

**THE *MUJERES POR ÁFRICA* FOUNDATION
2013 ACTION PLAN**

INTRODUCTION:

The *Mujeres por África* Foundation's Action Plan for 2013 includes projects and initiatives that show the Foundation's intention to become an example to follow as regards initiatives for development aimed at Africa, working alongside the continent's women. "*Promoting women's empowerment and equality in rights and opportunities, development and progress in Africa*"—this is what each and every one of the initiatives proposed in this plan aims for.

The projects that make up the 2013 Action Plan include many of the proposals found in the 2012 Plan. In the ten months that the *Mujeres Por África* Foundation has been operational, the preparatory phase has been carried out for all the necessary activities to be put into action in 2013: institutional contracts, agreements with the other parties, the search for partners, signing agreements etc. Exemplary projects such as *Ghana Wins!*, *Women in the Driving Seat*, the *Prevention and Treatment of Fistula* and the construction of farming cooperatives will begin to be carried out once the preparatory phase has been completed.

The 2013 Action Plan also includes new projects that have great potential for impact. *Painting Africa: Women against Malaria* lends an innovative approach to prevention of this disease by combining the empowerment of women with far-reaching action aimed at sanitation and restoration. Like most of our work, the pilot project to be launched in Ghana aims to act as a model for other areas on the continent.

The priority areas for activity (education, health care, economic development and empowerment) include new initiatives such as the Training Programme in Leadership for Women in Mali, the *Women and Sport* Project and the *Karibu Hanna* documentary. In addition, the 2013 Action Plan also has cross-discipline areas of great relevance. For example, the area for studies, analyses and research on the situation of women on the continent includes new research in collaboration with prestigious institutions such as the African School of Economics and the First Meeting on Development Policy in a Global World, which aims to be a forum that brings together the best experts in the matter and whose conclusions will act as guidelines for the future.

Upon specifying the new tools for development, we have also included in this plan an initiative called "Spanish, a development tool for women". It is made up of various lines of activity, using the creative idea of carrying out initiatives with descendants of Africans and thereby forming a bridge between Africa, Iberia and Latin America.

Lastly, it should be noted that the foundation has continued its policy of collaboration with public and private institutions in Africa and Spain, thus creating new alliances between prestigious universities in the USA such as the University of Columbia and Princeton with cinema colleges in Africa, specifically the one in Ghana.

I. 2013 PROJECTS

1. THE *GHANA WINS!* PROJECT (2012 – 2015)

Description:

This project will be carried out over three years and eight months. It is based on three programmes that focus on the country's priority needs: education, social leadership and health care. This project aims to develop and boost the leadership skills of a group of Ghanaian women who work professionally in each of the three areas just mentioned. It will give the women who take part the necessary skills for them to lead their country's social transformation and development. They will be asked to design and carry out 30 projects, which shall be put into practice on the ground. When this project is over, about 80 women will have been trained and 30 projects carried out to help Ghanaian society.

The project's structure has three specific programmes: the Teacher Training Programme, the Hospital Management Programme and the Programme for Social Leadership for Women. The Hospital Management Programme's specific aim is to train three successive groups of nurses. This programme will last 3 years and 18 months. In the Teacher Training Programme, the intention is to train three successive groups of 10 to 12 women. This programme will last 3 years. Lastly, the Social Leadership Programme will give information to two successive groups of 15 to 20 women. This programme will last two years.

Partners: The partners in this project are the University of New York (New York University College of Nursing; Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development; Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service), the University of Ghana and Santander Bank.

Implementation:

Throughout 2012, preparatory tasks have been carried out in order for the different programmes to be undertaken properly: institutional contacts with the Government of Ghana, drawing up agreements, coordination of teams, specifying criteria etc.

Hospital Management Programme: This is the first programme and will be launched in 2013. The programme is regulated by a specific agreement that sets out the programme's content and the parties' obligations. It is to be signed by the University of New York, the University of Ghana, the Government of Ghana's Ministry of Education and the *Mujeres por África* Foundation. The first step will be to launch the first call for participants. When this is published, this will mark the start of the selection process for the first ten participants in the programme. The selection process may finish in January 2013. That month, the first training course will be held in Accra. The second course will take place in the same place in April. In August 2013, the ten participating nurses will be given the third training course in New York. The participants must draw up and carry out a Transformation Project that could be

undertaken in over six months to a year. Selection of the second group of participants will take place in August-September 2013.

The **Teacher Training** Programme by the Ghanaian Institute for the Future of Teaching and Education aims to train the participants in leadership, based on the use of mentoring circles. Contact has already been made with the Ministry of Education and the University of Winneba in Ghana, which will be the local counterpart in carrying out this programme. Work is now being done on the text for the announcement and on negotiating the specific Understanding Agreement. It is expected that the agreement may be signed in 2013. The selection process will take place from January to June. From June to July the participants will go to New York to be given a training course. In October, the *Mujeres por África* Foundation together with the University of New York will take part in a tour of some of the participants' schools, where they are to carry out the chosen projects.

The **Social Leadership Programme** intends to train women with the potential to lead change in key sectors such as education, health care and industry. The intention is for the recipients of the programme to be women from 20 to 30 years of age who have shown their leadership ability but who do not yet have an established position, and preferably those who have not had leadership training before. Right now we are working on setting up a focus group to help us identify the possible participants and preparing a training programme suited to their needs and the needs of Ghanaian society. The announcement must be made and the candidates selected from February to June 2013. The participants will be given a course in leadership in New York in June-July.

