

ACTION PLAN 2016



INTRODUCTION

In September 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and 169 targets to end poverty, hunger and war, protect human rights, empower women and girls to combat inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change.

The launch of the fifth action plan of the Women for Africa Foundation for 2016 coincides with the start of a new stage in the global development agenda, that we all want to be more effective and fruitful than the one started in the year 2000 with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Some goals, especially those regarding the situation of women, have lagged behind expectations, as shown by the little progress made in the fight against maternal mortality, or the goal of equality between men and women, which has fallen from priority number three in the MDGs, to fifth position in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) in 2015.

Although the new agenda represents a step forward due to the incorporation of a transversal approach as regards gender, and to the recognition of the vital role of women to eradicate poverty and hunger, to achieve sustainable development, reach a fair and just lasting peace and environmental protection, there is still a long way to go.

A greater commitment is required from the international community to progress on equality, because equality is undoubtedly the great key to the future, not only for women, but for everyone.

That's the conviction that moves Women for Africa and the reason why we will continue to act with renewed strength. It is imperative that the international community promotes measures and specific actions to ensure and favour equal opportunities for women. Courageous measures that address important challenges and allow faster progress in equality.

In Africa, governments and institutions have made efforts to reduce inequality and to empower women, progressing in the regulation of issues such as early marriage, female genital mutilation, violence against women and girls in conflict or the access of women to land ownership. These advances were made possible largely by the commitment and drive of African leaders. Africa is a continent where women are making their way through their transformational leadership.

Africa Agenda 2063, launched by the African Union, reflects a desire for change, a greater commitment to gender equality and women empowerment. The measures put in place will be the best indicator that change can be realized.

“Women for Africa” (MxA) wishes to reaffirm in its 2016 Action Plan the principles and objectives proposed when we started our activity. Gender equality and the empowerment of African women are an urgent priority. We know that without women, there will be no progress.

With this approach we address gender development, based on knowledge transfer, innovation and responsiveness to the real needs of people. We will foster, guided by women, progress in key areas such as education, health, peace, economic development, research, leadership, or the fight against climate change. This is the aim of our interventions. Africa requires proposals and innovative and courageous solutions and the Women for Africa knows that success is possible only if women are on the front line.

Action Plan 2016 presents innovations in terms of structure so as to group projects and initiatives under new headings that reflect our priorities. Many of the projects included in the plan are beginning a new cycle in 2016, which serves as an indicator of the good results obtained in earlier stages. In just four years, projects and initiatives carried out by Women for Africa have had a direct impact on the lives of the beneficiaries, their families and on their communities.

To this purpose, we have always counted on the generosity and support of our Trustees, who have strongly supported our trajectory. Our mission is to continue promoting actions that will enable us to move forward towards a fair and equitable development. To this end, an urgent and priority task is to search for new sources of funding. In 2016, the MxA will allocate greater efforts and resources. The first step will be to design a strategy to position ourselves in the international calls for proposals and, thus, get funds from international organizations and agencies. Another priority will be to search for new partnerships and strengthening the existing ones.

The Plan outlines an ambitious, achievable fourth year of operations. The Foundation will have, for the first time, headquarters on the African continent, the Center of Women for Africa in Nador, Morocco.

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1. LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND PEACE

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but a necessary basis for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. The new Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030 included as 5th Objective "Achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls," highlighting targets such as: end all forms of discrimination, eliminate violence against women in both public and private fields, including trafficking and all forms of exploitation, and eliminate, among others, harmful practices such as early and forced child marriage, and female genital mutilation.

Although it is widely recognized that women are key players in democratic governance, poverty reduction, prevention and recovery from crises, protecting the environment and sustainable development, it is essential that women participate actively and in high numbers in the economic, social and environmental policy decisions, particularly in those related to peace.

Today there are more women participating in different areas and in public office, particularly in Africa, a continent that currently registers a record in the number of parliamentary seats held by women. But we must continue to encourage women's leadership, which in turn will help to strengthen policies and laws aimed at achieving gender equality.

In the area of peace, 2015 was an emblematic year, marking 15th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nation's Security Council's Resolution 1325, which underlined the importance of women's equal participation and full involvement in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, and consolidation and maintenance of peace. However, in the round table "African women who build peace" held by the MxA in Madrid, on October 2015, in collaboration with the Elcano Royal Institute, it was evidenced that since the resolution's adoption, insecurity and conflicts have continued striking especially women.

A change in strategy is necessary, that includes concrete measures and clear actions with a direct impact on the situation of women and their necessary participation in peace processes and negotiations. So, in 2016 we will continue working in this area, in our commitment to transforming leadership with a gender perspective in the political, economic, social and environmental fields.

This section includes initiatives that aim to strengthen the capacities of African leaders and provide the best tools for leadership, like the Forum for Leadership and Governance, Malian Women in Action for Peace or Ghana Wins.

1.1. LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE FORUM

Context

The MxA, in collaboration with Yale University and the support of Santander Universities, organized in 2015 the first Forum on Leadership and Governance which had huge success and was attended by women leaders from five different countries: Ghana, Mali, Kenya, Morocco and Nigeria. This initiative, with a four-year timeframe will hold its second edition in 2016

Description

The II "Leadership Forum for Strategic impact" for African women in senior positions takes the extraordinary experience of the first edition as the starting point. This has allowed improvements, reducing its initial length and adjusting the contents according to the profile and needs of the participants.

The programme, focused on the analysis of best practices, will address the fundamental issues of governance as well as the indispensable policies that contribute to social, political and economic development of the African continent. In the second edition, priority will be given to political and financial issues, also addressing peace and security and feminism.

We intend to generate an in-depth discussion on these issues with the female leaders through a combined format which will include a first part of five days on the Yale campus, focused on an intensive and interactive programme of debates, conferences and meetings; and a second part, which will take place in Washington and will hold interviews and meetings with political leaders, business leaders, government representatives and international organizations.

In the meantime, the female leaders who participated in the first forum are organizing training programmes in their own countries in collaboration with the local universities and, thus, increasing the impact of this initiative.

To be Implemented in 2016

In April 2016 the second Forum will be held, with twelve leaders from six African countries: Ethiopia, Liberia, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Tunisia.

The selection process, which has already started, will be agreed with Yale University and so will the specific contents, which is under development.

Throughout 2016 leadership programmes will be held in the following countries: Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Morocco and Nigeria.

1.2. GHANA WINS!

Context

Once the first phase of Ghana Wins (2012-2015) has been concluded, this Project by the Women for Africa Foundation which is being developed in collaboration with the New York University and Santadander Universities, has started a new four-year cycle, during which attention will be paid to the development and implementation of action projects in their respective domains.

Description

The objective of Ghana Wins is to facilitate integral training in leadership to Ghana women from three professional sectors: nurses, primary education teachers and social activists. The Project articulates around three programmes designed By the Women for Africa Foundation and the Nursing School, the Teacher Education Program at NYU Steinhardt and the Research Center for Leadership in Action at NYU Wagner.

