



2018 ACTION PLAN



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INTRODUCTION

Throughout its six years of activity, the Women for Africa Foundation has consolidated its position as an organization dedicated to promoting development in the African continent giving support and accompanying those we consider its main driving force, African women.

With this objective, Women for Africa has carried out a task that has not only promoted the action of African women in the strategic areas for the continent's progress, but has also favored in our country a better knowledge of Africa and the vital contribution women.

Africa is today more present in Spain, and in turn Women for Africa, and thus Spain, are also more relevant in Africa's reality at present.

The consolidation of the projects with which the Foundation started its journey and which have proven its effectiveness and impact over these years has contributed to this. These projects are today assumed as their own by their beneficiaries in important areas such as girls' education, maternal health, agriculture, entrepreneurship or scientific research.

Likewise, the success achieved by programs like "Learn Africa", which has already brought more than 40 young female students from all the regions of the continent to more than twenty Spanish universities, or "Science by Women" (Ellas Investigan) which with the third edition will have made possible stays of 26 scientists in Spanish research centers of excellence, strengthens the link between our country and a continent which, now is becoming much closer.

This link is necessary for the work carried out by the Foundation and which we strive to extend and strengthen day by day.

For all these reasons, we believe that the time has come to make a strategic commitment to the new great project of the Foundation, the opening of the first Women for Africa's headquarters on African soil, the Nador Lighthouse center.

One of the major goals of the year 2018 in the Women for Africa's action Plan of is the fine-tuning of the infrastructure and the programs that we will carry out in the Nador Lighthouse. A center whose opening will start a new and more ambitious stage in the trajectory of the Foundation. A Spanish, Moroccan and African center, but with a universalist vocation, since equality is a value that all the women of the world yearn for and that we are all called to share.

The Nador Lighthouse will therefore be the one to guide us, during 2018, in the direction of our seventh Action Plan.

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. With no doubt, it means helping to improve 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 approach is present in the significant projects we carry out in this area, which includes working with African top level political leaders, 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!*).

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 foundations upon which an equal, cohesive society is built. That is how Women for Africa understand 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.

“Learn Africa” our Scholarship Programme with Spanish universities is also helping to *improve the quality of higher education for young African women students; a need that is equally felt* in Africa.

On the other hand, scientific research is also a key factor for 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 public health 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 regarding child and maternal healthcare was the goal that came off the worst following the evaluation carried out in 2015. 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 chosen to work in a field that clearly demonstrates the urgent need for a response to the tremendous shortcomings in child and maternal

healthcare, such as acting on prevention, treatment and raising awareness on obstetric fistula. This is a terrible condition suffered by millions of African women due to a lack of qualified assistance in pregnancy and childbirth, which furthermore stigmatises them and distances them from their families and communities.

The Stop Fistula project, the flagship of our health actions developed in Liberia, will have its extension in 2018 in the town of Tamale in North Ghana in a program adapted to that region's reality and needs.

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

African women's contribution to the continent's development 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 *Green Voices*, which has made more visible the work of rural Tanzanian women in combating the effects of climate change, or *Womens' Green Yard*, another major project we have implemented in The Gambia, are examples of our activity in the vital sector of sustainable agriculture.

Launch and Grow in Kenya, which supports women's entrepreneurship and projects implemented by the beneficiaries in different business sectors, represent our contribution and support of their performance 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 in equal terms, 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.

A good example are 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 2018: 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.** A region that is strategically important for both its geographic position and its economic potential. Activities will be carried out organised along three lines of action: a general training programme, a training programme for employment, and an entrepreneurial incubator.

b) **Boosting equality by creating a Global Centre for thought and action that aims at empowering African women** from 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 the property of use by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in December, 2015.

In the past years this 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 2018 Action Plan, our priority is to conclude the restoration works on the building where the centre is located as a necessary condition to foster and start implementing the proposed contents.

