic Approach urban
Development; | 17. Hope for Children & Family Support
Organization Healths, Children and
family Support; |
| 12. Women Empowerment and Assistance
Forum; | 18. Integrated Family Service Organization
Child Welfare; |
| 13. Women Aid; | 19. Rural Community Water Development
Organization Water Development; |
| 14. Amhara Women's Development
Association Women's Support; | 20. Women & Children Development
Organization Development Social
Service; |
| 15. Daughters of charity Urban
Development; | |



"Refugees children in the Kebri Baye Camp receiving protein-rich food. These children are numerous in Africa, especially in the Subregion of the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Subregion. Firstly health care, education, family life, protection, minimum food ration etc... have become a far away dream for them. Is this the future that their ancestors promised them???" ■ Africa NO 96 II-1996 Refugees. HCR ■

21. Women for Development & Environment Rehabilitation Development; and
22. Women in Development Integration of women in development.

■ **Ethiopie**

"Food For Hard Time"

**Prepared by Ms. KEBKABE
TAFESSE**

In Ethiopia different root crops are grown besides other food plants. The immense size of the country, the size of the population and its distribution in the country are big factors for variety of food crops, root crops and other food items availability in the country. These are the reasons for variety of feeding habits of the population.

Moreover, the climatical variation, the topography, the types of soil, endows the country with rich vegetation and plants and food crops. The variety in climatical conditions have allowed for the production of a large kinds of cereals, legumes, fruits and vegetables including root crops on suitable soil and depending on availability of rain any other water from different sources.

During food scarcity and during the persistent drought that came in periodically, variety of root crops which could grow with little rain or otherwise which can grow with small irrigable water were tried and grown in the areas usually where root crops were the staple food besides in new areas where drought has caused scarcity of food this can be reliable sources of food.

During the last droughts in this country root-crops such as "ensete" (false banana plant) sweet potatoes, cassava and other root-crops were grown widely and these crops were consumed in combination with other food items such as green leafy vegetables, cereals, meat and cheese depending on the kinds of root crops and during an occasion when the type of special food is consumed. The root crop grows well in semi-arid areas. The people that use root crops as their staple food have developed variety of way of food preparation. The usage is also confined to the limited areas where root crops are usually grown on. Since this root crops needs just enough water, it was very crucial to grow them where rain was getting scarce and where drought was occurring in the highlands of the country periodically to remedy cereal food shortage. Root crops are high in calories, root crops were used in combination with cereals in the highland where the usage was demonstrated. While the agriculture experts tried to grow sweet potatoes "ensete" (false banana plant) cassava and other root crops in the areas where only cereals were grown as staple food, the home economists working in the agriculture ministry developed a new recipe for "Injera" which is the staple food for the highlanders, "injera" is a lever thin flat bread prepared usually out of cereal flour such as "Teff", wheat, barley corn and sorghum.

The major food preparation of the root crops are done in selecting ripe sweet potatoes, cassava or other root crops, peeling the root crops, selecting them, drying them on the sun and either grinding them or pounding them to get flours. The flour then is stored in dry containers. Cereals flowers could be prepared at the same time and when the need arises a large proportion of the root-crops flours could be mixed with little cereal flour and made into fermented thick dough for two to three days when it is ready the dough is thinned with water

Women and Developpement ■ Annual Magazine of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996

Women in Socio-economic Development in Eastern African and Indian Ocean Islands Subregion ■

to the consistency required for making 'Injera' and baked on clay plate or thick iron plat. This

The root crops were used to make the sauce and other food items also. Besides alleviating the scarcity of food, preservation methods were demonstrated in areas where the root crops were generally eaten or where they had just been introduced.

can be consumed with different kinds of source of vegetable or meat. Unfermented thick dough can be prepared and baked for normal bread.

This was a strategy used to introduce root crops in areas where the drought was severe and the rain was insufficient to grow cereals and legumes.



"Collecting fire wood in Mali. The needs of the local communities should be taken into account in any environmental planning". ■ Afrique Relance UN. Vol. 9 No 3; November 1995 Africa wants to progress from crisis management to strategic long-term planning. ■

**Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine
of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■
December 1997 ■**

**National Structures for the Development of Women
in Eastern African and Indian Ocean Islands
Subregion ■**

INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT IN THE EAST AFRICAN SUBREGION AND THE INDIAN OCEAN: NATIONAL STRUCTURES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN

■ Burundi

In Burundi the Government and private organization have set up a number of structures for the development of women in Burundi. These are mainly:

- The Ministry Responsible for Women's Affairs. This Ministry however lacks financial and human resources to carry out its functions;
- Union of Burundese Women - its activities focuses on the integration of women in politics, the integration of women in socio-economic development as well as the improvement of the legal status of women; and
- Non-governmental organizations - They are more than ten promoting the development of women and their integration into the socio-economic life of the country.

■ Eritrea

The Government of Eritrea recognizes the major contribution of women in the socio-economic development of the country. Certain measures have been taken to enable them participate fully in the national development process. Furthermore, the Union of Eritrean Women aims at increasing female literacy in the country.

■ Ethiopia

Conscious of the important role that women play in the socio-economic development of the country, the Government has established a Ministry Responsible For Women Affairs in the Prime Minister's Office and a Department of Women's Affairs in the Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation. Furthermore, a Plan of Action for the Development of Ethiopian Women was formulated and it is being implemented.

■ Kenya

The Government of Kenya has formulated a policy for the development of women which is already operational under the present development plan of the country. This policy serves as a framework for project and programme planning for key national development sectors.

■ Uganda

Uganda has established a Ministry for Women's Affairs, Culture and Youths. It is responsible for the promotion of women's affairs.

■ Rwanda

Several structures exist for the promotion of women although they are not functional at the moment because of the socio-economic and political situation prevailing in the country.

They are mainly the Ministry responsible for the Family and Development of

**Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine
of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■
December 1997 ■**

**National Structures for the Development of Women
in Eastern African and Indian Ocean Islands
Subregion ■**

Women which was established in 1992. This Ministry has regional offices to sensitize the population on development issues related to the family and women.

- Non-governmental organizations are assisting women to improve their status and conditions. They are multidisciplinary and their programme of activities cover several areas such as health sanitation, sewage, environment, agriculture and small-scale stock farming, handicrafts, entrepreneurship, credit and savings, training and counselling, technology, legal support, cultural and artistic activities, etc.

■ **Zaire**

Several structures have been established for the development of women in Zaire. These are basically the General Secretariat for the Family which is under the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Family and National Solidarity.

The secretariat is responsible for the coordination of all activities related to the development of women and their integration in the socio-economic development of the country. Several agencies and specialized services have been established to this effect including the regional and provisional offices which are coordinated by the general secretariat.

- There are focal points responsible for the development of women in the technical ministries. These focal points work in close collaboration with the general secretariat mentioned above.
- There are non-governmental organizations promoting the development of women in Zaire. The priority of these organizations - and there are over six hundred - is literacy and the reduction of the work load of women specially rural women to enable them participate more actively in the socio-economic development of the country.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN ATTACKED OR BADLY TREATED

- Go immediately to the hospital or health post for a medical examination
- Do not hesitate to reveal the identity of your attacker
- Report the matter to the police station in the area where the attack took place
- If you fear for your personal security you can leave your home, the law will protect you if you have valid reasons to do so
- Do not hesitate to seek the support of the police whenever it is necessary
- Speak out against ill-treatment and exercise your rights under the law
- If you fail to do so it means contributing to the maintenance of injustice in our society

Silence is golden

Where there is no appeal, there is no action

**Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine
of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■
December 1996 ■**

Health and Education ■

Health and education

■ Eritrea

"The illiteracy rate among women in Eritrea is 90 per cent".