- Leadership programme for nurses. A group of 16 nurses will be selected to be trained in New York and thereby specific action projects will be designed.
- Leadership programme for teachers. Ten female participants in the first edition will be selected in order to work with another ten new beneficiaries.
- Leadersip prgramme for social activists. In 2016 and 2017 two groups of ten women will be selected in order to receive specific training in social leadership. It is envisaged to include two intensive modules to be delivered in Accra and New York. In addition, the participants will design and implement action projects to be developed in their organizations. This methodology will guarantee that the skills acquired during their training will be put into practice for the benefit of their hometown communities.

As part of these three programs, the objective of this second phase will be to deepen action on the ground, to multiply the impact of the project in Ghana. To do this, from the second year, participants in the first phase of Ghana Wins will become coaches or mentors for the future participants. As for the nurses, those who have already benefited from the program will select a team from their respective hospitals who will be able to benefit from the training provided by the School of Nursing at the University of New York and to do joint projects in their hospitals.

The fourth year will be devoted to gathering and analyzing information on the impact of the action projects and to promoting the most successful projects in order to facilitate additional financial provision so as to ensure sustainability.

To be Implemented in 2016

There will be a selection of the first cohorts of participants in the three programs and intensive training will be delivered both in Ghana and New York. Besides, all the participants will design and start the implementation of their respective action plans.

1.3. MALIAN WOMEN IN ACTION FOR PEACE :II EDITION (MALI)

Context

Between 2014 and 2015, the MxA, in collaboration with the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre, launched the Project "Malian Women in Action for Peace", with the purpose of giving the women participants specific training in leadership and conflict resolution, favoring their leading role in the reconciliation process both at national and community level.

The political and security situation in Mali remains unstable, despite the Algiers agreement between the government and rebel groups, as the resurgence of extremists outbreaks across the country. In this context, the role of women as leading actors in the process of national reconciliation is needed more than ever.

Description

It is an innovative project whose main objective is that women clearly express the difficulties and the conflicts they face in their communities, promoting specific training adjusted to their priorities, through innovative techniques of interactive and participatory learning. Participants will be assisted to identify initiatives of mediation and peace to develop in their communities and will receive support to implement these initiatives through a local network responsible for the three tasks of monitoring, advice and guidance.

Listening to the demands of Malian women and aware of the situation, the MxA plans to develop the second edition of the "Women in Mali for Peace "initiative to expand and further strengthen the impact of the first phase. The specific target will be advanced training in mentoring and coaching for ten women leaders from the first edition. The training will take place, if security conditions allowed, in the nine regions of Mali.

This cohort integrated by ten women will perform the following activities:

- Selection of 10-12 participants for the workshops which will take place in their respective communities.
- Support of the MxA trainers in the curriculum design, taking into account the local needs.
- Acting as co-facilitators jointly with the MxA trainers.
- Organizing the workshops.
- Participation of a group of leaders in the conference "Women and jihadism : the case of Mali " to be held at the Carlos III University organized by UNESCO / UC3M in collaboration with MxA .

To be Implemented in 2016

The training workshops will be held throughout the Malian territory, with around 100 beneficiaries. Both the participants in the second phase and those from the first one will strengthen their leadership skills, conflict resolution capacities and mentoring, since the latter will act as mentors and facilitators.

Each group of participants of the second phase will design and implement a local peace initiative (Cola projects) and the MxA will favor interaction between groups of different communities in order to promote the creation of a national community of Women for Peace.

It is envisaged to organize a conference in Bamako where the beneficiaries will have the opportunity to present their local initiatives and disseminate best practices. The MxA is also planning to organize, in collaboration with the Carlos III University and with the participation of mentors, a Conference on Woman and jihadism.

1.4. I MEETING OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS: CANARIAS-AFRICA

Context

Women for Africa and the Canary Islands Parliament signed a framework agreement last November 2015, that reflected the will of both organizations to collaborate on the promotion of development, gender equality, respect for cultural diversity, democracy, human rights and fair international relations in Africa.

Africa, women and parliamentarism are the three pillars on which the joint actions are promoted by the agreement signed. The first action, commissioned by the Parliament of the Canary Islands, will be the first meeting of African and Spanish Women Parliamentarians to be held in 2016.

Description

The MxA, in agreement with the Canary Islands Parliament will organize the First Meeting of the Canary Islands Parliament- Africa in 2016, and which will be held in the Canary Islands Parliament.

This first meeting will gather parliamentarians of the following countries: Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Cape Verde, Algeria, Tunisia, The Gambia and Mali. Each country will have a parliamentary delegation of five women, which amounts to a total of 40 African parliamentarians.

It will be a three-day meeting, two days in Tenerife and one in Las Palmas. The contents will include topics of political and parliamentary character, and those related to equality and leadership, as well as key issues and challenges of the global agenda, emphasizing those of common interest.

To be Implemented in 2016

The meeting will be held during the first semester of 2016,

2. HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Health and education are fundamental pillars for achieving just and sustainable development. In these two areas, the Millennium Development Goals have made significant progress, though not enough, particularly as regards maternal and child health.

Promoting health and wellness is 3rd among the Sustainable Development Goals. Although since 2000 there have been major achievements in health, the fact is that every year more than six million children die before their fifth birthday, and each day hundreds of women die during pregnancy or due to childbirth complications. In 2013, most of these deaths occurred in developing regions, with a maternal mortality rate about 14 times higher than in developed regions. It is estimated that in 2013, 289,000 maternal deaths occurred; that is, almost 800 women die every day trying to be mothers. 86 % of maternal deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. These deaths can and should be avoided by greater involvement of the international community, which should turn into greater prevention and treatment, more education, vaccination campaigns, and improved sexual and reproductive health.

In education, there has been important progress, especially regarding universal primary education. In 2015, the enrollment rate reached 91% in developing regions, and the number of children not attending school decreased 50% at global level. There

has also been significant increase in literacy rates and more girls than ever before now attend school. Sub-Saharan Africa achieved the most notable advances in primary school enrollment, from 52% in 1990 to 78% in 2012. However, large disparities persist, especially between rural and urban areas, and access to secondary education, not to mention quality of education improvement. The goal of an inclusive and quality education for all is based on the firm conviction that education is one of the most powerful tested drivers to ensure sustainable development, as gathered in the 4th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).

Women for Africa gives vital importance to health and education, two areas of development which are fundamental human rights of individuals, and to that extent they must be protected, because without them there is no progress. But they are also key areas for generating social cohesion, progress and peace.

In this section, we include projects which have been developed by our foundation from the very start. In health matters, our flagship is "Stop Fistula " and in education, we remain committed to girls schooling, as in Burkina Faso and Malawi. Improving the quality of education and teachers' training in Mali is one of our fundamental objectives in this area. The need to address the lack of teachers and the quality of education has driven the foundation to design a new initiative, "Wise Women for Africa" , which we intend to launch in Mali.

2.1. STOP FISTULA AND MATERNAL HEALTH

Context

The Stop fistula project was launched in Monrovia in 2013, after signing an agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of the Republic of Liberia, the Saint Joseph Catholic Hospital (SJCH) and the MxA. Unfortunately, due to the epidemic of Ebola, all activities were suspended in July 2014, and the hospital was closed. In only one year, Stop fistula had achieved very promising results both in prevention activities, care for obstructed labor and in the number of patients receiving treatment.

