

***MUJERES POR ÁFRICA* FOUNDATION**
2012 ACTION PLAN
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INTRODUCTION:

This Action Plan sets out the objectives and lines of action drawn up for each of the Foundation's areas of activity, as well as projects to be implemented as of 2012. The work of the foundation mainly aims "to promote development and progress for Africa through the women's empowerment and equal rights and opportunities." To this end, gender equality and women's economic, political and social empowerment shall be applied as horizontal, cross-discipline criteria, as well as respect for human rights and environmental sustainability.

The foundation aims to contribute to the economic, social and political development of a continent in the 21st century that still has serious shortcomings, and in which the millennium goals are still a pending issue. It bases this on the proven conviction that women are the true engine for the continent's development and it is preparing to work with women as a central part of an effective strategy to help Africa's development. As the World Bank indicates, "empowering women and promoting gender equality is essential to achieve sustainable development." Therefore, gender equality is also a requirement of social justice, an intelligent policy for economic growth. Moreover, we are referring to a continent of nearly 1 billion people, where women account for almost two thirds of the population.

As the President of the foundation has often stressed, women "have been neglected for far too long, if not simply ignored, in the history of mankind." Nevertheless, the truth is that their silent, unacknowledged work has been the basis for maintaining and advancing our societies." Thus, aware that African women have played and still play a major role in the structuring of communities, they are seen as the key to increasing welfare and development. "Improving women's living conditions thus means improving those of their families. Investment in improving education and health care saves women's lives. Putting them in positions where they can show their full potential on an equal footing and with full independence is one of the greatest tools for development and progress."

According to the 2009-2012 Africa Plan, the gap between men and women in Africa, and particularly in the sub-Saharan region, significantly affects development as there are a large number of households headed by women. This continent clearly reflects the phenomenon known as "feminization of poverty", which requires the specific needs of women to be met in development policies and policies to eradicate poverty.

Women's poverty is particularly linked to the discrimination they experience as regards unbarred access to and the pursuit of their economic rights. This situation affects their autonomy and limits their living and working conditions. Even so, African women account for 90% of the informal economy, producing 80% of the food, and they support over 40% of households on the continent.

Most young women are married under 24 years of age and in many countries they marry even before.

According to the World Bank, African girls are five times more likely to suffer the repercussions of the rising infant mortality rate than boys. Girls are the first to leave

school in order to take on work in the country or at home. In armed conflicts, sexual violence is used as a weapon of war and in many cases these women are rejected or mistreated by their own families.

Recent studies also highlight the growing trend towards the feminization of migratory movements. In 2005, approximately 47% of the 17 million immigrants in Africa were women.

In the 2010 Human Development Report drawn up by the UNDP, three new and innovative indicators were introduced: the Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI), the Gender Inequality Index (GDI) and the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI); i.e. new ways to measure human development in which women play a central role. Thus, the greater the inequality, the bigger the difference between the Human Development Index and the Inequality-adjusted HDI. Moreover, the lower the IHDI, the greater the inequality in health, education and income. According to Jeni Klugman, the main author of the UNDP's 2010 Human Development Report, "providing girls and women with the same opportunities in education, health care, legal rights and political representation as men, is not only socially just but also one of the best possible investments in the population's development."

In addition, African women are demonstrating their fundamental contribution to peace and development on the continent. In 2004, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the recently deceased Wangari Maathai, which was a major step in recognizing the vital work that women are doing in Africa. The same prize was awarded in 2011 to the President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf (a member of our Advisory Board), to Leymah Gbowee, who is also Liberian, and to Tawakkul Karman of Yemen. These are three women who have stood out for their struggle for peace and the award further acknowledges the need for the egalitarian participation of women in decisions regarding peace, security and democracy.

This current Action Plan has been conceived as an integrative and cross-discipline plan. It is intended as an effective tool for directly carrying out and cooperating in efforts to promote economic development and gender equality in Africa. It builds on the accumulated experience already gained from the Spain/Africa meetings and on the positive effects of the different players and their policies on a Spanish and multilateral level. It also seeks to count on the wealth of knowledge provided by a large network of women and men in Spain willing to collaborate on projects that lead to progress and well-being for our neighbouring continent.

The Action Plan's structure is based on the foundation's four priority lines of policy: education, health care, economic development and empowerment. There is also a chapter on cross-discipline projects and another called "Them and Us: Africa in Spain," with initiatives involving support and training for groups of African women residing in Spain. Yet another one is about raising awareness. Finally, we would like to mention our commitment to humanitarian emergencies, for which a programme of support for Somalia is included.

The guide to the Plan's activities focuses on achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those pertaining to objectives 2, 3 and 5. We are also going to devote effort and resources through the *Mujeres por África* Foundation to studies, analysis and

research on women's real situation in Africa, drawing up diagnostics in education, health care, access to employment, career advancement and ultimately, the process of empowering women on the continent. This is because it is only through detailed knowledge of their true situation and needs that we can effectively lay down the guidelines for the foundation's actions.

In this first year we shall carry out a study on the overall map of Spanish cooperation in Africa. This is an essential tool for understanding and making the most of the action taken by Spanish cooperation in Africa.

Our programmes for the first year of the foundation's operations will largely serve as models or pilot projects to be deployed in different countries after being properly evaluated. In some cases, we have defined our own pioneering programmes and in others we will cooperate with other agents and institutions that share the same goals as the *Mujeres por África* Foundation.

Finally, we would like to point out that the programmes and projects to be undertaken by the *Mujeres por África* Foundation will be carried out in collaboration with the business and social fabric of Africa and Spain and in close cooperation with civil society. They will also use strategic alliances with local institutions, African organizations, academic bodies from Spain, Africa and other countries as well as with networks of women's associations in Spain and in Africa. All of the projects will also be inspired by the national and international commitments arising from the various conferences and summits on women's progress in the world.

I. EDUCATION

Education is an essential tool for reducing poverty and inequality, and the key to any country's development. Moreover, for women education is always the door to freedom and independence. The second of the millennium development goals establishes a commitment to ensure that by 2015 children around the world are able to complete a full course of primary schooling. Although access to education in Sub-Saharan African countries has improved, the youth literacy rate remains the lowest in the world. In most Sub-Saharan African countries, over 30% of primary school students stop attending class before reaching the last year - mostly girls. Despite progress, according to 2009 data there are still 31 million children who did not finish their schooling. In West and Central Africa, high school year repetition rates and low retention rates are common among girls and they also have higher rates of non-enrolment and dropouts. Droughts, food shortages, poverty, armed conflict, child labour and HIV/AIDS have an impact on children's low enrolment and high dropout rates, but they are phenomena that are particularly devastating for girls.

