

**THE *MUJERES POR ÁFRICA* FOUNDATION
2014 ACTION PLAN**

INTRODUCTION:

The 2014 Action Plan for the *Mujeres por África* (Women for Africa) Foundation shows how the work carried out in under two years has been consolidated. The projects are now up and running after a comprehensive preparatory phase, with strong partners and major institutional support. *Ghana Wins*, *Stop Fistula* and *Women at the Wheel* are proof of this. Others have already ended successfully, such as the 1st Meeting on Development Policies in a Global World, which was held in October 2013 with very satisfactory results, and the premiere of the documentary "Apples, Chickens and Chimeras" by Ines París, which has been very well received.

This Action Plan includes the new stages for carrying out the projects that began to be implemented in 2013, defining and implementing other projects after completing their preparatory phases, and new initiatives to be carried out as of 2014.

The projects in the area of education are being consolidated and the FMxA (*Mujeres por África* Foundation) wishes to help increase the number of beneficiaries, as in the "Girls from Rimkieta" project, and to concentrate its work on supporting Malawian girls attending secondary school.

In terms of knowledge and training, in 2014 the FMxA launched many scholarship programmes included within different projects. These range from training for Mozambican nurses, scholarships for training in entrepreneurship (also aimed at Mozambican women), to scholarships for studying Spanish or for studying in Ghana's National Film and Television Institute (NAFTI). And this is not to mention the scholarships for postgraduate courses in the African School of Economics and the financial management training for women in Kenya. All of this is carried out in collaboration with prestigious Brazilian, U.S. and Spanish universities.

As regards economic development, it should be noted that in 2014 the "Women at the Wheel" taxi service will begin, a pioneering project that may be reproduced in other countries. The "Women's Green Yard" is also going to start in Gambia. In both cases, special care will be taken to ensure the cooperatives work efficiently. This is essential to the success of both projects. The aim is to develop a model that can be followed in other initiatives.

Finally, it is worth noting that the FMxA also plans to carry out several initiatives in the field of women's participation in peace processes and mediation. On the one hand, a training programme will be carried out in 2014 in collaboration with ECOWAS on mediation for women in Mali and, on the other, work will begin on a documentary intended to record the accounts of women in Sierra Leone regarding their participation in the process to achieve peace.

PROJECTS FOR 2014

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



Description:

This project began in 2013, and is to be carried out over three years and eight months. It is based upon three programmes that focus on the country's priority needs: education, health care and social leadership. 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 gives the women who take part the necessary skills for them to lead their country's social transformation and development. As an addition to the theoretical training phase, they are asked to design and carry out 30 projects, which are to be put into practice on the ground. The outcome of this project will be that 80 women will have been trained and 30 projects carried out to help Ghanaian society.

The project revolves around three specific programmes: the Hospital Management Programme, the Teacher Training 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 is to last 3 years and 18 months. Within the Teacher Training Programme, three successive groups of 10 to 12 women are being trained. This programme will last for 3 years. Lastly, the Social Leadership Programme is to train two successive groups of 15 to 20 women. This programme will last for two years.

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

To be implemented in 2014:

In 2014, the following activities will be carried out:

- **Hospital Management Programme:**

Once their projects for action have been drawn up, the 11 nurses participating in the first group will go on to carry them out. These projects address issues such as: creating protocols for hygiene and disinfection, promoting good practices and improving care for diabetes, optimizing and regulating the process of documenting

the nursing procedures, and encouraging physical and clinical examinations of patients by the nurses.

In 2014, the participants in the second group will be selected. In June 2014, coinciding with the presentation of the results from the participants in the first group, this second group's training will begin. In September 2014, the training course will be held in New York

- **Teacher Training Programme:**

In the last months of 2013, participants from the first group of this programme designed and began to implement their projects for change in their respective schools. These are clubs for girls that focus on graphic design, craft activities intended to provide a supplementary income, and bolstering scientific skills, including mathematics. One project aims to increase awareness to reduce the numbers of girls dropping out of school.

In 2014, the teachers will make a trip to New York to study the second training cycle there. In June, the first group will come to an end with a week in Accra during which the results of the projects for change will be presented. That same week of June, training will start for the participants in the second group.

- **Social Leadership Programme:**

Last year, the first 15 participants were selected as well as the Ghanaian social leaders who are to act as coaches. The first phase of training began in December and it is expected that this first group will travel to New York for a second session of intensive training in May 2014. The first phase will end in June 2014 and the training course will be held in Ghana for the second group. Throughout the first four months of 2014, the participants in this second group will be selected.

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 in 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 (FAR in Spanish), with whom a Collaboration Agreement has been signed.

Implementation:

In 2014, the main objective is to continue consolidating the project that began in October 2012, in its three training phases:

- **Phase 1 of “Schooling – Re-schooling”**, i.e. the "schooling scholarships"; the aim is to increase the number of scholarships from 156 to the 200 planned for 2014.

Girls in this group are of school age, as well as university students. Their studies will be aided with a scholarship. The beneficiaries’ academic results are checked every three months.

Due to the large annual demand from mothers who come to seek aid for the schooling of their daughters every year, we find ourselves overwhelmed in assisting as many families as possible. This year there are 500 applicants.

There are still only a minimum of public schools to meet a large number of school-aged children. By contrast, the number of private schools is increasing in the neighbourhood, though the price is totally prohibitive for the Rimkieta and Zongo residents.

Furthermore, families also encounter the problem of the significant rise in the price of schooling, whether public or private, on going from primary to secondary school, so that there is a significant school dropout rate.