Thus, we present our 7th action plan for 2018 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	4th 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 and assure the impact of this initiative organizing local forums.</p>
Beneficiaries	Twelve female African leaders holding top level public responsibilities 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 fourth edition will be held in 2018.</p> <p>During these years, the forum has counted with 32 representatives from 19 African countries: Algeria, Ivory Coast, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda. Among the 32 political leaders participating in the forums, it is important to highlight the participation of a former Head of State, a former Prime Minister, a Vice President and 8 active ministers, 5 former ministers, 3 members of the judiciary, 2 former Secretaries of State, a Defender and a former Ombudsman, 6 parliamentarians and senators and three leaders of civil society</p>
Description	<p>The Leadership Forum for Strategic Impact 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 legislative 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>Two days are devoted to interviews and meeting between the participants and different political and economic personalities as well as prestigious institutions. In past editions the participants held meetings, among others, with Secretary of State, John Kerry, former Attorney General Loretta Lynch, the President of the Federal Reserve, Janet Yellen or the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Christine Lagarde, and made visits to prestigious institutions such as the Peace Institute or the Brookings Institution</p> <p>The forum's syllabus is 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</p>

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.

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. In Washington, participants have the opportunity to hold interviews with members of Congress and with high political and economic personalities as well as those responsible for think tanks.

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 and the knowledge transfer to the new generations.

To be implemented in 2018

The fourth edition of the Leadership Forum for Strategic Impact will take place in May 2018, and will bring together a minimum of twelve leaders from six to eight African countries, including: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chad, Egypt, Gambia, Guinea Conakry and Somalia, and the participation of a Commissioner of the African Union.

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.

Throughout 2018, 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. The candidate countries that will organize local fora will be: Uganda, Níger y Sierra Leone.

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 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.</p>
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>

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.

To be implemented in 2018

Nurse leadership program:

In 2018, a cohort of 16 nurses will be selected. They will follow two intensive 1-week specialized courses in Ghana and the United States, respectively; and they will design and implement action projects in their home hospitals. These projects will address the priority needs of the Ghanaian health system, and will be determined by the Directorate of Nursing.

Teacher leadership program:

Establishment of the Fostering Program, which offers training in leadership, professional development and creation of a professional network for the participants. Monthly meetings will be held. This Program is fundamental to guarantee the project sustainability

Data gathering and analysis of results including qualitative, quantitative data and interviews with participants and key actors. The team from the University of New York will coordinate the gathering and data processing.

International Congress "Women's Leadership in Education: "A Vision for the Future" in Accra, Ghana, in October 2018. The objective of this Congress is both to promote reflection on the improvement of education and women leadership in the education sector and to increase visibility in Ghana of the work done by the beneficiaries in the framework of the Ghana Wins Project.

Social Leadership Program:

Meeting with participants in Accra. It can be held in the summer or fall of 2018. All the beneficiaries of both phases of the project will be invited, so they have in which to reflect on their experience and present the results of the initiatives and projects developed within the framework of Ghana Wins. The Meeting will last one or two days

II. EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

ITLE	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	288 girls from the district of Rimkieta aged between 7 and 20 years will benefit from this programme in 2018.
Background and context	<p>This initiative started in 2012 with a collaboration agreement signed between MxA and the FAR. "Girls of Rimkieta" is located in the neighborhood which bears the same name, one of the most disadvantaged in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, a country considered one of the poorest in the world, ranked 185 out of 188 countries in the HDI (Human Development Index) of 2016. The lack of resources, misery and poverty is the harsh reality of many Rimkieta girls.</p> <p>The aim of the project is to train girls without schooling in the Rimkieta neighborhood, since literacy and schooling is the best tool to offer these girls a better future. The beneficiaries are orphaned, abandoned girls, or families living in extreme poverty, between the ages of 7 and 18.</p> <p>Since 2012, over the last six school years, a total of 1,508 girls have been beneficiaries of the project. 1,382 have been given primary and secondary school grants and another 2, for university studies; 4, for vocational training, and basic training has been offered to 120 girls "</p>
Description	<p>The "Girls of Rimkieta" project aims to support and guarantee access to education to girls thus contributing to equality between girls and boys in the school enrollment rate. With this initiative we also want to combat school dropout, as a tool to fight child labor and child marriage, and promote the culture of effort and the spirit of improvement. Both the beneficiaries and their mothers and tutors receive training through educational talks on hygiene and nutrition and on the care of girls, the resolution of conflicts and respect for the rights of girls.</p> <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 FAR monitors and controls the scholarship holders' school performance quarterly, offering extra refresher classes two days a week. Each year there is an average of 250 to 300 beneficiaries.</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. Each year the project admits 20 new girls. Beneficiaries are trained to enter primary school, receive food and health assistance aiming at .their future schooling. If this is not possible they receive training in skills so they can earn a living. This phase lasts 1 year. By the end, the beneficiaries either go on to phase I, schooling, or learn a profession. Girls with greater difficulties go on to phase II.</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. The project also includes daily meals with vitamin supplements for the girls.</p>
To be implemented in 2018	<p>Phase I: Renew 268 grants for the beneficiaries who meet the requirements for participating in the program. Phase II: Incorporate a seventh promotion, with 20 new girls, in October 2018. Follow-up and control of girls as well as reinforcement classes will be continued. Phase III: So far there are no new candidates for this phase.</p>

TITLE	GIRLS FROM MALAWI
Country	Malawi
Duration	Since 2013
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 Goals:</u> i) 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. ii) Address the basic needs of food and health of the beneficiaries.</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. This project aimed to support secondary education of girls and young women in Malawi is carried out in the rural area near Lilongwe, the capital, in the Villages of Chaombwa and Mbambande and also the small communities that depend on them</p> <p>The project targets girls and young women at risk. These young women come from broken families, from a rural environment in which women do not have possibilities of promotion because are to work in the countryside and to stay in the village. This is the reason why it is so important to promote the girls' education and let them choose their own future</p> <p>Its implementation had the collaboration and involvement of the traditional authorities of the village of Chaombwa and Mbambande and other authorities of nearby villages, as well as of the different communities and families of the beneficiaries.</p> <p>In the course of these years, 149 girls and young people have benefited from this initiative. Among the achievements, it is worth noting that the rate of absenteeism and abandonment of the program has been reduced and, above all, it has been possible for about 20 beneficiaries who have passed secondary education to pursue higher education or vocational training</p>
Description	<p>The aim of the project is to promote and support a maximum of 75 girls and young women from the villages of Chaombwa and Mbambande each year 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 objective is for them to have access to secondary or further education and to receive good training to enable them to get a job.</p> <p>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</p>

	<p>and no academic year may be repeated. The beneficiaries are to attend periodic meetings with the project coordinator.</p>
<p>To be implemented in 2018</p>	<p>In 2018 the school grant program is going to be maintained for a maximum of 75 girls and young women at risk, in order to continue their studies in secondary and higher education. The four-year program (duration of the secondary) will cover the expenses of tuition and school expenses as well as those of food and health.</p> <p>Of the 69 young beneficiaries identified to date for the 2017/2018 school year, 21 are new to the program and 11 are planning to pursue higher education. The grades of secondary have been made public in the month of October so it is considered that probably three or four beneficiaries of the total of ten that have finished the secondary studies will have access to the university.</p> <p>After identifying possible new beneficiaries, meetings are held with family members and village heads to guarantee and renew their commitment to the project.</p> <p>The next step is to formalize the enrollment of the beneficiaries in one of the secondary schools and establish supervisory mechanisms with the teachers and tutors. The coordinator maintains a permanent contact with the directors of the different schools and with the families of the beneficiaries throughout the school year.</p> <p>During the course and periodically, once a month, these young people will be followed up by a supervisor or coordinator who visits them and checks how they are doing in their studies, taking advantage of these meetings for the distribution of food and hygiene products. .</p>