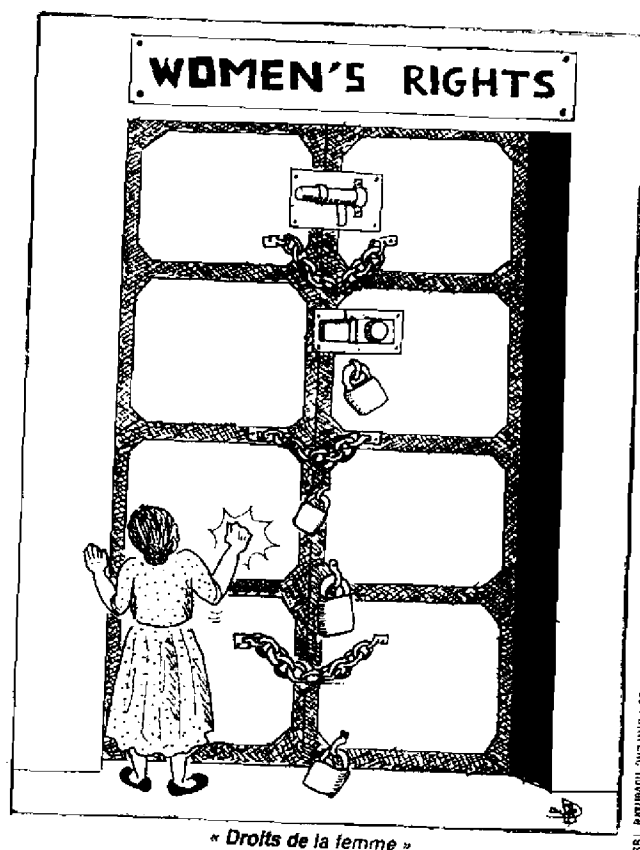
In Eritrea illiteracy rate is by far higher among women which is estimated at about 90 per cent according to certain estimates. This disparity is found throughout the educational subsector. The rate of school drop out for girls is also higher than that of boys. In 1994 it was pointed out that the number of girls in primary schools was 92536 that is 44 per cent of the total enrolment; 14652 that is 44.7 per cent for the first part of high school and 13324 that is 40 per cent for the second cycle of secondary school.

■ Kenya

"In Kenya there is no obvious sign of discrimination in the education system, but the female school going population is only 45 per cent of the total student population in secondary schools".

Generally, school enrolment in Kenya has increased about 4 per cent in 1994. This increase did not reach the level recorded in 1992. It represents a significant increase considering the decline of 4 per cent in 1993. The principal changes by type of school comes basically from a growth of 17 per cent of school enrolment in the secondary school and a slight increase of pupils in the primary schools. Although, there are no precise indicators on any major discrimination against girls, it is to be pointed out that girls are more likely to drop out from school than boys. As a result, the female

enrolment is only 45 per cent of the total number of pupils in the secondary schools, only citing this as an example.



« Droits de la femme »

Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine
of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■
December 1996 ■

Health and Education ■

■ Uganda

"Social indicators in comparative framework".

Uganda's total fertility rate of 7.3 is the fourth highest among 120 countries studied by the World Bank. It is almost twice the average, 3.8, of the generally low income countries. Out of 25 developing countries on which a population and health survey was conducted towards the end of 1980s, Uganda is the only country whose downward fertility trends were not pointed out. The total desired fertility rate was estimated at 6.5. This high rate is not surprising considering the low level of female education (only 19 per cent of women completed primary school) which provides a good reason for controlling fertility. However, the analysis indicates that about 11 per cent of fertility is unwanted.

The gross mortality rate of 20 out of 1,000 is about the double of the average of the generally low income countries. Reflecting the high mortality rate, including the impact of AIDS, life expectancy at birth was expected to have dropped to 42.7 years during the period 1990-1995 as against 53 years in 1992, which is the lowest on the 1990 estimates of all other countries according to World Bank data.

Among the indicators of child health and nutrition, the child mortality rate has probably dropped by 15 per cent between 1965 and 1985. But, it may have risen as a result of the impact of AIDS on newly born infants, thus going back to the 1965 level. In most countries, infant mortality was recorded after a long term substantial decline. However, for Uganda, this infant mortality rate currently stands at 70 per cent, a rate which is higher than the average of the low income countries. The population and health survey conducted from 1988 to 1989 in

this country, revealed that 45 per cent of children surveyed showed anomalies in weight considering age, or the retarded growth resulting from chronic malnutrition. Anthropometrical measures reflected unbalanced nutrition due the food insecurity of households and food indigestion resulting from an infection or from such two factors at the same time.

In education, primary school attendance rate is 71 per cent of the whole and only 63 per cent for girls. In the secondary school, this rate is 13 per cent on the whole and only 7 per cent for girls.

The interregional variation in social indicators are not very significant. However, according a comparative analysis on the mortality rate of children below 5 years, the best area in Uganda is classified before the worst province of Kenya. From the point of view of the retarded growth dimension, the best area of Uganda still falls below all districts of Kenya, with the exception of two of the said districts. In short, Uganda's social indicators are appallingly low. Health indicators, in particular, are amongst the worst in the world. These negative social indicators reflect, at the same time, the low level of human existence and the constraints that Uganda must overcome by investing in "human resource" in order to attain long-term sustained and sustainable growth.

In considering its sectoral social strategies, it will be important for the Government to bear in mind, the interrelations with the social indicators. Women education is a negative correlation with fertility, infant mortality and malnutrition. The higher fertility rate and hence, the poor spacing of births, has an adverse effect on the health of mother and child. Fertility also has a negative effect on

**Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine
of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■
December 1996 ■**

Health and Education ■

female education as adolescent pregnancies lead to school drop-outs, and girls must stay at home to take care of their little brothers and sisters.

Beyond the medium-term, the high fertility rate increases rapidly the number of children of school-going age, thereby aggravating the problem of the quality of and accessibility to education. The high mortality rate of infants and children of tender age should encourage couples to have a desirable number of surviving children who are born, grow and are educated under the best conditions. The high adult mortality rate also causes problems to surviving relatives expected to keep the children in school.

When all these interrelations are taken into account, it appears that the efficiency of efforts to tackle the deficient individual social sectors (education, health and family planning), will increase, provided such efforts are supported by additional actions to be carried out in other relating sectors of the country.

Culled from: "Uganda Social Sector Strategy, Volume 1: The main report: April 6, 1993 - Report No. 10765 - UG - Document of the World Bank".

■ Ethiopia

"A GLANCE AT THE SITUATION OF ETHIOPIAN WOMEN'S HEALTH"

A woman's health status is a national as well as an individual welfare concern because it also affects the next generation.

Women's health has a strong impact on that of children they bear and raise. Therefore

the improvement of women's health is the surest means of improving development.

The overall development process especially of the third world has failed to recognize women's contribution. Development endeavour which aimed at benefiting the society should have made women equal participants and beneficiaries. There are practical obstacles hindering women's involvement on equal basis with men in social development activities. The political, social and economic hinderance of women neither studied nor removed. Thus, women are poor in every aspect of development.

Women in many societies have many roles but often only one, their role in reproduction is recognized, and even in that they can expect little support. They must struggle to reconcile activities outside the home with their traditional roles. They can not participate fully in economic and public life, have limited access to positions of influence and power, and have narrower occupational choices and lower learning than men. Too often, they have little or no voice in decisions made in or outside the house hold. Such inequalities affect our development because they are affecting almost half of our population i.e. women. (According to the recent census 48.8 per cent of the Ethiopian population is women).

Health is among the most important development sectors. Health is a fundamental human right which is still denied to many women throughout the world.