2. "EDUCATING GIRLS FROM RIMKIETA" PROJECT BURKINA FASO

Description:

This project aims to give schooling and training to girls in dire need in the Rimkieta neighbourhood. The project is located in one of the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods of the capital of Burkina Faso, one of the poorest countries in the world. Poverty and a lack of resources are the harsh reality for many girls in Rimkieta. This is why those who benefit from this project are abandoned orphan girls or girls from families living in extreme poverty aged between 8 and 19 in the Rimkieta neighbourhood. The project also includes daily food for the girls with multivitamins, ferrous sulphate and folic acid supplements. Lastly, it should also be noted that they will be given anti-parasite treatment with 500mg of Mebendazole.

Partners: The project is carried out in collaboration with the Friends of Rimkieta Foundation, with whom a Collaboration Agreement has been signed.

Implementation:

The project involves three training phases to be carried out over eight years, which is how long the project lasts. It began in the 2012-2013 school year.

Phase I: Schooling or Re-Schooling. This group includes girls of 7-8 years of age (primary school starting age) and 19-20 years of age (students' age in the last school year). It involves a programme for monitoring and controlling the school results of the beneficiaries. The school year that began in September 2012 has 120 girls (to be schooled or re-schooled). It is expected that the same number of beneficiaries will be maintained in the 2013-2014 school year.

Phase II: Literacy I – Schooling/Profession. The aim is to give girls who have never had schooling the basic training necessary for future schooling or to learn an occupation. This phase of training lasts 2 years. On ending this project, the students will be evaluated. According to the results, they have 3 options:

- 1) To get schooling (they go on to form part of Phase I):
- 2) To learn a trade in vocational training workshops;
- 3) To continue their education (these girls will be included in Phase III).

In the 2012-2013 school year, twenty 10-year-old girls will benefit and the same number is planned for the 2013-2014 year.

Phase III: Literacy II. The aim here is to continue with basic education for girls who for whatever reason cannot go on to the other two phases. The evaluation will be carried out after the two years that phase II lasts.

3. PROJECT TO GIVE SCHOOLING TO GIRLS IN THE RURAL AREA OF LILONGWE (KULIMBIKITSA ATISKANA KU MALAWI) MALAWI

Description:

This project aims to bolster the schooling of girls and youths in the towns of Chaombwa and Mbambande, in the rural area nearest to the capital, Lilongwe. The objective is for them to have access to higher education and to have good academic training. The beneficiaries are girls and youths from broken families in rural areas in which women have limited possibilities for promotion. The project also involves maintenance and health care for the beneficiaries. The girls and youths are selected with the aid of the heads of the towns, who decide together with the community which girls are to be taken into the programme. The families and the community they belong to thus make a commitment to supporting the girls and youths in their studies.

Partners: This project is carried out in collaboration with the Esteban G. Vigil Foundation.

Implementation:

The project has two lines of activity:

- Supporting secondary school studies for 50 youths.
- Schooling for 25 girls so that they can continue their primary school studies.

There is a project coordinator who will monitor the youths in the schools and meet with them and their families.

4. PROJECT TO PREVENT AND TREAT VESICO VAGINAL FISTULA. MONROVIA, LIBERIA.

Description:

Obstetric fistula in Africa is a result of a deficit in birth 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 the delivery proceeding for hours or days, and its existence reflects the shortfall in public health care.

The top priority of this project is to prevent and cure as many cases of obstetric fistula as possible, giving the target population access to health care services (girls and young mothers who give birth to their first child), especially for girls and mothers who are experiencing an extended, halted or obstructed delivery. An efficient surgical operation can reduce the number of fistulas and treat unavoidable cases. The preventive strategies to reach the entire target population are complex but they can reduce maternal and child mortality rates and thus help meet the Millennium Development Goals.

The fistula project involves the following lines of activity:

- 1) Prevention of death of mothers and newly-borns during birth.
- 2) Treatment for the fistula: repair surgery.
- 3) Training for health care staff.
- 4) Awareness and re-integration campaign.

Prevention

Prevention is at the core of the strategies to eradicate fistula. The target population in our strategy is pregnant girls and women between 11 and 20 years of age. In Monrovia, for example, which is the city where the project is to be carried out, there are about 50,000 to

70,000 births a year. A quarter of these involve youths giving birth for the first time. The challenge is to be able to identify obstructed deliveries and provide medical assistance, referring patients who need it to the relevant hospital to receive emergency obstetric aid. Collaboration with Liberia's Ministries of Health and of Gender and Development is fundamental.

Treatment: repair surgery

Obstetric Fistula (OF) can be treated with repair surgery. However, the data show the gap between many women's need for treatment and their access to such services. The project includes the creation of a Fistula Unit managed by the *Mujeres por África* Foundation. The unit must form part of the Obstetrics Hospital. The surgery must be carried out by surgical missions that will visit Monrovia regularly.

Training

Another essential feature of the project is training for health care professionals and for a network of midwives in the different neighbourhoods, under the strict control of a matron. The project includes various training programmes:

- Training of midwives and gynaecologists.
- Training of gynaecologists, urologists and surgeons in treating OF.
- Training in Spain: there is the possibility of sending midwives and gynaecologists to Spain to be trained for two months in a public hospital.

Awareness and insertion services:

One necessary ingredient for eradicating fistula and the suffering it causes is to launch campaigns to raise awareness and support re-integration services. Raising awareness requires the support of the media for greater dissemination in transmitting messages about the prevention of fistula, its treatment and social reinsertion. It is the best way to reach communities, families and specifically the women and girls suffering from fistula. The project will lay down the lines of activity in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Development to bolster public policies.