Gender equality in education is a priority on the international agenda, but nevertheless most legal minors have no schooling and two-thirds of illiterate adults are female. Thus, girls and women represent the largest category of human beings deprived of fair and equitable opportunities to receive education.

The latest report on implementation of the Millennium Development Goals stressed the importance of the results and the need to at least finish primary school education, emphasizing the difference between schooling and education. We must distinguish between enrolment and retention in school and the acquisition of basic skills.

In this context, one of the most serious problems affecting education in these countries must be mentioned: the growing demand for teachers. Therefore, to achieve one of the MDGs, Universal Primary Education by 2015, according to UNESCO at least 1 million teaching posts must be created. In this process, we must bear in mind the gender perspective. According to statistics, the percentage of women working as teachers of some kind has grown overall from 56% to 62% since 1990. However, in Sub-Saharan African countries the change has been minimal, meaning that the supply of teachers does not meet demand.

The foundation's overall strategy in this area focuses on girls' schooling, higher education for economic and social leadership of certain groups of women, teacher training and adult women's literacy for them to develop professional skills.

LINES OF ACTION IN EDUCATION

- Promoting gender equality in education through programmes that ensure the schooling of girls, reducing the dropout rate by strengthening public education systems and civil society organizations in countries and social groups with lower education rates.
- Carrying out higher education programmes for women through collaboration with universities from Africa, Spain and other countries.
- Drawing up women's literacy programmes that specifically include education and awareness about the women's rights.
- Launching professional training programmes aimed at women, guaranteeing they will attain professional skills and be included in the official economy.
- Carrying out training programmes for teachers to ensure a growing presence of women in the entire teaching staff.

The programmes to be launched initially in this area are:

1.1 Ghana Wins Project. GHANA

Objectives: To train and empower women in Ghana, strengthening their role in political, social, educational and health care spheres while helping to comply with the country's agenda on these issues.

Description: This project is to be carried out in three years. It will be based on three programmes related to three of the country's major priorities and needs: education, health care and social leadership. This project seeks to develop and enhance the leadership of a key group of Ghana women who will be endowed with the necessary skills to make them able to lead the change and development of their own country.

Implementation: This programme will be launched in collaboration with the University of New York, the University of Ghana and Banco Santander. Princeton University and Brown University will also participate in this program. The *Mujeres por África* Foundation, promoter of this initiative, will coordinate and oversee the implementation of this project.

1.1. Train-the-trainer program for the Future of Education

Objective: This programme is designed to cover the lack of training and professional development among teachers, of whom there are fewer women than as may be expected.

Beneficiaries: The Program "Train-the-trainer" ("*Formar a Formadoras*") includes 3 one year cohorts of 12 teachers each. For each cohort in this train-the-trainer program the women will be selected through a nomination process involving the Ghanaian Ministry of Education and The University of Education at Winneba.

1.2. Training programme for Nurses in Hospital Management

Objective: This programme is designed to collaborate with Ghana's health system to strengthen it by training its professionals in order to support and improve their management systems.

Beneficiaries: The programme will consist of 24 nurses acting as leaders in managing human and material resources.

1.3. Social Leadership Programme

Objective: This programme is designed to strengthen democratic institutions in Ghana via leadership training for managing government agencies.

Beneficiaries: A team will be created of 15-20 women in mid-to-high level positions in government and civil society in order to lead change in key sectors such as education, health care and industry.

2. SENIOR STUDIES EDUCATION PROJECT. MAURITANIA

Objectives: To provide high-level, specialized training.

Description: A group of 50 Mauritanian university students are to be trained in different specializations to gradually form an elite group of women trained in the fields of law and administration, finance, IT and telecommunications, who can then help develop the country and foster the role of women in Mauritanian society.

The project is based on four lines of action:

- 1) Programme of specialization in law and administration;
- 2) Programme of specialization in new information and communications technology (ICT);
- 3) Programme of specialization in finance;
- 4) Programme of specialization in applied engineering in agriculture.

Implementation: The project will be carried out in Mauritania. A curriculum will be drawn up for each of these areas, meeting the specific needs and peculiarities of the country. The courses will be taught by specialists in each area.

The following entities will collaborate in the programme:

General Bar Council of Lawyers
School of Telecommunications
College of Engineering
Financial institutions as members of the foundation's board of trustees

The project will begin immediately. During the first phase (February to October 2012), the students shall be chosen, the programme will be designed and teachers chosen. The courses will last for 6-8 months, starting in October 2012.

After completing the course, a total of 10 students will be selected from the different programmes to complete their education through work experience in Spain for a period of one month.

This programme will be carried out in collaboration with the University of Nouakchott.

3. "EDUCATION OF GIRLS WITHOUT SCHOOLING" PROJECT BURKINA FASO

Objective: Schooling and training of orphaned girls in dire need in the Rimkieta neighbourhood, one of the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods of Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso. These are girls aged between 8 and 16.

Project Location: The project is located in the neighbourhood of Rimkieta (Ouagadougou), which occupies about 40 square kilometres and is home to about 65,000 people. This neighbourhood lacks any kind of basic infrastructure (sewage, electricity, drinking water etc.).

Description: Poverty and a lack of resources are a harsh reality for many girls in Rimkieta. Families with few resources give their sons schooling, but not their daughters. If a girl is taken in by a family because of being orphaned or abandoned, they must give her shelter and food but have no obligation to provide access to school. During their education, they will receive literacy courses in French (the official language of Burkina Faso, only spoken by a minority of the population), hygiene and disease prevention, cooking and workshops on sewing and hairdressing (skills that will enable them to earn a living in the future).

To facilitate access for the girls to education and ensure they attend, classes will be held in the afternoon, thus enabling them to continue to help their families. The project includes daily feeding for the girls and multivitamin, ferrous sulphate and folic acid supplements. As regards health care, the girls will receive deworming treatment with Mebendazole (500mg). Classes are taught in the *Amigos de Rimkieta* Foundation's young children's classrooms.

Lead Time: The project will begin in the first quarter of 2012 and the education will last for 8 years.

Beneficiaries: In 2012 the project will begin educating 50 girls aged 8 and each year the programme will incorporate 50 girls, so that after 8 years it will have educated 400 girls.

To carry out this programme, an agreement will be signed between the *Mujeres por África* Foundation and the *Friends of Rimkieta* Foundation (FAR, *Fundación Amigos de Rimkieta*).