More than half a million women die in each year and 90 per cent of them are from developing countries.

Medical, surgical, gynaecological as well

**Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine
of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■
December 1996 ■**

Health and Education ■

as the obstetric complications with which health professionals are highly concerned are the visible signs of the deeper problems that put women at risk of death and injury. The deep rooted problems are mostly related to women's low socio and economic status. Surprisingly enough no single health professionals curriculum does include a subject matter to address these problems. Even in mentioning social issues the issue of women in development is unfortunately overlooked.

The solutions are rarely clear or simpler. They are more complicated in poor society. But in the long run, doing something about them can save the lives of many women as well as the life of our development.

1. Root causes for poor health of women

Women often have fewer rights under traditional laws and have little control over money or other resources. Much of the women's work, however, is unpaid and is not included in economic statistics. Women usually dominate the informal economic sector, they tend to be in low-wage positions.

Many studies usually reveal the same truth. For instance a recent women employee situational analysis conducted at the Ministry of Health has shown that 50 per cent of the women working in the Ministry of Health are under the category of custodial and manual these women are engaged in labours activities with less payment. On the contrary, the number of moderately and highly educated women was not more than 20 per cent of the total women employee.

In the process of socialization there are two types of differences observed between women and men as sex difference and gender difference.

Socialization is literally defined as a dynamic process by which human beings are living together to share and exchange what they are gaining from the society. In turn society expects each member to contribute. Society imposes norms, values and laws to be accepted and respected by members of the society.

Sex is the physical and biological difference between women and men.

It simply refers to whether people are born female or male.

- eg:-
- Men can impregnate
 - Women can bear children
 - Sex can not be changed
 - Sex addresses identify
 - Sex is God made

Gender refers to the culturally determined expectation people have from some one because they are female or male.

- eg.:
- Women as a group enjoy fewer advantages and work longer hours than men
 - The house hold chores are merely given to women.
 - Women face numerous obstacles in order to hold positions of high authority.
 - They face threats and violence just because they are women.
 - Men are seen as naturally superior to women and have the major decision making power

**Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine
of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■
December 1996 ■**

Health and Education ■

every where.

- **Menopause ruling class, control the law, education, religion, medicine, agriculture, business, police, army and political organization.**

Gender is society made. Gender roles are not static but are dynamic and subject to change.

Gender differences contribute to women's poor health. The amount of money women can spend on their necessities are limited. Women have no say on essential issues related to their lives eg. health. It could be the husbands or elders who decide for women.

2. Health problems affecting women exclusively or predominantly during the life cycle

a. Infancy and childhood (0-9 years)

When most Ethiopian rural couples desire to have a baby after marriage, their first choice by large is to get a baby boy. Parents can state many reasons for that. In general, female infants are not readily welcomed by their parents. The issue of male preference in most societies of Ethiopia is considered normal and is let to open discussion in families. The discrimination sometimes is beyond this; and social studies are exposing dreadful events taking place in some part of the world.

Selective abortions after amniotic fluid synthesis and ultrasound examinations are performed so as to eliminate female foetuses from their mothers womb. Infanticide, in its extreme form of cruelty is practised to get rid of female infants immediately at birth.

In most African societies, including ours, the first birth day reception of male babies greatly differs from the reception of female babies. Family members are fully felicitous when ever male babies are born. For example:

eg:-

- i) ILELTA, of Ethiopian women:- done seven times for males and only three times for females; and
- ii) Number of shooting heard to celebrate the birth of a baby boy and express the happiness for getting hero to succeed a father of a family.

According to some studies and observations, the puerperal care provided to mothers having male babies is much better when compared to mothers who give birth to female babies. Such disparities are having negative impacts on the psychological make up of female babies and those mothers.

In places where female infants are unwanted due to various reasons like cultural, religious and social reasons they are deliberately undernourished.

Girls are born with certain inherent biological advantages that make them less vulnerable to childhood diseases than boys. However, discrimination in the treatment of girls can negate their innate biological advantages.

Thus, in many developing countries girls are in poorer health than boys because of inadequate nutrition and health care. Sexual abuse or female genital mutilation (FGM) during childhood also increases the likelihood of poor physical and mental health in later years.

**Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine
of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■
December 1996 ■**

Health and Education ■

Each year an estimated two million young girls are subjected to female genital mutilation or circumcision. Female genital mutilation is a traditional practice in which part or all of the external reproductive organs of the female are removed.

There are three forms of FGM performed in Ethiopia:

- i) The tip of the clitoris is cut off (mildest form);
- ii) The entire clitoris and part of the outer lips of the vagina are removed; and
- iii) In the most extreme form after the clitoris and lips of the vagina are cut off, the opening of the vagina is sewn together, leaving only a small hole through which menstrual blood can escape.

This painful practice may be performed on baby girls, girls reaching puberty, adolescents, and sometimes on grown women right before or after they deliver a baby.

It is usually performed without anaesthesia, using unclean instruments. If the victim does not die immediately from shock due to severe bleeding, she may well die from the infection that often follows. If she survives, she is likely to suffer permanently from painful sexual intercourse because of heavy scarring around the vaginal opening. The scars can also cause serious difficulties during delivery.

Different people give various reasons for carrying out FGM:

- i) To enhance the sexual pleasure of the man;
- ii) To reduce the sexual desire of the women and ensure that she is faithful to her husband; and
- iii) In some cultures women who has not had this operation is considered "Unmarriageable".

b) Adolescence (10-19 years)

Girls at early age are discriminated in many ways. Their work load and labour exploration is higher compared to boys. They are discriminated in play. There are various discipline stimulations at home and in the community upon girls.

It is a tradition in many families for men and boys eat first and have the best part of the meal. If the family is poor this often means that girls and women don't get enough to eat especially of the foods that help them grow and gain strength. As a result some girls don't grow as big as they could be. When women are small and especially if their hips are narrow, labour can be difficult and they may not be able to deliver a baby safely.

Adolescent girls who are fed inadequately during child hood may have stunted growth, leading to high risk of complications during child birth.

Heavy work load begins at a young age, girls are usually working hard by the age of seven or eight. Cleaning, cooking, fire wood collecting and fetching water are routine duties of young girls.

**Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine
of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■
December 1996 ■**

Health and Education ■

Over work in combination with malnutrition results in sickness and less time to attend school.

Young girls are usually occupied with household chores and similar family responsibilities. Even if girls are sent to school their performance is gradually decreasing. The number of female student dropout is always on the increase.

When school fees are high, many families are reluctant to spend money on educating girls. Some parents either that the topics taught in school are not useful or appropriate for girls or they may be afraid that the girls will be exposed to "Wrong ways" if they attend schools.

In many instances education priority is to boys than girls. Many reasons can be stated to justify this situation:

Education of women and girls contributes to postponement of the age of marriage. Early marriage carries risks to the health and future of a girl.

Women in Africa tend to marry at a very young age. Often they are married by age 16-17 and in some areas by age 12-13. In Ethiopia there are places where girls marry and are committed to marriage at the age of 8 and 10. Linear growth is not complete until age 18 and the birth canal does not reach nature size until two-three years later.

The hazardous consequences of early marriage in Ethiopia are witnessed by the situation of young girls constantly admitted in fistula hospital to undergo surgery for repair.

The reasons for early marriage are many:

- If a girl's family is poor her parents may be eager to receive bride price. Sometimes early marriage is encouraged;
- To avoid the risk of an illegitimate birth.

Rape and abuse of young girls and adolescents is common, although rarely reported. Premarital pregnancies and committing illegal (criminal) abortions are the common causes for deaths of young girls. These deaths are usually caused by infection, bleeding and HIV/AIDS.

c) Reproductive years 20-44 (adult hood)

Mother's status is the most challenging status of women. Often, women are not consulted when decisions are being made about the family or the community.