After the hospital was reopened in November 2014, the MxA helped organize the maternity care center and offering assistance to pregnant women, making the SJCH reference hospital for child delivery and specially for those at risk. This experience has led us to formulate Stop fistula in a broader context of maternal health for 2016.

Description

Stop fistula, which addresses one of the tragic consequences of the lack of medical care during delivery, aims to end obstetric fistula. It stands on four pillars: prevention, treatment, training and reintegration. The experience gained in the last two years recommends, however, developing this initiative in a wider context of maternal and child health.

During the four months of activity after the Hospital reopened in November 2014, the maternity centre attended more than 2,500 pregnant women and 350 deliveries and 150 caesareans were performed, without problems of any kind. The growing demand for maternal care advises expanding and strengthening the maternity at the SJCH and making it a reference hospital specialized in obstructed labor. It is also necessary to further develop a network of midwives and to detect risk pregnancies referring them to a health center or hospital. This is the model implemented by Stop fistula and has given great results.

Stop fistula also plans to enhance its training pillar by installing at the SJCH an advanced telemedicine platform offered by our new Trustee, the GMV company, which, among other functions, will allow medical advice from experts and specialists and also to perform training sessions.

In the post Ebola context, the MxA will develop a new initiative in collaboration with Probitas Foundation. The aim is to create a network of female survivors of Ebola so they can be trained as community health agents and thereby gain esteem and dignity.

To be implemented in 2016

Prevention and awareness activities

- Awareness is the best way to reach communities, families and especially women and girls suffering from obstetric fistula. We will continue with the campaign of information and awareness about the services offered by the Fistula Unit.
- Prevention also requires a midwives network. Stop Fistula will continue midwives training, establishing a network of 40 midwives.
- It is estimated that the Fistula Unit will offer ante natal care to nearly 1.000 pregnant women during 2016.
- It is estimated that around 1.200 women that present high risk pregnancy, receive free medical care during delivery in this Unit.

Surgery Missions

Surgical treatment is a central element of the project. In 2016 it is envisaged to:

- Perform two to three surgical missions with an average of 50 women successfully operated in each of these missions.
- Patients will first be duly classified and prepared.
- Surgical missions will have an important training component.

Training

The third pillar of Stop Fistula includes training of health workers in surgical techniques and in certain medical specialties, such as gynecology and urology, as well as specific training for nurses and midwives. As mentioned above, surgical missions will have an important training component:

- In order to strengthen the training component, a new platform will be used to perform telemedicine consultations and training sessions. In fact monographic sessions can be scheduled with the best professionals.
- Specific training courses for nurses and midwives will be carried out during the surgical missions
- Establishment of a network comprising around 40 midwives properly trained

2.2. STOP FISTULA IN TAMALE (GHANA)

Context

Following the outbreak of Ebola and disruption of the activities of Stop fistula in Monrovia, the MxA decided to replicate this project in Tamale, Northern Ghana, in collaboration with the Tamale Teaching Hospital (TTH), The University Hospital of Tamale.

To this purpose a cooperation agreement with the TTH was signed. It included setting up the Fistula Unit in the hospital and specifically in the former Department of Obstetrics of this hospital.

Description

"Stop Fistula Tamale" aims to starting this initiative, placing the Fistula Unit in the TTH and and developing the same model as that in Monrovia.

The core work of Stop Fistula is:

- Prevention: awareness campaigns, obstructed labor assistance program and reconstructive surgery.
- Reconstructive surgery: surgical missions included in Sotp Fistula fistula will complement and strengthen the surgical activity, with as many women as possible operated, cured, and improvement of results.
- Fistula School: training is central to the initiative. The training programs are aimed at doctors, gynecologists and surgeons, nurses and midwives.
- Rehabilitation of patients: the rehabilitation and integration of women who have gone through fistula surgery must be standardized and channeled to a specific program so they can overcome the experience suffered and gain capacity and economic empowerment through knowledge and development of a trade.

To be implemented in 2016

After signing the agreement with the TTH, rehabilitation works were started but they have not been completed yet . The beginning of the remaining activities will be planned according to the funds available.

2.3. PAINTING AFRICA (GHANA)

Context

The FMxA has implemented the first phase of its project Painting Africa: African Women Against Malaria (AHWIAM) , in cooperation with UN Habitat , which has worked with the Foundation in the needs assessment on the ground. On the basis of these reports and the visits carried out, the activities scheduled have been developed in collaboration with the District Assembly Ningo - Prampram and WILDAF, the local women's NGO, with which a collaboration agreement has been signed.

Description

The project "Painting Africa: African Women Against Malaria" aims at combating malaria and other diseases transmitted by pests through women awareness and training in issues of hygiene, cleaning and sanitation related diseases , making them protagonists of improving the health conditions of their families.

The first phase of the project has already been implemented in the community of Ahwiam, which currently has almost 5,000 inhabitants and a rapid population growth. It has focused on solving the serious problems of waste management.

The second phase of the project focuses on strengthening the drinking water supply points and provides easier access to urban sanitation to the population. Therefore, the intervention of MxA will focus on strengthening the existing infrastructure of public toilets and showers, raising awareness and implementation of health education activities. In collaboration with the local authorities, It also includes the creation of a company/ cooperative made up of women, responsible for the management and maintenance of the mentioned facilities.

As a first step, WILDAF ONG wrote a diagnosis report during 2015 on the conditions of access to water and sanitation supplies, which included a public survey. The second phase will count on the collaboration of the foundation We Are Water. It will participate in the design of the toilette modules and also will partially finance this second part of the Project.

To be implemented in 2016

Phase II: urban

It is envisaged to develop phase II of the project focusing on urban sanitation in Ahwiam. This phase will last from January 2016 to December.

The activities that will be carried out are:

- Development of a plan design, management and maintenance of the network of public toilets in conjunction with the community.
- Construction of new modules of collective showers and toilets and rehabilitation of the existing ones.
- Conduct a public campaign to promote social norms on how to use public toilets and warn against the health hazards of open defecation
- Provide training and establish a company/ cooperative run by women responsible for managing and maintaining the network of public toilets.
- Monitoring and final evaluation of the project including a survey on the state of satisfaction of the population.

2.4. GIRLS IN RIMKIETA (BURKINA FASO)

Context

Since 2013, the MxA Foundation has collaborated with Friends of Rimkieta Foundation in the project "Girls' schooling." The project is located in one of the poorest neighborhoods of the capital of Burkina Faso, one of the world's poorest countries. The lack of resources and poverty is the harsh daily reality of many girls in Rimkieta. It is for this reason that the beneficiaries of this project are selected among abandoned

or orphaned girls from families in extreme poverty aged between 8 and 19 years of age in the Rimkieta neighborhood.

This is a project to support not only girls' schooling, but also to accompany courses in primary, secondary, and since last year, we have been supporting young people who have accessed university.