4. PROJECT FOR THE EDUCATION OF ORPHANED GIRLS. MALAWI

Objectives: To support studies and education for 50 young people between 12 and 20 years of age living in Nyumba Ya Amayi María (Mary's Home), run by the Missionaries of Mary Mediatrix. Girls are more vulnerable in Malawian culture. For many and especially for the orphaned ones, the possibility of continuing studies is difficult. Pregnancies at this age are common, thereby halting their education. Boarding schools for orphaned girls such as those at Chezi and Mlale are far from any of these centres.

Location: The Amayi María mission is located in the capital, Lilongwe.

Description: The Missionaries of Mary Mediatrix opened a centre called Amayi María in 2006 in Lilongwe in order to accompany young people through their education. It is a boarding school for 50 teenagers who reside in the centre and are taught in secondary schools in the area. They are orphaned girls who basically come from the Mlale and Chezi missions for further study, but also to be given computer classes in the boarding school itself. The objective is for them to have access to higher education and to have a good education. Educating women to meet the challenges of the future is essential. This is why the Missionaries of Mary Mediatrix carry out their work with young Malawian females and why they are committed to them.

Beneficiaries: 50 youths aged between 12 and 20 years from the Amayi María boarding school.

Implementation: In order to carry out this programme, an agreement for collaboration will be established with the Mission of the Missionaries of Mary Mediatrix.

5. SCHOOLING OF GIRLS. BENIN

Objectives: To adapt the house for abandoned children built next to the Tanguiéta Hospital and to educate the girls taken in.

Location: Tanguiéta is a municipality in the province of Atacora, north of Benin, about 700 km from the capital, Cotonou, and near the borders of Niger (90 km) and Burkina Faso (60 km). It is located in a sedimentary savannah of the tributaries of the Niger River, with low mountains and plains where primarily cassava, corn and yams are grown, which mainly feed a population of about 22,000 inhabitants distributed over a wide area of around 5,500 km².

Description: Tanguiéta Hospital has been operating since 1970, run by the Brothers of *San Juan de Dios* (St. John of God). The Religious Theatine Sisters of the Immaculate Conception work in this centre and have participated in the hospital's activity since it was founded 42 years ago, along with the Brothers of St. John of God. In addition to collaborating in the chores of nursing, they run a school located within the hospital grounds.

Over the past few years, numerous cases of abandoned children have been detected in the Tanguiéta hospital. The Theatine Religious Sisters were concerned about this fact and so put forward and funded a placement programme for these children in foster care in the environs of Tanguiéta, providing them with financial support for their food and schooling. This programme has worked effectively in recent years, but due to the rise in children abandoned by their parents and the lack of foster families, they decided to undertake a project to build a shelter for abandoned or orphaned children outside the hospital premises and thus keep up continuous, personalised assistance.

The house is located in Tanguiéta, about 500 meters from the hospital grounds. The building has been made on land owned by the Sisters of about 2,000 m² and a built-on floor area of approximately 469 m². However, the shelter requires the necessary

facilities to house the abandoned children. In addition, since the fundamental purpose of this initiative is to educate girls, the project provides scholarships for schooling. The future financial backing for this centre in terms of teaching staff, maintenance and food is initially to be funded by the Sisters.

Beneficiaries: 20 to 24 girls who will be housed in the house and receive scholarships for schooling.

Implementation: This project will be implemented in collaboration with the NGO *Por Africa*, with whom the corresponding agreement will be signed.

II. HEALTH CARE

The Millennium Development Goals attach great importance to health care because the development of nations is closely linked to improvements in health. This is why three of the goals set relate specifically to improving health: reduction in child mortality, improvement in maternal health, reducing the rate of maternal mortality by 75%, achieving universal access to reproductive health care services by 2015, and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

To gauge a population's health there are several key indicators: life expectancy, maternal mortality and infant mortality under 5 years of age. Thus, while human development indicators show that life expectancy has increased in recent decades worldwide, in Sub-Saharan Africa it has stagnated and in some cases has declined due to the incidence of AIDS. The lower life expectancy rates occur largely because there is a high percentage of mortality in the infant stage and deaths during pregnancy or childbirth, aside from infectious diseases.

In analyzing the causes of child mortality in Africa, it is seen that over half of the deaths are related to malnutrition and, moreover, that these deaths are caused mainly by five diseases (respiratory infections, diarrhoea, malaria, AIDS and measles) that are preventable and can be suitably treated. However, much of the population in Sub-Saharan countries lacks the possibility of access to means of prevention and low-cost treatment due to the scarcity of resources and difficult means of access to health services.

As for maternal mortality, Africa continues to see very high rates. About 42% of maternal deaths occur during labour and almost all of these deaths occur in low-income countries. In Sub-Saharan countries, less than half of births are attended by health care staff. Having access to health care from trained health care staff would thus enable complications during pregnancy and childbirth to be detected, and therefore the vast majority of these deaths could be avoided. This situation highlights the inequality that particularly affects women in matters such as access to health care services.

Infectious and communicable diseases hit Sub-Saharan African populations to the same extent. This region accounts for 31% of the cases of tuberculosis worldwide, 62% of HIV infections and 70% of malaria infections. Of these diseases, the most significant one to combat due to its magnitude is HIV-AIDS, since out of more than 33 million patients in the world who are infected, over two thirds live in Africa. 70% of new infections last year occurred in Sub-Saharan Africa, most of them due to unprotected

heterosexual intercourse. Women are disproportionately affected, accounting for 59% of the total.

Since 2011 there has been definitive scientific evidence of the efficacy of treating infected patients to prevent further transmissions. The number of people receiving antiretroviral drugs continues to rise. In 2010, 48% of pregnant women received antiretroviral therapy that was effective in preventing vertical transmission of HIV. UNAIDS estimates that effective antiretroviral treatment for pregnant women has prevented more than 350,000 new infections in children. However, the possibility for women and girls to protect themselves from HIV infection is still hampered by physiological factors, gender discrimination, sexual exploitation and inadequate access to medical care.

This is why the foundation intends to help carry out programmes that ensure women of reproductive age have access to preventive services, prenatal care and information.

Another serious health problem for women in Africa to which the foundation will pay special attention is the treatment of obstetric fistula. Two million women suffer from this ailment in the world, most of them in Africa. Women with this health problem are marginalized, stigmatized and disowned by their husbands. Surgery may help them regain their dignity and begin a new life, though there are very few opportunities to repair the fistula in Africa because most hospitals do not have the specialized equipment needed. The foundation therefore aims to carry out an ambitious programme to remedy this situation.