Men usually make the major decisions about where to live and what to buy. In many countries a women may not be able to get services from a family planning clinic or even a health centre without permission from her husband. In most communities, committees made up only of men decide about such things as whether a water pump should be installed or a clinic is to be built.

Therefore, women's needs and preferences are neglected, and their knowledge and experience are not used to help guide decisions in the community. There are many diseases and injuries that affect women as well as men. Sometimes women are more likely to

**Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine
of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■
December 1996 ■**

Health and Education ■

get a certain disease because of the type of work they do. Women may be more likely to get malaria and schistosomiasis because much of their work requires them to be near water sources. Women are also more vulnerable than men to certain infections such as STDs.

Many women don't know the signs of serious illnesses or they just accept that pain and discomfort are their normal way of life. Even if they do know the symptoms, they may not have time to pay attention to themselves.

Undernutrition makes people weak and vulnerable to diseases. Women are not most likely to suffer from these problems. Women have different nutritional need once they begin menstruating, and especially when they are pregnant.

50 - 80 per cent of pregnant women are anaemic. Malnourished women suffer more complications like infection, severe bleeding, premature labour having small or underweight babies. 1.6 per cent infants born in Africa are dangerously under weight i.e. they are 2.5 kg. or below.

Violence against women is common throughout the world. Studies have found that between 25 and 60 per cent of women say that they have been beaten, raped, or abused by their husbands or sexual partners. The violence has many consequences: Some die, others suffer from broken bones, miscarriages and other injuries.

The majority of the women are illiterate. They are jobless and economically dependent. Educated women improve their health and that of their children. The more education a woman has, the more likely she is to

make the right decision concerning health services.

E.g. Take measures to prevent disease by following the principles of proper personal and environmental sanitation and by avoiding harmful traditional practices. Education enables women to respond to opportunities, to challenge their traditional roles, and to change their life circumstances towards improvement.

Educated women pass on their knowledge to their peers and other family members, particularly their daughters, thereby multiplying the effects of their own education many-fold. An African educator said many years ago:

"Educate a man, and you will educate an individual; educate a woman and you will educate a nation".

Female education has been found to have a more significant impact on poverty reduction and the promotion of sustainable development, by influencing family size and female labour force participation. Education also enhances a woman's sense of her own health needs and perspectives; and her power to make health and family planning decisions. Education enables a woman to be more assertive and questioning in her dealings with health care and family planning personnel, with commensurate personal and family benefits. Moreover, women are more likely to seek appropriate care and have fewer children and are less likely to begin having children when they are very young, educated women are less likely to die or suffer ill health during pregnancy and child bearing.

Many Ethiopian women suffer from poor sanitation, inadequate water and indoor air pollution. Because of poor ventilation, toxic

**Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine
of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■
December 1996 ■**

Health and Education ■

smokes accumulate in houses giving some women affected respiratory systems and diseased eyes. For example women in red eyes somewhere in Tanzania considered to be witches and are butchered mercilessly because many people believe in this myth.

Much work means less time and go to health facilities and less time to join a cooperative women's group. Staying in good health requires time, attention and information, as well as money; many women don't have enough of any of these things.

How much respect a women receives depends largely on how many children she has. Her status is getting higher due to that she has children but not due to that she is an equal human being. The desire for status can lead women continue having children.

**d) Post reproductive years (45 years)
old age**

One into five women in developing countries will be 50 years or older. The cumulative effect of a life time Nutritional deprivation, hazardous and heavy work, continuous child bearing and low self esteem leaves old women both physically and mentally frail. Most of the health problems affecting women at this age are chronic infectious injuries, cancer and depression.

Tuberculosis, loss of visual acuity, osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, menopause which leads to alteration in the skeletal, cardiovascular, nervous system. The health problems of post menopause women, however, continue and be largely ignored.

According to press release WHO/19,

7th March 1994 the following is documented.

Depression is the mental health problem most often found among women in many developed countries. It occurs more often in married women and increases with the number of children. Studies show that work outside the home increases a women's psychological distress if there is no access to child care and she alone is responsible for her child, but employment reduces depression where child care is accessible and the husband shares in it.

Women suffer more mental health problem than men do, says a new document of the WHO. The document calls for greater recognition of women's vulnerability to mental ill health due their unequal socio-economic status and the stresses they face as a result.

Women are much more likely to be admitted to mental health facilities than men are. If on the one hand, it appears that women are "disproportionately affected" by problems of mental health, on the other hand, the document underlines that this is connected to factors such as social roles and not to an innate female inability to cope. Mental disorder is generally associated with situations of alienation, powerlessness and poverty problems more acutely experienced by women than by men.

Situations that society accepts as normal; may often lead to mental health problems in women. They not only respond to stress differently than men do, but their social roles - as wife, mother, daughter, employee, carer of others and bearer and nurturer of children put them at greater risk of stress. The authors conclude that "there are sufficient causes in current social arrangements to account for the surfeit of depression and anxiety experienced by

**Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine
of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■
December 1996 ■**

Health and Education ■

women".

Old women are usually helpless. In some places they are forced to leave their original homes to live as beggars.

3. Conclusions

Social problems are expanded due to many reasons. Measures have been taken to minimize the expansions. A multi directional move in order to raise the community awareness towards the issue of gender disparity and its impact on our development is not given a due consideration. The commitment from the government side as well as the global attention is encouraging. Health professionals in particular are solely responsible to bring about the required behavioral change of the community on the issue of health and closely related social issues.

An attempt has been made neither to introduce life cycle approach nor to separately address the problems of women's health up until the present time.

The issue of women's health has been masked so long under the issue of family Health and the health of children. Sufficient studies and researches have not been conducted and relevant and timely data can not be generated. Information on women's health is seriously scarce. The health problem solving intervention under estimate the women to be the focus. The traditional problem solving approach towards the health of women must be replaced by effective methods. The obstacles women face in their daily lives and the impact on their health situation need to be investigated.

Reference:

- (a) A World Bank Publication, A New Agenda for Women's Health and Nutrition. Development in practice series;
- (b) Zewede Abegas, Gender and Development Lecture note, 1994 UNICEF; and
- (c) Health and Health Related Indicators 1995. Ministry of Health, Ethiopia.

Prepared by:

Ms. Yegomawork Gossaye Gizaw: RN. BSc. Expert, Department of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Health, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



"Increased access to water is one of the priorities in the special Initiative for Africa" ■ Afrique Relance
UN Vol 10 No 2, October 1996. Special Issue of the New Agenda: Africa and its Partners seek to
intensify their development cooperation ■

Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine
of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■
December 1996 ■

Health and Education ■

■ Education in the East African
subregion and Indian Ocean.

"Enrolment at the first level of education
(Primary School)".

Table No. 34: School enrolment at the first
level of Education in Eastern African and
Indian Ocean Islands Subregion

Country	Number enrolled		
	Boys	Girls	Total
Burundi	377	295	672
Comoros	41	34	75
Djibouti	19	14	33
Ethiopia	2,037	1,339	3,376
Kenya	3,007	2,874	5,881
Madagascar	819	777	1,596
Mauritius	69	67	136
Uganda	1,613	1,523	3,136
Rwanda	584	582	1,166
Seychelles	8	7	15
Tanzania	1,786	1,769	3,555
Zaire	2,553	221	2,774
Total in the subregion (2)	12,913	9,502	22,415
Total Africa (2)	42,209	34,436	76,645

The legend:

(a) The data also includes Eritrea;

**Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine
of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■
December 1996 ■**

Health and Education ■

(b) The data does not include Somalia. However for 1990 school enrolment was 231,000 for boys and 146,000 for girls in Somalia. For Liberia it was 96,000 for boys and 59,000 for girls.