Description

The purpose of this project is the education and training of girls in extreme need in the Rimkieta district, Ouagadougou. To this purpose, the project is structured around three phases: Schooling, Literacy I and II . This educational Project is governed by the school calendar so that the actions listed below will be implemented in the 2016-2017 school year.

To be implemented in 2016

- **Phase I Schooling – Re-schooling**

It Includes grants, awarded to school-age girls, including university, and totaling 300 , to support further studies. Access to university of a new beneficiary of this program in addition to the agricultural engineering studies provided to the beneficiary who agreed to go to university last year will require restructuring or increasing the budget allocation for university scholarships. In any case, the fact that a greater number of young beneficiaries are entering college is an excellent indicator.

Tutoring classes are taught to girls in need, too

- **Phase II: Literacy- Schooling/Trade**

This phase aims to provide the necessary basic training for girls' schooling in the future or apprenticeships for girls who have never been to school. Training in this phase is 2-3 years, depending on the needs of each child. During 2016-17, twenty new girls will join and the schoolgirls from previous promotions will be tutored Likewise, there will be extra lessons for school girls in difficulties.

- **Fase III: Literacy III**

This phase welcomes girls with difficulties or disabilities and those who for various reasons were not able to access Phases I and II. They are given basic training. The goal is the continuity of basic training for girls who for various reasons cannot Access the other phases.

2.5. GIRLS IN MALAWI (Kulimbikitsa Atiskana ku Malawi).

Context

The African Women Foundation and Stephen G. Vigil Foundation signed a collaboration agreement in 2013 for the implementation of this initiative. Since then, the MxA has been supporting secondary education for disadvantaged girls in rural areas of the capital, Lilongwe.

Since the launch of this initiative, a positive evolution has been evidenced, with less absenteeism and early school dropout. While in the 2013 school year, eighteen Young girls, out of a total of 75, left the programme (three of them by marriage) in the school year 2015, only six young women abandoned (three failed exams that lead to high school and three got married).

Descripción

The project aims to strengthen and support girls and young women from the villages of Mbambande Chaombwa, the nearest areas to the capital, Lilongwe, to continue their secondary education through school grants, and raising awareness among families and communities about the importance of education for girls and young women. The objective pursued is access to good training. The beneficiaries are girls and young women from broken families in rural areas where women have limited their chances of promotion.

The project also includes maintenance and health care for the beneficiaries. The selection of young girls and young women is done in collaboration with the village leaders. Thus, the families and community commit themselves to supporting the studies of girls and young women.

Periodic meetings are held with the families and the school outcomes are directly assessed by visiting the different schools where the girls are studying. The contact with the beneficiaries is regular and steady.

To be implemented in 2016

In the school year 2016-17, the program will support studies of 70 young women, also providing them with free food and health care.

3. RESEARCH, UNIVERSITIES AND DEBATE

Research and knowledge transfer are key elements for Women for Africa, because we are certain that knowledge is the foundation for development and progress of individuals, communities and organizations.

Scientific and technical research, as a great source of knowledge, must occupy a fundamental space in the social economic and production sectors of our societies. Science, as a tool for development, has been recognized by the international community and is high on the new Agenda for Development. For the MxA scientific research conducted by women will have a transformer and multiplier effect on development. Access to and participation of women in science and technology is essential to reduce poverty, create job opportunities and increase agricultural and industrial production, and that is precisely the aim of the prestigious program "Science by Women".

During these recent years, Women for Africa has promoted a partnership with Spanish universities to promote the transfer of knowledge and the development of Africa through women. The collaboration with the University of La Rioja has been a pioneer in this field with the programme of scholarships for African students. Moreover, the MxA and Banco Santander have launched an initiative to work together with the Spanish universities that are part of the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE) in the definition, coordination and management of projects aimed at training women in Africa.

2015 was an important year on the development agenda with the approval of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. The international community has taken an important step setting the bases for new models of inclusive and sustainable development through a new battery of 17 goals and 169 targets to be achieved by 2030. The analysis and debate on the agenda 2030 will be an important feature of the activities of the Foundation in 2016.

3.1. SCIENCE BY WOMEN

Context

The MxA in 2015 launched "they research " aimed at promoting the access of women to science and technology, support their research career , visualize their achievements, promote their leadership in the international scientific community , and help enhance the capabilities of their research groups in the countries of origin.

Partners of the program are five of the most prestigious Spanish research centers: the Spanish National Cancer Research Centre (CNIO), the National Center for Biotechnology (CNB), the Institute of Mathematical Sciences (ICMAT), the Institute of Health Carlos III , (ISCIII) and the Institute of Photonic Sciences (ICFO).

Description

The programme aims to empower African female scientists to be protagonists of the transition process in Africa towards a knowledge-based and innovation-driven economy. To this end a scientific committee was established. The first line of action agreed was the implementation of a programme of 9 scholarships for senior researchers

In April 2015 a call was launched and there were 31 applications that included proposals for specific research projects of high value and broad. Obeying criteria of flexibility, the nine young women selected started their integration in the centres by the end of 2015 and some will integrate early in 2017, for a period of six months.

To be implemented in 2016

The programme has had such an impact on the scientific community, also at international level, that other Spanish and European centers have asked to join the programme for the 2nd edition. The Governing Committee at its latest meeting approved the requests of the following centres: the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (Italy), the International Centre for Agronomic Studies (CIEHAM) based in Paris , the Centre for Genomic Regulation, the Severo Ochoa Centre based in Barcelona and the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics,
The second call will open in March 2016-01-25

3.2. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME. SENEGAL

Context

The MxA, in collaboration with the OCP Foundation launched a new project for Agricultural Research in Senegal with the participation of l' Université de Sine Saloum El Hadj Ibrahima Niass (USSEIN), a new campus of excellence which will open in October 2016, whose headquarters are in the region of Kaolack . It is the first university devoted to agricultura and will have offices in five nearby provinces.

Description

The overall objective of this project is to empower Senegalese female researchers in agriculture and nutrition, so they can contribute to strengthening food and nutritional autonomy of the population, increase competitiveness of the Senegalese agricultural production and create jobs

The project aims to promote a model of agricultural research that will reduce vulnerability in adverse weather conditions and climate change and to promote the resilience of populations and especially small farmers, most of whom are women.

Special attention will be paid to the inclusion of gender in clinical trials and research.

In the second phase, the beneficiaries are foreseen to be protagonists of the agricultural innovation and transfer of technology born in the laboratories of the USSEIN, through the support to the most innovative researchers in order to create spin-off in the sector agroalimentary sector.

The timeframe for the Project implementation will be 2016-17

To be implemented in 2016

During the first semester, five Senegalese researchers will start their advanced training in agriculture and nutrition in the prestigious agricultural training centres of the OCP in Morocco.

Women for Africa will contribute to designing specific training modules to ensure the inclusion of the gender variable in biological research and clinical trials. Leadership techniques and systems allowing researchers to be " role- models" for their teams and students will also be included.

In October 2016, the women from the first cohort of Senegalese researchers who have received advanced training in the centers of the OCP in Morocco will be ready to join

the teaching and researcher team of the new USKK. The MxA will support the creation of classrooms, chairs or specific laboratories for agricultural research with a gender perspective.