TITLE	
SCIENCE BY WOMEN	
Country	Spain
Duration	Since 2014-
Partners and collaborators	The Spanish National Cancer Research Centre (CNIO), the National Centre for Biotechnology (CNB), the Institute of Mathematical Sciences (ICMAT), the Carlos III Institute of Health (ISCIII) the Institute of Photonic Sciences (ICFO), the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics , the Center for Genomic Regulation (CRG), the Institute of Neuroscience of Alicante (Severo Ochoa Center), the Vall d'Hebron Research Institute (VHIR), BioCruces, Kronikgune and Deusto Tech.
The initiative's goals	<p><u>General Goal:</u> To empower African women scientists so they may take an active part in Africa's transition process to a knowledge-based economy guided by innovation.</p> <p><u>Specific Goal:</u> To boost the researchers' skills with work experience periods in research centres of excellence in Spain.</p>
Beneficiaries	10 senior African researchers
Background and context	<p><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.</p> <p>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 of 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 that have been carrying out their research in Spanish centres.</p> <p>To date and in the first two editions of <i>Ellas Investigan</i>, 17 African scientists have benefited from this program.</p>
Description	<p>This 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. This programme includes 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.</p> <p>The priority work areas of <i>Science By Women</i> are: Health and Biomedicine, Energy, Water and Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security, Mathematics, Information and Communication Technologies, and Economic Sciences. The latter two, Mathematics and Economic Sciences, were included for the second edition planned for 2017.</p> <p>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.</p>
To be implemented in 2018	<p>After the publication in July 2017 of the call for the 3rd Edition of "Ellas Investigan", the Scientific Committee made the selection of candidates subsequently ratified by the Governing Committee at its meeting on December 4 in Barcelona. In January 2018, the 10 selected researchers will be integrated into the assigned centers.</p> <p>In this 3rd edition the number of centers has increased to 10. In addition to the centers collaborating with <i>Ellas Investigan</i> since its launch: The National Center of Biotechnology, The</p>

Institute of Mathematical Sciences (both in Madrid), The Institute of Photonic Sciences, The Center of Genomic Regulation, Barcelona Graduate School of Economics (all the 3 in Barcelona), 5 new centers of excellence have been added: the Institute of Neuroscience of Alicante (Severo Ochoa Center), the Vall d'Hebron Institute of Research (VHIR) of Barcelona and 3 centers of the Basque Country, BioCruces, Kronikgune and Deusto Tech that welcome one researcher each with the support of the Provincial Council of Vizcaya.

The results and the impact of the program foresee that a new call will be made for its fourth edition in June 2018 so as to select the new women researchers and the total number will depend on the funding provide by the centers.

TITLE	LEARN AFRICA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
Country	Spain
Duration	2018-2019
Partners and collaborators	The Conference of Spanish University Rectors (CRUE), the University of Alicante, the Autonomous University of Barcelona, the University of Alcalá, the Autonomous University of Madrid, the Camilo José Cela University, the Complutense University of Madrid, the Carlos III University of Madrid, the Extremadura University, the Granada University, the University of La Laguna, the University of Malaga, the National Distance Education University, the University of Cantabria, the University of La Rioja, the University of Zaragoza, the Polytechnic University of Cartagena, the Polytechnic University of Madrid, the Pablo de Olavide University, the Rey Juan Carlos University, the University of Salamanca, the University of Santiago de Compostela, the University of Valencia , the Cabildo Insular de Tenerife, the ASISA Foundation and GMV Innovating Solutions.
The initiative's goals	<p><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 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 encourage the exchange of experiences between Spanish and African students, promoting a better mutual knowledge.</p>
Beneficiaries	34 African students in the 2017-2018 academic year, to which we must add another 50 young women scheduled for the 2018-2019 academic year.
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 2017-2018 academic year, 22 universities are already collaborating, offering between one and three scholarships each, and the forecast for the 2018-2019 academic year is that others will be added.</p>
Description	<p>Learn Africa is an initiative of the Women for Africa Foundation to provide scholarships to African female junior students and researchers at Spanish universities.</p> <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 published via our website and disseminated through Embassies (Spanish Embassies in Africa and</p>

