



2017 ACTION PLAN



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INTRODUCTION

The Women for Africa Foundation (MxA) was launched with the intention of lending visibility to women in Africa and boosting their transformative role in the context of sustainable human development and the promotion of human rights, peace, justice and dignity for people.

In this context, the work has focused and shall continue to focus on fostering the consolidation of social, political and economic models that will enable the most basic capabilities to be developed for human development which, as indicated by the UNDP, are: *to lead long and healthy lives, to be knowledgeable, to have access to the resources needed for a decent standard of living, and to be able to participate in the life of the community.*

We work with the conviction that developing people's potential, and in particular that of women, is the best guarantee for social transformation and for advancing and consolidating democracy in Africa. Our commitment to equality is not therefore founded solely on reasons of justice, but also on the basis that constitutes democracy.

Over the five years that the MxA Foundation has worked since it began its activity in February, 2012, these have been the principles and values that have guided our actions.

The year 2017 represents an opportunity to take stock of the path we have travelled, review our model for intervention and take on new challenges to adapt our contribution to the new position of MxA in the context of African development.

Over these five years of activity, our work has been appreciated and recognised in Spain and internationally, generating new contacts for collaboration with public and private entities and civil society to drive initiatives to which MxA can contribute.

Thus, we begin 2017 as a transition year when in addition to fostering specific initiatives for the areas of work where we act, we also propose to establish our position as an agent for development in Africa. In this sense, we shall work to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of our activity, capitalising on all of the credibility earned over these five years of work.

At the same time, with the hope of responding to the growing demand for MxA's intervention and collaboration, we intend to work to identify new sources of funding that may enable us to extend our scope and increase the impact of our actions.

We hereby present our 6th Plan of Action, which includes all of the actions to be carried out throughout 2017 and which are organised into five areas of work.

1. LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Equality is one of the elements that constitute democracy. There cannot be true democracy when half of the population—the women—are relegated, discriminated or deprived of the freedom and independence corresponding to all people.

Making a commitment to women's leadership and to women's presence where decisions are made, and taking part equally in making them, all guarantees that their perspective—the perspective of 50% of the citizens—is taken into account. This is the guarantee that women's voice is heard and that, whatever the field being addressed, women's disadvantageous position is noted. To sum up, it guarantees democracy.

Fostering female leadership means fostering equality, but it also means fostering governance, good democratic practices and respect for human rights for everybody—for society as a whole. Without a doubt, it means helping to perfect political systems and to strengthen their public institutions; a

particularly necessary task on a continent where such processes are often still to be found under construction.

For all these reasons, Women for Africa believes it is fundamental to promote women's leadership in all fields, and most especially in public life, politics and in social debate. This is shown by the significant projects we carry out in this area, which include work with African policies at the top level, as in the case of the Yale Forum, training women who must lead in such important areas as public healthcare, education and social groups (*Ghana Wins!*), as well as strengthening and accompanying women who fight for peace (a task for which women are particularly gifted in carrying out) in Mali.

2. EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Education is the key to the future. For people it means the possibility to be free and to be citizens—in short, to *be*. For countries, it is the basic element for development; the foundation upon which an equal, cohesive society is built. That is how Women for Africa understands it, and that is why it is a priority area of activity for the foundation.

We are carrying out such activities, incorporating not only training and the transfer of knowledge as essential factors in all of our projects, but also the aim of contributing as far as our possibilities allow to respond to the big challenges that Africa faces in the field of education, such as schooling for girls, which still lags behind the boys, and school dropouts, whose numbers are also especially acute in the case of girls. Our projects *Girls from Rimkieta* and *Girls from Malawi* touch upon precisely these aspects.

Our *Women for Africa Scholarship Programme* with Spanish universities is also helping to improve the quality of further education for young African women students; a need that is equally very much felt in education in Africa.

On the other hand, scientific research is also a fundamental element of development. It is a task in which African women should be very much present, contributing their particular perspective and special sensitivity towards the problems their countries suffer and for which answers can and must be found in science.

Our contribution in this regard is made in the *Science by Women* project, which brings African women researchers to the best Spanish scientific institutions, showing their work, which until now has been invisible for the scientific community.

3. HEALTH

Women for Africa's activity in the field of healthcare is based on our vision of this literally vital factor for everybody. It is a vision in which healthcare is a human right, and healthcare a global asset that all citizens of the world should be able to access through fair and efficient public systems.

We know, however, that implementing these rights is a challenge that is still pending, especially when we talk about women's health. The Millennium Development Goal as regards child and maternal health was the goal that came off the worst following its evaluation after the fifteen years (2000-2015) over which these first goals of the international community, the MDGs, have been acted on. Every day, 800 women die around the world due to problems arising from pregnancy and childbirth—and most of them are African.

This is why, in this area of health, Women for Africa has opted to work in a field that demonstrates especially clearly the need for a response to the tremendous shortcomings in child and maternal healthcare, such as acting on prevention, cure and raising awareness about the affliction of obstetric fistula. This is a painful condition suffered by millions of African women due to a lack of assistance in pregnancy and childbirth, which furthermore stigmatises them and distances them from their families and communities.

In addition to the *Stop Fistula* project (the flagship of our activity in healthcare that we are carrying out in Liberia and we shall now also take to Ghana), we also have another very necessary field: malaria prevention, with the *Painting Africa* project, which has turned the women in the Ghanaian village of Ahwiam into agents for hygiene and health.

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The contribution from African women to development on their continent is not easy to quantify. We know it is huge, and in many countries they produce up to 80% of the food while in practice managing the entire informal economy. Such activities enable the immense majority of families to live in Africa.

However, women farmers find many more difficulties than men in accessing resources for producing food. The FAO has calculated that if this access were equal, between 100 and 150 million people would no longer go hungry. Moreover, the women who work in the informal economy are trapped in this activity which, as it is not registered, hinders their work from being appreciated and creates difficulties that are mostly insurmountable in accessing credit and training to make headway.

Women for Africa works in this line of activity with projects that address precisely these needs, above all attempting to transmit knowledge, make a shift towards the formal economy, and to empower women in the economic and business world by boosting their visibility and backing their initiatives.

This includes projects such as the *Women's Green Yard* in Gambia, which has made agricultural activity professional, profitable and sustainable for 500 women in two cooperatives, as well as ensuring food security for their communities; and *Green Voices*, which has lent visibility to the work of rural Tanzanian women in combating the effects of climate change. Such projects are examples of our activity in the vital sector of agriculture.

Launch and Grow in Kenya and *Women at the Wheel* in Sierra Leone, which support women's entrepreneurship and projects in different business sectors, are our contribution to their activity in the formal economy.

5. CULTURE

Culture, ethical commitment, creativity and solidarity have always been our working companions. When one seeks, as Women for Africa does, to achieve social transformation and true human development for everybody equally, making it possible for them to achieve their personal and social possibilities, then culture is an exceptionally useful vehicle to break away from stereotypes, dismantle prejudices and generate new points of view.

Culture encourages coexistence and tolerance; it helps us accept what is different and understand others. That is why, in a globalised world in which diversity must represent great wealth and not a great problem, in which everything revolves around communication, Women for Africa is committed to culture as a great factor for change and for mutual understanding.

Examples of this are given by the programmes we carry out in this field, including the *promotion of Spanish in Africa* as a great tool for progress for women, and projects that boost progress via audiovisuals, such as the *photography contest based on African Women in Spain*, the *literary competition* and the *Women Make Movies film festival*, which makes great works by African women available to the Spanish public.

6. INTERNATIONALISATION

Lastly, we would like to highlight one of the most ambitious endeavours that we are going to undertake in 2017: the opening of new headquarters for the MxA Foundation in Africa: *Femmes pour l'Afrique. Le Phare de Nador*.