Meanwhile, in the 2016-2017 course, a second cohort of Senegalese researchers will follow the same training scheme in Morocco, and then the following year will join the team in the USKK or will replace its members, if needed.

The innovative aspect of this program lies in the fact that it takes into account the relationship between agriculture - nutrition – public health, in all its dimensions and strengthens and promotes the potential that women represent in agricultural research.

3.3. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR AFRICAN WOMEN IN SPANISH UNIVERSITIES

Context

The MxA adds a new dimension in which the protagonists are the Spanish Universities. The scholarship program was launched in 2012 by the University of La Rioja, for African students in Spanish Language and Literature. The programme has been growing and expanding. To achieve this, the MxA and the University of La Rioja signed a cooperation agreement providing three new grants for the academic year 2015-2016: two for Spanish Language and Culture Studies and one for postgraduate works. The MxA has also signed a collaboration agreement with the CRUE (Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities) that envisages fellowships for specialization in different disciplines, with the participation of various universities.

Description

Scholarships, both academic and for senior African PhD students of this continent, from different Spanish universities are the aim of this initiative, which will also improve relations between Spanish and African universities. This program began with scholarships for Spanish Language studies awarded to African students by the Rioja University, and currently has masters and doctoral scholarships. Together with the University of La Rioja, other universities will participate in this program in 2016, among others, the Universities of Salamanca and Malaga.

Implementation 2016

A Senegalese student was the beneficiary of a scholarship to follow a Master's degree in Chemistry and Biotechnology and do further doctoral studies that will last three years. The beneficiary started the master course in October 2015.

The Spanish Language and Literature course has two African students, one of Gabon and another from Cameroon, who will remain at the University of La Rioja until June 2016.

In 2016 the offer of scholarships from universities of Málaga and Salamanca will expand.

3.4. VIEWS: II MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

Context

The first "Views" meeting for Development Policies was held in October 2013, organized by the MxA in collaboration with the Areces Foundation and the Complutense University. For this first meeting, the Scientific Director was Jose Antonio Alonso, professor of Applied Economics at the Complutense University, and focused work on "Global Public Goods Development and International Governance". The meeting brought together leading academics, as well as important African leaders and international organisms.

Description

The overall objective of the second meeting will be to analyze the changes and challenges in the international system following the adoption of the Sustainable Agenda 2030 and discuss the scenarios, policies and institutions that will allow the construction of a more inclusive, balanced and democratic international system.

The II VIEWS meeting is intended as a field of reflection and exchange of ideas and proposals that will finalize in a document with recommendations and suggestions on the new approach for the development policies in the transition from poverty to inclusión.

The meeting will last one day and a half and the Scientific Director will be, like in the first meeting, Professor José Antonio Alonso.

To be implemented in 2016

For the organization of the II Views Meeting Women for Africa will request the cooperation of the Ramon Areces Foundation and the Complutense University of Madrid.

The final dates have not been fixed yet, but the meeting might be held at the end of the first semester or in September.

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

For Women for Africa (*Mujeres por África* or *MxA*), economic empowerment is essential for women to make progress as agents of sustainable development. Their almost exclusive role in the subsistence economy and the unofficial economy should shift towards the productive economy by creating the necessary conditions for women to take up a significant role in this evolution.

The World Bank estimates that bringing down discriminatory barriers against women in certain sectors would increase labour productivity by up to 25 per cent. Ensuring equal access for women to agricultural resources and financial credit would have a dramatic impact on food security and on economic growth in general. This is what the FAO estimates, stating that if women had the same access as men to productive resources, harvests could increase by 20 to 30 per cent, which would mean a rise in total agricultural production in developing countries of between 2.5 and 4 per cent.

Poverty among women is particularly related to their lack of access to—and control over—resources and economic opportunities such as land ownership, inheritance rights, and overcoming impediments in gaining access to credit, new technology and training. This situation has repercussions on their independence and restricts their living and working opportunities.

At Women for Africa we are convinced that gender equality, growth and sustainable development are firmly linked, and women's entrepreneurship is the African economy's most dynamic engine. For this reason, we carry out projects that empower women economically such as the Women at the Wheel initiative and the entrepreneurship course for African ladies resident in Spain, as well as others whose goal is to create business leaders like "Launch and Grow", the training program for young women entrepreneurs and businesswomen in Kenya.

4.1. "LAUNCH AND GROW" – TRAINING FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN KENYA

Context

This project by the Women for Africa Foundation, undertaken in cooperation with Babson College and supported by Santander Universidades, has a time frame of three years and there will be 16 women benefitting from it each year. The beneficiaries will form two different groups, one consisting of senior entrepreneurs and the other of young entrepreneurs.

Description

The project aims to train Kenyan women entrepreneurs to foster the development of their skills for mentoring and running and consolidating business.

To do so, the first step was to draw up a specific report on the business scenario for women entrepreneurs in Kenya, written at the request of MxA by the Wangari Maathai Institute of the University of Nairobi. Based on this report, a syllabus has been planned in collaboration with Babson College, tailored to the specific needs of Kenyan women entrepreneurs. Eight senior women entrepreneurs and eight younger ones will be selected for each year of the 3-year project. They will travel to Boston to receive intensive training at Babson College. During the course, there will be joint classes and others specifically designed for each of the two groups of beneficiaries. The senior entrepreneurs' course will emphasize mentoring skills and capabilities. The younger group will place emphasis on designing and implementing business plans and corporate social responsibility initiatives.

After the training, which will last for one week, the junior entrepreneurs will be ready to launch a social responsibility initiative in their companies. Once they have returned to Nairobi, these junior entrepreneurs will benefit from mentoring by the senior entrepreneurs for six months and shall undertake to implement the social initiatives they have drawn up while at Babson College.

To be implemented in 2016

The first course at Babson College will take place in late June, 2016. In January, the selection process for the first cohort of 16 beneficiaries will be finished.

4.2. WOMEN AT THE WHEEL IN SIERRA LEONE & TUNISIA

Context

This project aims to boost women's economic independence and their entrepreneurial attitude. It is carried out in Sierra Leone, but following the outbreak of Ebola, MxA decided to repeat it in another country, and we chose Tunisia.

In Sierra Leone the project was launched in collaboration with the NGO Diamond Child School of Arts and Culture (DCSAC). "Women at the Wheel" includes the following areas:

- Training was planned for a total of 84 women: 60 drivers, 12 mechanics, 4 taxi service call service operators, 4 inspectors and 4 cooperative managers;

- The launch of a quality taxi service for the city of Sierra Leone, “Women at the Wheel”, managed exclusively by women;
- The establishment of a cooperative owning the “Women at the Wheel” a taxi service.

After the first year of running the project and its public launch, the “Women at the Wheel” service began operating in Freetown in July, 2014. Unfortunately, the Ebola outbreak in Freetown occurred when the service was beginning. The virulence of the epidemic called for the utmost caution, so the service was discontinued temporarily.

Faced with the situation in Sierra Leone, MxA decided to reformulate the project and began a study to replicate the initiative in Tunisia.

