

Gender *news*

Women's Empowerment and Social Inclusion



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Welcome to the IFAD gender newsletter!

Dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome to the December 2016 IFAD Gender Newsletter.

Once again, we thank all the colleagues from IFAD operations who have responded to our call for contributions. We are proud to give visibility to your efforts and to all those initiatives that, behind the scenes, are significantly contributing to gender equality and poverty reduction.

We have reached the end of a busy year. We wish our friends, colleagues and partners on the gender network all the best for 2017 and look forward to interacting with you next year.

Please keep sharing your contributions with gender@ifad.org.

Forthcoming events

Indigenous Peoples Forum (10-13 February 2017, Rome)

Economic empowerment of indigenous peoples, with a focus on women and youth will be the theme for the third global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD headquarters. During preparatory regional workshops held in Africa (Congo-Brazzaville), Asia (Cambodia), Latin America (El Salvador) and the Pacific (Fiji), indigenous women reiterated their needs to become economically empowered: i) free from all forms of violence; ii) have access to ancestral territories; and iii) have adequate resources to progress in their development. Indigenous youth indicated that for them empowerment means participating in decision-making. **Read more:** [Event website](#)

UN Commission on the Status of Women (13-24 March 2017, New York)

The 61st session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women will take place at the United Nations Headquarters. The priority themes for this session are: *Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work (review theme)*; and *The empowerment of indigenous women (emerging issues)*. IFAD will be co-hosting a number of side events. **Read more:** [CSW 61 Website](#)

International Women's Day 2017 (8 March 2017)

We invite all IFAD projects and partners to join the celebrations of International Women's Day and to organize events on the global theme *Women in a Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030*, which is linked to the CSW 61 priority themes (see above). The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will host the celebration of International Women's Day on behalf of all three Rome-based agencies.

Recent events

Step it up together with rural women to end hunger and poverty (16 December 2016, Rome)

[Mainstreaming Workshop](#)

[Integrating household methodologies in agricultural extension, value chains and rural finance in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

[Updates from the Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment](#)

[Empowering Women to End Hunger](#)

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This high-level event, organized by FAO, the EU and the Slovak Presidency in collaboration with IFAD, the World Food Programme (WFP) and UN Women, provided an interactive platform to address the structural causes and consequences of gender inequality in rural areas and to identify the main challenges, gaps, opportunities and collaborative actions for unleashing the potential of rural women and girls to end hunger and poverty.

Read more: [Agenda](#) and [Background Note](#)

16-days campaign against gender-based violence (25 November - 10 December, Rome)

IFAD participated in the UN Campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, which started on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November) and ended on Human Rights Day (10 December). During the campaign, IFAD mobilized staff and hosted learning events on *Violence is everyone's problem* (in collaboration with IFAD Medical Services Team) and *Gender equality is also a men's issue* (in collaboration with the WFP Men Stand For Gender Equality Group). IFAD also participated in training sessions on masculinities, organized by WFP. Read more:

- [Do you know what "gaslighting" is?](#)
- [Three women's stories: IFAD's support for legal defence for vulnerable women in Burundi](#)
- [Gender-based violence is more than just a woman's issue: WFP men's group visits IFAD](#)
- [Reaching out: WFP Men Stand for Gender Equality Movement at IFAD](#)
- [From home to the workplace and the operations we support: gender-based violence is everywhere](#)
- [Orange the world website](#)

International Land Coalition (ILC) joined the 16-days campaign

ILC collaborated with Oxfam, Land is Life and other partners to support the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence. Their collaboration highlighted the important connection between improved land rights for women and reduced violence against them. Interviews and images were featured, as well as the voices and stories of prominent women's rights defenders and indigenous and rural women from around the world.

Read more: [ILC website](#) and [Facebook page](#)

How to integrate gender- and nutrition-sensitive approaches into IFAD operations (Rome, 21 November 2016)

As part of IFAD's efforts to integrate gender- and nutrition-sensitive approaches into its operations, a first capacity-building initiative was organized by IFAD's Gender and Nutrition Teams. This pilot session was directed to divisional gender focal points, gender and targeting consultants, and staff and experts from FAO and WFP who are regularly involved in IFAD's design and supervision missions. Further sessions will be organized in 2017. For more information please contact: gender@ifad.org

Gender Sensitization & Mainstreaming Workshop (19 October 2016, Pakistan)

The IFAD loan-financed "Southern Punjab Poverty Alleviation Project" organized a Gender Sensitization & Mainstreaming Workshop for project staff and implementing partners to help them understand concepts about gender equality and foster gender-responsive programming in all project components.

Read more: [Workshop Report](#)

Integrating household methodologies in agricultural extension, value chains and rural finance in Sub-Saharan Africa (7-10 November 2016, Rwanda)

The workshop and mid-term review of the IFAD grant to Oxfam Novib for its project "Integrating household methodologies in agricultural extension, value chains and rural finance in Sub-Saharan Africa" took place in

Kigali and Muhanga. Oxfam is working with local partners in Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. It is also establishing close linkages to IFAD loan-financed operations in those and other French-speaking countries Chad, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal).
For more information please contact: gender@ifad.org

Updates from the Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (RWEE, 6-13 November 2016, Rwanda)

Representatives of IFAD, WFP and UN Women carried out a joint mission and assessment of the RWEE operational situation in Rwanda and developed a strategy for its continuation. Field visits confirmed substantive progress and achievements in programme implementation, including on using the Household Methodologies approach. Once again this approach proved to be crucial for unlocking a household's development potential and will be scaled up in other RWEE target areas.