- **Phase 2 of “Literacy - Schooling/Occupation”** aims to provide the necessary basic training for future schooling or learning of a trade for girls who have never been to school. This phase of training lasts 2-3 years, depending on each girl’s needs.

The **objectives** of this phase for 2014 are as follows:

- To add a third training group with 20 new girls.
- To continue training the girls from the 1st and 2nd groups who need to continue their stay in the FAR (Friends of Rimkieta Foundation).
- To keep track of the girls educated in the 1st and 2nd groups and, if necessary, start support classes for the girls who may need it.
- To establish the necessary relationships with the appropriate workshops or places for vocational training for girls who cannot receive schooling.
- **Phase 3: Literacy 2.** The aim here is to continue with basic education for girls who cannot enter the other two phases for whatever reason. The evaluation will be carried out after the two years that phase 2 lasts.

Phase 3 of "Literacy 2", which involves continuing basic training for girls who cannot enter the other two phases for various reasons, is planned for the autumn of 2015.

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

Description:

This project aims to bolster the schooling of girls and young people in the towns of Chaombwa and Mbambande, in the rural area nearest to the capital, Lilongwe. The aim is for them to have access to higher education and to get good academic training. The beneficiaries are girls and youths from broken families in rural areas in which women have limited possibilities for advancement. The project also involves maintenance and health care for the beneficiaries. The girls and youths are selected with the help 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:

Following the experience from the first year the project ran, it was agreed to focus work in 2014 on supporting exclusively secondary education for the girls. So, support will be given in 2014 to 75 young ladies, instead of 50. Primary school is free in Malawi, so we will continue with the work of raising awareness to achieve education for girls and the funds for the 25 primary school girls included in the project in 2013 will be earmarked for increasing the number of beneficiaries in secondary school studies.

There is a project coordinator who will monitor the young ladies in the schools and liaise with them and their families.

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



Description:

Stop Fistula is a project in the health area of the Women for Africa Foundation (FMxA) aimed at preventing and treating African women's vesico-vaginal fistulas.

Vesico-vaginal or obstetric fistula occurs as a consequence of birth deliveries in the last phase that become arrested or blocked for hours or even days. Young women and those giving birth for the first time are the group of individuals most prone to suffer from it.

Given the precariousness of the public health systems, this is a problem of dramatic urgency in Africa: about 3% of obstructed deliveries end in the death of the young lady and in 90% of cases the women see their first child die during birth. As for the rest, more than 20% end up developing a fistula. Obstetric fistula results in the woman suffering from a large wound and urinary incontinence. She is then rejected by her partner and family, encountering a situation of marginalization and social exclusion.

The main aim of the project currently being conducted in Monrovia, therefore, is to prevent and cure as many cases of obstetric fistula as possible, facilitating access to health services for the most vulnerable groups of women: girls and young women who are to give birth to their first child, and in particular, those that have an arrested, blocked or obstructed delivery. Effective care and intervention can reduce the risk of developing fistula and can tackle cases where it cannot be avoided.

The Stop Fistula project comprises:

- Prevention through awareness campaigns.
- Treatment through reconstructive surgery.
- Rehabilitation and integration of the patients.
- Medical training for healthcare staff.

Implementation:

After the first ten months of operation, the following objectives have been laid down for 2014:

- **Prevention:**

One of Stop Fistula's top priorities is to raise awareness so that the most vulnerable individuals know about the services provided by the project and the fact

that they are free of charge. This work is part of the prevention work together with obstetric care. Awareness-raising is the best way to reach communities, families in general, and women and girls with fistula in particular. The awareness-raising activity that has been carried out in recent months will be boosted in 2014 by visits to clinics, visits to communities and contact with women's organizations. This activity shall be carried out with women qualified/able to talk about fistula and how to prevent it, and with female volunteers.

As regards care-giving services, the number of births should be progressively increased so that by the end of the year the monthly figures enable us to see a significant impact on the project's objectives. The forecast for the early months of 2014 is: 50 monthly deliveries assisted at the Saint Joseph Hospital (8 caesarean deliveries and 42 normal ones), a number that is expected to gradually increase. At the same time, there will be regular visits from the fistula unit's gynaecologist to clinics and health centres to check on and monitor pregnancies, which will allow the risk of obstetric fistula to be reduced.

- **Treatment:**

There are plans to carry out three surgical missions until the healthcare team takes over the fistula surgery. From then on, the surgical missions will be carried out for complex surgery and in the context of training courses for medical surgery every 6 months. The first surgical mission in 2014 will take place in February. Work is currently underway on identifying and classifying patients.

- **Rehabilitation of patients:**

The integration and reinsertion of women who have undergone fistula surgery must be regulated and channelled into a specific programme to free them from the experience they have been through and to give them skills and economic independence by learning and carrying out a profession. Work will continue to be done in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, and it may be possible to incorporate some of the women who have undergone surgery into the project.

- **Training:**

The training is aimed at doctors, gynaecologists, surgeons, nurses, midwives and birth assistants, in order for the project to be able to continue in the medium and long term and to create an example to follow in curbing obstetric fistula in other African countries.

The activities planned for 2014 are:

- Midwifery courses every 2 months.

The midwife is an important figure in fistula prevention; one of its main pillars. She can refer births at risk to the hospital and coordinate the medical care for them with the doctor. The community's head midwife's training, awareness and loyalty to the project, as well as their coordination with the birth assistants, form Stop Fistula's basis as regards prevention. This is why the courses are

essential. They are designed to increase and improve the midwives' knowledge and especially their proficiency in assisting deliveries.