Description

The project initially had two phases. The first, which began in May, 2013, aimed to train 30 women drivers, 5 women mechanics and 8 female managers. It was completed in May, 2014. This first phase came to an end with the launching of the “Women at the Wheel” taxi service.

Following the outbreak of Ebola and a request from the local counterpart to discontinue the service, MxA agreed to stay and modify the project to make it viable in the new situation.

The beginning of phase 2 was suspended, which had already been planned and whose intention was to train another 30 drivers, 7 mechanics and 4 managers—all women; and the Women at the Wheel project was downsized to 22 women beneficiaries.

Throughout the period of Ebola, responsibility for the project’s supervision was placed on Imat College, a training institution in Freetown. The beneficiaries completed their training in cooperative management and took on the management for the service, which has been running intermittently.

To be implemented in 2016

In order to analyze the status of the project after the Ebola phase and set new goals that will enable us to develop the potential of this initiative and build a business for the beneficiaries, an evaluation is being carried out of the situation of Women at the Wheel, which will include specific proposals to be carried out to ensure the project’s viability in 2016.

In this phase, it will be the beneficiaries who will take over control of the service, though they will be supervised by MxA.

In Tunisia and after the tragic events of this year, other possibilities are being considered in view of the fact that the tourism sector has suffered heavy losses this year.

4.1. **AFRICAN DESCENDANTS: Afro-Colombian Women 3.0**

Context

This project falls within the 2013-2022 Decade for People of African Descent (Resolution 66/144 of the United Nations General Assembly). The overall aim of Women for Africa's African Descendants programme is to reassess the sense of belonging to a particular cultural and ethnic group of African descent, understanding that this awareness is both a personal and group tool to combat racial discrimination. The Afro-Colombian community is among the largest black communities in the world. It suffers from a striking situation of segregation and discrimination and this weakness increases exponentially in the case of young Afro-Colombian ladies, with unemployment rates that double the national average.

Description

Afro-Colombian Women 3.0 is an initiative that aims to provide computer training for young Afro-Colombian ladies to increase their chances of employability.

It will be implemented in the format of a competition; individual participants or groups must submit proposals that meet the following goal: How can young women in my community improve their digital skills so they are better prepared for the workplace? The most viable projects will be awarded and the prize money must be spent on implementing the project.

The competition and the whole project will be posted on a website which, in addition to acting as a platform to launch the contest and receive candidates for it, will also act as a digital library of resources for job-seekers and a meeting point to exchange information on employment for the young Afro-Colombian community of women.

To be implemented in 2016

With the project plan drawn up, the search for local partners in Colombia underway (African organizations, associations and social fabric) and the website created to host the competition and the initiative, the following implementation stages are planned for 2016:

Consolidating the network of contacts with the government administration:

- Interior Ministry, Department of Ethnic Affairs for black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquera communities.
- Unit for Assistance and Comprehensive Reparation for Victims.
- Search for additional financing.

4.1. **AFRICAN WOMEN IN SPAIN: TRAINING IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Context

In Madrid there is a small group of African women with secondary and further education and a medium-high level of Spanish. They are women interested in expanding their knowledge and in working, and who can establish themselves as “leaders” or role models for the group of African women. The Entrepreneurial Skills course is to be geared towards them in order to bolster their skills in leadership and business management, generate new opportunities and foster their economic independence and greater integration into business and the working world.

Description

The entrepreneurial skills course will be held in collaboration with the Carlos III University. It will be taught in their classrooms with the university’s teachers, who will be responsible for drawing up the academic syllabus.

It will be aimed at a group of 15 African women with an entrepreneurial attitude or who are already managing their company, but who need to increase their competitiveness or that of their companies. The course will last 20 hours, spread over four hours a day on weekdays, preferably in the evenings.

MxA will be responsible for disseminating the course and proposing candidates.

To be implemented in 2016

It will be held in the autumn of 2016 in the classrooms of the UC3M campus in Getafe, like the one that took place in 2013 on Conflict Resolution and Leadership. To obtain the certificate, a minimum attendance of 80% is required.

5. ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Given the role played by women in agriculture (it is estimated that nearly 50% of agricultural workers in Sub-Saharan Africa are women) and their work in gathering natural resources for fuel and subsistence, it is essential to include the gender dimension in environmental and energy policies, including the responses to climate change.

Women, with their expertise as managers of many natural resources, can and should make contributions in order to better manage the climate and its risks. Their contributions to climate change matters (SDG 13) are essential. This is why they should have all the necessary skills to protect and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.

Women's significant role in agricultural production is indisputable. They account for an average of 43% of the agricultural workforce in developing countries, and more than 50% in parts of Asia and Africa, according to UN Women. However, their potential contribution to food security remains constrained by unequal access to land and other productive assets. If all of the women who work in agriculture were no longer to suffer from discrimination, they could contribute to greater food security worldwide.

Women are the backbone of the rural economy, especially in developing countries. Nevertheless, compared to men they only obtain a fraction of the land, credit, inputs (such as improved seeds and fertilizers) and agricultural training and information that men receive.

It has been shown that if rural women are empowered and there is investment in activities that significantly boost productivity, then hunger and malnutrition are reduced and rural means of living are improved. This not only benefits women but the entire population.

Ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition and sustainable agriculture (SDG 2) will only be achieved if women are taken into account, especially in Africa. Women for Africa works with them in sustainable agriculture and supports and strengthens the role of women in food security as fundamental pillars for the production and use of food.

This section presents innovative projects in which women are the central figures in the strategies to address climate change, such as in Green Voices, and as the protagonists of a sustainable model of agriculture in Women's Green Yard.

5.1. GREEN VOICES, TANZANIA

Context

This initiative by the MxA is being carried out in collaboration with the Autonomous University of Madrid and Santander Universities. Green Voices addresses the issues of women, communication and climate change, focussing its activities on Tanzania. The aim is for Tanzanian women to take a leading role and act as spokespeople for the strategies to address climate change in their country.

Description

The project is divided into three main parts: training, development of green initiatives on the ground and a communication campaign.

To do so, we have selected a group of 15 Tanzanian women from three sectors: social leaders, journalists and farmers. The women chosen will benefit from intensive training to be held at the Autonomous University of Madrid for two weeks. The training's main subjects will include sustainability, agricultural techniques adapted to climate change, and leadership. During their stay in Spain, the beneficiaries will plan their own green initiative or project, which they will then have to put into practice on the ground.

To be implemented in 2016

The training will be given at the Autonomous University of Madrid in February 2016.

From February to May 2016, the women will implement their green initiatives. Between May and June 2016, the journalists in the program will launch a communication campaign to raise awareness among the Tanzanian population about climate change and generate visibility for the green initiatives being carried out by those participating in Green Voices. The campaign song, composed by Luz Casal, was presented during the Foundation's annual ceremony last 16th November.

In July 2016, a big closing event will be held for the project in Tanzania. In order to launch and implement this project, there has been cooperation in the field from the Advocacy for Women in Africa (AWA) organisation, led by our board member Gertrude Mongella.

5.2. WOMEN'S GREEN YARD IN THE GAMBIA

PHASE I

Context

This project began in June 2014 and completion is scheduled for June 2016, with a total of 500 direct beneficiaries.

