

# 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 March 2017 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 a busy year ahead of us and look forward to interacting with you as often as possible. Please keep sharing your contributions with [gender@ifad.org](mailto:gender@ifad.org).

## **What's new?**

### **Welcome Mr President!**

Gilbert Fossoun Hounbo, former Prime Minister of Togo, was appointed as the sixth President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) at the Fortieth Session of the IFAD Governing Council (14-15 February 2017). He will take office on 1 April 2017, succeeding Kanayo F. Nwanze, who was President for two terms beginning in April 2009. The IFAD Gender Team welcomes Mr Hounbo and thanks Mr Nwanze for his leadership on and commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment during the eight years of his tenure.

**Read more:** [Former Prime Minister of Togo to head United Nations rural poverty agency](#)

## **Forthcoming events**

### **Sixty-first session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, United Nations, New York, 13-24 March 2017**

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is considering the priority theme "Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work". The emerging focal area is empowerment of indigenous women. IFAD will speak at the CSW interactive dialogue on the economic empowerment of indigenous women and will co-organize a number of side events on rural and indigenous women, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and care work. **Read more:** [CSW 61 Website](#)

### **IFAD Philippines Gender Network (IPGN), General Assembly, 18-21 April 2017**

The IFAD Philippines Gender Network (IPGN), formed in February 2010, includes the gender focal points of IFAD-supported grant and loan projects and representatives of various government agencies and implementing partners. The annual General Assembly will offer an opportunity to discuss gender-related tools, partnerships and collaborations, as well as to orient project staff on preparing gender action plans and other activities. **For more information, please contact:** [Leo Gallego](#) and [gender@ifad.org](mailto:gender@ifad.org)

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## International Women's Day, 8 March 2017

### International Women's Day 2017 in Rome

"Women in a Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030" was the theme for 2017. Particular attention was paid to women's work and employment as key components of the fight against hunger, malnutrition and rural poverty. The Rome-based agencies organized a joint event, hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), on the topic "Step It Up Together with Rural Women to End Hunger and Poverty". [Read more: International Women's Day 2017](#)

The Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD also organized an event to launch an evaluation synthesis on what works in gender equality and women's empowerment: a review of practices and results (IFAD headquarters, 6 March 2017). **For more information, please contact:** [gender@ifad.org](mailto:gender@ifad.org)

IFAD's Language Services (Office of the Secretary) and the Gender Team (Policy and Technical Advisory Division) have launched a multilingual glossary on gender issues listing some 130 relevant terms and definitions in Arabic, English, French and Spanish (see last page). **Read more:** [What works for gender equality and women's empowerment - a review of practices and results](#)

### International Women's Day 2017 in the field

**Swaziland:** "Sharing Experiences: Rural Women Overcoming Barriers" (8 March 2017). The IFAD-funded Rural Finance and Enterprise Development Programme (RFEDP) and [Smallholder Market-led Project \(SMLP\)](#) brought together representatives of rural organizations, NGOs, service providers, the public sector and the United Nations system to discuss linkages among women, food security, rural enterprise, natural resources and climate change. **For more information, please contact:** [Jaana Keitaanranta](#)

**Palestine:** The Ministry of Agriculture organized an event to recall that the Palestinian agricultural sector is based mainly on women's work, whether in the field or within agricultural institutions. **For more information, please contact:** [Khitam Hamayel](#)

**Burundi:** In collaboration with UN Women and the Ministry of Agriculture, the Burundi IFAD Country Office organized a special event to discuss how women are dealing with the evolving world of work in the country and how they can benefit from it. The event brought together staff of the four IFAD ongoing projects and representatives of rural organizations, the public sector and implementing partners. **For more information, please contact:** [Ntahe Béatrice](#)

### Other recent events

#### Rome: Indigenous Peoples Forum

"Economic Empowerment of Indigenous Peoples, with a Focus on Women and Youth" was the theme of the third global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum (10-13 February 2017). In their "[Synthesis of Deliberations](#)", participants made recommendations for promoting the economic empowerment of indigenous women and youth, including the importance of supporting their participation in all development processes, guaranteeing the inclusion of their needs and priorities in development plans and allocating sufficient resources to support them. Indigenous peoples' representatives also enjoyed a private meeting with Pope Francis during the visit (15 February 2017).

**Read more:**

- Synthesis of deliberations [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#)
- [Development should consider indigenous cultures and their relationship to the earth, says Pope Francis, while meeting with the delegation](#)
- [Event website](#)

#### Rome: Training sessions for gender focal points

The Gender Team is launching a set of capacity-building activities for the key actors implementing its gender and targeting policies. Gender focal points and their alternates at IFAD headquarters are being trained to refresh their knowledge of IFAD's approaches to social targeting, gender equality and women's empowerment. More training sessions will be offered in the next three months, including in gender and nutrition. **For more information, please contact:** [gender@ifad.org](mailto:gender@ifad.org)

#### Nepal: Catalysing change and action with the Gender Action Learning System

To build the capacities of their project staff in Nepal and Pakistan and to support its partners, including IFAD, Oxfam Novib organized a learning workshop on the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) in Nepal (27 February - 3 March 2017). In collaboration with Oxfam Novib, IFAD has been promoting the

adoption of GALs and other household methodologies in value chain development, rural finance and agricultural extension. A GALs workshop also took place in Kenya, in support of the Smallholder Dairy Commercialization Programme (SDCP) and Upper Tana Natural Resource Management Project (UTANRMP).