- Specialist surgery courses every 6 months.

In the first phase, the Surgical Missions present their work to the doctors most closely related to the Saint Joseph Hospital in Monrovia. In the second, the doctors working on the project in Liberia must regularly deal with fistulas and group together the most complex cases for surgical missions. All of this is contained in a more ambitious teaching project that aims to create a Fistula Unit able to train specialists in West Africa.

- Ongoing Education at the Fistula Unit for one resident in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, which could be increased every year.
- Continuous training for the hospital's healthcare staff, particularly for the hospital's nurses.

- **Construction of the Fistula Unit:**

At this stage, and after carrying out technical studies, construction will begin on the infrastructure that will house the fistula unit on the hospital's premises. This construction will be financed by FCC and will count on the voluntary collaboration of the architect Mila Plaza.

5. PAINTING AFRICA: AFRICAN WOMEN AGAINST MALARIA. GHANA.

Description:

The project "Painting Africa: African Women Against Malaria" (AWAM) aims to combat malaria and other diseases transmitted by pests by raising women's awareness and training them, thereby giving them a significant role in improving sanitary conditions (health and housing) for their families. This project will be implemented in Accra or in a nearby town and will last for two years.

General objectives of the project

- To empower and train women to participate fully in their town's development.
- To improve habits as regards hygiene and sanitary conditions.
- To acknowledge the work of women and tackle inequality and discrimination in the development of their town.

The project's specific aim

To improve the townspeople's health while developing leadership skills among women in order to transform their neighbourhood or town into a clean environment free of vector-borne diseases such as malaria.

Partners: This project is to be carried out in collaboration with the Science and Knowledge in Action Foundation (*Fundación Ciencia y Conocimiento en Acción*) and with the foreseeable participation of UN-HABITAT.

Implementation:

The first step was to identify the neighbourhood or town in the Greater Accra Region, in the Ningo Prampram district. This area has experienced tremendous growth partly due to its proximity to an industrial area and the port of Tema. In fact, one of the District Assembly's priorities is to ensure a clean, healthy environment, allocating significant resources to waste management.

Three potential areas have been identified for intervention: New Ningo, Old Ningo and Ahwiam. In each of these places, the local authorities have been contacted, who have shown their support for the *Painting Africa* project.

The signing of a cooperation agreement with UN HABITAT will enable the necessary activities to be launched in 2014 to create a clean and healthy environment that will allow the subsequent phases of the project to be carried out.

Sanitation

After the fact-finding mission in November by an expert from UN HABITAT, and after identifying the sanitation that needs to be done, the plan is to implement the following action strategies as of January 2014:

- **Raising awareness:**
 - Working with the group of women and the community in raising awareness about the environment's sanitary and hygienic conditions, and how they are related to health.
 - Working in collaboration with the District Assembly and community leaders to establish standards to reinforce personal hygiene, environmental hygiene and sanitary conditions in the towns.

- **Solid waste management**
 - Providing the communities with adequate facilities (rubbish bins for houses, and areas designated for rubbish).
 - Promoting recycling as a means of obtaining resources.
 - Collaborating with the District Assembly to attain adequate facilities and logistics for it to assume its obligations regarding waste management (waste collection, transportation, waste management etc.).

- **Management of faecal waste and liquids**
 - Designing a campaign to promote social norms that encourage the use of latrines.
 - Equipping towns with public toilets for women and men.
 - Setting up a microcredit programme aimed at housewives for sanitation.
 - Facilitating the construction of sanitation infrastructure in homes.

- Supporting regular cleaning and drainage activities.

- **Training:**

This is essential in making the project's goals achievable. Training in hygiene and sanitation starts early this year. To carry this out there is collaboration from a women's cooperative that manages the Slum Upgrading Facility (SUF) building, in a project overseen by UN HABITAT. This building has been restored with adequate sanitation to act as a model for the women in the town of Ningo. The first activity planned after raising awareness among Ningo's women of the need to maintain hygiene is for them to see and work with the cooperative's women in painting the building with the paint provided for the project.

People motivated by the project will also be trained so as to become facilitators for the rest of the population. Similarly, a group will be created and trained in applying and handling pests and insecticides. It will carry out the anti-malaria paint treatment in homes.

- **Implementation phase:**

The implementation phase is divided into three programmes, depending on the scope of activity, and these are: Vector Control, Clinical Treatment and Education.

- 1) Vector Control includes all the activity of data gathering, georeferencing, baseline entomological surveys and vector treatment. This is a specific, innovative vector control programme, ranging from the study of each home to the evaluation of the treatment for each and every one of them.
- 2) The clinical treatment will be carried out by the relevant institutions. The project will refer significant, problematic cases to healthcare centres so they can receive the necessary medication. Similarly, there will be a group of scientists working in coordination with local institutions in charge of healthcare to conduct studies on the cases of malaria detected in the area. A specific study will be made of metabolites in people that live among the disease, even if they have never suffered from it.
- 3) Education will be an additional contribution to the project. This involves training and education in health issues for all local people using the means available (posters, radio, educational centres and other institutions in the area). This will partly reproduce the one carried out with women in the training section, and partly add to it. This programme will also use an electronic game that will work on mobile phones and computers to supplement and help participate in the methods for cleaning and vector control.

6. HIV/AIDS PREVENTION PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN

Out of the more than 33 million patients in the world infected with the human immunodeficiency virus, more than two thirds live in Africa, leading to over 1.3 million deaths each year from it on the continent. Although in recent years the incidence of new cases has been on the decline, the numbers are far from socially or humanely acceptable.