It forms part of a framework agreement signed with the Government of Gambia and has been carried out in collaboration with the Moroccan OCP Foundation. Women's Green Yard is coordinated and managed by the MxA and this phase was funded 50%/50% by each partner. Local cooperation in implementing activities is carried out via the local NGO, FIOC.

Description

The initiative has been conceived as an experimental project aimed at two women's cooperatives to strengthen the country's horticulture by cultivating irrigated agricultural fields.

The "Women's Green Yard" project aims to improve food security by boosting the production of fresh food from the agricultural fields to meet family needs and help increase the income of rural households. It aims to improve the diversity, quantity and quality of horticultural products, as well as the marketing strategies.

The project is being implemented in the towns of Katakorr and Sanyang in The Gambia.

Currently, work is being done with the women's cooperatives of Katakorr (200 women and 5.5 hectares of fields) and Sanyang (300 women and 11 hectares of fields) along three lines:

- Introducing the necessary infrastructure and tools to achieve quality products in quantity.
- Supporting the cooperative in its technical, corporate and productive management via training to ensure profits.
- Supporting the end products throughout the cycle of trade and marketing.

To be implemented in 2016

The activities planned for the first half of 2016 will mainly be implemented with the Sanyang cooperative. They will focus on completing the irrigation infrastructure, giving training courses in agriculture and cooperatives, and activities to support the sale of horticultural products.

An external evaluation of the project will also be carried out.

PHASE II

Background and context

As a continuation of Phase I of the project, this initiative is implemented in the context of the agreement signed with the Government of Gambia as well as the agreement with the OCP Foundation. After the first phase, with excellent results, both sides have agreed to take on a second, in which MxA will be responsible for coordination and management while the OCP Foundation from Morocco will assume full funding for this phase of the project. Local cooperation in implementing the activities will be carried out via the local NGO, FIOC, continuing Phase I of the project. The total number of direct beneficiaries comes to 900 women.

Description

As a continuation of the activities implemented in the SANYANG and KATAKORR cooperatives in the first phase, in this new phase the project is being extended and includes three new women's cooperatives in the area: BESSE, BULANJORR and BURRAM in the region of Foni Bintang-Karenai. The intention, therefore, is to work with a network of five women's cooperatives, with a total of 900 direct women beneficiaries and 10,000 indirect beneficiaries.

The project includes the following:

- Carrying out infrastructure works, similar to those done in Katakorr and Sanyang during Phase I of the project, but for the three new cooperatives.
- Creating a second-level cooperative including the five women's production cooperatives, with the aim of jointly selling the products in order to strengthen and improve the processes of distribution and sale.
- Giving teacher training in the areas of processing and sale of horticultural products.
- Finishing the construction of the Training and Processing Centre for products in Katakorr with the construction of Building II, with complete installations.
- The duration of Phase II is scheduled for two years.

To be implemented in 2016

The following activities are scheduled to be implemented in 2016:

- Recording preliminary data on the socioeconomic conditions of the women in each cooperative, as well as the present state of their crops.
- Creating fencing and irrigation infrastructure in the three new cooperatives
- Setting up the second level cooperative for processing and sales.
- The start of construction of Industrial Building II for the Katakorr Processing Centre, as well as the installations for Industrial Building I – the Training Centre and offices.

5.3. WOMEN'S GREEN YARD IN TAMALE— GHANA

Background and context

This project is being implemented in keeping with the agreement signed with the Moroccan OCP Foundation; an agreement that reflects the will of both organizations to continue to carry out initiatives of common interest, where MxA will be responsible for the management and coordination of the project while the financing of the activities will be the responsibility of the OCP Foundation. As for local partners, the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Tamale will be collaborating, and there will be support from the local NGO Wildaf in implementing the activities on the ground.

Description

This project intends to replicate the experience of “Women’s Green Yard” in The Gambia, this time adapting it to the characteristics of Ghana. The initiative has been conceived as an experimental project aimed at women’s cooperatives to strengthen the country’s horticulture by cultivating irrigated agricultural fields.

The “Women’s Green Yard” project aims to improve food security by boosting the production of fresh food from the agricultural fields to meet family needs and help boost the income of rural households. It also aims to improve the diversity, quantity and quality of horticultural products, as well as selling them.

The project will take place in the region of Tamale in the north of the country.

It contributes innovative aspects to agriculture in northern Ghana that may also serve as a platform for carrying out technical research on their impact and to plan specific activities to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Global warming has a clear impact

on horticulture, but with women participating in dealing with it and acting locally, a more resilient community can be built. The study on the role they play in the fields in improving the nutritional quality of the general population will also be relevant.

The project includes three lines of action on one plot measuring five to ten hectares:

- Supporting the cooperative in its technical, corporate and productive management through training to ensure profits.
- Introducing the infrastructure and tools necessary to achieve quality produce in quantity.
- Supporting the end products throughout the cycle of trade and marketing.

To be implemented in 2016

Throughout 2016, the preparatory phase of the “Women’s Green Yard” project shall begin in Tamale, which includes carrying out the following activities:

- Identification activities for the project.
- Outline of agreements.
- Drafting of the final proposal for the intervention.
- Creation of infrastructure and partial training.

6. COMUNICACION AND CULTURE

The 5th goal of Sustainable Development to reach gender equality and women’s autonomy makes necessary to improve the use of enabling technology, particularly the new Information and communication technology, to promote women’s empowerment. Something in what, at Women for Africa, we have always believed in.

Communication is key in today’s world and image is particularly important. Images move us, touch us, teach us, and change our opinión and the way we look at things.

We want to use the potential that Medias like cinema or television have to change mentalities and open eyes to new realities in order to extend values that will promote equality, authonomy and empowerment for women.

We know that to contribute to the progress of African women, with the goal of them achieving a full citizenship stautus, cinema and television are essential allies.

Communication has been, since the begining, a distinguishing feature for Women for Africa. This is why, not only do we document all our projects with audiovisual material,

but we also work to enhance the professional education of women in this field and help the visibility and diffusion of their work.

In 2016 we will implement the following initiatives:

6.1. WOMEN IN THE AUDIOVISUAL INDUSTRY

6.1.1. SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDY AT THE NATIONAL FILM AND TELEVISION INSTITUTE OF GHANA (NAFTI).

Context

Since its foundation Mujeres por Africa has supported African women who work in the audiovisual field. In order to make their voices heard, it is crucial to have the presence of women in the different professions of the industry. For that to be possible, we need to encourage and help their education. To this end, the Foundation created a scholarship program with public African audiovisual schools that has started in Ghana.

Description

After signing a specific agreement in 2013 with the National Film and Television Institute of Ghana, the four year studies of five young women, brilliant students but with no economic means, are being sponsored.

To be implemented in 2016

So far we have granted the scholarships for the first and second year. In 2016 we will grant the ones for the third year.

6.1.2. CO-PRODUCTION WITH THE NIGERIAN FILM CORPORATION (NFC)

Context

Nollywood, the Nigerian cinema industry, is the second largest in the world regarding production volume, only behind Bollywood (India) and ahead of Hollywood. Movies and TV series that are produced in Nigeria are viewed all over Africa, which gives them an important power to influence their societies.