Implementation:

In September 2012, a team of doctors from *Mujeres por África* went to Monrovia in order to make contact with the Government of Liberia and visit hospitals in Monrovia. The aim of these visits was to identify a hospital where the *Mujeres por África* Fistula Unit could be set up. Later, to continue progressing in defining the different parameters for the project and getting it off the ground, a meeting was held in Madrid with Liberia's Ministry of Gender and Development. It was agreed to hold another meeting in Monrovia in December to negotiate an agreement with the Government to enable it to be launched at the beginning of 2013.

During the first phase of the project in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Development, an information campaign was drawn up, aimed at the target population in order to inform about the *Mujeres por África* Foundation's project. This campaign was also aimed at women suffering from fistula who could benefit from the first surgical mission sent to Monrovia in the first half of 2013.

5. PAINTING AFRICA: WOMEN AGAINST MALARIA. GHANA

Description:

The project "Painting Africa: African Women against Malaria – AWAM" aims to combat malaria and other plague-transmitted diseases by raising awareness and training women, making them agents in improving sanitary conditions (health, housing) in their families. This project will be carried out in Accra or in a nearby town and will last two years.

The project stems from an agreement signed by the *Mujeres por África* Foundation and the "*Ciencia y Conocimiento en Acción*" (Science and Knowledge in Action) Foundation. This agreement is the result of the work done throughout 2012 by both institutions to be able to implement a pilot project in Ghana.

Malaria is present throughout the country and the strains are highly resistant to chloroquine. It is one of the main causes of death in Ghana. It is a disease transmitted by mosquitoes and its symptoms include fever, shivering, headaches and nausea.

Over the years, the different policies for combating malaria have been achieving results, though sometimes fewer than expected. In this sense, the project aims to combine a series of factors that have not been taken into account, together with other basic factors intended to transform the social situation in three fundamental fields: health, women and inhabitability.

Partners: This project is carried out in collaboration with the *Ciencia y Conocimiento en Acción* Foundation (Science and Knowledge in Action).

The project's general aims

- To empower and train women so they can participate fully in the development of their town and people.
- To improve habits as regards hygiene and sanitation.
- To acknowledge the work of women and combat inequality and discrimination in the development of their town and people.

The project's specific aim

The aim is to improve the population's health by developing leadership skills among women in order to transform their neighbourhood into an environment free of vector-transmitted diseases such as malaria.

Implementation:

The first step is to identify the neighbourhood or town near to Accra with a population of around 2,000 families and between 9,000 and 10,000 homes where the project can be launched.

Once the neighbourhood or town for the project has been identified, the so-called "**AWAM strategy**" will begin. This strategy is based on three aspects that we consider to be important to get positive results. These aspects or work phases will be carried out consecutively as stages of the project, even if some activities may be combined in one phase.

1. Identification and analysis phase (January-June)
2. Training phase (July-September 2013)
3. Implementation phase (October 2013-October 2014)

1. Identification and analysis phase

The purpose of this phase is to consult the different people involved in the project (the local partners (the association in Ghana) and the foundations involved) in order to compile all the information about the following aspects: health (malaria), women (situation of inequality) and social situation (housing). In the different cases, the information will be ordered in such a way as to begin generally (Ghana) and end specifically in the population where the intervention is to be made.

2. Training phase

This phase is fundamental for ensuring that the project's aims can be met. In this phase, all of the necessary training, teaching, courses and workshops will be carried out that will act as a seed within the local populace. From the outset, training will be given to people motivated by the project who will become catalysts for the rest of the population. Likewise, a group will be created to be trained in applying and handling pests and insecticides. This will apply the Inesfly treatment in housing.

3. Implementation phase

- The implementation phase is divided into three programmes, depending on the field of activity. These are: *Vector control*, *Clinical Treatment* and *Education*.

- *Vector Control* includes all the data collection, georeferencing, baseline, entomological study and vector treatment. This is a specific, new programme on vector control that includes studying each house and assessing the treatment in each house.
- The *Clinical Treatment* will be carried out by the relevant institutions. The project will refer significant and problematic cases to health centres so they can be given the necessary medication. Similarly, working with the local institutions in charge of health care, there will be a group of scientists studying the cases of malaria detected in the area. A specific study of the metabolites will be carried out on people who, though they coexist with the disease, have never had it themselves.
- *Education* will be an additional part of the project. It includes training and education in health matters for all of the local populace, using the means available for this (flyers, radio, educational centres and other institutions in the area). It will be both a response and a complement to what has been carried out with the women in the training stage. Also in this programme, an electronic game will be used that will work in mobile phones and computers as an extra to include people in the methods for cleaning and controlling vectors.

6. INFANT SURGERY PROJECT. UGANDA

As in many aspects of Africa, children's health directly affects mothers' wellbeing, on whose basic care African children depend. Normally, a childhood pathology entails a double burden for the family it afflicts, since one has to consider not only the suffering the illness entails for the family but also the additional resources that they have to use (especially the mothers) in order to tackle the illness. To a large extent, these resources imply a drop in income and greater impoverishment for the whole family. This is why surgery that rectifies highly disabling pathologies not only directly affects the child operated upon, but also their family nucleus, as it allows the parents (fundamentally the mother) to go back into the world of labour.

In 2012, an infant surgery programme was run in Monrovia and Sierra Leone with very good results. In 2013 a similar project will be carried out in Uganda.

Description:

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 note the cases that are most suitable for treatment.

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

Aims. This project has three objectives:

1. To do surgical operations on the infant population that do not have resources;
2. To train medical and nursing staff with new surgical and anaesthetic techniques;
3. To provide the hospital with new technical resources.

Location: Uganda (hospital to be decided).

Beneficiaries: It is estimated that a total of 40 to 60 surgical operations will be performed on boys and girls.

Partners: This project will be implemented in collaboration with the NGO *Por África*.