	African embassies in Spain) African universities, as well as via relevant networks (hispanists' networks, researchers' networks).
To be implemented in 2018	In 2018 WxA will work to expand the number of participating universities and available places. The universities will then proceed to publish the scholarships announcements for the academic year 2018-2019, which is expected to be published not later than the month of April. Once the deadline for submission of applications is due, we will proceed to carry out a shortlist of the best candidates and then the final beneficiaries will be elected. Likewise, the Foundation is responsible for providing support and encourage those selected students while processing their visas and in relation to any questions or queries they may have about their incorporation into the Spanish universities participating in the program. Finally, a follow-up and evaluation of the African scholars from an academic and social integration point of view will be carried out during their stay in Spain and after returning to their countries of origin.

TITLE	STOP FISTULA
Country	Liberia
Duration	2 years (2017- 2019)
Partners and collaborators	The Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Gender and Development of Liberia; the Saint Joseph Catholic Hospital (SJCH) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
The initiative's goals	<p><u>General Goal:</u> To help combat and eradicate obstetric fistula in Liberia.</p> <p><u>Specific Goal:</u> To prevent and surgically treat obstetric fistula in Monrovia, strengthening the capacity and quality of maternal health care at the Saint Joseph Catholic Hospital (SJCH).</p>
Beneficiaries	Women under 20 years of age during their first pregnancy, women at risk of obstructed labour, 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.</p> <p>After the forced interruption imposed by the Ebola epidemic, Stop Fistula resumed its preventive, assistance and training activities in January 2016, the date on which the medical coordination took over.</p> <p>In the last year and until the month of November 2017, 2494 prenatal consultations were attended and 456 deliveries free of charge. Regarding the restorative activity, with the co-financing of the Probitas Foundation, two surgical missions were carried out (November 2016 and June 2017) with a result of 43 women operated. In this period, the training sessions for midwives and medical personnel had 126 participants.</p> <p>The global data of Stop Fistula (2013 to 2017) shows 15,605 prenatal consultations, 3,898 deliveries, 179 women have received reparative treatment and more than 300 health workers have received training. The prenatal assistance is provided both in the SJCH Fistula Unit as well as in the associated health centres.</p> <p>For the period 2017-2019, Stop Fistula has co-financing from the Probitas Foundation as well as from the MAPFRE Foundation.</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, which is designed in line with the health policies of the Government of Liberia, is based on the following areas: awareness and prevention activities, surgical treatment, training and reintegration. 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>

Awareness and Prevention, major pillars of the project, 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 average of prenatal consultations is maintained at 250 to 300 monthly and an average of 45 births are attended on a monthly basis.

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.

Training is the third pillar of this initiative. Stop Fistula offers continuous training to midwives and nurses and it is precisely during surgical missions that the training component is enhanced. Training sessions are given to nurses and midwives, workshops for health personnel and training in surgical techniques during operations.

Reintegration, a key aspect for women suffering from fistula to recover their dignity and self-esteem, is carried out in collaboration with the Ministries of Gender and Health, facilitating the access of patients to the Phebe Reintegration Centre, which has the support of UNFPA.

To be implemented in 2018

Stop Fistula is to carry out the following activities:

Prevention and raising awareness

- The information and awareness activities about the services provided by the Fistula Unit and sessions with pregnant women will continue.
- Prenatal assistance through the Fistula Unit and other health centres for over 3,000 women.
- It is estimated that about 600 girls and women with pregnancies at risk will receive free medical care during delivery in this unit.

Surgical Missions

- One surgical mission will be carried out in 2018.
- The surgical missions will also have a training purpose for nurses and midwives, as well as specialised workshops for healthcare staff.