The scourge of this infection is particularly common and virulent among young Sub-Saharan women of childbearing age, between 15 and 24 years. In some countries like Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Tanzania, HIV prevalence in women is much higher than in males, reaching rates of between 20 and 25% of the population of this age and sex. This greatly affects the chances of survival and development not only for a specific person or family, but for the whole 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, or access to antiretroviral medicines. These two aspects are crucial in controlling infection of the mother and preventing transmission of the virus to the newborn child.

Some countries in Sub-Saharan Africa where infection rates are very high for women of childbearing age have made a great effort and managed to ensure adequate care during pregnancy and childbirth for most women. They have established treatment procedures for over 60% of them to prevent transmission of the infection from mother to child. In other countries, such as Ethiopia, Chad and Nigeria, however, the proportion of HIV-infected women who receive adequate perinatal care or who receive treatment to prevent transmission to their newborn child is very low and, in some places, nonexistent.

There are many needs that must be covered for African women without delay in the coming years, but early access to voluntary, confidential diagnosis of HIV infection and the availability of antiretroviral medication during pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding are certainly top priorities.

The *Mujeres por África* Foundation aims to define and carry out an AIDS programme in collaboration with international bodies, African entities and other groups.

7. WOMEN'S GREEN YARD PROJECT (Gambia)

Description:

This project aims to promote the development of agriculture in Gambia through the work of women, while developing their entrepreneurial skills and strengthening agricultural cooperatives run by the women themselves. It has been designed taking into account government policies, in particular the "10-point plan for the transformation of agriculture" and the "Gambia National Agricultural Investment Plan - Agriculture and Natural Resources" (GNAIP- ANR).

Rationale:

Improving food security, stabilizing the production of fresh food from agricultural land in order to meet family needs, and helping increase the income of rural households are some of the objectives of this pilot initiative being launched in one area of Gambia. It is to be implemented subsequently in other regions in the country and in other countries in Africa.

Supporting the efficient functioning of Gambian cooperatives run by women is one cornerstone of the project, and another the creation of infrastructure to improve the quantity and quality of the produce. All of this contributes to the goal of the Gambian government and in particular to that of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, which strives to strengthen the bonds among women within the cooperative and to give support in producing higher quality crops that will enable them to generate more revenue.

General objectives:

- To give a greater role to women as agricultural businesspeople, fostering a cooperative spirit and efficient work.
- To increase the production and the quality of produce in rural areas, improving the cooperative's food security.
- To increase incomes in the agricultural industry, this is essential in reducing poverty.
- To increase economic activity in rural environments so as to reduce the 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 for exports to other countries.

Implementation:

After the fact-finding mission to Gambia that paid a visit in the field and contacted local authorities and existing cooperatives, two cooperatives on the west coast of Gambia were identified. One is the Sanyang cooperative in the community of the same name, 28 kilometres from Banjul and 2.5 km from the sea. The farm covers nearly 11 acres of land and employs 311 women and 5 men. The other cooperative, Katakora, is inland between the towns of Bintang to the north and Kassagne to the south, 76

kilometres from Banjul and 2 km from the Gambia River. The property covers an area of approximately 5 acres and the cooperative is made up of 220 women and 20 men.

The two cooperatives meet the requirements set out for implementing the FMxA's project. They are cooperatives of land-owning women engaged in horticulture. However, in this first phase of the project, action will be taken in Katakor, since the size of the land is best suited to carrying out a pilot project.

Specific aim and activities to be carried out:

The specific aim to be achieved with this initiative is to create quality horticultural produce in quantity. To do so, three activities are planned:

- **Supporting the cooperative in structuring its organization and operations in order to guarantee the profits required by the cooperative's purposes.** Within this strategic line, the aim is to work with women by training them in cooperative activity, giving them knowledge about the intrinsic goals and purposes of cooperatives, what a cooperative is, and how it should be managed. They need to improve procedures in social and production terms so that the women do not sell separately. The activities proposed are: training for women in this area and support for them in implementing it. Getting the Katakor cooperative to run efficiently is a key aspect of the project's success.
- **Introducing the infrastructure necessary to achieve quality produce in quantity.** All the necessary infrastructure will be created to launch an agricultural field of 4 hectares and equip women with the necessary tools for carrying out the work on the land. In addition, quality seeds shall be provided for the first crop, so that seeds can be gathered for the second year. The equipment provided for the cooperative consists mainly of irrigation facilities and solar power as an energy source. An irrigation drip system is planned, as this optimizes the amount of water to the utmost. Studies on groundwater will also be necessary to see if it is possible to pump it up. Finally, the perimeter will be fenced off to prevent animals from entering, given that this has been a repeated demand.
- **Supporting the end products throughout the cycle of trade and marketing.**

When a quality product has been attained, the aim of this phase is to support and assist the cooperative in distributing the product to the capital through a reliable commercial channel that provides transport and maintains the product at a reasonable price.

Implementation:

This project will start running in 2014 and will last for an initial period of two years.

8. 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 at the Wheel* concentrates on the following aspects:

- 1) Training for 84 women: 60 drivers and 12 mechanics; 4 taxi call service operators, 4 inspectors and 4 cooperative managers (all women);
- 2) The launch of a quality taxi service for the city of Sierra Leone, managed exclusively by women;
- 3) Founding a cooperative that owns the *Women at the Wheel* 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 at the Wheel* 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 social change.
- 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 at the Wheel 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 at the Wheel* is to be implemented over two years. The first part of phase 1, which began in May 2013, will end in 2014. In this first part, women have been trained in driving, mechanics and the administration and management of a taxi service, customer service and personal defence. This training will continue until the taxi service is launched in the middle of this year.