Morocco is a strategic partner for Spain and the European Union, representing a great gateway to Africa and a bridge to Sub-Saharan Africa. Nador is a city in Morocco and the capital of the province of the same name, located in the country's Oriental Region.

Women for Africa is embarking on setting up this new headquarters with two main aims:

- a) **To foster local and regional development in the Oriental region of Morocco**, with a strategy that is significant for both its geographic position and its economic potential. Two activities will be carried out in this area, organised along three lines of action: a general training programme, a training programme for employment, and an entrepreneurial incubator.
- b) **Boosting equality by founding a Global Centre for thought and action by empowering African women** through a trans-cultural perspective. The Nador Women's Hub aspires to build bridges between women from the north and south of Africa, fostering South-to-South cooperation to draw up a feminist agenda of global reach with the ultimate aim of building a fairer world. This area will carry out its activities along three lines of action: training, research and networking.

The centre that will house the new Women for Africa headquarters is located in the old Lope de Vega Spanish secondary school in Nador, an educational centre of great prestige which the foundation now owns after being transferred from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in December, 2015.

In 2016, the initiative was presented to the national and local authorities and public, private and academic bodies, receiving strong backing and a firm commitment of support to encourage and carry out this new project.

Within the context of the 2017 action plan, our proposed priority is to progress with the restoration work on the building where the centre is located as a necessary condition to subsequently set in motion the proposed content to be implemented.

Thus, we present our 6th action plan for 2017 with new proposals for action addressing well-defined areas of activity and new challenges that we are taking on with the aim of capitalising on our experience and learning over these five years of work, and to contribute in an innovative and efficient way to our ultimate aim of boosting the transformational role of women in Africa.

I. LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

TITLE	3RD LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE FORUM AT YALE
Country	United States
Duration	4 years (2015-2018)
Partners and collaborators	Yale University and Banco Santander – Santander Universidades
The initiative's goals	<p><u>General Goal:</u> To foster the inclusion of equality and empowerment for women in the participating African countries' political agendas.</p> <p><u>Specific Goal:</u> To strengthen leadership among female African political leaders by fostering a network for collaboration across the continent.</p>
Beneficiaries	Twelve female African leaders with posts of public responsibility and the potential to influence their countries' political agenda by promoting equality and empowerment for women.
Background and context	<p>An initiative by the Women for Africa Foundation carried out with the prestigious Yale University and the backing of Banco Santander via Santander Universidades.</p> <p>The first forum was held in 2015, and the third one is to be held in 2017.</p> <p>Each year, five or six different countries are chosen and two participants are invited per country. In the 2015 and 2016 forums, the 11 countries chosen were: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda. Among these 11 countries, there has been the noteworthy participation of a former prime minister, four current ministers, six former ministers, two members of the judiciary, two former secretaries of state and six parliamentarians.</p>
Description	<p>The Strategic Impact Forum is a one-week meeting of women who are prominent African political leaders and who hold or have held senior posts in their governments, the judiciary, the legislature or international organizations, in order to discuss the most important issues on the international agenda and women's specific agenda.</p> <p>The first part of the course format includes an intensive, interactive programme of seminars, debates, exhibitions and meetings held on the Yale University campus, whereas the second part takes place in Washington with interviews and meetings with different personalities.</p> <p>The forum's academic director is Elizabeth Bradley, director of the Yale Global Health Leadership Institute and Professor of Grand strategy. The forum's syllabus has been drafted in close collaboration with the Women for Africa Foundation and includes an analysis of the key issues in governance as well as the necessary policies that may contribute to the social, political and economic development of Africa. The main subjects addressed in the different forums are: leadership and strategy from a perspective of history and gender; governance; globalisation and financial crisis; peace-building and violence; health; inclusive growth and economic growth; and climate change.</p> <p>The first part of the syllabus involves the participation of prestigious representatives from Yale's teaching staff, experts from other universities and political representatives who help generate a wide-ranging debate on the most significant matters on the international agenda.</p>

	To ensure the exponential effect of this initiative, the leaders participating in these fora have agreed to organise or support training programmes in their countries in collaboration with local universities and institutions, boosting the initiative's impact.
To be implemented in 2017	<p>The third strategic forum is to be held in May 2017 with twelve leaders from seven African countries, including confirmed attendance from Guinea Conakry, the Central African Republic, Libya, South Africa and Sierra Leone.</p> <p>The selection process, which has already begun, will be agreed with Yale University, as will the course content, which is being drawn up. The main subjects dealt with are: leadership and governance; equality; violence and peace; sustainable economics; feminism and climate change.</p> <p>Throughout 2017, there will also be leadership forums and programmes in the participants' various countries of origin. The small-format replicas of the leadership programme aim to ensure this initiative's impact and foster knowledge transferral to young women leaders. Programmes have been drawn up to be carried out in Ghana, Kenya and Morocco in 2017, while the remaining countries are working on launching them.</p>

TITLE	GHANA WINS (PHASE II)
Country	Ghana, United States
Duration	2016-2019
Partners and collaborators	New York University, the University of Ghana and Banco Santander - Santander Universidades.
The initiative's goals	<p><u>General Goal:</u> To foster comprehensive training in leadership for Ghanaian women from three professional sectors: nurses, primary school teachers and social activists.</p> <p><u>Specific Goal:</u> To plan and implement action projects on the ground in nursing, teaching and social leadership in order to bolster the target beneficiaries' leadership in their areas and multiply this initiative's impact.</p>
Beneficiaries	12 nurses, 12 teachers and 10 social leaders.
Background and context	<p>This is an initiative by the Women for Africa Foundation carried out in collaboration with New York University, the University of Ghana with the backing of Banco Santander via Santander Universidades.</p> <p>The first phase of <i>Ghana Wins</i> (2013-2015) ended in 2015 with very satisfactory results in the three programmes. In the first phase, the leadership programme for nurses trained a total of 32 nurses who carried out 29 projects in their health centres, introducing improvements in assistance and healthcare management. The teacher-training programme had 24 teachers who, after receiving the training, launched 12 action projects in their schools, which in turn have benefited a total of more than 490 girls. The third programme, aimed at social leaders, worked with groups of 15 women. There have been 30 projects carried out, which have had a relevant impact on the target communities.</p> <p>Following the first phase of <i>Ghana Wins</i> (2013-2015), in 2016 the second phase was launched, which was planned based on the experience of the first stage, bolstering the training and coaching while including the beneficiaries of the first phase as mentors. The</p>

	new focus aims to strengthen the beneficiaries' leadership in both phases as well as their professional networks, implementing initiatives that bring improvements to their sectors.
Description	<p><i>Ghana Wins</i> aims to foster comprehensive training in leadership for Ghanaian women in three professional sectors: nurses, primary school teachers and social activists. To do so, the project is based on three programmes designed by the Women for Africa Foundation, and New York University's Nursing Faculty, the Steinhardt School of Education, and the Wagner Graduate School for Public Service.</p> <p>Leadership programme for nurses: Beneficiaries from ten of the country's administrative regions will be given training in Accra and New York. They will draw up specific action projects to bring improvements to priority aspects of healthcare in their region. These projects shall be implemented in collaboration with nurses in their respective health centres with the support of a mentor.</p> <p>Leadership programme for teachers: In August 2016, a group of 12 teachers were introduced. They will remain in the programme until August 2017. In this second phase, the projects to be carried out by the beneficiaries will focus on the challenges faced by schools, and above all by women and girls.</p> <p>Leadership programme for social activists: The women selected will be given specific training in social leadership via intensive modules that will take place in Accra and New York. The participants will then plan and implement action projects that they will launch in their organisations.</p>
To be implemented in 2017	<p>Leadership programme in nursing: When 16 nurses have been selected, they will receive training and plan projects for change in the healthcare areas identified as priorities in their regions.</p> <p>Leadership programme for teachers: The 12 beneficiaries of the programme will implement their projects until the end of 2017.</p> <p>Leadership programme for social activists: A group of 10 social leaders has been selected. They have received the first block of intensive training in Ghana. At the moment, they are finishing off the plans for their projects for social change, which they will have to implement by the end of 2017.</p>