7. 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 2/3 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, of 15 to 24 years of age, suffer the scourge of HIV infection with considerable 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 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 newborn infant.

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 so that treatment guidelines can be established for over 60% of them 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 age.

The *Mujeres por África* Foundation plans to carry out an AIDS programme in collaboration with international bodies and African entities.

8. AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD PROJECT: COOPERATIVES OF FARMING WOMEN. GAMBIA

Description:

This project aims to foster agricultural development in Gambia with the help of women, as well as boosting their entrepreneurial potential by creating agricultural cooperatives managed by women.

Justification:

Agriculture accounts for 26% of Gambia's GDP and provides employment for over 75% of the population. It is the sole means of sustenance and income generation for most rural families. Horticulture is an activity carried out in smallholdings (family plots of 1 to 5 hectares). It is estimated that it may give employment to 65% of rural and peri-urban inhabitants, especially women and young people, and account for 4% of GDP. There are considerable possibilities for growth in horticulture as regards internal markets and exports.

Improving food safety and security, stabilizing production of fresh food to meet the population's needs, increasing rural families' income and ensuring produce for the needs of internal markets and export—all of this affects the standard of living for women and their families and improves the population's health, thereby enabling access to other basic services such as education.

Aims:

- To give a greater role to women as agricultural businesspeople.
- To increase local production of food in rural areas by voluntarily organising and cooperating with small horticultural produce growers.
- To contribute to and increase incomes in the agricultural sector and to help in reducing poverty.
- To increase economic activity in rural environments so as to reduce inequalities between urban and rural areas.
- To cover the need to store quality local agricultural produce and satisfy national demand in other emerging industries such as tourism and exports to other countries.

Cooperative Group:

The project involves setting up a “Cooperative Group” led by women to meet the proposed objectives. The purpose of the agricultural cooperative is to bring together the female owners of horticultural smallholdings in order to boost all activities geared towards making the most of the cooperative members’ agricultural land. In all cases, the cooperative must ensure a minimum level of quality in the products so that they are accepted in the market, and especially so they can be consumed in strategic industries such as tourism.

The cooperative members contribute their work and the first intermediate goods necessary for the first harvest. These contributions may be financed through microcredits given by the Central Bank, the agricultural development bank or specialist organisations such as credit unions or other associations.

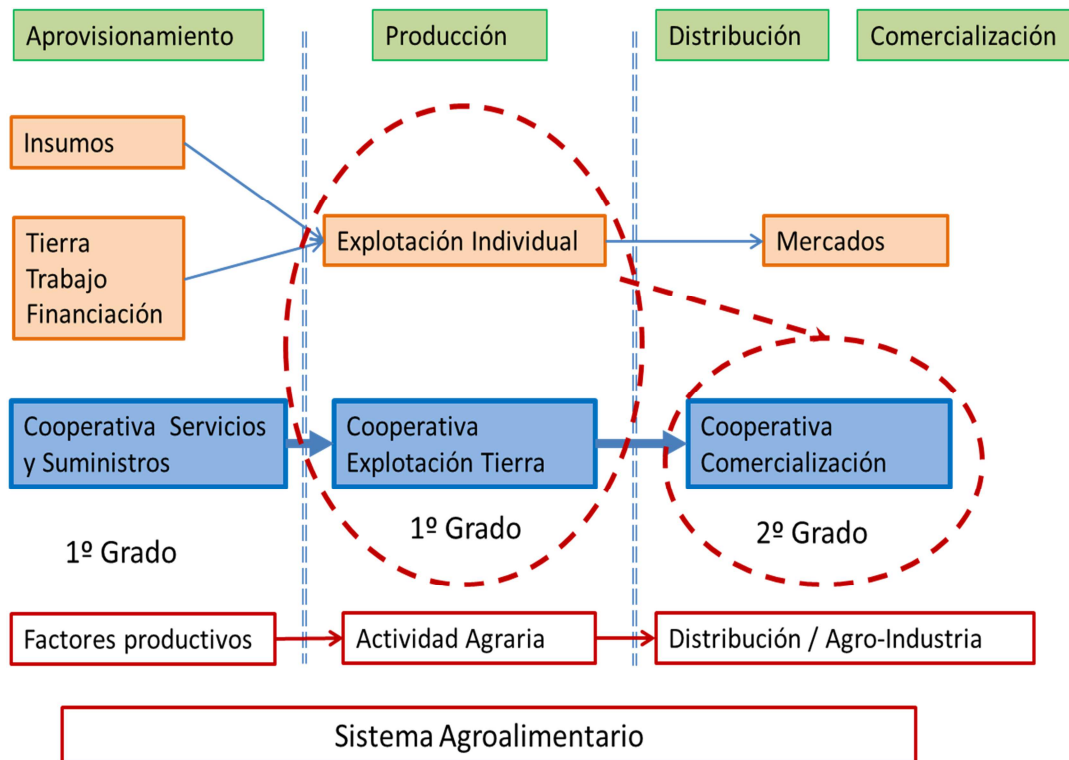
Depending on how the cooperative is organized, the number of members may increase. However, it must stem from a minimum number of plots of land to ensure the project’s viability (between 50 and 100 plots) and the production volume necessary to ensure the project continues and becomes established.

The project also involves the creation of a 2nd level cooperative made up of various 1st level cooperatives whose purpose is to promote, coordinate and develop common economic goals for their members and to bolster and integrate all of their economic activity. Their purposes are: sales and marketing, exports, technical assistance, administrative management etc.

Cooperative diagram



Agricultural and Food System



This project has been drawn up taking into account government policies, especially the “Ten-point plan to transform agriculture” and the “Gambia National Agricultural Investment Plan – Agriculture and National Resources” (ANR-GNAP). The model for first and second level cooperatives meets these activity guidelines and enables them to benefit from the work and investment already carried out.