In addition to all of this, when addressing the health problems of women we must also bear in mind that between one and two million women from 28 African countries are the victims of the cruel practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) This will continue to be a topic to address through all spheres and programmes that touch upon women's human rights.

In this first year of the *Mujeres por África* Foundation's activities, our fundamental aim is to work with African institutions in different countries in designing programmes to bolster national health systems, strengthen maternal and child health care programmes, HIV prevention programmes, fistula treatment and to carry out education programmes for health care staff. The health care staff is a key factor in any health care system, so that educating doctors, nurses, midwives and laboratory staff is a priority. The World Health Organization estimates that in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals in health care, one of the keys is to redress the shortage of health workers, which amounts to 817,992 professionals.

LINES OF ACTION IN HEALTH CARE:

- Strengthening national health systems

- Developing management skills for health services
- Launching training programmes for local health care workers
- Carrying out programmes for maternal and child care and women's health care
- Bolstering programmes for the prevention of HIV/AIDS
- Running programmes for the prevention and reconstruction of obstetric fistula

The programmes to be launched initially in this area are:

2.1. PROJECT FOR TRAINING IN MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CARE - LIBERIA

Objectives: This project has three objectives:

1. - To hold interactive classes with the users of health care services, placing special emphasis on the female population, who are the main people involved in obstetric care and the care of children in both the family environment and their social and geographical surroundings.
2. - Training of medical and nursing staff in new techniques and knowledge of assistance in obstetrics/gynaecology and in neonatal care. Training for the prevention of complications in unassisted childbirth, such as obstetric haemorrhage or perineal fistula, and training for perinatal resuscitation and nutritional care for newborns and infants during the early years of life.
3. - Providing the hospital with new technical means for everyday hospital tasks in the field of maternal and child care.

Location: This educational project in the field of maternal and child health care will be implemented in a health centre in New Kru Town, located in a neighbourhood of extreme poverty in a district of Monrovia, and in the St. Joseph Catholic Hospital, located in another area of the capital, called Congo Town. These centres cater to the general health problems of the population of Monrovia and its environs, but focus on obstetrical-gynaecological and paediatric care.

Description: Training courses will be carried out for all the medical staff from both centres, but more especially for doctors, nurses and auxiliary staff who work in these areas every day as well as users, especially mothers and their accompanying relatives, who are the main people involved in caring for the pregnant woman and the children. For this reason, the course consists of two related but separate curricula; one aimed at health care workers and another aimed at the users of the aforementioned health care services.

Implementation: This will be carried out in two phases. The first will take place in Spain, where the content for the classes corresponding to each subject will be drawn up

in English. The curricula will be drawn up in a format that allows for editing on paper in simple binding that can be transported to Monrovia for distribution to students, thereby helping the teaching to be carried out and continued.

The second phase will be carried out in Monrovia in the aforementioned health care centres.

The curriculum for health care professionals includes:

- 1- The Physiology of Normal Pregnancy and Childbirth. Pathological pregnancy.
- 2- Sex Education. Methods of birth control in the African environment
- 3- Differential diagnosis for abnormal pregnancy. Hypertension, Diabetes, etc.
- 4- Early diagnosis of pathological delivery and its treatment. Prevention of dystocia.
- 5- Prevention of complications arising from delivery (vaginal fistula, incontinence, etc.)
- 6- Neonatal resuscitation and normal newborn nutrition.
- 7- Resuscitation of newborn with disease, and medical and surgical treatment.
- 8- Physiology of breastfeeding. Alternative feeding for the healthy child.
- 9- Feeding for diseased infant.
- 10- Early diagnosis of neonatal respiratory and digestive diseases.
- 11- Prevention and early diagnosis of perinatal infections in the mother and child.
- 12- Maternal/foetal disease through HIV and its prevention.
- 13- Diet for the pregnant mother and in the postpartum period.
- 14- Diet during infancy and childhood vaccination schedule in Africa.
- 15- Prevention of childhood accidents. Injuries and Burns

The training for mothers and families will focus on:

Sex Education. Methods of Birth Control.

The Physiology of Normal Pregnancy. Maternal nutrition and the prevention of birth defects.

The Physiology of Childbirth. The prevention of complications. Perineal fistula, incontinence, infection.

Healthy diet for mother and foetus. Neonatal feeding and immunization schedule.

Prevention of accidents in obstetrics and infants.

Beneficiaries: health care workers of between 15 and 20 years of age and more than 40 women who have previously been called up for this purpose from the Obstetrics, Paediatrics and General Medicine surgeries/clinics.

2.2. INFANT SURGERY PROJECT IN TANGUIÉTA. BENIN

Objectives. This project has three objectives:

1. To perform surgery on children without resources who are usually seen to at Tanguiéta Hospital;
2. To train medical and nursing staff with new surgical and anaesthetic techniques;
3. To provide the hospital with new technical resources.

Location: Tanguiéta Hospital is located north of Benin, near the border with Burkina Faso.

Description: The Hospital was built in June 1970 by the Italian Brothers of St. John of God. Since then it has maintained economic and cooperative links with the latter and other European institutions, which have enabled it to carry out its day-to-day care work such that it has become the main hospital in Benin and in this part of the continent. It is partially self-sufficient economically through entry fees that each patient makes every day (about CFA 2000, or about €25), which gives them access to all the medical, surgical and pharmaceutical services.

It mainly treats patients with malnutrition and infectious diseases such as measles, polio, meningitis, chicken pox, yellow fever, rabies, cholera and in particular malaria. It also has good infrastructure for surgery, which enables it to keep up a good level of support in terms of obstetrics/gynaecology, orthopaedics, urology and general surgery.

Tanguiéta Hospital serves the population of Benin, Niger, Burkina Faso and Togo. Because of its location and the chronic underdevelopment in the region, the Saint Jean de Dieu Hospital of Tanguiéta acts as a local example to follow in specialized care, although the resources it has are scarce.

The hospital does not have surgeons for infant, so it depends on collaboration provided by specialists from Europe and, in particular, from Spain and Italy. The hospital also serves as an educational hospital. Medical and nursing staff from Benin and other neighbouring countries do their training and specialization here.

The surgical mission is to send a medical team of 3 or 4 people to cover the areas of anaesthesia, surgery and post surgical care.

A month before the arrival of the team, the hospital director will be informed of the exact date of the surgical mission such that the paediatricians and nurses who are seeing patients can identify the cases that are most suited to treatment.