TITLE	MALIAN WOMEN IN ACTION FOR PEACE
Country	MALI
Duration	2017-2018
Partners and collaborators	To be defined
The initiative's goals	<p><u>General Goal:</u> To foster and support the active participation of women in peace and conflict mediation processes.</p> <p><u>Specific Goal:</u> To train women in mediation, leadership and in carrying out peace initiatives led by women.</p>

Beneficiaries	There are 26 direct beneficiaries and over 100 indirect people benefiting as the targets of the peace initiatives carried out in local communities.
Background and context	<p>Between 2014 and 2015, MxA launched the “<i>Malian Women in Action for Peace</i>” project in collaboration with the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre with the aim of training the participating women in leadership and conflict resolution, thereby fostering their intervention as protagonists in the reconciliation process on a national and community level.</p> <p>This very innovative project backed by MxA was drawn up giving an opportunity for women to clearly express the difficulties and conflicts faced by their communities, encouraging training suited to their priorities. To do so, focus groups were organised in which nearly 80 women from different areas of Mali took part. These enabled the 26 women to be selected and needs to be identified to better define the content of the training. In June, 2014, a training course was held in Bamako that lasted five days. Later, the 26 beneficiaries drew up their own projects and implemented them in their communities.</p> <p>The political and security situation in Mali and in general the whole region is still unstable, with extremist hotspots erupting in Mali as in other neighbouring countries. In this context, women’s role as protagonists in the national peacemaking process is more necessary than ever. Addressing the requests from the women of Mali and aware of the situation in the region, MxA proposes carrying out a second edition of the “<i>Malian Women in Action for Peace</i>” initiative.</p>
Description	<p>The second “<i>Malian Women in Action for Peace</i>” project, a training programme in leadership and conflict resolution, aims to extend and consolidate the impact of the first phase. To do so, this stage’s specific aim in Mali is to give advanced training in mentoring and coaching to a group of about 10 leaders from the first edition.</p> <p>The training workshops shall be carried out throughout Mali with nearly 100 beneficiaries. Not only will the participants in the second phase reinforce their leadership, conflict resolution and mentoring skills, but also those from the first phase, who will be participating in the training as mentors and helpers.</p> <p>The participants in the second edition will design and implement local peace initiatives (Cola projects) while the creation of a national community of Women for Peace will be fostered.</p>
To be implemented in 2017	In order to get the second phase up and running in Mali, MxA will carry out an identification mission to discover the priority needs of the target ladies and beneficiaries, identify local partners to implement the activity, and reformulate the concept of action to ensure it is based on a logic of intervention that responds to local needs.

II. EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

TITLE	GIRLS FROM RIMKIETA
Country	Burkina Faso
Duration	8 years (2012-2020)
Partners and collaborators	Friends of Rimkieta Foundation (<i>Amigos de Rimkieta</i>)
The initiative's goals	<p><u>General Goal:</u> To promote the right to education and training for girls in an extremely disadvantaged situation in the Rimkieta district of the capital of Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou.</p> <p><u>Specific Goal:</u> To ensure access to education and training for the girls from Rimkieta via schooling, vocational training and literacy.</p>
Beneficiaries	284 girls from the district of Rimkieta aged between 7 and 20 will benefit from this programme in 2017.
Background and context	This initiative was launched in 2012 upon signing the collaboration agreement with FRF. Over these years, 1,052 girls have received scholarships for primary and secondary school; two scholarships have been granted for university studies; 2 for professional training; and basic education has been given to 103 girls, thus benefiting a total of 1,159 girls.
Description	<p>The project has three lines of training:</p> <p>Phase I: Schooling or pre-schooling. This phase is aimed at girls of school age, including university students, to receive schooling scholarships including the enrolment fee and school materials. The FRF monitors and controls the scholarship holders' school performance quarterly, offering extra refresher classes two days a week. The first university scholarship was granted for the 2015-16 academic year and there are now two young ladies at university this academic year.</p> <p>Phase II: Literacy I Schooling/Vocation The aim is to give girls who have never had schooling the basic training necessary for future schooling or to learn a trade. This phase lasts 2 years. By the end, the beneficiaries go on to phase I of the schooling or learn a profession. Girls with greater difficulties go on to phase III.</p> <p>Phase III: Literacy II. The aim here is to continue with basic education for girls who for whatever reason cannot enter the other two phases.</p> <p>The project also includes daily meals with vitamin supplements for the girls.</p>
To be implemented in 2017	<p>Phase I: Renewal of 262 school scholarships for the beneficiaries who meet the requirements for participating in the programme and renewal of the two university scholarships granted in 2016.</p> <p>Phase II: Introduction of a sixth yearly group of 20 new girls in October 2017. The girls will continue to be monitored and checked as well as the refresher classes.</p> <p>Phase III: So far there are no candidates for this phase.</p>
TITLE	GIRLS FROM MALAWI
Country	Malawi
Duration	5 years (2013-2018)

Partners and collaborators	Esteban G. Vigil Foundation
The initiative's goals	<p><u>General Goal:</u> To promote and support the right to secondary and further education for girls and young ladies in a situation of risk in the villages of Chaombwa and Mbambande, the nearest rural area to the capital Lilongwe.</p> <p><u>Specific Goal:</u> To tackle absenteeism and school dropout rates among girls in this zone, supporting their school studies and boosting their vocational training, gaining the commitment of families and communities in this task.</p>
Beneficiaries	75 young ladies from the villages of Chaombwa and Mbambande.
Background and context	<p>This initiative by Women for Africa is being carried out in collaboration with the Esteban G. Vigil Foundation following the signing of a collaboration agreement in 2012. The project supporting the education of girls and young ladies in Malawi is being carried out in the nearest rural area to Lilongwe, the capital, aimed at such people in a situation of risk. It was launched with the collaboration and implication of the traditional village authorities of Chaombwa and other authorities from nearby villages, as well as from the beneficiaries' different communities and families.</p> <p>Over these years, the rates of absenteeism and dropouts from the programme have been reduced. In fact, in 2013 there were 18 young ladies out of a total of 50 who dropped out of the programme, whereas in the 2015 school year only six of the 75 young ladies left it (three failed the exams that give access to the third year of secondary school, and three left due to marriage). It should also be considered an achievement that nearly 20 of the beneficiaries who passed secondary education are continuing with vocational training studies.</p>
Description	<p>The project aims to boost and support 75 girls and young ladies from the villages of Chaombwa and Mbambande to continue their secondary studies via scholarships that include meals and health care. The beneficiaries are girls and young ladies from broken homes or with few means.</p> <p>The aim is for them to have access to secondary or further education and to receive good training to enable them to get a job. The beneficiaries are selected by the village chiefs, taking into account the family situation and avoiding more than one per family. The rules governing this project are: attendance at school is obligatory; absence without reason will mean they have to leave the programme and no academic year may be repeated. The beneficiaries are to attend periodic meetings with the project coordinator.</p>
To be implemented in 2017	75 girls and young ladies at risk shall study secondary education.