Also in 2014, the women will also be made aware of and trained in empowerment and the positive aspects of cooperatives, their rules and the conditions for them to be successful.

- **Founding the *Women at the Wheel* cooperative**

The necessary formalities are being carried out to found the *Women at the Wheel* cooperative, which should take place in early 2014. This implies establishing the deadlines and conditions for the beneficiaries to acquire stakes in the cooperative, defining the requisites for the cooperative's women to have access to the property (how long they stay, cooperative work, how they do it and their contribution to the process), and defining the rules for running the cooperative, i.e. the statutes, which will include establishing bodies for governing the cooperative and the system for allocating the management posts.

- **Transfer of lands where the Cooperative and the garage will be located**

Contact has been made with the Sierra Leone Ministry of Lands in order to transfer land in central Freetown, where the *Women at the Wheel* cooperative is to be located. When this process has been completed, the *Women at the Wheel* headquarters will be set up. The taxi service will be run from here, and construction of the garage will begin.

- **Donation of vehicles**

The FMxA (Women for Africa Foundation) has signed a donation agreement with Desguaces La Torre scrap yards by which it receives 16 donated vehicles in good condition for this project. The vehicles, duly painted with the *Women at the Wheel* logo, will be transported to Sierra Leone. The first quarter of 2014 should see the arrival of the vehicles in Sierra Leone, as well as the public launching of the *Women at the Wheel* project. Before this, the FMxA will be registered in the country.

- **Launching the *Women at the Wheel* service**

The taxi service will start running in mid-2014, once the first phase of the project is over. Before this, an information campaign will be carried out and agreements made with hotels, businesses and the government in order to ensure it is fully operational. In this second phase, the work will concentrate on launching the taxi service and adapting procedures so that they work properly.

- **Training phase 2**

The remaining beneficiaries' training in driving, mechanics and management will start in the second half of 2014.

9. MALIAN WOMEN FOR PEACE

This project is concerned with empowerment, as could already be seen in the 2012 Action Plan's lines of action in the field of peace and security:

- Carrying out initiatives for peace-building and governance.
- Taking action in consolidating democracy in countries and in participatory citizenship.
- Carrying out training programmes to structure civil society and foster women's social and political participation.

This initiative seeks to help one of women's demands on the continent: equal participation for women in all decisions regarding peace, security and democracy. Michelle Bachelet, once the Executive Director of UN Women and currently the President of Chile, noted in 2011 that "The participation of women is essential in order to achieve lasting peace and stability. However, women are all too often excluded from the negotiating table."

This is an appropriate time for carrying out a programme for peace and security, especially in Mali, since the country is rebuilding its democratic fabric. The programme also respects the call from the UN Secretary General for greater participation of women in peacekeeping and at the negotiating table in reconciliation processes.

This initiative is part of the Collaboration Framework Agreement signed between the FMxA and ECOWAS in March 2013. To give substance to this agreement, both institutions agreed to jointly launch the project "Malian Women for Peace", a training project for Malian women in mediation.

In order to carry it out, there will be collaboration with UN Women's West Africa Regional Office as well as the UN Women's office in Bamako.

The FMxA (*Mujeres por África* Foundation), together with ECOWAS, will be responsible for drawing up the content, organising focus groups to identify needs, running the course itself and monitoring the projects that the women will have to propose and implement in their communities.

This initiative will be carried out as of January, 2014, when the FMxA and ECOWAS delegations travel to Bamako to establish contacts with the government and start selecting the women who will take part.

10. DOCUMENTARY ON WOMEN FOR PEACE IN SIERRA LEONE.

This initiative came about at the request of prominent representatives among the group of women from Freetown (Sierra Leone). The documentary aims to raise

awareness and acknowledge the action taken by the women of Sierra Leone to end the terrible war that ravaged the country from 1991 to 2002.

The film will be directed by Ángeles González Sinde with the participation of Barbara Hendricks, who has recently joined the FMxA's Advisory Board.

11. PROJECT TO EDUCATE WOMEN IN ECONOMICS MANAGEMENT. Nairobi, KENYA.

Description:

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 is located in Nairobi.

The FMxA (*Mujeres por África* Foundation) can also count on collaboration from the Columbia Global Center in Nairobi. In recent months, there have been contacts with this institution in order to draw up a training project for women in economic management. The Kenyan government recently passed a law that reserves a minimum of 30% of public procurement from companies owned by women, so women urgently need to be trained so as to be eligible for public tenders. It is also necessary to foster the presence of women on the boards of companies that provide specific training.

Aim:

To design and implement a training programme that in future may lead to a business centre or study centre for women entrepreneurs.

The project will also take into account the following requirements:

- The need to raise awareness among women about the need to check that the state law reserving a minimum of 30% of public procurement from companies owned by women is being applied. It is also necessary to raise awareness among national and regional authorities about the importance of applying the law correctly.
- The need to support women in charge of micro-companies, so they can grow their business.
- Training for women entrepreneurs to gain access to management and executive positions in large companies and to become members of boards of directors.
- Other needs of women entrepreneurs: access to credit.

Partners:

This project will be conducted in collaboration with the Columbia Global Center for Africa, located in Nairobi, with the support of the University of Nairobi's African Women Studies Center. There are plans for an agreement on implementing the project to be signed.

This initiative has the backing of the government and will also be able to count on collaboration from associations of women entrepreneurs that have shown an interest in the project.