These figures were taken three years ago. However, they provide the trend relating to the rate of enrolment for girls compared to boys as well as the enrolment in the subregion as compared to the whole of Africa.

The analysis of the school enrolment in primary school for the subregion during the period 1988 to 1991 shows a significant increase in school enrolment for both boys and girls. Only Zaire shows a big drop in the school enrolment for boys in 1989 compared to 1988. With the number dropping from 4,924,000 in 1988 to 2,470,000 in 1989. The level recorded has not been attained in 1991. Moreover, during the same period that is 1988 to 1991 the number of girls enrolled in all the countries of the subregion remains lower than the enrolment of boys.

What is the situation in this vital sector which is necessary for a sustained socio-economic development in the subregion? What are the causes and what are the solutions to the bottlenecks in the development of this sector? Read the next edition of the magazine Women and Development and you will find answers to these questions in that edition.

The Editorial Board

■ Tanzania

"General and specific information on health"

1. Day of African Child (16.06.1996)

Prepared by Ms. JAMILA CHIPO

JAMILA CHIPO is a freelance writer. She takes keen interest in societal events, but feels an Islamic concept or Islamic view is a necessary part to play in the development of African society for the future.

Although this year is clouded with sadness, due to several families losing their loved ones in the tragic accident of M.V. Bukoba, June 16th will be commemorated as the day of the African Child. The year will carry a theme globally A World with no War. While in Tanzania the theme is The Girl child. Here it may be noted that the most voiceless in most society is the Muslimah from a tender age.

What is this day for an African Child? What is the date symbolic of? In 1976, in Soweto several children lost their lives, at the hands of the Boors. While in same year as the Children' summit 1990, the organization for African unity name this date of June 16th as a day to commemorate annually in respect of the African Child.

What life expectancy has the African Child? How are they catered for in much of this

**Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine
of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■
December 1996 ■**

Health and Education ■

troubled globe and on the continent in particular? War in several countries, i.e. Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda, Liberia, to name a few has made many children orphans, and turned children into old people. In majority of the cases the war need not have taken place in the first place.

Natural disasters, drought, famine, floods and pests have created a situation for malnutrition, starvation and diseases. Many of the diseases in Africa today were once considered eradicated. Malaria and tuberculosis is on the rise and prevalent among poorer class of people. It is tragic that many children in our own backyard, are now among those affected by the above mentioned calamities.

Then there are orphans who become victims of the dreaded HIV-AIDS epidemic. Here in Tanzania there are areas where whole families are lost. Kagera regions have reports of grandparents left to be mothers to toddlers. The support system in many instances are made up of non-governmental organizations and similar charitable concerns.

We also see an influx of children now roaming the streets.... referred to as - Watoto Waliopo Katika Mazingira Magumu instead of Street Children. What is the real reason causing children of such tender years to leave homes in first place? How may earn a living selling their bodies?

Just a few weeks ago this Author took a boy of fourteen to the hospital. He was dehydrated, in need of a blood transfusion and was extremely filthy. Apart from being unable to stand he appeared to be at least an hour away from death. The hospital took him in a short while the expense for blood, drip and so forth

was allocated. Within 12 hours of recovery, he was beating up the nurses, trying to smash equipment because he had now began to experience withdrawal symptoms due to absence of drugs he was using intravenously.

Then there are our small house keepers, girls twelve to sixteen who are "ayahs" of working mothers. Many at the mercy of husbands, who have decided to break the barrier of innocence in search of HIV free bodies. Old men who could be fathers or grand fathers keeping school girls as mistresses. Teachers, among the culprits and the tales of incest too have become on the increase.

UNICEF, in 1991 stated that it would involve the Muslims in the project known as *First Call the Children.* The project aborted (As far as Muslims were concerned) when disputes in some organizations failed to adhere to internal policies. This has resulted in the Islamic community having marginal interaction in projects or programmes which may enhance their lives.

Islamic organizations are also wary of participating in activities apart from relief programs. While Muslims are not belonging to a culture of organizations as their religion is meant to be sufficient for them, leaving the communities without facilities which can supplement their development needs.

How will Muslim parent become a part of the global development process when there is no intermediary body involved with the community as a whole? If for example Muslim women decided to launch associations (belief aside) will they be able to specify that they are a religious body, wanting to carry out their activities from a religious point of view.

**Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine
of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■
December 1996 ■**

Health and Education ■

Muslim families are not adverse to the process that entails development. They are not blind to the situation that is rampant in our society, drug abuse, teenage pregnancies, HIV AIDS and so forth but they also feel it is the gross lack of spiritual values which is affecting society.

The Muslim child must feel confident to live their religion. They should feel free to express themselves as believers. They should find acceptance in the society and not feel as a compulsion to hide aspects of their religious beliefs, from fear of authorities.

An event like the day of the African child should be facilitated by all components in our society, in the Masdras, Masjids, as well as schools and places concerned with the youths. As usual the day will go by without much interaction from or for Muslims. Without the relevant societies and institutions support or coordination to involve the ummah, muslims will forever be on the fringe of events appearing either ignorant or showing lack of concern.

The Muslims are involved in the community, they also want to feel their views and opinion is a part of the mode of operation of things. Their first duty lies with the Creator of all things including laws the final world is that we are oblige to shun anything not approved of by islam. "And remember when your Lord brought forth from the children of Adam, from their ruins, their seeds and made them testify of themselves saying Am I not your Lord? They said ~ Yes, verily. H.Q 7:172.

The need to actively involve Muslim society in development issues can only be realized, once they are accorded a space for their spiritual concepts. Until that era arrives when

the moral values and the soul of humankind takes precedence based on the Law of the creator no amount of lip service, symbolic gestures, cosmetic repairs will remedy the desolation that awaits mankind. At the same time Child Rights propagation will fall on deaf ears, if Religious Child Rights are not observed.



2. FINAL OLD AGE **By Jamiila Cushine C96**

A few weeks ago in a seminar a subject of age arose and caused differing views on the issue. What was decided was that thirty upwards was mature age group. The youngsters who were present were in the twenty and just over group. They st sure of themselves, revelling in the joy of youth and its fragrance.

The tale of the old man who cries, every

**Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine
of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■
December 1996 ■**

Health and Education ■

time a girl passes by him became relevant to my thoughts. He cried because he was no longer able to savour masculine delights, but in this case I was reflective of how we take older people for granted. For the message in the room was not deference for onset of autumn years but just that the room was cluttered with old folks, soon to be retired.

If we look daily at the system of public transport, it become obvious that no one respect the aged. They stand bearing the journey sea-sawing to the roof and back as the vehicle hurdles the potholes. Inside the dispensaries, or as they take pot-luck crossing the roads where drivers race last conscious of any disable crosser.

It dawned on me the seminar, that irrespective of what, final before death is oldage. Where even if the face look young the ability is gone. What insurance will there be for us to live from day to day when the firm no longer requires our service? Alas, your qualifying skills are no longer needed as the pert young person now, is technically equipped five time over and experience is no longer a password.

Insurance for oldage was once considered children. Today ones' children may live opposite side of the pole. Maybe died before one has aged, while extended family support systems are fast becoming social structures of the past.



"Africa has achieved considerable progress in such areas as life expectancy, adult literacy and infant mortality. However, setbacks have been experienced in some areas while no progress has been recorded in some others. Ethiopia has a baby-weighting programme to detect undernourishment, about 23 millions children in Sub-Saharan Africa suffer from malnutrition. Sixteen per cent of babies are under weight." ■ *Afrique Relance* UN, Vol. 10 No 2, October 1996. Special Issue of the New Agenda. Africa and its Partners seek to intensify their development cooperation. ■

**Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine
of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■
December 1996 ■**

Health and Education ■

Age concern was once decided in families, today it is the name of an NGO operating in Tanzania charged with looking after old and helpless.