TITLE	SCIENCE BY WOMEN
Country	Spain
Duration	2014-2018
Partners and	The Spanish National Cancer Research Centre (CNIO), the National Centre for Biotechnology

collaborators	(CNB), the Institute of Mathematical Sciences (ICMAT), the Carlos III Institute of Health (ISCIIII) and the Institute of Photonic Sciences (ICFO). For the 2017 edition, the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics and the Center for Genomic Regulation (CRG), also from Barcelona, have joined.
The initiative's goals	<u>General Goal:</u> To empower African women scientists so they may take part in Africa's transition process to a knowledge-based economy guided by innovation. <u>Specific Goal:</u> To boost the researchers' skills with work experience periods in research centres of excellence in Spain, thereby also creating stable relationships for collaboration between Spanish and African research centres.
Beneficiaries	Eight senior African researchers
Background and context	<i>Science by Women</i> is an initiative by the Women for Africa Foundation (MxA) that was launched in 2014 in collaboration with the Severo Ochoa Centres. Other centres of excellence in Spain and other countries have since joined. The first step for setting this up was to form a scientific committee chaired by the president of MxA which agreed to launch a programme for 2015-16 of nine scholarships for senior African researchers to stay for six months in one of the centres that collaborate in <i>Science by Women</i> . Following the first call, nine researchers were selected from different countries who have been carrying out their research in Spanish centres.
Description	This scholarship programme is aimed at senior researchers with a special leadership ability, which will foster knowledge transfer from the beneficiaries to students (bachelor's, master's and doctorates) and young researchers in their own countries' centres, ensuring it will have an impact. The second edition of the programme for scholarships or practical experience was launched in April, 2016. This included announcing the request for participants and the selection by the scientific committee of candidates according to criteria of academic excellence, the impact of the projects presented, and integration in the associated centres. <i>Science By Women's</i> priority areas of work are: 1) Healthcare, 2) Energy, Water and Climate Change, 3) Agriculture and Food Security, 4) Mathematics and 5) Economic Sciences. The latter two, Mathematics and Economic Sciences, have been included for the second edition planned for 2017. The programme of scholarships or stays for senior women researchers also intends to foster cooperation in research in the areas described and to generate greater exchange between Spanish and African researchers.
To be implemented in 2017	The Scientific Committee has selected the eight women researchers to enter the seven associated centres (one per centre, except for ISCII, which will take on two) for the second edition in the 2017 academic year. Approval from the <i>Scientific Committee</i> is pending following evaluation of the programme.

TITLE	FUERTES PROGRAMME: AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN SENEGAL <i>(Femmes Unies Ensemble pour la Recherche, la Technologie, l'Environnement et la Science)</i>
Country	Senegal
Duration	2017-2019
Partners and collaborators	Mohammed VI University of Morocco and the University of Sine Saloum El Hadj Ibrahima Niass (USSEIN).
The	<u>General Goal:</u> To promote agricultural research by Senegalese women to help reduce

initiative's goals	vulnerability in the face of climate change and bolster the population's resilience. <u>Specific Goal:</u> To train and empower Senegalese women researchers who are specialists in agriculture and nutrition for them to integrate in the USSEIN University and to guide their research and knowledge towards creating spin-offs in the agricultural and food sector.
Beneficiaries	10 Senegalese women researchers.
Background and context	This initiative by the Women for Africa Foundation can count on the collaboration of the Sine Saloum El Hadj Ibrahima Niass University (USSEIN), a new university specialising in agriculture, with whom a Collaboration Framework Agreement has been signed. The Senegalese researchers' training will be carried out in Morocco in collaboration with the Mohammed VI University.
Description	<p>The project includes selecting a first team of five Senegalese researchers who will receive advanced training in agriculture and nutrition at the prestigious Mohammed VI University. The training will be planned taking into account the beneficiaries' profiles and the priority areas of interest. After six months of training, the researchers will join the teaching and research team at the recently inaugurated USSEIN. A second group of five researchers will repeat the same pattern of training in Morocco in order to join USSEIN's teaching and research team the following year.</p> <p>Women for Africa will contribute to the training by designing specific modules that ensure a gender focus in the research and clinical trials. Leadership techniques and systems will also be included to enable the researchers to be role models for their teams and students. The second phase of the project includes support for the most innovative researchers to create spin-offs in the agriculture and food sector.</p>
To be implemented in 2017	<p>Throughout 2017, the following activities will be carried out:</p> <p>Over the first semester, the evaluation committee will be formed. It will be made up of representatives from the USSEIN University, who will select the first group of Senegalese researchers.</p> <p>The beneficiaries selected will be given intensive training in the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University. In the second semester of 2017, they will join the academic and research staff at USSEIN.</p>

TITLE	SCHOLARSHIPS FOR AFRICAN WOMEN IN SPANISH UNIVERSITIES
Country	Spain
Duration	2017-2018
Partners and collaborators	The Conference of Spanish University Rectors (CRUE), the University of La Rioja, the University of Granada, the University of Malaga, the Complutense University of Madrid, the University of La Laguna, the Autonomous University of Madrid, the Carlos III University of Madrid, the University of Alcalá de Henares, the University of Salamanca, the King Juan Carlos University and the University of Cantabria.
The initiative's	<u>General Goal:</u> To foster knowledge transfer and skills training for African women university students and researchers so that when they have finished their training they become agents

goals	<p>for progress in their societies.</p> <p><u>Specific Goal:</u> To give access to postgraduate university studies in Spanish universities for African women students and to strengthen the relationship between Spanish and African universities, thereby helping build networks between the different academic communities.</p>
Beneficiaries	<p>Fifteen African women students in the 2016-2017 academic year, as well as the 20 planned for the 2017-2018 academic year. In previous editions, another seven have completed such studies.</p>
Background and context	<p>The MxA scholarship programme began in 2012 in the University of La Rioja—a pioneer in this initiative. Since then, new academic entities have joined.</p> <p>In order to strengthen this programme, MxA signed a collaboration framework agreement with the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE) and a specific agreement that aims to draw up activities geared towards this social group and to give female students (graduate or postgraduate) and African lecturers access to external vacancies available in the CRUE universities.</p> <p>During the 2016-2017 academic year, seven universities have taken part, offering 1 to 3 scholarships each, and at least four of them will do so for the 2017-2018 academic year.</p>
Description	<p>This programme is based on the collaboration agreements signed by Spanish universities that are welcoming the African women students and researchers. The scholarships cover the costs of enrolment, travel, medical insurance and accommodation. Their duration depends on the type of academic course, varying from three months in the case of Spanish intensive courses to two years for master’s programmes and up to 4 years if the beneficiary obtains a doctoral scholarship. Women for Africa is responsible for making the call for candidates and selecting them depending on the scholarships available. The public call will be disseminated via our website and African universities, as well as via relevant networks (hispanists’ networks, researchers’ networks). After carrying out the preliminary selection, the universities are given a list of candidates who meet the requirements to be chosen to receive the scholarship.</p>
To be implemented in 2017	<p>MxA’s management of the programme in the context of the 2017 and 2018 academic years includes: launching the public call offering scholarships, coordination with the universities to select the participating candidates, and logistics support for the beneficiaries, especially in processing visas.</p>