Implementation:

A specific proposal is currently being drawn up that includes the definition of the training project, its content, the target population to whom the project is addressed, and a timeline for its launch in 2014.

12. THE FOUNDATION'S PARTICIPATION IN THE AFRICAN SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS: RESEARCH, FURTHER EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Cotonou, 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 Business Management, Mathematics, Economics and Statistics, International Affairs and more. As well as its academic activity, the ASE carries out significant research that it channels through the Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IERPE) in Cotonou. 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.

Description:

The FMxA (*Mujeres por África* Foundation) is going to carry out the following activities jointly with the African School of Economics:

- **Research Projects:** Following a proposal from the FMxA, research projects employing and directed by women are to be implemented. Two research projects will be carried out in 2014:
 - A research project on women's economic development and empowerment.
 - A research project on the sociological and health implications of fistula.

Each project will have a team consisting of two female teachers (one chosen by the FMxA) and two students.

For the research into health, an African woman with expertise in public health shall be found to take charge of the research.

The selection process for the researchers (women) is currently underway.

- **Scholarships for students:** There are plans to grant 6 scholarships to female African students to continue their post-graduate studies. The information about these scholarships will be included in the FMxA and ASE websites. The selection committee will include a member of the FMxA.
- **Workshop or Seminar.** There are plans to hold a workshop or annual seminar to present the results of the research carried out in each period. These workshops will enable new research projects to be identified.

Implementation:

This project will be launched in 2014 with the following timeline:

- January 2014: selection of the teachers and students (women) for the research will begin.
- September, 2014: the scholarship programme will be launched.

13. SYMPOSIUM ON WOMEN, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION IN AFRICA

Description:

The debate on the disparities between men and women in the field of science and technology in both the public and private sectors is seen with interest in international organizations, governments, academia and civil society, all of whom recognize that these inequalities affect the population as a whole. Increasing women's participation in science and technology, and their contributions and access to it, is essential in reducing poverty, creating employment opportunities and increasing agricultural and industrial productivity.

Africa is the continent where the scientific and digital gap is the widest. Investment has not been a priority and the continent is losing its best scientists and technically skilled people, who migrate to other regions.

In this context, the FMxA (*Mujeres por África* Foundation), true to its mission of contributing to the development of Africa through its women, proposes that a panel discussion should be organised regarding "Women, science and technological innovation in Africa". A sponsor will be found to carry out this initiative.

Implementation:

The panel discussion or symposium, to be held in the autumn of 2014, will deal with the following topics:

- How to increase the visibility and leadership of women scientists in Africa: experience in the field.
- Challenges that female scientists have to face to reassert their scientific capabilities in environments that are hostile or have structural deficiencies.
- Technology transfer: from the lab to the people—is an African route possible?
- Best practices—positive examples to be reproduced: Centres of Scientific Excellence in Africa.
- North-South university cooperation and exchange programmes: are they paying off? Proposals to improve their efficiency.
- The value of mentoring, coaching and networking for young scientists—are these just buzzwords or real commitments?

The format is a panel discussion or symposium with the participation of 6-8 experts (men and women), mostly from Africa, who after brief speeches would open a debate and question time to encourage audience participation. The aim is to gather the conclusions and proposals from the debate so as to identify specific initiatives that may be carried out in future to enhance the role of women scientists in Africa.

The speakers should include eminent personalities of international renown with a long professional career, but also young and promising researchers. By comparing and exchanging experiences, identifying the difficulties they have had to overcome and analysing current challenges, it will be possible to have an inter-generational debate that will be fruitful and beneficial to both age groups.

Women will be chosen who not only represent excellence in their industry, but also those who have demonstrated their personal and professional commitment to equal opportunities in science, those who have worked to help other women scientists forge their way ahead, those who have set an example as a model for other women by breaking to moulds and stereotypes, those who have used their prestige and influence for institutions to get involved in policies that promote women's access to Universities of excellence. They are women who through innovation and research have created technology that has facilitated people's access to basic rights.

14. WOMEN AND SPORT

Definition:

Sport has proven to be a powerful tool for development and peacebuilding worldwide, especially in Africa during the period of apartheid and the process of decolonization.

The challenge now is to accelerate the process of change to rectify the imbalances faced by African women when participating in sports so they can exploit their potential, motivation and vitality.

For all these reasons, the 2013 Action Plan includes the *Women and Sport* project, which perfectly fits the context of the foundation's mission to contribute to the development of Africa through its women.

During the first quarter of 2014, an analysis will be made of women in sport in Africa. This will help to identify a country in which to launch the *Women and Sport* project. Some of the aspects of this initiative will focus on including programmes to promote sport among young ladies and girls, and backing for young female African athletes to continue their training, as well as activities to promote the presence of African women in international bodies.

15. WOMEN IN THE AUDIOVISUAL WORLD: 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 schools 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:

15.1. Collaboration Agreements with African Film Schools.

Following the signing of a collaboration agreement with Ghana's National Film and Television Institute (NAFTI) in March 2013, the FMxA (*Mujeres por África* Foundation) has signed a specific agreement with this entity to award scholarships to five female students for the four years of their course. In 2014, these scholarships amounted to a total of US\$ 14,255.

15.2. Co-production with the Nigerian Film Corporation

After the FMxA and the Nigerian Film Corporation (NFC) jointly signed the Framework Agreement, both parties are now working on a specific agreement by which the Nigerian corporation and the FMxA will collaborate in producing a television series that provides a different model of women from the one usually portrayed by the Nollywood industry. The FMxA will be responsible for the script, while the NFC produces the series.