Are we able to grasp what the future hold in store for us? The umma is so out of touch with itself that, no one takes account of their fellow, neighbour or relation seriously to mind. We as the last of the midsection are aging ourselves before being in control of age maintenance services and support.

Recently I was invited to a seminar that had "CARING FOR THE DEAD" as its theme. It wanted to ensure that as many of us as possible learnt how to wash and prepare the deceased. Not have one running from Mickocheni to Ilala to fetch relatives or subject specialist as none in the household know how to handle the issue.

As we join the lines of the 'were' it seem fitting to have seminars on age concerns.

Not just a question of death and dying, but coping generally with insurance that as we acquiesce to senility and disfunction of our bodies, a provision has preceded. Where we can become old without fear of becoming pest to others.. while sharing knowledge with the young could be looked at as a practical past time.

Everything began with a learning process, some things are learnt through practical examples. the first nurse held no degree, nor did most of the new profession. The lathe turner first began with an innovation, today his/her peers have guilds membership.

Don't the feeling of youth cause you such proud feeling that you take not note of the fact that aged can be wisdom. Joking about ole people with disrespect, so and so is past it... foot in he grave etc. To the youths who feel to boast on youth... we all started from whence you stand. Take into consideration that we are at oldage's threshold, but it is the beginning of another chapter of life. The final of us all is either oldage or death.



"Women in training in th th Great Lakes Subregion"

Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996
■

Follow-up of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Eastern African and Indian Ocean Islands Subregion ■

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in China, 1995

The implementation of African and World Platform of Action for Women following the African Regional Conference and the World Conference on Women held respectively in Dakar, Senegal, November 1994 and the Beijing, September 1995 is underway in the African continent. Firstly, a meeting of experts and of the Bureau of the fifth African Conference on Women took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia respectively from the 1 to 3 and from the 3 to 5 of March 1996. The aim of this conference was to accelerate the implementation of the Dakar Platform of Action for the Development of Women in Africa. It is therefore the aim of the conference to formulate a strategy for the implementation of the Platforms in the African continent. The recommendations of this meeting emphasized in particular the number of activities and measures to be undertaken mainly:

- i) A strategy for social sensitization and mobilization to increase greater support for the platforms and thereby securing overall consensus and a commitment from all development agencies to implement the platforms within the limits of their existing resources and structures as well as their communication and information networks;
- ii) The preparation of national multisectoral action plans based on a participatory approach and presenting objectives to be attained, achievement indicators and timetable for implementation. A coordinating multidisciplinary

body should be established to follow-up and verify closely the participation of all strata of society in its implementation;

- iii) The mobilization of resources from national budgets and with the assistance of various partners and donors agencies for the implementation of the Platform for Action and ensuring their judicious utilization to avoid any possible loss and duplication;
- iv) The judicious utilization of the institutional support mechanisms for the promotion of women in development, to do this each sectoral ministry should possess its own mechanism for follow-up and evaluation on activities in its own sector; and
- v) A rationalization for meetings and other activities while allowing member States to organize post Beijing national meetings on issues that they may choose.

Secondly, during the seventeenth meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 24 to 26 April 1996 the African Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development - ARCR had to examine the report on the follow-up of the Fourth Conference on Women which was prepared by African Centre for Women of the ECA. During the meeting the Committee also examined the possibility of strengthening its role in the coordination, verification and evaluation of the implementation of the African and World Plans of Action for the development of women. The recommendation of

Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996

Follow-up of the Fourth World Conference on Women in the Eastern African and Indian Ocean Islands Subregion ■

this meeting also emphasized activities and measures to be implemented. These are basically:

- i) Organization of roundtable donor conferences on the implementation of the programmes prepared within the framework of the implementation of the platforms;
- ii) Expanding participation to various experts meeting and Bureau of the regional African conference on women to other countries;
- iii) Provide assistance to the ECA to finance economic and technical projects aimed at improving the access to credit in collaboration with the African Development Bank among other agencies; to support the mechanism to provide assistance to women in the low income brackets with a view to alleviating poverty; to improve access to information as well as creating a synergy among the programmes which have been successful;
- iv) Harmonize the activities undertaken in the region;
- v) Reinforce the African Coordination Committee for the Integration of Women in Development within the framework of its mandate aiming at the coordination of activities for women in development with particular reference to the follow-up of the implementation of the

African and World Platforms of Action.

- vi) Strengthen the relationship between the ECA MULPOCs and ARCR with the designation in particular of focal point for women in each MULPOC in order to assist member States of the subregion. This assistance will relate in particular to the formulation of national plans for the implementation of the African and World Platforms of Action. This assistance should furthermore lead to a reduction on the dependence of African States for direct assistance from the African Centre for Women and greater flow of information between the subregions and the Centre and better collaboration with the subregional organizations and institutions for a more effective and efficient implementation of the platforms;
- vii) Establish within ECA a data bank for national experiences on women gender and development and to ensure that the information is disseminated; and
- viii) Ensure the inclusion of the gender dimension in the policy document (African Information Society Initiative (AISII). Exploiting Information Technology to accelerate socio-economic development in Africa: An Action Plan prepared by the ECA as well as the implementation of the programmes and activities

Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996

Follow-up of the Fourth World Conference on Women in the Eastern African and Indian Ocean Islands Subregion ■

outlined in this policy.

Thirdly, a subregional meeting bringing together ARCR members and East and Southern African MULPOCs took place in Lusaka, Zambia from 24-26 July 1996. This meeting was basically focused on the examination of national and subregional plans aimed at the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms of Action. During the meeting the delegation of Ethiopia, Namibia, Republic of South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe informed the meeting about the activities that were being undertaken with a view to implementing the above-mentioned Platforms.

Fourthly, from the 8 to 9 of August 1996 a consultative meeting was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the forum of the first meeting of experts scheduled in Cape Town, South Africa from the 4 to 8 November 1996. A meeting, was however held in Johannesburg, South Africa on the same dates. What was the objective of this meeting?

The first meeting in Johannesburg on the issue of "Women in the Peace Process in Africa" was jointly organized by ECA and OAU. It examined the possible strategies to increase the participation of women in the peace process.



"Mapping on the future of the Women from Mexico to Beijing".

Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996 ■

Follow-up of the Fourth World Conference on Women in the Eastern African and Indian Ocean Islands Subregion ■

Thus, it discussed and made recommendations on the concrete mechanism to bring together the different initiatives of African women with a view to designing an integrated OAU package of measures for the prevention and management of conflicts. The aide memoire that was discussed during the meeting proposed among other mechanisms the establishment of an ad hoc committee. The terms of reference of the committee include among others an autonomous ECA/OAU joint secretariat for a limited period of time.

The meeting unanimously requested OAU to do everything possible to implement urgently this committee of African women on the peace making process. The meeting also requested also international financing institution, subregional and regional institutions as well as NGOs, the specialized agencies of United Nations and other donor to provide adequate funds for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of essential infrastructures in refugee zones and in countries involved in rehabilitation programmes as well as in peace keeping after conflicts. It also requested African Governments, the civil societies, the international community to do everything possible to resolve conflict in the region bearing in mind the African tradition the settlement of conflicts in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and OAU on the question of conflicts in Africa.

The editorial board of our magazine extends its most fervent wish to the committee for a successful and rapid implementation of its mandate.