For more information, please contact: [Thies Reemer](#) (Oxfam Novib) for Nepal, [Peter Ndambiri](#) for Kenya and [gender@ifad.org](mailto:gender@ifad.org)

### **Rome: Mapping of Nutrition-Sensitive Interventions in East and Southern Africa**

IFAD's East and Southern African Division (ESA) hosted a one-day technical meeting to present the key findings of a study on "Mapping of Nutrition-Sensitive Interventions in East and Southern Africa" (12 December 2016). The meeting recalled the importance of integrated pathways to

accelerate nutrition outcomes, with a focus on gender equality, women's empowerment and climate-smart actions. For more information, please contact: [Marian Odenigbo](#)

### **Rome: Joint programme on rural women's economic empowerment**

The Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (JP RWEE) is a global initiative jointly implemented by FAO, IFAD, the World Food Programme and UN Women in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, the Niger and Rwanda. Results, challenges, lessons learned and future plans of this joint programme were discussed during a RWEE Learning Workshop and donor meeting (22-25 February 2017).

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

### **Retreat of IFAD Central America Team**

The retreat of the IFAD Central America Team (December 2016) assigned strategic priority to strengthening gender equity components in the 2017 operational plans for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. To this end, a specific diagnosis and review of methodological tools will be carried out regarding effective integration of this development approach into IFAD programmes in those countries. A learning event for technical teams will be held in Guatemala in June, 2017. For more information, please contact: [Juan Diego Ruiz Cumplido](#)

## **Stories from the field**

### **Zanzibar: An old woman farmer with a young business vision**

Khadija Suleiman, 70, migrated from the mainland of the United Republic of Tanzania to Pemba, Zanzibar, when she was just 12 years old. Her family was involved in farming and livestock-raising. The lack of adoption of best agricultural practices prevented her from maximizing the productive capacity of her 12-acre farm. Impressed by the results of a nearby sweet potato grower, she joined a farmer field school (FFS) operating in her village, which was supported by the IFAD-funded Agricultural Sector Development Programme - Livestock (ASDP-L). Here she learned several best practices from fellow farmers and FFS facilitators, including: (i) selection of seedlings; (ii) proper land preparation; and (iii) spacing and application of farmyard manure. "The FFS approach was an eye opener that made me realize that I could fulfil my dreams despite my age. For more information, please contact: [Stefano Consiglio](#)

### **India: Kitchen gardens for better nutrition**

The Tejaswini Madhya Pradesh Rural Women's Empowerment Programme (Tejaswini-MP) is in the last year of implementation. Implemented by Mahila Vitta Vikas Nigam (MVVN), it has established 16,389 self-help groups (SHGs) with a total membership of 204,281 households, 2,630 village-level committees and 60 federations. It has empowered thousands of rural and tribal women. Among its innovations is the promotion of kitchen gardens for better nutrition. For more information: [Tejaswini Kitchen Garden \(Video\)](#)

## **Calendar**

13-24 March Sixty-first session of the United Nations [Commission on the Status of Women](#) (United Nations, New York)

10-14 July [Gender and Pastoralism in the Rangelands of the Hindu Kush Himalayas: Knowledge, Culture and Livelihoods at the Margins of the Margins](#) (Utrecht, the Netherlands)

## Useful links and resources

In observance of International Women's Day, we are pleased to share the first collection of terminology on gender issues developed jointly by Language Services (Office of the Secretary) and the Gender Team (Policy and Technical Advisory Division).

### Glossary on gender issues

IFAD's Language Services and the Gender Team have launched a multilingual glossary that provides a harmonized vocabulary in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. It contains a multilingual listing of some 130 relevant terms and definitions. The common objectives are to enhance language use and standardize terminology of gender issues for IFAD documentation, publications and in all aspects of meeting preparations. Terms and definitions are accompanied by details of the source document and date of publication. The glossary is a living document. We look forward to receiving feedback and contributions for future editions to further enrich the collection. Kindly e-mail your suggestions to [Belén Couto](mailto:Belén.Couto).

Read more: [Glossary on gender issues](#)

### Other links and resources

[Dream weaver in Guatemala \(Video\)](#)

[Poverty is sexist \(Video\)](#)

[Tejaswini Kitchen Garden \(Video\)](#)

[Girls not brides. The global partnership to end child marriage. Strategy 2017-2020](#)

[United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025](#)

[UN Women roster of experts](#)

[Estrategia de Género del Plan de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional de la CELAC](#)

[Tchad: Les femmes actrices incontournables face au changement climatique](#)

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 is helping countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

[Read more](#)

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