For more information please contact: [Azzurra Chiarini](#)

Empowering Women to End Hunger (19 October 2016, Rome)

The Rome Network for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women organized a side event on "Empowering Women to End Hunger: Lessons from the Joint Programme on Accelerating Rural Women's Economic Empowerment". The side event took place during 43rd session of the Committee on World Food Security and focussed on the impact of the Joint Programme on overall food security and nutrition in target areas. Panellists identified core strengths of the Joint Programme including: close collaboration of the four participating agencies with local communities; inclusion of climate-resilient agricultural approaches in training and capacity building programmes; and meaningful engagement of men.

Read more: [Women in action and actions for women](#)

General Recommendation No. 34 on rural women (22 November 2016)

FAO, IFAD, WFP, UN Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) launched the landmark [General Recommendation No. 34](#) (2016) of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on the rights of rural women, in a joint event held at FAO. Participants discussed the role of the United Nations and civil society in facilitating the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment issues into policies, legislation and investment strategies to close the gender gap and combat hunger. Read more: [General Recommendation No. 34](#)

Traditional cuisine highlights nutrition across afro-descendant communities (26-29 October 2016, Colombia)

Four African women beneficiaries from IFAD-supported programmes in Benin, Senegal and Zambia participated in an event on traditional cuisine, culture and knowledge which took place in Buenaventura, the first "African city" of Colombia. This event, jointly organized by the [Afro-descendants Cultural Assets Foundation](#) and IFAD, offered participants an opportunity to share their experiences and techniques regarding preparing traditional cuisine, protecting biodiversity and using local products.

Read more: [Blog post](#)

Lessons and voices from the field

A success story of a woman entrepreneur from the Artisanal Fisheries Promotion Project (PROPESCA, Mozambique)

Doña Eugénia Araújo Massitela is a fish trader who received training in handling, processing and trading fresh fish as well as in business management. She has participated in fish trade fairs organized by PROPESCA to improve incomes and access to markets. Under the special fund for women entrepreneurs, an innovative financial instrument promoted by the project, Doña Eugénia is eligible to receive a matching grant to purchase two coolers. With her knowledge of how to process and conserve large fish, meet the required quality standards, and access finance, she has become an entrepreneur in high-quality fish trading and a model not only for other women.

Read more: [Full story](#)

For more information please contact: [Rui Falcão](#)

IFAD's support for legal defence for vulnerable women: a success story from Burundi

"The community and family development centres have helped me a lot," said 52-year-old Consolate with tears in her eyes. She had given birth to two daughters and could not become pregnant again. Her husband wanted a son and took a second wife to live with him in the family home. He and his family treated Consolate badly and wanted her to leave the house. She went to the village chief for help but he refused to intervene. At that time she was attending meetings organized by the "[Integrated Forestry Community Development Project](#)" (PRODEFI) in Burundi and heard about the legal assistance provided by the community and family development centres. With their support she went to court and introduced a claim on her share of the family property.

Read more: Blog post [Three women's stories: IFAD's support for legal defence for vulnerable women in Burundi](#)

The Plan Vida Project, Bolivia

This project, funded by IFAD and implemented by Bolivia's Ministry of Development Planning, aims to

strengthen food security for rural people living in extreme poverty and provide opportunities for them to increase their incomes. Women substantially benefit from capacity development opportunities, especially on financial and purchasing processes, which have enabled them to create legal business entities, obtain Tax Identification Numbers and access financial services and resources they need to invest in their activities and their future.

For more information please contact: [Alvaro Mollinedo](#)

Bulletin Board

Vacant position - Senior Policy Analyst/Team Leader - Development Co-operation for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (Deadline: 22nd January 2017). The [Development Co-operation Directorate \(DCD\)](#) is looking for a dynamic and experienced professional to lead the work of the Directorate in the area of development co-operation for gender equality and women's empowerment. Read more: [English](#), [French](#)

Useful links and resources

Toolkit on women's land rights

This toolkit gathers together information on five tools that have been successfully used by members of the International Land Coalition (ILC) to promote, protect and strengthen women's land rights. It is intended to facilitate evidence-based mutual learning within and beyond the Coalition.

Read more: [Full publication](#)

Other useful links and resources:

[Revisiting what works: women, economic empowerment and smart design](#)

[World employment and social outlook for youth 2016](#)

[Video: Decent work in the care economy - gender](#)

[Glass ceilings, floors and walls: what's blocking gender equality at work](#)

[Want to empower women? Digital financial services are the way to go!](#)

Calendar

- IFAD Governing Council 40th session (14-15 February 2017, IFAD, Rome, Italy)
- Third Global Meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum (10-13 February 2017, IFAD, Rome, Italy)
- International Women's Day 2017 (8 March 2017)
- 61st session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (13-24 March 2017, United Nations, New York)

This newsletter is for IFAD staff, partners, resource people and friends around the world who have an interest in gender equality and social inclusion. Its purpose is to share information about what is happening within and outside IFAD in support of gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment. It also seeks to connect different experiences and improve coordination among IFAD partners at all levels. We hope that you will find it to be a reliable and useful resource.

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About IFAD:

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a specialized agency of the United Nations dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in developing countries. Its work in remote rural areas of the world helps countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

[Read more](#)

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