TITLE	STOP FISTULA
Country	Liberia and Ghana
Duration	6 years (2013-2018)
Partners and collaborators	The Ministry of Gender and Development, Liberia; the Saint Joseph Catholic Hospital (SJCH), Monrovia; and the Tamale Teaching Hospital, Tamale.
The initiative's goals	<p><u>General Goal:</u> To help combat and eradicate obstetric fistula in Liberia and Ghana.</p> <p><u>Specific Goal:</u> To prevent and surgically treat obstetric fistula in Monrovia and Tamale, strengthening the capacity and quality of maternal assistance at the Saint Joseph Catholic Hospital (SJCH).</p>
Beneficiaries	Women under 20 years of age during their first pregnancy, women at risk of an obstructed birth delivery, and women suffering from fistula.
Background and context	<p>Stop Fistula was launched in Monrovia in 2013 after the Government of the Republic of Liberia, the Saint Joseph Catholic Hospital (SJCH) and MxA signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in December, 2012. The Stop Fistula Unit worked satisfactorily in 2016, assisting nearly 400 deliveries for women at risk by October.</p> <p>True to our purpose of implementing pilot projects that may subsequently be replicated, in 2015 a collaboration agreement was signed with the Hospital University of Tamale to open a fistula unit.</p>
Description	<p>Stop Fistula addresses the tragic consequences caused by a lack of medical assistance during birth, which has dramatic effects that stigmatise women suffering from obstetric fistula.</p> <p>This project is based on the following areas: prevention activities, surgical treatment and training. The Fistula Unit in Monrovia is located in the SJCH, though the prevention activities are also carried out in four other health centres. The fistula unit in Tamale is not yet operative.</p> <p>Prevention stops a great many fistulas. The SJCH's Fistula Unit provides free medical assistance before and during birth for women under 20 years of age in their first pregnancy and women in danger of an obstructed delivery. The forecast for prenatal enquiries exceeded expectations throughout 2016. The estimate made was for 1,200 medical visits this year, though there were 2,900 up to last October. Information sessions are also held in the different health centres for pregnant women at risk of an obstructed delivery.</p> <p>Surgical treatment is a fundamental part of the project and is carried out via periodic surgical missions. The missions are carried out by an average of 5 to 8 professionals including doctors (surgeons, gynaecologists and anaesthetists), midwives and nurses, who travel for 7 to 10 days to operate on patients with obstetric fistula. On average, 45 women are operated</p>

	<p>on.</p> <p>Training is the third pillar of this initiative. The Fistula Unit provides periodic information for the midwives, though it is the surgical missions that provide very important training. Workshops are given to doctors, nurses and midwives; training is given in surgical techniques to future surgeons during operations; and medical sessions are held with local doctors.</p>
<p>To be implemented in 2017</p>	<p>Stop Fistula is to carry out the following activities in Monrovia:</p> <p>Prevention and raising awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is to be achieved with an information and awareness-raising campaign about the services provided by the Fistula Unit and sessions with pregnant women. • Prenatal assistance through the Fistula Unit and other health centres for over 3,000 women. • It is estimated that about 500 to 800 women with pregnancies at risk will receive free medical care during delivery in this unit. <p>Surgical Missions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two surgical missions to be carried out with an average of 40 women operated on successfully in each mission. • The surgical missions will also have a training purpose for nurses and midwives, as well as specialised workshops for healthcare staff. <p>Training</p> <p>Stop Fistula's third pillar involves training for healthcare staff in surgical techniques and in certain medical specialisations such as gynaecology and urology, in addition to training for nurses, midwives and birth assistants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training courses will be carried out for midwives every three months in the SJCH as well as in health centres. • Once the telemedicine platform has been installed in the Fistula Unit, periodic training sessions will be organised. <p>Identification of the needs of the fistula unit in Tamale will be taken up again in 2017 to put the collaboration agreement with the University Hospital of Tamale (Ghana) into action.</p>

TITLE	PAINTING AFRICA:: WOMEN AGAINST MALARIA
Country	Ghana
Duration	2017
Partners and collaborators	UN-Habitat, the District Assembly of Ningo-Prampram, the local women's NGO (WILDAF) and the company Roca.
The initiative's goals	<p><u>General Goal:</u> To tackle malaria and other diseases transmitted by pests by raising awareness and educating the population, especially women.</p> <p><u>Specific Goal:</u> To train the women of Ahwiam in hygiene, cleaning and sanitation so they may help in improving their families' conditions of health.</p>

Beneficiaries	The population of Ahwiam (5,000 inhabitants).
Background and context	The project began in 2014 with a needs assessment carried out in collaboration with UN-Habitat in Ahwiam, a village with a fast-growing population of 5,000 inhabitants where the activity is being carried out. This assessment enabled a new focus to be given to the intervention, concentrating on management of the town's solid waste and cleaning, with the authorities and all of the population participating in improving the conditions of health. The project, which has been carried out in two phases, has been able to count on the collaboration of the Ningo-Prampram District Assembly, to which the village of Ahwiam belongs, and on the local women's NGO, WILDAF.
Description	<p>This initiative by Women for Africa aims to improve the cleaning and solid waste collection in Ahwiam and strengthen the existing sanitation infrastructure. The awareness-raising and education activities for health are fundamental in the intervention. They have been implemented via information and awareness campaigns by local artists who put their creativity at the service of the project. Furthermore, a regular rubbish collection service has been ensured and adapted to the town's needs. The second phase of the project focused on improving the sanitation conditions. To do so, the WILDAF organisation was tasked with drawing up a report on Ahwiam's sanitation conditions with proposed solutions. This report enabled us to adapt the design to this phase and the real needs and existing conditions in the community.</p> <p>The We Are Water Foundation collaborated in this stage, as well as the company Roca, with whom we signed a collaboration agreement to co-fund the second phase of the project and plan the architectural project together to construct a public building of toilets and showers in Ahwiam. The aim is to create facilities and infrastructure based on environmental and economic sustainability, helping to improve the town's sanitary conditions.</p> <p>Once up and running, this service will be managed by a group of women from the village, financed by fees from the citizens to use the toilets and by sales in a small shop included in the facilities. The community provided the land to locate the washing and toilet facilities and selected a group of women who will run the infrastructure in future. The facilities are being constructed by a local builder.</p>
To be implemented in 2017	On completing the construction of the washing facilities, an official inauguration is planned with the participation of the local authorities, the population of Ahwiam and the collaborating entities (the We Are Water Foundation and the NGO, WILDAF).

IV. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TITLE	LAUNCH & GROW Training for women business leaders
Country	Kenya and the USA
Duration	2016-2018
Partners and collaborators	Babson College and the University of Nairobi's Wangari Maathai Institute with backing from Banco Santander.
The initiative's goals	<u>General Goal:</u> To boost and give skills to businesswomen in Kenya to strengthen their empowerment and for them to take on leadership in business. <u>Specific Goal:</u> To train Kenyan businesswomen and bolster their skills in consolidating and developing lines of business, mentoring skills and planning socially responsible initiatives.
Beneficiaries	16 businesswomen and entrepreneurs.
Background and context	This initiative from Women for Africa is being carried out with the prestigious US business School, Babson College. To launch the project, the first step was to draw up a specific report on the business panorama for women entrepreneurs in Kenya, written at the request of MxA by the University of Nairobi's Wangari Maathai Institute. Based on this report, a syllabus was drawn up in collaboration with Babson College, tailored to the specific needs of Kenyan women entrepreneurs. In 2016, the first group of 13 businesswomen took part in the training programme given in Babson College last July.
Description	<i>Launch & Grow</i> is aimed at senior businesswomen and young female entrepreneurs. The beneficiaries were selected by MxA. The programme, which caters to 16 beneficiaries every year, includes training in the first phase, which is carried out for one week in Babson College. The course is designed taking into account the beneficiaries' needs. It has joint sessions and others designed specifically for each of the two groups of beneficiaries. The senior businesswomen's training stresses their mentoring skills, whereas the training for the younger ladies focuses on drawing up and implementing business plans and socially responsible initiatives. When the training is over, the second phase begins. Here, the younger businesswomen are to define and implement the socially responsible initiatives drawn up in Babson, applying them in their companies. To do so, they can count on mentoring from the senior businesswomen over six months.
To be implemented in 2017	During the first half of 2017, the mentoring and coaching will be carried out with the 14 beneficiaries from the first phase. At the same time, a second group of 16 beneficiaries will be selected. The leadership course for the second group will be given in Babson College in June, 2017. The mentoring process and the coaching sessions will begin for the second group in the second half of the year.