The project includes a series of "medical scholarships" covering the costs of the operations.

Beneficiaries: It is estimated that a total of 40 to 60 surgical operations on children will benefit.

2.3 FISTULA PROJECT. LIBERIA

Objective: The main aim is to improve women's quality of life and health, eradicating obstetric fistula. To do so, a training programme or Obstetric Fistula School is to be carried out to train indigenous health workers in preventive and curative measures, whilst also drawing up a Guide to Clinical Practice. This project thus provides essential information aimed at pregnant women and those suffering from this injury.

Description: Obstetric fistula in Africa is a result of the deficit in delivery care and may be considered the most significant of pregnancy-related disabilities. It appears as a result of delivery that has been halted in the second stage with no possibility of delivery

proceeding for hours or days, and its existence reflects the shortfall in public health care.

Obstetric fistula programmes focussing on surgery are currently under way, and fortunately there are women who can reclaim their place within their social environment and overcome the separation from their family as a result of their illness. However, obstetric fistula necessitates a strategy to address obstetric prevention as well as reconstructive surgery.

Primary prevention aims to prevent obstetric fistula. To do so, midwives will be trained in new techniques so they can perform obstetric caesarean emergency operations and provide postoperative care. In other words, first level obstetric care will be supported by specialized midwives, forming a model of a basic obstetric unit. At the same time, work will be done on information and education programmes for the general public and for health mediators so that communication and transfer of the woman in labour to the basic obstetric unit can be done avoiding fistulas due to caesarean section. The model of the unit for dealing with obstetric fistula is intended to cover a population of between 100,000 to 200,000, and its main aim is to reduce the number of fistulas.

The second key feature is clinical/surgical activity. Surgery for obstetric fistula requires surgical expertise and skill, so a training programme will be held in a specialized surgical centre with doctors and anaesthetists. This surgery centre is designed as a school specializing in fistula.

To carry out the project, there will be a team of health care staff, experts in gynaecological surgery, nurses experienced in the operating theatre, midwives and a person from preventive medicine and public health care. In the first phase of the project, this team will cover assistance for one month in each of the four seasons.

There will also be expert midwives for the basic obstetrics units who can train local staff in care during pregnancy and delivery and refer the cases of obstructed labour to the basic obstetrics unit to perform caesarean section.

2.4 PROGRAMME FOR THE PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS IN WOMEN

Out of over 33 million patients in the world infected with the human immunodeficiency virus, more than two thirds of them live in Africa, causing over 1.3 million deaths per year due to this disease. In recent years, the incidence of new cases has been decreasing but the numbers are far from acceptable in social and humane terms.

Young women of childbearing age in Sub-Saharan Africa (15 to 24 years of age), suffer the scourge of HIV infection with significant frequency and intensity. In some countries like Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa and Zimbabwe, HIV prevalence in women is much higher than in males, reaching proportions of 20 and 25% of the population of this age and sex. This has a huge influence on the chances of survival and development not only for one person or a particular family, but for their entire community.

Access to early diagnosis of HIV infection in African women is uneven across the continent, as is the possibility of having adequate medical care during pregnancy and delivery, and access to antiretroviral drugs. These two aspects are crucial for controlling the infection in the mother and preventing transmission of the virus to the neonate.

Some countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, where infection rates are very high in women of childbearing age, have made a great effort so that most women now have adequate care during pregnancy and delivery and that for over 60% of them treatment guidelines can be established to prevent maternal and infant infection. In other countries such as Ethiopia, Chad and Nigeria, however, the proportion of HIV-infected women who receive adequate perinatal care or treatment to prevent transmission to their infant is very low and, in some places, non-existent.

There are many needs to cover without delay in the coming years, but the priorities are most certainly: access to early, voluntary and confidential diagnosis of HIV infection and the availability of antiretroviral medication during pregnancy, delivery and breastfeeding.

The *Mujeres por África* Foundation will draw up an action plan in line with these priorities in an aim to facilitate women's access to information on preventing HIV/AIDS and especially access to antiretroviral drugs.

3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic empowerment is an essential process for the advancement of women as agents of economic development. Their predominant role in the subsistence economy or the informal economy should shift towards the productive economy so as to increase their already significant contribution to the advancement of their societies.

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, access to credit, new technology and training. This situation affects their independence and limits their options in life and work, as well as being a key factor in reproducing the inter-generational cycle of poverty.

Women in Africa, however, support more than 40% of the families on the continent, going to great lengths to meet basic needs. To do so, they create alternatives to combat

hunger, ensuring food security and safety for their households and their communities. Agriculture remains the economic base for most of the poor in Africa and accounts for about one third of GDP and the bulk of employment. Most agricultural production comes from small farms, which is a sector in which women play a major role. Agricultural production, distribution and sales directly affect food security and the nutritional condition of family members, and thus also have a big effect in multiplying agricultural growth.

Women do 70 to 80 per cent of the farm work, producing almost 90% of the food. Nevertheless, only 0.5% of the money given to improve agriculture in Africa has been earmarked to finance agricultural projects for women. Their farms are smaller and less mechanized than those belonging to men and their soils are of poorer quality. Moreover, even if women have access to land, they are usually not the owners - they only own 1 per cent of the land.

In the process of empowerment, job training is therefore a central feature and this must include the most basic skills as well as those related to traditional economic sectors: agriculture, tourism, hospitality, computing, crafts etc. The late Nobel laureate Wangari Maathai advocated the need to encourage entrepreneurship among African women. To do this, it is necessary to empower women to borrow money to start and manage small and medium-sized businesses and to use information and communications technology, as well as new energy technology.

The work under way to support women's entrepreneurship in Africa is proving successful, so it is necessary to foster access to financing through microcredits and to strengthen cooperation with the networks of African financial institutions that provide services for women.

The foundation aims to promote the economic rights of African women through access to resources, boosting their skills and their opportunities as regards access to credit and fostering business networks and associations. We shall encourage entrepreneurship among African women in the fields of agriculture, the service sector and communications. To do so we will implement educational initiatives in different professions and entrepreneurial training, facilitating access to microcredits.

LINES OF ACTION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Support for national and local strategies for sustainable, comprehensive agricultural development to boost the participation of women in primary sector activities oriented towards quality and added value;
- Support for policy changes that facilitate access to land as a decisive strategic factor for the autonomy and empowerment of African women;
- Implementation of training programmes for women in agricultural management, access to technology and sales networks;
- Launching of training programmes for women in traditional economic sectors, with emphasis on local potential;
- Designing educational programmes and business training;
- Conducting training programmes in microfinancing,

- Encouraging the creation of women's associations or cooperatives providing professional skills training and microcredit management;
- Collaboration with African financial institutions that provide financial and economic services to women.