Training

Training is a key component of Stop Fistula. In addition to the continuous training of midwives and nurses of the SJCH and of the health centres, in 2018 it is contemplated:

- Training a total of 40 midwives over three sessions
- Training 15 to 30 nurses by organizing three training sessions
- Carrying out 1 or 2 workshops for medical personnel

TITLE	STOP FÍSTULA TAMALE
Country	GHANA
Duration	(2018– 2019)
Partners and collaborators	Tamale Teaching Hospital (TTH), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), WILDAF and the collaboration of the Ministries of Health and Gender
The initiative's goals	<p><u>General Goal:</u> Contribute to improve maternal health by fighting obstetric fistula</p> <p><u>Specific goal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Raise awareness on Obstetric Fistula (OF) b) Improve access to surgical treatment in Ghana c) Rehabilitation and reintegration of women who have suffered from OF
Beneficiaries	Young women and women at risk of obstructed labor and women suffering from fistula.
Background and context	Remaining true to our vocation of implementing pilot projects that can later be replicated, and after carrying out an identification mission in Tamale, located in northern Ghana, in 2015 a first agreement was signed with Tamale Teaching Hospital for the implementation of this initiative. In this agreement, preparatory work was agreed, such as the rehabilitation and equipping of an operating theatre. In 2017 and coinciding with the change in the direction of the Teaching Hospital, new missions were carried out to Ghana to adjust the design of Stop fistula in Tamale and to agree with the Hospital the terms of the collaboration with Women for Africa. It was also decided that the local organization WILDAF would assume the coordination of Stop Fistula in Tamale.
Description	<p>Stop Fistula addresses the tragic consequences caused by a lack of medical assistance during labour, which has dramatic effects that stigmatise women suffering from obstetric fistula.</p> <p>According to estimates, in Ghana between 500 and 1000 new cases of obstetric fistula are detected each year, seriously affecting the physical, psychological and sexual health of women who suffer from it as well as their economic and social status. A recent study from the Ghana Health Service (2015) points out that northern Ghana is the region with the highest prevalence of Obstetric Fistula in the country although it is difficult to have rigorous data due to the marginal situation of women suffering from fistula. According to UNFPA, Ghana does not have statistics on the prevalence of the fistula although it is believed that the incidence of fistula is particularly serious in the North, Central and West regions of the country.</p> <p>This project is based on the following areas: prevention, treatment and reintegration of patients, and training of health personnel.</p> <p>Prevention stops a large number of fistulas. Measures to prevent fistula include combating the early marriage of girls and young women, improving access to family planning services and providing qualified medical care to all young women and pregnant women. The</p>

awareness-raising campaigns are a key aspect of the project, so they include carrying out informative activities in the communities on how to prevent and treat OF through radio, street theaters, performances, newspapers, posters and other paper means. Cured patients can play an important role as "ambassadors" in their respective communities and this is recognized by both UNFPA as the ECOWAS Regional Plan to fight Obstetric Fistula.

The **surgical treatment** is a central element of the project and will be carried out through the periodic organization of surgical missions integrated by Spanish medical professionals who will work with the local specialists designated by the Teaching Hospital (TTH) and UNFPA. The training of local surgeons, gynecologists, nurses and midwives will also be addressed by the project.

Reintegration of patients: The Obstetric Fistula provokes a strong stigmatization and marginalization of the girls and women who suffer from it. Survivors of fistula require support after remedial treatment. They need to reconnect with their families and communities as well as with social and work life to recover their dignity and self-esteem. Women for Africa plans to work with WILDAF and UNFPA in the reintegration of patients through training in various professions and raising awareness among their respective families and communities.

To be implemented in 2018

During 2018, the following activities are planned:

- Signing the new Collaboration Agreement with the TTH and the necessary agreements for the implementation of this initiative.
- Awareness-raising campaign on Obstetric Fistula.
- Identification of patients suffering from this condition.
- 1 Surgical mission at the Tamale Teaching Hospital.
- Intensive courses on prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula in the TTH.
- Workshops to facilitate the reintegration of patients operated in their communities.