TITLE	WOMEN AT THE WHEEL
Country	Sierra Leone
Duration	2013-2017
Partners and collaborators	ONG Diamond Child School of Arts and Culture
The initiative's goals	<p><u>General Goal:</u> To promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.</p> <p><u>Specific Goal:</u> To improve public transport in Freetown by training women drivers who manage a professional taxi service, "<i>Women at the Wheel</i>", in association and sustainably.</p>
Beneficiaries	42 women.
Background and context	<p>The project was launched in 2013 in collaboration with the local NGO Diamond Child School of Arts and Culture (DCSAC). The first phase, which began in May, 2013, aimed to train 30 women drivers, 5 women mechanics and 8 female managers. It was completed in May, 2014. This first phase came to an end with 8 vehicles being provided by MxA and the launching of the <i>Women at the Wheel</i> taxi service. It began to work in Freetown in July, 2014, just when the Ebola outbreak hit the city of Freetown. The virulence of the epidemic called for the utmost caution, so the service was discontinued. Our counterpart also told us of their wish to halt the project, so it was necessary to find another local organisation to take charge of it.</p> <p>During the Ebola epidemic, supervision of the project was entrusted to Imat College, a training institution in Freetown, and the project was reformulated to adapt it to the new circumstances. The first step was to suspend the beginning of phase 2, whose intention was to train another 30 drivers, 7 mechanics and 4 managers, and downsize the project to 22 women beneficiaries. In the last stage, it was agreed to teach six beneficiaries how to drive, who had previously been trained in both mechanics and administration.</p> <p>The <i>Women at the Wheel</i> project has trained more than 40 women, giving them skills in different professions: driving, mechanics, and business administration and management.</p>
Description	<p>This project aims to boost women's economic independence and their entrepreneurial attitude. To do so, <i>Women at the Wheel</i> concentrates on the following aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training in entrepreneurship, driving, customer service and management of the service; 2. The launch of a quality taxi service managed exclusively by women; 3. Founding a cooperative that owns the <i>Women at the Wheel</i> taxi service.
To be implemented in 2017	The feasibility of the initiative in Freetown shall be analysed in 2017.

TITLE	TRAINING IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR AFRICAN WOMEN IN SPAIN
Country	Spain
Duration	7 days.
Partners and collaborators	The University of Granada, the Red Hekima network and Santander Universidades.
The initiative's goals	<p><u>General Goal:</u> To empower African women living in Spain by fostering their presence in the formal economy.</p> <p><u>Specific Goal:</u> To strengthen the skills of entrepreneurial African women in Andalusia in leadership and company management to help them integrate in Andalusia's social and economic fabric.</p>
Beneficiaries	A maximum of 20 African businesswomen and/or entrepreneurs.
Background and context	In Andalusia there is a sector of African women with small businesses (commerce, itinerant sales, import-export) who mostly carry out these activities without prior training suited to the characteristics of business in Spain. The training is to help them establish their activity with potential growth, as well as improving their occupational situation.
Description	<p>This initiative aims to train a group of approximately 20 entrepreneurial African women resident in Andalusia and put them in touch with each other and with Spanish businesswomen. To do so, an intensive course is going to be drawn up on entrepreneurship, addressing the participants' real needs. It will be given by teaching staff from the University of Granada. A work-shadowing practical experience will also be carried out with Andalusian businesswomen.</p> <p>The participants will be selected in collaboration with the Red Hekima network in Granada and other Andalusian provinces.</p> <p>The course will last 25 to 30 hours. The participants from other Andalusian cities will be transported to Granada and accommodated in a university residence.</p>
To be implemented in 2017	In preparation for this initiative, the candidates will be selected and the course drawn up to be given in 2017.

TITULO	GREEN VOICES
Countries	Spain and Tanzania
Duration	2016-2018
Partners and collaborators	The Autonomous University of Madrid and Banco Santander.
The initiative's goals	<p><u>General Goal:</u> To promote and put into practice strategies designed by women to tackle climate change in Tanzania.</p> <p><u>Specific Goal:</u> To create a group of 15 women and make them protagonists in the fight against climate change in order to raise awareness and generate opinion about the problems arising from climate change and the palliative solutions with which it can be addressed.</p>
Beneficiaries	Fifteen Tanzanian women (five journalists, five agricultural businesswomen and five social leaders).
Background and context	This initiative from Women for Africa is carried out in collaboration with the Autonomous University of Madrid. Both institutions signed an agreement for collaboration that includes training for the beneficiaries by the Autonomous University of Madrid. The two-week training programme was given by the team headed by the Ecology Chair, Carlos Montes, in collaboration with MxA. In February, 15 beneficiaries were given intensive training at the Autonomous University of Madrid. Subsequently, green projects have been set up in their respective communities and a communication campaign to raise awareness among the population.
Description	<p>Green Voices addresses the problem of climate change via women. The project is divided into three main parts: training, development of green initiatives on the ground and a communication campaign. To do so, a group of 15 Tanzanian women have been selected from three sectors: social leaders, journalists and farmers. The selection is made by MxA in collaboration with a local NGO.</p> <p>The training, one of the pillars of this initiative, is carried out over two weeks in Madrid. The main subjects in the training course are: sustainability, agricultural techniques adapted to climate change, and leadership. During the training, the beneficiaries draw up a green initiative or project that they will later implement in the field.</p> <p>The third component is a communication campaign to raise awareness among the population about the need to protect the environment, and inform about the green projects and initiatives put into action in the context of Green Voices.</p>
To be implemented in 2017	In 2017, an assessment of the results from the first phase of Green Voices will be presented, and the second phase will be launched. In the second phase, funding will be given to extend the projects that the beneficiaries began in 2016. Moreover, training is to be organised in specific matters requested by the beneficiaries, which will be given in Tanzania. A documentary is also planned to be shot about the Green Voices experience.

TITLE	WOMEN'S GREEN YARD
Country	Gambia
Duration	2017
Partners and collaborators	FIOC
The initiative's goals	<p><u>General Goal:</u> To improve and increase food security for rural communities in the West Coast Region of Gambia by empowering women's cooperatives.</p> <p><u>Specific Goal:</u> To increase the horticultural production from women's cooperatives in Gambia's West Coast Region and to introduce it into local trade flows.</p>
Beneficiaries	500 cooperative members
Background and context	<p>This project began in June, 2014, with a duration of two years planned for the first phase. In order to launch it, a framework agreement was signed with the Government of Gambia. The first phase was implemented in collaboration with the OCP Foundation from Morocco. The activities were carried out in the field via the local NGO, FIOC.</p> <p>The good results achieved in this first phase have made the <i>Women's Green Yard</i> an exemplary one for the Government of Gambia that is being replicated all over the country. MxA has designed a second phase that adds three new women's cooperatives to the two that are already working. It also organises the commercialisation of products via training for a 2nd level cooperative.</p>
Description	<p>The initiative is conceived as a pilot project aimed at women's cooperatives to strengthen the country's horticulture by cultivating crops in irrigated agricultural fields owned by the community.</p> <p>The first phase of the project was carried out in the towns of Katakorr (a cooperative with 200 women and 5.5 hectares of agricultural land) and Sanyang (300 women and 11 ha of land), launching the following lines of activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing infrastructure and tools. - Training in agricultural techniques. - Support for the cooperative in its technical, social and production management, giving training in order to install capacities and ensure the project's sustainability. - Support for trade and marketing of the products.
To be implemented in 2017	<p>Some infrastructure tasks that had been pending in the Sanyang cooperative were finished. MxA has drawn up a second phase for the Women's Green Yard in Gambia, working with five women's cooperatives and focusing mainly on selling their products. MxA will commit its efforts to identifying new sources of financing to enable the second phase to be implemented.</p>