The projects to be launched in this area by the *Mujeres por África* Foundation are:

3.1. PILOT PROJECT OF COMPREHENSIVE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR WOMEN. GAMBIA

Objective: The overall aim of this project is to improve women's quality of life by promoting economic and agricultural activities, and fostering their empowerment and their countries' development. This is a pilot project to be implemented in various African countries, starting in Gambia.

Project description:

This comprehensive agricultural development project is aimed specifically at women. It is based on the need to promote, encourage and develop a kind of agriculture designed to meet these farmers' needs of supply and consumption, as well as the local sale of their produce. Women are in a situation of great vulnerability due to their lower educational level and the difficulties they have as regards access to land ownership and local and regional markets.

This initiative aims to empower women as regards crops produced to cover the needs of the farmers themselves and their families as well as for sale. This is an alternative for mothers who have the opportunity to increase their family's income, to be independent and at the same time to help the community to which they belong.

Overall, the project will combine activities related to production, improvements in infrastructure, individual training and empowerment of women. It also focuses on strengthening institutions, using a strategy of participation within an approach of comprehensive, inclusive development.

Through the project, action will be taken mainly on local socio-economic development and integrated rural development:

- community social structure,
- water supply and sanitation,
- provision of infrastructure of wells for irrigation and human consumption,
- creation of productive activities and agricultural development,
- agricultural and technical training for the target population,
- skills training and education in new sales channels,
- access to land and finance (microcredits).

This comprehensive approach is significant in ensuring that the target population will assume these activities and sustain them. This is an option for mothers because they will have the opportunity to increase their family's income and at the same time to help the community.

The project includes a study to enable us to define a model kit to pump groundwater to the surface. This will be done based on the fundamental premises that it should need no maintenance or be very simple, that it is able to adapt to many situations and that it is modular, so that successive additions of basic units can be put in place to cater for different needs in terms of water volume flow.

For this rural development pilot project, we will use photovoltaic technology that converts sunlight directly into electricity, which has proved very useful for generating electricity in remote places.

A system of water filtration and disinfection will be used to ensure potability through filters such as biosand.

The project has three basic areas:

- The first is aimed at supporting food production, safety and security (agricultural and technical training for the target population).
- The second aims to improve the population's living conditions (by providing wells for irrigation and human consumption, water purifiers etc.).
- The third is intended to strengthen institutional and community capabilities, local sales and access to land and finance.

Support for food production, safety and security includes action taken to supply agricultural inputs, seeds, apparatus/infrastructure for storage and processing, training for producers and specific support for women's access to land ownership, income-generating activities and credit.

Improving the population's living conditions, the second area, will be carried out by building or rebuilding infrastructures for communal services (wells for drinking water, irrigation, sanitation facilities) and by training young women.

Lastly, bolstering the institutional and community capabilities means raising awareness among the population and making local authorities' strategies more dynamic. While the details about the instruments to be used will be specified on formulating this project, the idea is to work with projects, public awareness, technical assistance, training and microcredits.

The action envisaged in the three areas is intended not only to meet women's practical needs, but also their strategic interests. It is thus worth highlighting awareness of their access to land ownership, education and training through literacy classes, technical agricultural training and support for income-generating activities that women's associations carry out.

MODEL KIT FOR PUMPING GROUNDWATER FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND IRRIGATION, AND SYSTEM OF FILTRATION AND DISINFECTION OF WATER TO ENSURE POTABILITY

In the 21st century, water will be like oil was in the 20th century. Global water scarcity and droughts are spreading in both the so-called developed countries and the so-called developing countries. Today, more than 1.1 billion people do not have access to clean water. Climate change is a reality and water is a key part in the struggle to find ways of sustainable development through specific actions based on environmental, social and economic sustainability. Much will depend on our actions over the next 30 years.

One vital aspect of the project is to define a low-maintenance kit that is easy to install, modular and responds to the need to provide drinking water to rural communities in Africa, both for domestic use and to irrigate small farms whose produce is for consumption, not for sale.

A study will be carried out to enable a model kit to be designed to pump groundwater to the surface. This will be done based on the fundamental premises that it should need no maintenance or be very simple, that it is able to adapt to many situations and that it is modular, so that successive additions of basic units can be put in place to cater to different needs in terms of volume of water flow.

PUMPING WATER WITH PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR POWER

Pumping water on a small scale is a task of great importance all over the world. It has particular impact in rural communities where there is no conventional electricity supply.

Photovoltaic pumping systems have a characteristically high reliability, long life and minimal maintenance, all of which means a lower cost. Systems activated by sunlight are an affordable solution for many users far from conventional sources of electricity. These solar systems have some advantages and disadvantages that the designer must consider carefully and also the user in the long term when compared to other alternatives.

Furthermore, it does not need an operator to use it and has a low environmental impact (no air or water pollution and it does not produce noise). Another advantage is that the systems are modular, so they can be adjusted to meet specific user needs at any time.

These systems are very simple to operate. To carry out a project successfully, it is necessary to understand concepts such as photovoltaic solar power, the system's hydraulics and how the pump motor works.

Currently, there are thousands of PV pumping systems in operation on farms and ranches around the world. Photovoltaic systems can meet a wide range of needs ranging from small herds (less than 20 head of cattle) to moderate irrigation requirements. Solar pumping systems are simple, reliable and require little maintenance. Fuel is not

required, either. These advantages must be carefully considered when comparing the initial costs of a conventional system with a solar pumping system.

MAKING WATER FIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Another key project is to develop a system of water filtration and disinfection to ensure potability. The biosand filter has been chosen. This is an adaptation from the traditional slow sand filter that can be built on a small scale and can be operated intermittently. These modifications make the filter a good choice for domestic use or for small groups. It can be produced locally anywhere in the world because it is built with materials that are readily available.

The biosand filter should be used as part of a multi-barrier approach, which is the best way to reduce health risks from drinking unsafe water. The filter is easy to use and improves the appearance and taste of water. The filter is easy to operate and maintain.

Implementation: This project will be implemented in collaboration with the Federation of Rural Women's Associations.

3.2. WOMEN ON THE WHEEL PROJECT. SIERRA LEONE

Objectives: The main aim is to promote and strengthen women's economic independence in Sierra Leone, meaning to empower them economically and to promote gender equality.