15.3. 2nd Women Make Movies Exhibition

In 2014, the second *Women Make Movies* exhibition will be held. This aims to promote the work of female African filmmakers throughout Spain. In the coming months, the female African filmmakers will be selected whose films will be shown at the exhibition, which will combine recent films with a selection of “classics” from the past few decades.

15.4. Participation in the African Film Festival in Cordoba.

The FMxA intends to continue sponsoring the award for best actress. If this is not possible, we will continue to promote awareness of African cinema by organising a seminar and obtaining films made by female African directors.

15.5. Screening of the documentary “Apples, Chickens and Chimeras”

Throughout 2014, this film will be shown in various festivals and cities in order to reach the widest possible audience. Negotiations are also underway for it to be broadcast across the nation on TV.

16. SPANISH: A DEVELOPMENT TOOL FOR WOMEN

Description:

Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world, 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 an official language.

As regards economics, Spanish speakers account for 15% of world 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 web 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 to carry out a project to use Spanish as a development tool for Africa, and especially for African women.

16.1. Hispanists Congress in Cairo

One of this project's main lines of work involves holding an African Women Hispanists' Congress, which will take place in the city of Cairo in 2014 (probably in April) with specialists from around the continent participating.

In this Congress, a study on the situation of the Spanish language in Africa may be presented. This has been carried out under the coordination of the Spanish Embassy in Kenya. Also, an Action Plan will be approved with specific lines of work to promote the teaching of our language to African women.

In order to start the preparatory work for the congress, the president of the Women for Africa Foundation met in Cairo with a group of prominent female Egyptian Hispanists last April. These agreed to work on the content of the congress and to specify the possible lines of work to introduce Spanish more as one of the optional language subjects offered in primary and secondary school curricula in different African countries.

The academic coordination of the congress is the responsibility of the president of the Association of Hispanists of Egypt, Professor Nagwa Mehrez, as well as Carmen Caffarel, a board member of the foundation and Unesco Research Professor at the Juan Carlos I University in Madrid.

The Cervantes Institute in Cairo is also collaborating on the congress' content and organization.

16.2. African Literary Award in Spanish

The *Mujeres por África* Foundation has created the *Letras de África en español* (African Letters in Spanish) award, aimed at African female writers, as a means of fostering Spanish writing. This prize of € 6,000 for the winner and €2,000 for the runner-up was presented at the Conference of African women writers held in Ghana last spring.

16.3. Dissemination of works by African women writers in the Spanish-speaking world

We are working in collaboration with a major publishing house in selecting some works by African women writers for translation and subsequent distribution in Spain and Latin America.

16.4. Scholarship programme for studying Spanish. University of La Rioja.

In 2014, the Women for Africa Foundation has been given two new scholarships to study Spanish at the University of La Rioja. These scholarships

fall under the programme funded by the Government of La Rioja and the university.

The conditions of the scholarships are:

- Course enrolment and tuition fee (6 month programme)
- Return journey (€1,500 maximum)
- Health insurance
- Accommodation in student residence

The candidates will be chosen by the *Mujeres por África* Foundation.

17. WOMEN FOR AFRICA AND AFRICAN DESCENDENTS

Description:

This project is part of the UN agenda and its recognition of the 2013-2022 Decade for People of African Descent (as provided for in resolution 66/144 of the General Assembly). The overall aim is to highlight the origins and sense of belonging to a particular cultural and ethnic group, understanding that this awareness is both a personal and group tool to combat racial discrimination.

The intention is to work on this common sense of identity by exchanging experience and knowledge between Mozambican and Brazilian women.

The African Descent project has an academic basis and a clear intent towards social action, since it seeks to have a multiplying effect in local communities. This is why it has not only sought the involvement of academic bodies such as *Núcleo Interdisciplinar de Reflexão e Memória Afrodescendente* (NIREMA), *Instituto Gênese da Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro* and the *Instituto de Estudos Africanos da Universidade Eduardo Mondlane de Maputo*, but also the participation of civil society, mainly organised on the Mozambican side by *ForumMulher*, and on the Brazilian side by the NGO *Criola - Saúde da Mulher e da População Negra*.

Implementation:

Agreements have been reached in the academic world with two universities in Brazil:

- **Universidade de São Paulo:**

This university has offered the *Mujeres por África* Foundation three scholarships for Mozambican nurses for a duration of three months. The scholarship covers tuition fees, travel, accommodation and meals. The course will begin in early 2014. The beneficiaries were chosen in collaboration with the Central Hospital of Maputo's Department of Nursing and the Mozambique Ministry of Health. The documents pertaining to the three selected women have already been submitted to the University of Sao Paulo.

- **Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro:**

The *Mujeres por África* Foundation is finalizing the details of a training programme for Mozambican women in Entrepreneurship and Business Management, given by this university. Contact has been made with different universities in Mozambique and in particular, the Polytechnic University of Maputo and the Eduardo Mondlane University in the same city, in order to select the candidates.

The plan is for this programme to take place in early 2014 once the number of scholarships and their duration has been determined and the selection process for candidates has been completed. The President of the *Mujeres por África* Foundation will go to Brazil for the start of the course to publicly present this programme.

The results are expected to be published via reports through different networks belonging to all the parties involved as well as in the Latin American university rectors' meeting that is to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June, 2014.

In the context of the African Descent programme, one of the activities to be carried out in 2014 is the participation of the *Mujeres por África* Foundation's president in the Congress of African Descent to be held in 2014 in Senegal.