9. WOMEN AT THE WHEEL PROJECT. SIERRA LEONE

Description:

This project aims to boost women’s economic independence and their entrepreneurial attitude. To do so, *Women in the Driving Seat* concentrates on the following aspects:

- 1) Training for 84 women: 60 drivers, 12 mechanics, 4 taxi service call service operators, 4 inspectors and 4 cooperative managers;
- 2) The launching of a quality taxi service for the city of Sierra Leone, managed exclusively by women;
- 3) Founding a cooperative that owns the *Women in the Driving Seat* taxi service and the mechanics’ garage.

The general aim is to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The specific aim is to improve women’s socio-economic position in Sierra Leone by creating the *Women in the Driving Seat* cooperative, which will also entail meeting the following objectives:

- For women to lose their fear of an independent life.
- To improve the quality of life for women and their families.
- To participate in changing society.
- To boost their self-esteem.
- To foster certain values: teamwork, solidarity, good management, self-confidence and independence to decide about their lives.
- To gain practical experience in business.
- To encourage and back initiatives by women's organizations created to foster women's equality and empowerment.

Women in the Driving Seat is a challenge that will act as an inspiration and an example for many women in Sierra Leone and the rest of Africa.

Partners: This project will be carried out in collaboration with the NGO Diamond Child School of Arts and Culture.

Implementation

The *Women in the Driving Seat* project is to be carried out in two years as of January 2013 (January 2013 to January 2015).

Given the project's complexity, three phases have been defined:

- I. Preparatory phase (April-December 2012)
- II. First phase (January 2013-December 2013)
- III. Second phase (January 2014-December 2015)

Preparatory Phase:

In this phase, contact was made with the authorities of Sierra Leone. Selection criteria were drawn up for the beneficiaries and an agreement was signed with the health care authorities to cover the beneficiaries' health care. A business model draft was also drawn up.

First Phase:

During the first phase of implementation of the project, which will begin in 2013, the activities will concentrate on the following aspects:

Training

Training the beneficiaries is essential for the project to be successful. In this first phase, women will be trained in driving, mechanics and the administration and management of a taxi service, customer service and personal defence (for the activities to be carried out, see appendix II). The women will also be made aware of and trained in empowerment and the positive aspects of cooperatives, their rules and conditions for them to be successful.

Deployment of vehicles

Twenty second-hand vehicles will be obtained to make up the taxi fleet. Another fundamental aspect for the project to meet its aims is to find partners to contribute vehicles. The vehicles are the basic feature of the project as regards creating income, and therefore are its *raison d'être*. They will preferably be roadworthy four-wheel drives with spare parts to ensure maintenance. As this is a pioneering initiative in which women are the protagonists and which will no doubt have an effect on Freetown's economic development, providing it with a quality taxi service that does not exist today, there are clear benefits and prestige for partners from the automotive industry. The partner(s) will be very visible in a country where the number of cars is very low, as well as being associated with an initiative of great impact that has the backing of the Government of Sierra Leone.

Construction of the mechanics' garage

In this phase, a mechanics' garage will be built on the counterpart's land, in which training will be given in mechanics. This garage will act as a car park for the vehicles, with the necessary security.

Founding the Cooperative

The necessary formalities will be carried out to establish the *Women in the Driving Seat* cooperative. This implies establishing the deadlines and conditions for the beneficiaries to acquire stakes in the cooperative, defining the requisites for women to join the cooperative and thus have access to its property (how long they stay, cooperative work, post occupied, their contribution to the process), and defining the rules for the cooperative to operate, i.e. the statutes, which will include establishing bodies for governing the cooperative and the system for allocating the management posts.

Launching of the "Women in the Driving Seat" service

Once the women have been trained and the drivers have obtained their driving licences, at the end of this phase the intention is to launch a taxi service and check that it works properly before beginning the second phase. A business plan will be drawn up and validated for the service.

Second Phase

After the taxi service and garage have begun operating, the second phase will begin. In this, another 30 women drivers will be trained, introducing improvements or changes that are deemed necessary as regards how the service and the cooperative operate.

10. PROJECT TO TRAIN WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP SKILLS IN MALI

Description:

This project is promoted by the *Mujeres por África* Foundation. It responds to the need to train a group of 20 strictly selected women who have shown their commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women in different industries. These also represent a source of leaders who should implement the principle of sexual equality laid down in the country's constitution and the national and international agreements ratified by the successive democratic governments of Mali.

The training programme will be held in Spain in the spring of 2013 and is especially designed so that this group of women will be prepared to help lead change in their country.

Justification:

The need for this project is justified by the current crisis in the country due to different factors, noteworthy among which are the following:

- Political and institutional factors that reveal the urgent need to strengthen democratic institutions and widen the base for citizens' participation.
- The inequality of women from a political, economic and social point of view, as well as regarding the observation and protection of human rights.

Mali is 143rd out of 146 in the UN's Gender Inequality Index. As a member of the UN, Mali agreed to the Millennium Development Goals, but today it has only achieved 43% of the 3rd Goal (regarding the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women). In other words, it is on track for 2020. Mali ratified the CEDAW Convention in 1985, and the reports presented to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women revealed many gaps in implementing the Convention, above all as regards the lack of any kind of sanction for acts of sexual discrimination in the national legislation. There is no specific law against domestic violence and there is a high level of tolerance towards this kind of violence, even among the women themselves.

Once the failings that hinder women from actively contributing to their country's progress are identified, the project aims to transform these challenges into opportunities with a holistic approach for 15-20 qualified and motivated women to make the leap to higher levels of responsibility and to put into practice their commitment to the gender agenda.