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 July 2016, the first group of 13 businesswomen took part in the training programme given in Babson College and they continued to develop their initiatives during the second phase that lasted six months. In July 2017, the second group of 14 businesswomen and women entrepreneurs went to Babson College to start their training.
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 date, a total of 28 businesswomen have benefited from this project
To be implemented in 2018	In January 2018, the 16 participants of the third edition will be selected. In June the Intensive Course will take place at Babson College, Boston (USA). During this course issues such as strategic thinking, business plan design, growth, the constitution of boards of directors, the leadership of women entrepreneurs, as well as the strengthening of "soft skills", such as effective communication will be addressed. Later, "Webinars" organized by Babson College and hosted by the Wangari Maathai Institute

at the University of Nairobi will be held. The Webinars aim to complement the intensive training taught in Boston. The specific subjects are determined, according to the beneficiaries, during the course at Babson College and taking into account the interests and real needs of the beneficiaries.

Coaching activities are also contemplated, developed by specialists appointed by Babson College. These are remote sessions in which personalized advice is offered by the Babson College faculty to the participants of the Program.

The graduation of the second group (second edition) will be held at the end of the year in Nairobi, coinciding with a collective meeting of all the groups in recognition of the work and achievements of the beneficiaries.

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 train 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	15 Tanzanian women (5 journalists, 5 agricultural businesswomen and 5 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 2016, 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> <p>In 2017, the results of the first phase of the project were presented, which were very positive, and the second phase was launched, which included the extension of the projects that the beneficiaries started in 2016.</p>
To be implemented in 2018	As a culmination of this project, in 2018 the production of a documentary will be carried out in which the experience of Green Voices will be gathered. All the projects and their protagonists, as well as the authorities, from the local ones to the government of the country, who have collaborated with the program, will be represented in the documentary.

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 6th edition in 2018. Over these last years, 26 feature-length films and six shorts by filmmakers from 15 African countries have been brought to a wider audience. We have also been graced with the presence of six film directors in the different festivals. In the last years, the films have been screened in the Sala Berlanga building.</p>
Description	<i>Women Make Movies</i> is a cinema cycle 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 2018	In the edition of 2018 we plan to keep the usual format: screening of 5 films from Monday to Friday, starting with an opening with the director of the original film.

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, and Congolese Honorine Munyole. This last one is a singular recognition, since Munyole is not an actress, but a police officer protagonist of the documentary Maman Colonelle.
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 2018	Granting of the award for the 2018 edition.

TITLE	3rd AFRICA WITH AN “Ñ” LITERARY CONTEST
Country	Spain
Duration	2018
Partners and collaborators	Cervantes Digital Library Foundation
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, mostly African or the promotion of scholarships for African students of Spanish.</p> <p>Two editions of this contest have already been held (in 2016 and 2017). The public call takes place in April, coinciding with the Book Day, and the final selection is carried out in the third quarter of the year. The jury of the category of short story is constituted by the writers Najat el Hachmi, Laura Freixas and Belén Gopegui, and in the research work category, by the Hispanists Carolyn Richmond, Ana Rodríguez Fischer and Emilia Velasco.</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 and in the website of the Cervantes Digital Library Foundation.</p> <p>The Miguel de Cervantes Digital Foundation collaborates in this initiative by publishing the winning texts in their website.</p>
To be implemented in 2018	The public call for the second “ <i>Africa with an Ñ</i> ” contest will be made in 2018. The call will be made in April, and during the third quarter of the year the winners will be announced after the deliberations of the jury.

TITLE	5TH AFRICAN WOMEN IN SPAIN PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST
Country	Spain
Duration	2018
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	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.
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 2018	The 6 th edition of the African Women in Spain photography contest will be announced as every year on May 25, , Africa Day, and the final decision will be announced during the last quarter of 2018.

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 that the Foundation has become holder, by assignment of 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 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 2018

The rehabilitation work on the building of the centre began in 2017 and by the end of the year the first phase will have been completed. Throughout 2018, the second phase of the remodelling project, which is expected to be completed before the end of the year, will be executed. During 2018, we will continue to work on strengthening institutional ties and consolidating the presence of WxA in Nador as well as the content program and the definition of the first actions of the Nador Lighthouse.