This year, preparations will begin to expand the African Descent programme to Colombia and Cuba and to define specific activities to be carried out in 2015.

18. 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 greater and better mutual understanding with the African women residing in Spain.

For this reason, various activities will continue to be carried out, as specified in this section.

18.1 Meeting with the community of African women residing in Barcelona

The first activity to be carried out is to organize a meeting with the community of African women living in Barcelona on the occasion of the inauguration of the *Foundation Year 1: Watch Africa* exhibition in the city. This follows the meeting in Madrid in February 2013.

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.

The African community is large in Catalonia, and mostly from North Africa (240,400 people from Morocco alone). The next biggest group is the Senegalese (21,221 people, of whom 4,775 are women), very much concentrated in the regions of Maresme and Vallés in the province of Barcelona. The group of Gambians is also one of the most numerous (17,113 people, of whom 4,170 are women) and is very dense in the town of Salt (Girona).

This meeting will be held on 4th March, 2014 (prior to the opening day of *Watch Africa*), in a place that is centrally located and easily accessible by public transport.

A study will first be made of the various African associations and institutions present in Barcelona and Catalonia, in order to announce the event effectively. CODAF (Intercultural Cooperation Centre for African Women), an entity that knows this group of women well, will help to do this. Advice will also be sought from CEAR (African Studies Centre), an association based in Barcelona that studies and disseminates information about Africa.

18.2. 2nd African Women in Spain Photography Contest

After the success of the photo contest based on African women in Spain, there are plans to organize a second edition with slightly higher prizes decided upon by the jury. In 2013, only one first prize of €500 was awarded. A first prize of €1,000 and a runner-up prize of €500 are suggested for 2014.

18.3. Training, Workshops and Activities

The activities we have been carrying out with the social group of African women residing in Madrid will continue, and there will also be training courses in Spanish in collaboration with NGOs that assist immigrants, and intensive, specialised training courses in collaboration with the Carlos III University.

19. “FOUNDATION YEAR 1” TRAVELLING EXHIBITION

After its first anniversary in February 2013, the *Mujeres por África* Foundation has created an exhibition entitled *Foundation Year 1* that shows the activity carried out during this early, essential period of its existence.

In line with this look back at our history, our intention is also to provide an overview of the current situation on the continent and the vital contribution African women make, especially in countries where the foundation's projects are implemented. All of this is seen from a multidisciplinary perspective, with areas not only strictly intended for development and projects, but also for photography, music, film and art.

The exhibition was presented in the headquarters of the official architects' association (*Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos*) in Madrid on 29th May, with H.M. the Queen, as Honorary President of the Foundation's Board of Trustees, in attendance, and it remained open to the public until 9th June, attracting a total of 1,500 visitors.

In 2014, we intend to bring the exhibition to Barcelona, Seville and the Canary Islands. This tour is subject, however, to attracting sponsorship.

In Barcelona, the exhibition will be shown in CAIXA FORUM and has the backing of major businesspeople in Catalonia.

20. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FOUNDATION'S TRUSTEES AND ADVISORY BOARD

The annual meeting of the Foundation's Board of Trustees and Advisory Board will be held in June 2014. The exact date has not yet been decided by the Royal Household of H.M. the Queen, the foundation's honorary president.

OTHER INITIATIVES

Possible initiatives to be carried out in 2014 are listed below:

1. Collaboration between the Women for Africa Foundation and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights

The President of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, Sophie Akuffo, proposed collaboration with the *Mujeres por África* Foundation in the African Women's Access to Justice (AWAL) Programme. This collaboration will be specified after obtaining the required sponsorship.

Rationale:

The need to implement the “African Women’s Access to Justice” programme is shown by the observation that the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights is currently under-utilized, given the limited information available to citizens and in particular women as regards the court and its functions. The court, in fact, has not yet dealt with any appeal brought by women or women's organizations in relation to gender equality. It has implemented specific actions to improve dissemination of its functions, especially among activists and women's organizations such as Equality Now and the International Association of Women Lawyers.

The programme is based on the findings of UN reports that reveal contradictions and gaps in African states’ legal frameworks that hinder women's access to justice and the need for better training of local monitoring teams and groups.

Description:

It should be noted that the general objectives include promoting outreach and awareness programmes on specific women’s issues, creating a framework for cooperation between national and regional African courts and continental institutions to ensure the implementation of the instruments that defend women’s rights, encouraging the designation of women magistrates in all courts, and supporting training for women in best practices such as that of taking the matter of gender into account in procedures and judicial structures.

Ensuring the protection of women, monitoring legal resources from the national to continental level, and supporting legislative reform are just some of the specific objectives of the project, along with scholarship programmes and networking.

2. Political training school for African women

Following the initiative of UN Women Africa, progress towards a political training school for women in Africa is being studied. The aim is to support the empowerment of women who wish to participate in politics in Africa via training provided by prestigious leaders within and outside the continent. A preliminary step, without a doubt, is to launch these courses and steadily create the critical mass necessary to create a more stable structure: a school.

The *Mujeres por África* Foundation will participate in defining its contents and, if possible, organising one of these courses in 2014.

3. Fact-finding journey to Tanzania

In order to define a project to be carried out in this country, a trip is being considered in 2014 to identify an area in which the *Mujeres por África* Foundation may carry out an activity.

4. Collaboration with Morocco's OCP Foundation

The signing of a partnership agreement with the OCP Foundation (*Office Cherifien des Phosphates*) of Morocco will enable an area of common interest to be identified, such as training women in rural areas, so as to implement a joint project.