Fifthly, a consultative coordinating post-Beijing meeting in UNESCO's field of activities was held in Brazzaville, Congo from 20 to 23 May 1996. This first consultative meeting which served as a follow-up to the

fourth World Conference on Women in UNESCO's field of activities for Africa south of the Sahara was convened following a decision taken by the Director General of the Organization.

The main objective of the Brazzaville Conference was the establishment of a structure to advice the Organization on how it can ensure a better follow-up and implementation of the recommendations of the fourth World Conference of Women in Beijing. It was therefore mandated to formulate concrete measures and activities which could be included



Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996

Follow-up of the Fourth World Conference on Women in the Eastern African and Indian Ocean Islands Subregion ■

in the Organization's programme for the development of women (UNESCO Gender Programme) in order to ensure that the concerns and needs of the African women are taken into consideration in an adequate and appropriate manner.

The Brazzaville meeting was attended by several organizations particularly ECA, OAU, UNESCO and delegates from several African countries and non-governmental organizations. It formulated recommendations in line with several current issues related to the development of women, namely: Women and Peace, Women and Communications, Women and Education as well as Women, Science and Technology. The meeting also recommended the establishment of a place for African women in each of the priority areas which are basically peace, communication, education, science and technology.

Furthermore, at the end of the meeting in Brazzaville it was agreed to establish a follow-up mechanism namely: "The Consultative Group of the Director General of UNESCO" for the Follow-up action to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Africa south of the Sahara in UNESCO's field of activities - Priority: African Women. The objective of the consultative group is to present a proposal of priority activities and strategies to the Director General of UNESCO on the attainment of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms of Action in UNESCO's field of activities.

The editorial board of the magazine "Women and Development of the Eastern African MULPOC and the Indian Ocean" avails itself of this opportunity to welcome the birth of the consultative group of the UNESCO Director General responsible for the establishment and follow-up of the recommendations of the first

World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China in UNESCO's field of activities. It extends its fervent and best wishes of prosperity for success and the consolidation of its activities in the development of African women and particularly those of the East African subregion.

Sixthly a post Beijing forum for the East African subregion was held in Kampala, Uganda from 25 July to 1 August 1996. This forum recognized that it was pertinent to associate post-Beijing experiences and national strategies with development strategies in order to ensure sustained and lasting interest on issues related to the fourth World Conference of Women in the East African subregion in all aspects of national socio-economic development. The forum further agreed to specify national priority areas in accordance with the implementation of the World and African Platforms of Action and the identification of subregional activities that could be undertaken jointly.

While certain countries in the subregion are implementing crucial activities in the two Platforms of Action, others have identified priority areas of action. They are principally: (a) education and the training of women; (b) women and health; (c) human rights for women; (d) women and poverty (e) women and the economy; and (f) women in government and in the decision-making process.

Following the recommendations the African subregional Support Initiative (SSI) was established. The basic objective of the SSI was to facilitate the linkage, collaboration, development of a work network and sharing of information between the different actors and officials on issues discussed at the fourth World Conference for Women including governments, NGOs and other development partners in the implementation, management and evaluation of

**Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of
Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996**

**Follow-up of the Fourth World Conference on Women
in the Eastern African and Indian Ocean Islands
Subregion ■**

the two World Platforms of Action in the East African subregion.

Seventhly, according to the report of activities by the African Centre for Women for the period April 1995 to 1996, presented at the seventh Union ARCR which was mentioned above, the Centre carried out a number of activities in accordance with the implementation of the African and World Platforms of Action. These activities are specially in the preparation and organization of meetings for the implementation and the mobilization of resources.

The follow-up and supervision of the implementation of the Platforms are a priority activity in the orientation of the Programme of Work of the Centre. It should be remembered that the Centre can provide assistance in this area to member States on request.

Considering what has been highlighted above relating to the fourth World Conference of Women in Beijing, what can we say has been achieved in the implementation of the Platform following the Conference?



Source

Equipe de l'UNICEF, no 2, mai 1994

Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996

Follow-up of the Fourth World Conference on Women in the Eastern African and Indian Ocean Islands Subregion ■

Some conferences, fora, symposia have been organized at the subregional level with the assistance of the African Centre for Women, while other meetings are underway. Certain countries in the subregion have embarked on the preparation of plans and programmes for the implementation of the Beijing Plan of Action and the Dakar Plan. Other countries have also dealt with the strengthening of the national institutional framework to facilitate the implementation.

The mobilization of the necessary resources for the implementation of the African and the World Platforms during the first year of the implementation has been high on the agenda

of member States and organizations as well as subregional and regional institutions such as the Centre for Women in ECA. Discussions on the best possible strategies for the follow up and the verification of the implementation of the Platforms at the national and regional level are presently taking place.

This is particularly the case with the theme (women in the peace process) with the establishment of a follow up and a verification committee for the implementation of the activities under this theme.

All the initiatives mentioned above and others which have not been mentioned are many considering that it has been less than one year following the Beijing Conference. It is important however note the great stride that has been made at the national level to formulate multisectoral plans and programmes. This progress has been observed also in the establishment of institutional bodies for the implementation and the follow up action on the implementation of the African and World Platforms. The Centre for Women in ECA will be most willing to provide member States with assistance in this field.



"Per capita, agricultural production in Sub-Saharan Africa fell whereas in North Africa agricultural production followed the same pattern as the population increase". ■ *Afrique Relance* IIN Vol. 10 No 2, October 1996. Special Issue of the New Agenda. Africa and its Partners seek to intensify their development cooperation. ■

**Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of
Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996**
■

African Development Bank for Women ■

African Development Bank for Women

In the beginning of the 1990s there was much enthusiasm for the establishment of an African Development Bank for Women. Certain countries offered to host the Headquarters and other had candidates to hold important post in the Bank. For some African women this Bank was the final avenue that will bring prosperity to their socio-economic activities. There was much reason therefore to be enthusiastic.

But what has become of it today? Feasibility studies on the viability of the project were to be undertaken notably with technical and financial assistance from the World Bank including assistance from the African Development Bank. However, the necessary funds to carry out these studies have not been made available up till now.

With the beneficiaries of this Bank should we understand that this project is a still-birth or should we also hope that it will come to light at a later date! We are launching an appeal to African leaders, to the World Bank and the African Development Bank as well as active and progressive forces in Africa who are dealing with this project to ensure that it is established.

This is our most fervent wish. We request and it is our right to hope that our appeal will be heard and that it will be followed by concrete facts and decisions in the very short term.

The Editorial Board



"Human development in Madagascar checking proper nutrition. Sustainable human development is the foundation for Africa's prosperity". ■ Afrique Relance UN. Vol. 9 No 3, November 1995 Africa wants to progress from crisis management to strategic long-term planning. ■

Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of
Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996 ■

Books ■

Books and the media

* **PREISWERK Yvonne, MILBERT Isabelle: Women Cities and Environment. Financial and logistic support from the Swiss National UNESCO Commission; directorate for the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance, Federal Department of External Affairs. Berne, University Institute for Development Studies, Geneva 1995.**

Twenty six authors contributed to this work. The contexts were also the subject of the seminar at the University Institute and the Secretary to the Institute wrote the Foreword to the Book. It underlines for some years now the problem of "Gender" has come into the lime light into science and anthropology economics as well as sociology have been enriched by the relationship between men and women.

In his introduction, Yvonne Preiswerk, member of the Swiss National UNESCO Commission recalls that all international conferences have testified to the scope of the ill-treatment and injustices suffered by women in the world.

For women who constitute half of humanity the inequalities are too great. It is therefore not only urgent that women should be heard but they should also be given basic rights as all human beings.

In each city and in each village and in each country women and men should unite to face the difficulties of life with courage and determination. In this processing of sharing and particularly on the issues of decision making,

women are undergoing age long inequalities due to their gender and are marginalized on issues that determine their daily lives even if they show permanently and in an extraordinary fashion ability to meet their fundamental needs as well as those of their families and their societies.