The programme --- The programme is made up of general common sessions for all the beneficiaries and some specific sessions depending on each of the women's sector of work.

Sectors of interest

In the light of the needs mentioned above, the following sectors of activity have been identified to be included when making the selection.

- Central and Local Administration (Government), Parliament and Foreign Diplomatic Service.
- Tertiary Sector.
- Private Sector.
- Education and Academic Sector.
- Cultural Sector:

Mali's cultural sector deserves a section to itself. Many initiatives launched by AECID (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation) and *Casa África* have fostered an exchange between artists as a way of generating mutual understanding in cultural and educational terms and as an instrument to combat poverty. Mali's wealth of music and the creativity of its emerging artists have helped its music spread throughout Europe. It is a shame that most of the artists who lived in the north have had to leave their hometowns. Although there are significant women in cinema, literature and plastic arts, these are exceptions in a male-dominated panorama.

Selection criteria

The process for selecting candidates aims to be wide-ranging, meticulous and impartial. It will not be limited to the capital city, but will include women from other provinces and as much as possible women from the north.

11. WOMEN AND SPORT

Definition:

The *Mujeres por África* Foundation plans to draw up a project about "Women and Sport", with two lines of work: on one hand, an analysis and study of the current situation in Africa, where inequality in the world of sport is even greater than in other parts of the world, and on the other, activities aimed at promoting sport as a healthy habit, a means of development, an educational tool and an instrument for integration.

Implementation

The lines of activity to be launched are:

- A scholarship programme for elite Africans in their places of origin or in Spain in order to help women who need this as much as possible to develop their skills.

- Activities in some schools to convey the importance of sport among children, promoting their participation in different sports in equal circumstances to promote the importance of equality.
- A comprehensive study on Women and Sports in Africa. There is hardly any research on this matter. On carrying it out, the African Studies Group at the Autonomous University of Madrid may be able to guide us.
- A forum for debate on female sport in Africa, its current situation and how to improve the situation, based on an analysis by experts and the experience of African sportswomen such as the Nigerian runner and Olympic medallist Glory Alozie, who has been a Spanish citizen since 2001.

12. MAP OF COOPERATION IN AFRICA

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 first phase of this project currently being carried out has been concentrating on doing a study on all the Spanish cooperation initiatives and official aid for development deployed in recent years in Africa, except for northern African countries, in order to find out what the aims have been, as well as the sectors, agents, counterparts, beneficiaries, results, human resources and material contributed. We call this the "Map of Cooperation in Africa". Using the results obtained, the following phases and objectives will be defined, focusing on qualitative studies in certain areas of interest for the *Mujeres por África* Foundation.

Implementation: The project will be carried out in collaboration with the Autonomous University of Madrid's Group of African Studies. Last June, a Collaboration Agreement was signed with the university to launch the project in phases. The period for carrying out the project is 2 years, and the first phase will last seven months.

13. PROJECT IN COLLABORATION WITH THE GLOBAL CENTER OF KENYA (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY)

In January 2010, New York's prestigious University of Columbia inaugurated a new centre for its network of Global Centers. This new Global Center dedicated to Africa will be located in Nairobi. The purpose of the network of Global Centers created by the University of Columbia is to promote and aid international collaboration, new research projects and foreign academic programmes, thereby reaffirming this university's historical commitment to education. These centres act as regional benchmarks for a series of activities aimed at promoting research in

different areas and which bring together private companies, civil servants, academia and students in order to discuss global matters together.

For the University of Columbia, this centre provides students and university lecturers with a platform or base for carrying out research in Africa and about Africa, based on the continent's true situation. The Nairobi Global Center hopes to become an academic benchmark for the region, helping the country and its neighbours. Some noteworthy objectives include improving and bolstering the role of this continent in the strategic handling of global matters of the utmost importance such as climate change, world trade and sustainable development. This is why it provides African institutions and those located in Africa with objective, scientific consultancy, thus making it exemplary in the most advanced multidisciplinary research, science and technology.

The *Mujeres por África* Foundation plans to carry out a project in collaboration with the Global Center of Kenya, focusing on women's role in the strategic handling of these global matters and especially as regards climate change and sustainable development.

14. LINE OF RESEARCH INTO “WOMEN AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA” AFRICAN SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS. (BENIN)

The African School of Economics (ASE) is backed by the University of Princeton. It was created as an extension to the Institute of Empirical Research into Political Economy, founded in 2004 by Professor Leonard Wantchékon in Cotonou (Benin).

The ASE runs an academic course in economics and management. It plans to run courses for postgraduates in Management of Companies, Mathematics, Economics and Statistics, International Affairs and more. As well as its academic activity, the ASE carries out significant research, which it channels through the following institutes that already existed or are being created:

The Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IERPE)

This empirical research centre is considered to be one of the most significant research centres and think tanks in Africa. It has carried out over 30 studies on governance, public health, education, security, agricultural policy and electoral behaviour. The IERPE has led or supervised the launching of studies in Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Madagascar, Ivory Coast, DRC, Mali and Togo. It will continue along these lines and strive to become a benchmark in research into these matters in Africa.

The Institute for Finance and Management (IFM)

The IFM, which will become operational in 2013-2014, is a consultancy service that will provide technical support for local and international corporations regarding market studies, sales strategies and human resources management. The institute will also provide financial and legal consultancy services. Furthermore, the institute will guide the lines of research in finance and management in order to identify obstacles to an entrepreneurial attitude and development in the private sector in Africa.