TITLE	WOMEN IN THE AUDIOVISUAL WORLD:
Country	Ghana
Duration	2013-2017
Partners and collaborators	National Film and Television Institute of Ghana (NAFTI)
The initiative's goals	<p><u>General Goal:</u> To boost the presence and role of women in the audiovisual sphere in Ghana.</p> <p><u>Specific Goal:</u> To provide information about women in cinema and television in Ghana.</p>
Beneficiaries	Four students from Ghana receiving training scholarships.
Background and context	<p>The Women in the Audiovisual World project, which seeks to give a boost to African women who write, direct and produce films, began in 2015 and was conceived as a multi-disciplinary initiative with various lines of activity. One of those was to reach collaboration agreements with African film schools in order to promote audiovisual training for women.</p> <p>In 2013, a collaboration agreement was signed with the National Film and Television Institute of Ghana (NAFTI) to support the studies of five talented young students without economic means over the four years of their course. One of the beneficiaries has dropped out of the programme, so that there are now four receiving the scholarship.</p>
Description	Women for Africa grants scholarships to five young students from Ghana so that they may study a course for four years in the National Film and Television Institute of Ghana. The scholarships cover the teaching, accommodation and upkeep on the institute's campus.
To be implemented in 2017	In 2017, four of the students now studying the fourth and last course will receive a scholarship to finish their audiovisual studies.

TITLE	WOMEN IN THE AUDIOVISUAL WORLD: WOMEN MAKE MOVIES
Country	Spain
Duration	2013 and after.
Partners and collaborators	SGAE Foundation (Sala Berlanga building)
The initiative's goals	<p><u>General Goal:</u> To support and promote the work of African women filmmakers in Spain.</p> <p><u>Specific Goal:</u> To disseminate the work of African women filmmakers and make it more visible in Spain.</p>
Beneficiaries	African women filmmakers.
Background and context	<p>At Women for Africa we are aware of the importance of the world of audiovisuals in transforming societies and in particular in breaking with stereotypes that act as obstacles to equality between men and women. It is with this conviction that MxA launched the Women in the Audiovisual World project which, among the other lines of activity, can count on the “<i>Women Make Movies</i>” season to showcase African cinema made by women.</p> <p>The Women Make Movies festival is going to celebrate its fifth edition in 2017. Over these last years, 21 feature-length films and six shorts by filmmakers from 14 African countries have been brought to a wider audience. We have also been graced with the presence of five film directors in the different festivals. In the last three years, the films have been screened in the Sala Berlanga building.</p>
Description	<i>Women Make Movies</i> is a cinema season in which only films directed by African women are shown. To inaugurate it, one of the directors is invited and a presentation and debate about her film is organised together with its screening. The festival lasts five days and has become one of the most eagerly awaited activities for the foundation's followers.
To be implemented in 2017	This time, as it is our fifth anniversary, we shall be introducing a debate with at least two African women directors and two Spanish women directors dealing with films made by women in Europe and Africa. As in previous years, the films will be shown in the Sala Berlanga building.

TITLE	WOMEN IN THE AUDIOVISUAL WORLD: AWARD FOR THE BEST FEMALE PERFORMANCE AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL IN TARIFA
Country	Spain
Duration	2012 and after.
Partners and collaborators	African Film Festival in Tarifa
The initiative's goals	<u>General Goal:</u> To empower and back the work of African actresses. <u>Specific Goal:</u> To recognise and give visibility to the work of African actresses within the context of the prestigious African film festival.
Beneficiaries	African actresses.
Background and context	The African Film Festival of Tarifa is the most important one held in Spain about African cinema. With over 10 years behind it, the festival is a meeting point for everybody interested in African cinema. Women for Africa, aware of this festival's prestige, sought to take part in it by awarding a prize to the best African actress, which until then did not exist. So far the award has been given to the Moroccan Soufia Issami, the Egyptian Horeya Forghaly and the Tunisian Ghalia Benali.
Description	Women for Africa awards a prize of €2,500 to the woman named the best actress in the official section of the contest by the festival's jury. The award, a statuette especially designed for MxA, is given in the closing gala ceremony.
To be implemented in 2017	Granting of the award for the 2017 edition.

TITLE	2ND AFRICA WITH AN “Ñ” LITERARY CONTEST
Country	Spain
Duration	2017
Partners and collaborators	N/A
The initiative’s goals	<p><u>General Goal:</u> To promote Spanish as a tool for development in Africa and especially for African women.</p> <p><u>Specific Goal:</u> To give a boost to the work of African women who write in Spanish, as well as to help their talent to become more widely recognised among Spanish society and the Spanish-speaking world in general.</p>
Beneficiaries	African women who write in Spanish.
Background and context	<p>Aware of the potential provided by the Spanish language in Africa, the Women for Africa Foundation (MxA) launched the “<i>Africa with an Ñ</i>” project in 2014, which involves various lines of activity to promote our language as a tool for development on the continent and most especially for African women.</p> <p>The literary competition of the same name, “Africa with an Ñ”, is one of the initiatives launched as part of this project. Another initiative took place in April, 2014: the first African Hispanists Congress in the city of Abidjan (Ivory Coast), which brought together about 50 mostly African specialists from 20 countries. There is also the promotion of scholarships for African students of Spanish.</p> <p>The first edition of the competition was held on 21st April 2016, and the winning decision was taken in November of the same year.</p>
Description	<p>The literary contest “<i>Africa with an Ñ</i>” is aimed at all African women who present their work in Spanish. The contest has two categories: short story and research work. The subject matter is free in the story category, whereas the research work must refer to Spanish as a tool for development or the teaching of this language in Africa.</p> <p>The contest has a prize of €2,500 for each of the two categories, as well as the possibility of publishing and disseminating the winning works in Spain. The works presented to the contest may be published on the Women for Africa Foundation’s website or in printed or digital publications related to the Women for Africa Foundation.</p> <p>The jury for the story category is made up of the writers Najat el Hachmi, Laura Freixas and Belén Gopegui, while for the research work category there are the Hispanists Carolyn Richmond and Ana Rodríguez Fischer.</p>
To be implemented in 2017	The public call for the second “ <i>Africa with an Ñ</i> ” contest will be made in 2017. The call will be made in April, then in November the winners will be announced after the jury’s deliberations.