The current project thus has the following objectives:

1. To provide a means of independence for women and improve their self-esteem,
2. To improve the level and quality of life of women and their families,
3. To contribute to social change in the country,
4. To promote the values of teamwork, solidarity, good management, self-confidence and the autonomy to decide about their own lives,
5. To train women in business practices,
6. To encourage initiatives by women's organizations created to foster equality and empowerment.

The "Women on the Wheel" project is intended to be a model for other women.

Location: Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone.

Description: Women in Sierra Leone have no equality when it comes to access to education, economic opportunities, health facilities or social freedom. In rural areas, women continue doing subsistence farming work, while in the capital they are also engaged in street vending, mainly of food and fabrics. They have few opportunities to get a formal education. The average educational level of women is markedly lower than that of men: only 19% are literate. Universities are male-dominated. Women try to increase their income, but they lack the financial means, materials and the training

needed to start a business. There is a demand for training, material support and access to credit.

Collectively, women's groups do exist but they have few material and financial resources to work with.

The Women on the Wheel project intends to take the process of empowerment of women a step further by creating a cooperative of women taxi drivers in Sierra Leone, a country where there is no personalized, safe taxi service of quality. Women will be educated and trained to be competent and self-sufficient in different areas: driving, mechanics, management, personal defence, first aid, IT and customer service. These women may thus have paid employment, protection and advice from the cooperative. Moreover, the cooperative provides health insurance to every member signed up with the Davidson Nicol Hospital.

The first phase of the project involves the purchase of a fleet of 10 vehicles and the construction of a garage workshop. Theoretical and practical driving education will be provided for 60 women to obtain a driving licence. Twelve women will be trained in preventive and corrective maintenance of vehicles and twelve women will be trained in management and administrative tasks. The total number of women targeted is estimated at 84.

The cooperative will provide the women with microcredits to be able to receive this education. This loan will be repaid in small monthly instalments once the women start working as taxi drivers and mechanics, giving the money back to the cooperative so it can continue to train women and cover its operating expenses.

Lead Time: The lead time for the project is 18 months.

Implementation: The Women on the Wheel project will be implemented in collaboration with the local NGO, Diamond School Child of Arts and Culture, which has had a training centre in Freetown since 2005. An agreement between the *Mujeres por África* Foundation and Diamond Child will be signed.

3.3. TRAINING PROGRAMME IN MICRO-FINANCE AND MICRO-CREDIT MANAGEMENT

Objectives: To empower women through training in knowledge and management of micro-finance services and business training as a necessary tool to carry out productive activities.

Description: Training in micro-finance is a tool for people to fight poverty. Training in micro-finance is to be understood not only from a financial standpoint, but also as a reflection of societies' way of life. Whereas in developed countries there is access to

banking or insurance branches, in less developed countries poor people's lack of access to the financial market implies a reduction in their freedom. Microfinance includes the full range of financial services especially designed for people with low incomes who have not had access to the traditional banking system. The most important financial services include: micro-credits, micro savings, micro insurance, money transfers and remittances. Access to savings and credit enables, for example, a family to have access to housing, reduces the dependence of women on their family and frees many people from the high costs of other possibilities. Recent studies show that in the field of microfinance, most customers are women. The average number of women customers compared to the total of customers is greater than 50%, and in some cases it comes to 100%.

Empowering women is a key reason to support microfinance programmes targeting women. Putting financial resources into the hands of women helps to broaden their options and boost gender equality. However, putting money in the hands of women or providing them with an income does not automatically empower them, though it may be a necessary condition. This process should be accompanied by business training in areas such as customer service, planning and budgeting, accountancy for the business, money management and how to use financial services. Learning and training are essential for this tool to be effective.

In this context, we must highlight the importance of managing the various microcredit tools for the benefit of people, particularly women, and as a way of promoting the organisation's social activity, paying particular attention to sustainability and stressing that in designing and applying it one has to consider the participation of the people it is aimed at. The aim is to promote education about these tools and their proper use and assimilation, while paying attention to the financial aspect.

Implementation: The *Mujeres por África* Foundation will design training programmes in the management of microfinance for rural women and female entrepreneurs. These programmes will be implemented in the projects to be carried out by the foundation in the field of economic development and in specific projects aimed at women's groups, working with organizations with extensive experience in this field.

4. EMPOWERMENT

Promoting gender equality and empowerment of women is the Third Millennium Development Goal. Today, all studies indicate that empowering women and promoting gender equality is essential to achieve sustainable development. Greater gender equality can make the economy more efficient and improve other results in terms of development by removing barriers that prevent women from having equal access and opportunities as regards social and economic life. It is a fact confirmed by all international organizations that the greater the level of equality between women and men, the greater the level of development a country reaches and the higher their growth rates. Among other reasons, this is because equality means talent and intelligence is not wasted; women's full potential in society is realized. Empowering women implies a

greater investment in education, health care and general welfare for women and their families.

The commitment to gender equality and thus the empowerment of women is strong in Africa, as it is in the international community. The promotion of gender equality is enshrined in Article 4 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU) as one of its basic principles and in the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa. To comply with this principle, the AU established the Women, Gender and Development Directorate and launched an ambitious Gender Programme. Promoting the role of women in social and economic development and their participation in political and economic processes in Africa is also one of the keystones of NEPAD's work. The African Development Bank has also adopted a Gender Policy and Plan of Action that seeks a horizontal approach.

Another important development has been the progressive incorporation of women in African parliaments. Twenty African countries have reached a 30% representation of women in their legislative houses, Rwanda being particularly notable with 55% female legislators. In other countries, like South Africa, there is a quota system, reflecting the increased visibility of gender issues and mechanisms to ensure greater participation of women in decision-making processes. In 2011, the Nobel Prize winner Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the first female president of government in Africa and a member of our Advisory Board, was re-elected as the president of Liberia.

Achieving gender equality and empowerment of women is therefore a priority and an essential prerequisite for building societies that are more just, better educated, more peaceful, more prosperous and sustainable. For this reason, this goal has become a cross-discipline objective for the *Mujeres por África* foundation and this approach is present in all areas of activity.

LINES OF ACTIVITY:

- Carrying out initiatives for peace-building and governance.
- Taking action to consolidate democracy in states and inclusive citizenship.
- Carrying out training programmes to structure civil society and foster the social and political participation of women.
- Drawing up legal education activities in order to create new regulations to defend equality and strengthen democracy.
- Promoting and cooperating in awareness programmes and action against gender violence and its impunity.