The Institute for African Studies (IAS)

The IAS plans to become operational in 2014-2015. It will specialize in qualitative research, emphasising African history, sociology and anthropology. In addition, the institute will promote African culture by teaching African languages, art and literary events for the community.

The *Mujeres por África* Foundation aims to promote a study and empirical research centre on African women. To do so, it is collaborating with the African School of Economics in a line of research on "Women and Economic Development in Africa", which will be launched in 2013.

15. FIRST INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON "DEVELOPMENT POLICIES IN A GLOBAL WORLD"

Description:

This initiative aims to bring together the best national and international experts in development policies. It will last three days. The gathering will be held in collaboration with the Complutense University of Madrid and other institutions in October 2013 in Madrid.

The programme now being drawn up will include speakers of great prestige such as Jeffrey Sachs (Earth Institute, University of Columbia), Mohammad Yunus (Prince of Asturias award winner for Concord in 1998 and Nobel Peace Prize winner in 2006), representatives from the African Development Bank and other African institutions such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank.

The event is intended to provide an atmosphere for reflection and exchange of ideas and proposals, culminating in a document with recommendations and suggestions regarding the new approach to be given to development policies.

16. EMPOWERING AFRICAN WOMEN WHO WRITE, DIRECT AND PRODUCE FILMS

Description:

The Foundation is aware of the importance of the world of audiovisuals, cinema and images in general in transforming societies and in particular in breaking with models that act as obstacles to equality between men and women. This is why it has projects in this field involving collaboration with African cinema colleges and promoting greater contact and cooperation between African and Spanish filmmakers.

This cross-discipline project aims to foster an exchange of ideas and initiatives among African and Spanish women's audiovisual organizations in order to broaden reciprocal knowledge, carry out joint projects and promote African women's point of view in the audiovisuals produced on the continent.

The lines of activity in this respect are as follows:

- Extending the collaboration agreements with African cinema colleges that aim to foster audiovisual training among African women, and fostering exchange among cinema and audiovisual professionals and teachers in different African countries and Spain. The first agreement will be signed with the National Film and Television Institute (NAFTI) from Ghana. This also includes audiovisual coverage of the projects that the *Mujeres por África* Foundation is carrying out in Ghana.
- The Foundation's participation in the African Film Festival, which is held in Cordoba.
- An Award for Best Actress, worth € 2,500, funded by the Foundation. The award is given within the African Film Festival.
- Film series showing African films directed by women.

17. SPANISH: A DEVELOPMENT TOOL FOR WOMEN

Spanish is the second most spoken language, only behind Chinese, and for the first time it is ahead of English. It is also the second most studied language, after English. About 15,000,000 students study Spanish in over 100 countries: 80 non-Spanish speaking countries and 21 countries in which Spanish is the official language.

As regards economics, Spanish accounts for 15% of our country's GDP, and out of the 450 million people who speak Spanish in the world there are over 130.7 million Internet users (i.e. 8.2% of users in the world).

Nevertheless, although there are over 50 countries in Africa, none of them has Spanish as its official or co-official language except for Equatorial Guinea. In the light of these data, we are sure that if African children have the chance to study our language, they will have more

opportunities in future.

This is why the *Mujeres por África* Foundation proposes carrying out a project to use Spanish as a development tool for Africa, and especially for African women.

The main lines of work are:

- Working for Spanish to become one of the optional language subjects offered in primary and secondary school curricula in different African countries. To do so, and in order to have reliable data about Spanish teaching in Africa's different education systems, we are going to contact the African Union.
- Contacting the foreign language departments (or their equivalent) in the different African countries' main universities with the aim of gathering the necessary information.
- Bringing about an agreement with the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, the city with the only "*Aula Cervantes*" (the Cervantes Institute's language academy) in Sub-Saharan Africa, making it the point from which to spread Spanish across the continent.
- Creating the *Letras de África en español* (African Letters in Spanish) award for African female writers, with a prize of €6,000, as a means of fostering Spanish writing. This award will be presented in the African female writers' congress to be held in Ghana next spring, in which the *Mujeres por África* Foundation will take part.
- Organizing a meeting of African female Hispanists in Cairo.

18. WOMEN FOR AFRICA AND AFRICAN DESCENDANTS

About 200 of the 600 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean are descended from Africans. Of these, 95 million are Brazilian. So, Brazil has the greatest concentration of African descendants outside Africa.

The African descendants' movement is continually gaining in strength in its intention to eliminate discrimination and racism that still persists. A significant step was taken with the International Year for People of African Descent, proclaimed by the UN in 2011, and the recent declaration, also by the UN, of the Decade for People of African Descent, from 2012 to 2022.

Although the action plan for the decade has still not been revealed (it will be presented in the 67th session of the General Assembly), it will doubtless mean significant support and more visibility for African descendants' agenda. Women's role will be twofold in this agenda: combating discrimination of black people in general, and the additional obstacles that women have to face.

The *Mujeres por África* Foundation's main aim is to promote African women as the best motor for development on the continent. Working with women of African descent will no doubt open up new paths on the route to this goal. This is because, firstly, it bolsters the Foundation's

international willpower, joining forces and synergies in all regions of the planet in support of African women. Secondly, it is because these synergies create noteworthy expectations for co-development among black women living in and outside Africa.

The work and collaboration with the African descendants' community in Brazil may be especially beneficial. Almost half the population of Latin America lives in this country, and there is a strong women's movement in defence of their rights. The huge political and economic might that Brazil has been gaining in recent years has made it a country that has already emerged rather than an emerging one. This makes the perspectives for work with the country especially attractive. This is especially true as regards initiatives involving education and training that enable exchange between women in Brazil and Africa, as well as co-development initiatives that open up paths for collaboration in business, commerce, culture and politics between African and Brazilian women who are African descendants.