This book is an echo of the World's of Women who in their life experience in the cities should unite to invent, to innovate, to be understood, to participate as partners in the institutions, to struggle against and often hostile, unhealthy and inhuman environment. As men, women are increasingly obliged by economic circumstances to live their villages and to live and work in the urban areas. If there is discrimination between the jobs and responsibilities existing in the rural areas, this is further strengthened in the cities. The studies shown in this book at the same time testify to this fact through university specialist on gender issues together with the testimonies from female delegates from third world countries.

Women from Senegal, India, Mali, Brazil, Mozambique, Burkina Faso describe their situation in which they are struggling in the shanty towns for survival with their families. This depressing situation bring into focus the extraordinary initiatives that women not only take to meet their basic needs of their children but also to transform their environment to make it more humane.

Personal initiatives and other initiatives are organized in women's organization who are aiming at greater cleanliness, better housing and literacy for their children.

It must not also be forgotten that women are struggling to be part and parcel of institutions which determine their lives. What is striking in the testimonies is the similarity existing in all the countries of the world,

**Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of
Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996 ■**

Books ■

between the great efforts that have been accomplished by women to play their role in the social life and the discrimination that they still undergo every where be it in the third world or in the developed countries.

Lucie BRAGARD

Culled from: "Dialogue" an Information Magazine published monthly No. 189, February to March 1996



"Somalian pupils in a school rehabilitated by UNHCR in Bardera in Somalia in its transborder operation" ■ Africa No 96 II-1994. Refugees HCR ■

Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of
Information ■ 1st Year ■ No. 1 ■ December 1996
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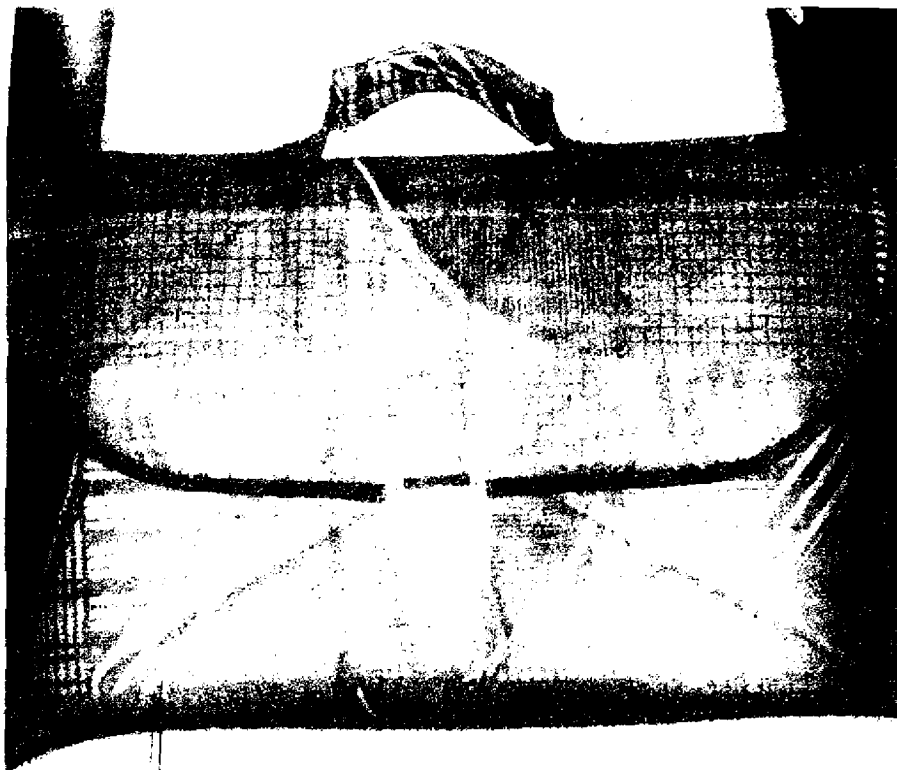
Announcement ■

ANNOUNCEMENT

Manufacture of bags using local textile materials (Abada) in Cameroon. Women everywhere in Africa have suffered and are still suffering from the economic recession which is prevailing in most parts of the region. Stagnation in economic performance has persisted so long private initiatives have been developed in order to replace imported consumer goods with goods produce locally using local technology expertise and labour. Such initiatives have led in particular to the manufacture of hand woven bags as shown below which has been made in Cameroon using a local textile material called Abada.

Such bags which are very much in fashion are made by unique enterprise own by Mrs Ngen Njapdue Yvonne. The enterprise employees has more than 30 employees and includes other female business partners. Though it has little capital the enterprise has grown rapidly as a result of its good production capacity. It manufactures more than 500 bags per month which are immediately put on the market.

However the enterprises looking for assistance to improve the quality of its products in the very near future as well as investments to consolidate and increase its production in order to satisfy the local demand.



Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of
Information ■
1st Year ■ No 1 ■ December 1996 ■

Announcements ■

The initiative taken by Mrs. Ngen Njapdue Yvonne to serve as a very good example to other women in Africa and in particular to women in the East African subregion and the Indian Ocean as far as private initiatives are concerned. The priority of such initiatives should be given to socio-economic activities in which the national programmes have not succeeded in promoting the welfare of women or alleviate poverty among women.



Mrs. Ngen N. Yvonne
B.P. 11196 - Douala, Cameroon

■ **BOLIMO enterprise in Zaire**

The initiatives and activities presently being undertaken by a large number of business women in the East African subregion and the

Indian Ocean are taking place in almost all sectors of the national economies. A number of

capable and informed women have associated themselves freely with the attainment of the sustainable objectives of non-governmental and governmental organizations on the subject of food security.

In Zaire for example, Bolimo enterprise in short (BLM) is dealing with the preservation and industrial processing of cassava and managed by Mrs. Kandolo Okuna Kandolo O. Monique has lived in several countries and return home to Zaire where she was appointed Administrative Manager of the Bolimo enterprise.

The Bolimo Enterprise has an adequate capital investment. The demand for cassava is high and it is one of the important food item in Zaire. The country produces 19,600,000 tones in 1994 that is 12.8 per cent of the total world production. Although the enterprise has a considerable number of workers, its production is unable to meet the local market demand. In the past countries notably Congo, Burundi and Rwanda imported products from the enterprise which increased its exports to the neighbouring countries.

However, it should be noted that the Bolimo Enterprise is presently experiencing financial problems as well as appropriate technology which should assist in the improvement of the quality of its products to increase its present market. This enterprise

**Women and Development ■ Annual Magazine of
Information ■
1st Year ■ No 1 ■ December 1996 ■**

Announcements ■

needs all the encouragement necessary for its development.

Such encouragement would also contribute to the reduction of food losses as well as the improvement of the nutritional and food standards in the subregion notably for cassava. The experience of Bolimo Enterprise should be a good reference point for the women in the subregion of East Africa and the Indian Ocean or even for women all over Africa to encourage them to participate more actively and in various socio-economic activities which would help promote the development of women in the implementation of small-scale techniques in small- and medium-size enterprises in the processing of agro-food products.

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Women and development in the subregion of East Africa and the Indian Ocean is a new and unique forum for the exchange of fruitful ideas and experiences on socio-economic activities in our countries in which we are taking part.

Let's therefore be mobilized to participate actively and dynamically in its publication. Let us send articles depicting our daily lives, our constructive demands, our suggestions and our views on issues that take place around us etc...

Lets us not forget that it is our duty to keep the flames of our torch alight that we have ignited should always be maintained in the first place by ourselves.

The Ball is in our court!

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