4.1. PROJECT FOR TRAINING WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP IN COUNTRIES IN THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION

At present, some countries in Africa and Mediterranean countries are undergoing a process of change and reconstruction in their democratic systems. While women and some organized women's networks have been actively involved in these changes, their active participation in the process of constructing new states is essential in building and establishing strong democracies.

For this reason, with our long experience in working with Latin American women and those on other continents, as well as the experience of the work begun in *Casa África* in recent years and the Spanish and African Women Meetings, the *Mujeres por África* Foundation will organize different training activities and virtual and in-person forums in collaboration with several networks in order to give women leadership skills.

The aim of this project, which will run throughout the year with different activities, is to educate and encourage African women so that they participate in politics and society and thereby to contribute to their empowerment in their communities.

These meetings also aim to bring together women from all geographical areas of Africa and from very diverse situations in order to enrich the discussions and their ability to participate in all spheres of political power and social and economic life in different countries.

In Mediterranean countries, taking into account existing institutions such as the Women's Union for the Mediterranean, we will work together to support women parliamentarians, academics and entrepreneurs so that they are not excluded from far-reaching decisions about the future that are being taken now and that they can participate actively in the constitutional processes that are taking place.

4.2. PROJECT TO EDUCATE WOMEN IN LAW

In all African countries there are women lawyers of prestige that have even come to play significant roles in the courts of their states. In Spain and in several African countries, we have networks of women lawyers who have been and still are very supportive in the development of the constitutions, laws and regulations that foster gender equality and the strengthening of African democracies.

Through the *Mujeres por África* Foundation and in collaboration with the network of women constitutionalists and other organizations of women lawyers, we will carry out various programmes and activities to educate women in law, as well as providing technical support to apply the new regulatory contexts, laws and initiatives that encourage equality and social justice. This training and advice will be provided by the foundation either at the request of the governments themselves or on the initiative of women's groups.

In Tunisia, we will carry out a programme to support female Tunisian jurists who are participating in drafting the new Constitution of Tunisia. To do so, contacts have been established with Tunisian women's associations dedicated to gaining knowledge related to gender issues and to strengthening women's skills so they can participate in public affairs at local, national and international levels.

5. CROSS-DISCIPLINE AND RESEARCH PROJECTS

5.1. MAP OF COOPERATION IN AFRICA

Objective: To make a comprehensive diagnosis of the situation of Spanish cooperation in Africa.

Location: The project will be carried out in Spain.

Description: This project seeks to address the need to develop an overall map of Spanish cooperation in Africa, whether this is public or private.

The aim is to give details as to the progress of Spanish cooperation in Africa, its main economic figures, the main agents involved in the cooperation, relationships with the recipient countries and projects, the strategic lines along which the cooperation is moving, participation in Spanish and international bodies, etc.

The project's basic premise aims to avoid overlapping work and to make the most of Spanish cooperation's activities in Africa, whether they are promoted by the public or private sector. This fosters the progressive insertion of cooperation initiatives and the willingness to work across sectors, encouraging an emphasis on exploiting existing synergies and available resources, implementing the achievements and attempting to mitigate shortages.

Implementation: The project will be carried out in collaboration with the Autonomous University of Madrid's Group of African Studies.

6. "THEM WITH US: AFRICA IN SPAIN"

The *Mujeres por África* Foundation cannot ignore the large number of African women residing in Spain. Recent data in Spain show there are 384,260 African women living in this country. The vast majority are from Morocco, but there are also members in this group of women from Algeria, Nigeria, Senegal, Gambia and Equatorial Guinea. In addition to these, there are about 25,000 women who are registered as relatives.

The *Mujeres por África* Foundation is aware of this social reality and its potential, and is going to work with this group of African women for closer ties between Spain and Africa through these women, who without a doubt can make enriching contributions from their cultures. The *Mujeres por África* Foundation aims to promote more and better mutual understanding with the African women residing in Spain.

These groups have created an extensive network of associations that carry out supportive and educational activities in collaboration with Spanish entities. Through the *Mujeres por África* Foundation, we will carry out activities to strengthen the network of associations and the organisational structure of Spanish and international networks, with professional training programmes for this group designed according to their abilities and needs, and co-development programmes.

7. CREATING AWARENESS

We live not only in a globalized world, but in a social situation where immigration, emigration and multiculturalism are very present in our daily lives. Guided by our constitutional values and also by the foundation's very own principles, we would like to help raise awareness in Spanish society as regards this situation and to increase knowledge about the causes of poverty, the values of Africa and its development potential. Better knowledge about the African continent is a way to better understand the world we live in and the future of our model of civilization.

Throughout 2012, the *Mujeres por África* Foundation will carry out various awareness-raising, informational and outreach activities in Spain on various aspects of the general situation in Africa and about the continent's rich cultural and artistic heritage.

These are some of the more noteworthy activities proposed:

- **A tribute to the late Wangari Maathai**, in support of the "I am the Hummingbird Campaign," which aims to plant one million trees in her memory. The *Mujeres por África* Foundation intends to spread the work of the Green Belt Movement and pay tribute to the memory of Wangari Maathai by planting a small wood in Spain in her memory.
- **The *Mujeres Por África* Foundation's Own Exhibition**, which will provide a tour of various parts of our country, particularly those that have African population groups. The purpose of this display is to explain the data and images that reflect the continent's situation and in particular, that of its women. The exhibition also displays crafts from different countries, which may be purchased. The profits will go to the groups of African women living in Spain. This exhibition will include in future the screening of recordings on the projects carried out by the *Mujeres por África* Foundation, which will form part of the foundation's visual reports.
- **Empowering Women who Write, Direct and Produce Films in Africa:** Since the 90's in Africa there has been a women's movement called "Women of the Image" that seeks an increased presence of women in audiovisual management positions as well as a change in the content. They call themselves Women of the Image and not women of cinema, because television and the Internet have been very important in this movement, which also includes cinema film directors. In 1991 at the Festival of Ouagadougou, there was a meeting of filmmakers from around the continent. The outcome of the meeting was the creation of a professional association called The Association of Professional African Women in Cinema, Television and Video.

The *Mujeres por África* Foundation is going to carry out an exchange

programme between these organizations and their "sister" in Spain: CIMA (an association of women filmmakers from the audiovisual media). This project will be responsible for a meeting to be held at the African Festival of Tarifa and a sample of African films directed by women (historical in character, looking at key works) within this festival.

- **The publication of books on popular African culture.**
- **Concerts with African musicians with the proceeds going to women's projects in Africa.**