In addition to the action plan being drawn up by the UN for the Decade for People of African Descent, the *Mujeres por África* Foundation plans to draw up projects. To do so, it has designated a coordinator who is already working along two lines of activity:

- A project related to education to be carried out between a Brazilian university and a university in a Portuguese-speaking country such as Mozambique;
- A co-development project in economic and commercial matters between another two countries such as Colombia and Senegal.

AFRICAN WOMEN IN SPAIN

The *Mujeres por África* Foundation is aware of the large group of African women residing in Spain and their potential to enhance relationships between Spain and Africa. It therefore aims to promote more and better mutual understanding with the African women residing in Spain.

To do so, two fundamental activities will be carried out: a first contact meeting with the community of African women residing in Madrid, and a documentary.

19. MEETING WITH THE COMMUNITY OF AFRICAN WOMEN RESIDING IN MADRID

The first activity to be carried out is to organize a meeting with the community of African women living in Madrid. This meeting will be held in collaboration with the CODAF association. The main purpose is to raise awareness about the *Mujeres por África* Foundation and its projects and activities, as well as to use the meeting to give out a questionnaire to enable us to find out this community's concerns and needs first hand. This information will enable us to draw up professional training programmes designed according to their skills and needs, and to promote co-development programmes.

The meeting will be held in the first quarter of 2013 in Madrid.

20 KARIBU HANNA DOCUMENTARY

Description:

This feature-length documentary directed by Inés París shows the faces and voices of the women who make up this numerous yet unknown community of Sub-Saharan African women who emigrated and live in Spain. “Karibu Hanna” is to be a 90-minute documentary to be shown in cinemas, on TV, DVD and on the Internet via legal platforms.

One of this documentary’s main aims is to gain knowledge about immigrant women from Sub-Saharan Africa residing in Spain. Thus, five stories about five women aim to reflect the real situation as regards their living conditions, their ideas, their emotions, their problems and their initiatives. The film will also give quantitative and qualitative information to put these stories in context within the Sub-Saharan emigrant population.

What is unusual about this documentary compared to other audiovisual works about immigration, is that it is being done from the perspective of gender, analysing the characteristics of women and what this means in the phenomenon of emigration. In other words, the documentary intends to provide data and thoughts on a forgotten, unknown community.

The documentary is aimed at two main audiences:

- a) Spanish people: it will give them a detailed, unbiased understanding of the immigrant community. The aims as regards this audience are: raising awareness and integration.
- b) African people: There is a significant audience in Africa who will be able to see their compatriots and discover the real situation regarding emigration to Spain.
- c) People at university who study cooperation, gender politics, Africa, migration and modern Spanish society.

Implementation:

The documentary will be shot in the early months of 2013 following intense research work into this community and having chosen the protagonists.

21. “FOUNDATION YEAR 1” EXHIBITION PROJECT

To mark its first anniversary since it was launched in 2012, the *Mujeres por África* Foundation is preparing an exhibition with the title *Foundation Year 1* that will show the activity carried out during this early period of its existence.

As a prologue to the exhibition, there will be an area in which significant or prestigious personalities will make an audiovisual introduction to a current situation in Africa, the role played by women within it and the purpose of the Foundation's work: the President of the African Union, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, the Director of UN Women, Michelle Bachelet, and the President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, will be among them.

The exhibition will be markedly audiovisual and will look at the main projects launched by the Foundation in its four main lines of activity:

- Education
- Health care
- Economic Development
- Empowerment

In each of these areas, the projects we consider to be most representative will be highlighted:

Education: Schooling for girls in Rimkieta (Burkina Faso);

Health care: Prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula, *Painting Africa – AWAM*;

Economic Development: *Women in the Driving Seat*

Empowerment: *Ghana Wins!*

In each of these projects there will be informative texts with audiovisual features and recordings of the projects and related objects or installations. For *Women in the Driving Seat*, this will be one of the cars from the taxi fleet. For *Painting Africa - AWAM*, it will be a typical Ghanaian hut.

For the projects in progress, video connections can be scheduled via streaming in order to see daily activities live. For example, in Rimkieta one will be able to see girls in class.

We will also have our map of projects and in another room different types of music from Africa and from the Foundation: our corporate theme, the song "Átomos" by Arita Mitteen, songs by Seydu and a selection of African music written and played or sung by women.

Finally, there will be a film library room where a selection of the best films made by African women will be scheduled and shown.

II. ACTIVITIES

Throughout 2013, as has been done until now, the *Mujeres por África* Foundation will carry out different activities to raise awareness about the work it does and make its projects more visible.

1. Presentation of the “Ghana Wins!” project in Ghana.
In March 2013, the *Ghana Wins!* Project will be presented in Accra in a ceremony to be held in the University of Ghana. During the ceremony, the agreements signed to launch the project will be ratified.
2. Meeting of the *Mujeres por África* Foundation patrons and presentation of the “Foundation Year 1” exhibition.

The annual meeting of patrons will be held in May 2013. To mark this, the foundation will organize an exhibition about the first year of the *Mujeres por África* Foundation’s activities.

3. As happened last year, the foundation will organize activities to commemorate Environment Day in Africa, dedicated to Wangari Maathai (5th March), Africa Day (25th May) and African Women’s Day (31st June).

4. TRAVEL

A series of journeys are planned for 2013 in order to present the foundation and sign agreements with African organisations, as well as to monitor the projects. Here are some of the journeys to be made:

- Presentation of the Foundation to the African Union (Ethiopia).
- Signing of a collaboration agreement with CEDEAO (Nigeria).
- Visits to promote the projects in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Gambia.