TITLE	5TH AFRICAN WOMEN IN SPAIN PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST
Country	Spain
Duration	2017
Partners and collaborators	
The initiative's goals	<p><u>General Goal:</u> To promote greater and better knowledge of Africa in Spain via the continent's women.</p> <p><u>Specific Goal:</u> To help disseminate the real situation of the social group of African women who live in Spain and make it more visible.</p>
Beneficiaries	Everybody who meets the requirements.
Background and context	<p>The contest is part of our project "<i>African Women in Spain</i>," which includes several activities aimed at raising awareness and getting to know more about the African women residing in Spain. Since this initiative was launched in 2013, we have received hundreds of photographs showing us different moments of these women's day-to-day reality. There are images of their work carried out in many different areas, their family circumstances, their leisure time and, in summary, any situation they experience or have experienced in our country.</p>
Description	<p>The "African Women in Spain" photography competition is celebrating its fifth anniversary in 2017. It intends to document what life is like for the hundreds of thousands of African women who live in our country, and lend them greater visibility.</p> <p>The contest's theme is precisely what the title says— African women in Spain—and the only condition participants must meet is that the pictures sent must show African women in all circumstances of their lives, whether this means their personal or professional lives, and that they have been taken in Spain.</p> <p>The contest is open to all amateur and professional photographers who wish to participate and who meet the requirements explained in the rules for this fifth edition.</p> <p>There is a first prize of €1,250 and a second one of €500.</p>
To be implemented in 2017	<p>The 5th "<i>African Women in Spain</i>" photography contest is to be held as every year on 25th May—Africa Day—with the jury's decision being announced in December.</p>

6. INTERNATIONALISATION

TITLE	WOMEN FOR AFRICA CENTRE: NADOR LIGHTHOUSE
Country	Morocco
Duration	2017 and after.
Partners and collaborators	Agreements are in the process of being formalised.
The initiative's goals	<p><u>General Goal:</u> To contribute to sustainable development in Africa by fostering equality and the empowerment of women on the continent.</p> <p><u>Specific Goal:</u> To create a space for knowledge, training, culture and opportunities that responds to the needs of women and society in Nador and the region, while at the same time making it a focal point for knowledge and reflection about the global problems of women and in particular African women.</p>
Beneficiaries	Women from Nador, from the Oriental region and from Africa in general.
Background and context	<p>The “<i>Femmes pour l’Afrique. Le Phare de Nador.</i>” centre is a project of extraordinary importance since it is the first headquarters for the Women for Africa Foundation in Africa. The centre is located in the old Lope de Vega Spanish secondary school in Nador, an educational centre of great prestige which the foundation now owns after being transferred by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in December, 2015.</p> <p>Nador is a city in Morocco and the capital of the province of the same name. It is located approximately 15 km south of the Spanish city of Melilla and 165 km from Alhucemas in the north of the country. Nador is also located in the Oriental Region of Morocco; a region of strategic importance due to both its geographic position and its economic potential. Furthermore, Morocco is a strategic partner for Spain and the European Union, representing a great gateway to Africa and a bridge to Sub-Saharan Africa.</p> <p>Throughout 2016, Women for Africa and in particular its president worked intensely in Morocco to gain backing and institutional support for the project, keeping up contacts and holding meetings at the highest level. Regionally and locally, she held meetings with the regional <i>Wali</i>, Mr Mohamed Mhidia; the Provincial Governor, Mr Mustapha Al’Attar; the President of the Provincial Council, Mr Said Rahmouni; the Mayor of Nador, Mr Suleiman Houlich; as well as the entire corporation and the President of the Oriental Region’s Council, Mr Abdenbi Bioui.</p> <p>As for the state, MxA’s president has presented the project to the following ministers: the Minister of Employment and Social Affairs, Mr Abdeslam Seddiki; the Minister of National Education and Vocational Training, Mr Rachid Benmokhtar; the Minister of Solidarity, Women, the Family and Social Development, Ms Bassima Hakkaoui; the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mr Salaheddine Mezouar; the Interior Minister, Mr Mohamed Hassad; the Minister-Delegate for Foreign Affairs, Ms Mbarka Bouaida; and the Minister for Labour and Employment, Mr Abdeslam Seddiki. All of them have shown great interest in the initiative and their willingness to collaborate in the project. Collaboration framework agreements are currently being drawn up with different ministries and bodies that have offered their support for MxA’s project in Nador.</p> <p>The search for local partners to form part of the centre’s management committee—which will be its highest body of governance, made up of Spanish and Moroccan entities—has</p>

required intense work. Meetings have been held with the companies Marchica Med, Nador West-Med, Attijariwafa Bank, Akwa Group and the OCP Foundation, who have confirmed their interest in the project and in specifying their possible collaboration.

Significant work has been done in documentation, defining the centre's internal structure and its regulations, as well as the content and activities to be carried out by *Femmes Pour l'Afrique. Le Phare de Nador*.

The building housing the centre is in a privileged location on Nador's seaside promenade. It was built in 1964 and has undergone different modifications over time. Today it is in an acceptable state of conservation, but it is necessary to do some partial renovation work to modernise the building, especially in terms of its accessibility, facilities and interior finishings.

Description

"Femmes pour l'Afrique. Le Phare de Nador." is the first headquarters that MxA has in Africa and the first centre for training, research, entrepreneurship and culture aimed at women.

"Femmes pour l'Afrique. Le Phare de Nador." is to be a space at the service of women and Nador's society and region, but also a centre for research, reflection, education, culture and creation of opportunities for women. This is all to be done from a local and regional perspective as well as a transnational and global one. The Nador centre will carry out its activities in two priority areas: a local and regional training and entrepreneurship area, and an international area with the Nador Women's Hub.

Area for training and local and regional entrepreneurship: The centre will dedicate a significant part of its activity to collaborating with socio-economic development in Nador and its province by training women and supporting their entrepreneurial attitude. Two activities will be carried out in this area, organised along three lines of action:

- ✓ General training programme: Improving skills among the female population over 16 years of age in order to foster the active, thoughtful participation of women from Nador and the region in different spheres of social, political, cultural and economic life.
- ✓ Training programme for employment: Improving skills and knowledge geared towards the job market for the female population who are seeking work. There are currently various key projects underway in Nador for development in the region, such as Mar Chica and Nador West Med. These two big transformation or projects are going to open up very significant employment opportunities for the inhabitants. In collaboration with these companies, the centre intends to become a training area where women can prepare themselves specifically to take up job posts generated by these initiatives.
- ✓ Entrepreneurship incubator: Giving training and support for women to create companies that help development in Nador and the region. This programme for training, mentoring and advice aims to accompany entrepreneurial women in the early stages of their business projects.

International area. Nador Women's Hub: The Nador Women's Hub, MxA's think tank, is being launched as a global centre for thought and action to foster equality by empowering African women through a trans-cultural perspective. It aspires to build bridges between women from the North and the South to draw up a feminist agenda of global reach with the ultimate aim of building a fairer world. It will also foster research and reflection on matters of strategic interest for Africa and Europe.

This area will carry out its activities based on three programmes: Training, research and networking.

- ✓ Training: The training is intended to address women's specific needs, particularly for those who are taking on responsibilities in different spheres. Workshops will be scheduled with innovative content to develop analytical skills as well as creative and practical ones.
- ✓ Research: Research will be fostered into matters of interest for women in order to contribute to the global debate on the need to make progress in gender equality. The centre will have its own research cell comprised of women university professors. Every year, a female African researcher of recognised prestige will be invited to carry out a research project of interest for the centre.
- ✓ Networking: The idea is to make Nador a hub that lends visibility to women leaders in different spheres so they can illuminate and inspire other women in Africa. Activities will be organised to give them the opportunity to disseminate their activities and projects. These activities include the noteworthy annual NADOR FORUM gathering, which will foster an exchange of experiences regarding women's participation in conflict resolution and peace-building.

As for the structure, the centre will have a management committee that will be its highest body of governance. This will be made up of Spanish and Moroccan entities and chaired by the president of the Women for Africa Foundation (MxA). It will work in coordination with the foundation's executive board. The centre already has a director, María José Ramos, who will be in charge of generally coordinating the space and its activities, managing the budget, supervising human resources and contacts with local and regional society as well as with the authorities. Under her management there will be coordinators working in the training and entrepreneurship area and in the international area, as well as the rest of the team.

To be implemented in 2017

As for the building to house the centre, it is necessary to do some renovation work. For this reason, an architectural project is currently being drawn up to rehabilitate the building, observing Spanish and Moroccan regulations. This will soon make it possible to contract the work to be implemented over 2017. Throughout 2017 and once the space has been renovated, its facilities will be installed. Once the centre is operative, implementation of the programme of content will begin.