In the beginning of 2014 the foundation signed a framework agreement with the Nigerian Film Corporation (NFC), through which we expressed our intention of working together to promote equality, self-government and respect to the women's rights in the Nollywood Industry.

Description

As first result of the agreement, WxA and NFC have planned to co-produce a tv series that will transform the image of women that is usually shown in these productions. It will also encourage a culture respectful of women and that promotes equality values. The series will have 6 episodes. The Foundation will be responsible for Direction and Script, while the NFC will be in charge of Production. Funding will be seeked by both entities in Nigeria.

To be implemented in 2016

In 2016, besides starting the funding program, we want to outline the final production plan and conduct a script writing workshop for professional nigerian women that will help us spot the future script writers of the series.

6.1.3. IV FILM FESTIVAL “ELLAS SON CINE”

Context

Another relevant aspect of our support to African professionals in the audiovisual field is contributing to the knowledge and recognition of their work. Since 2013, Women for Africa has had a significant commitment to spread in our country the work of african movie makers through the film showcase “Ellas son Cine”.

Description

“Elas son Cine” consists in the projection of a series of movies, all directed by African women. The event is inaugurated by one of the film directors, who will present the festival and lead to a debate around her work. Up to now there have been 3 editions, 2013, 2014 and 2015. This event has become one of the most awaited activities by the friends and followers of the Foundation who are fond of African cinema.

To be implemented in 2016

In 2016 we will celebrate the fourth edition of “Ellas son Cine”. In the following months we will complete the selection of the 5 filmmakers that will participate.

6.1.4. PARTICIPATION IN THE AFRICAN CINEMA FESTIVAL OF CORDOBA

Context

The African Movie Festival of Córdoba (of Tarifa until 2007) is the most important hosted in Spain around the work of African movie makers. For more than 10 years it has been the meeting point for African cinema lovers.

Description/Implementation

After a few editions of the Festival in which awards were not issued due to organization and economical reasons, in 2015 the Foundation sponsored again the best Actress Award, as we did in 2012. In 2016 we will do this again, as to continue supporting African cinema professionals.

6.2. AFRICA WITH “Ñ”

Context

Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world, only after Chinese. It is also the second most studied language, behind English. Around 15.000.000 students learn Spanish in more than 100 countries. Sub-Saharan Africa is the third region in the world with the most Spanish students, with one and a half million, only in regulated education. This means that 6,5 % of the population learning Spanish in the world is located in this part of the planet.

These numbers reflect the enormous potential that the Spanish language has in the African Continent where, however, it is only the official language in Equatorial Guinea.

Description

With the goal of exploiting the potential of the Spanish language in Africa, WxA started in 2014 the Project “Africa with Ñ”, which includes different actions meant to promote our language as a development tool in the continent, especially for African women. One of the first activities within the program was the “Congress of Hispanists”, celebrated in April 2014 in Abidjan (Ivory Coast), that gathered 50 experts from 20 countries, mostly African.

To be implemented in 2016

In 2016 MxA will continue to work with the commitments that were agreed in Abidjan, paying particular attention to the following:

- Dissemination of the Hispanists African women net through a platform in the WxA’s website, in order to facilitate the communication between the participants in the Abidjan Congress. We will also keep publishing information related to the Spanish language through the Facebook account “Africa con ñ” created in 2015 with the goal of becoming a reference site for social network users interested in the diffusion of the Spanish language.
- The Foundation will also continue to encourage agreements with Spanish Universities, to provide African Spanish students the chance to access development

programs by coming to study in Spain. The university of La Rioja, pioneer in the initiative, has granted through WxA 6 scholarships for African girls in the past 2 years. The last student, from Cameroon, joined the program at the end of 2015.

- In 2016 the “Africa con Ñ” award will be officially convened in two categories: Brief Story and Research Study, with the intention of encouraging African authors to write in Spanish.
- We will seek collaboration from Spanish publishing houses, in order to provide books and publications to the Spanish department libraries in African universities.

6.3 .PHOTO CONTEST

Context

It is estimated that today there are approximately half a million African women living in Spain. In order to promote and reach a better understanding and closer relationship with this group of women, WxA has launched several initiatives.

Description

One of the initiatives developed within the context of the “African Women in Spain” Project is the annual Photography contest that we have held for 3 years. With this initiative we want to show how the everyday life is for these women in our country through the images sent by the participants.

The jury that selects the winners is made up by the photographer Alfredo Cáliz, the Art Gallery Owner and photographer Blanca Berlín and Àngeles Puerta, member of the Board of Trustees of the Mujeres por Africa Foundation.

To be implemented in 2016

In 2016 the fourth edition of the contest will take place starting, as usual, on May 25th, the Africa Day. Pictures can be sent in until November and the jury will make its decision and communicate it in December. The Best Photo will receive 1.000 euros and the finalist will receive 500 euros.

7. WOMEN’S FOR AFRICA CENTRE IN NADOR - MOROCCO

Context

In the building that used to be the Institute of Secondary Education “Lope de Vega” in Nador, the North of Morocco, the Foundation will be opening its first branch in the continent.

It is a very relevant event for the Foundation as this centre must live up to the high expectations that WxA has awakened in the African continent, becoming a spearhead of our activity there.

The grant conditions for the use of the building agreed with the Spanish Authorities state the purpose of an educational use, which is perfectly in line with one of the Foundation's major aims. Transfer of knowledge, women leadership and empowerment are main goals of our initiatives and are always present in our different projects.

Description

This training centre in Nador will not only attend the educational needs of local women; it will also establish a base in the North of Africa from which to support other projects being carried on in the continent by the Foundation. The centre, characterized by its educational purpose, aims at becoming a gathering place for women where values such as education, democracy, diversity and respect will be promoted, becoming a centre of cultural transmission for Africa.

Besides the needs that we will detect to cover the educational demands of the women in Nador, there are at the moment two big projects that are being developed in this region in which we intend to impulse women's participation. First the refurbishment and enhancement of the Marchica Lagoon, which intends to transform the coastline of Nador in a relevant Eco-tourism point, and second, the construction of the Nador West Med, a complex and ambitious project consisting of a big harbour, a business district, an energetic area and a shopping zone, located in the estuary of the River Kert, 30km away from the city of Nador.

These two projects highlight the importance of instructing the women of Nador in skills related with tourism, restaurant services, sport, portuary activities, maintenance, security, marketing and other professions related to this development.

These training activities can be developed in collaboration with the companies that participate in the creation of these two projects or with any other institution dedicated to provide education to women.

The MxA centre also aims at becoming a gathering point for associations of women of Nador, and for Spanish and African women to meet like, for example, those participating in our projects. It will also be a place to host activities and meetings organized by the Foundation.

To be implemented in 2016

After signing the license agreement for the building the necessary renovation works will start. At the same time we will start drawing up the management and operating models.

The training activities will be defined after conducting a specific research study on the needs of the women in the region. We will also contact with the different women associations. During all this process we will be guided and assisted by Ms. Nouzha Skally, member of our Advisory Board.