

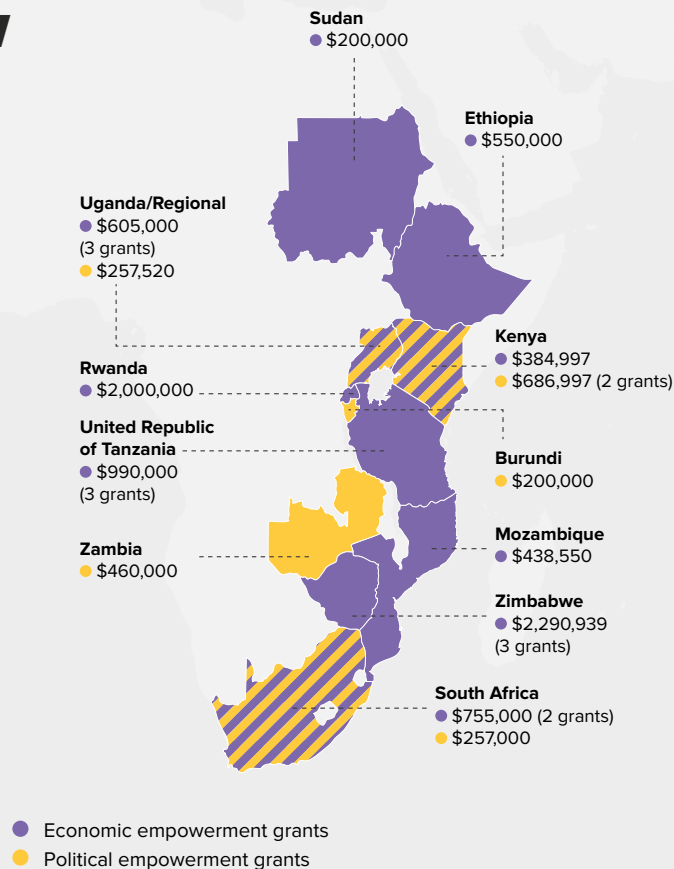
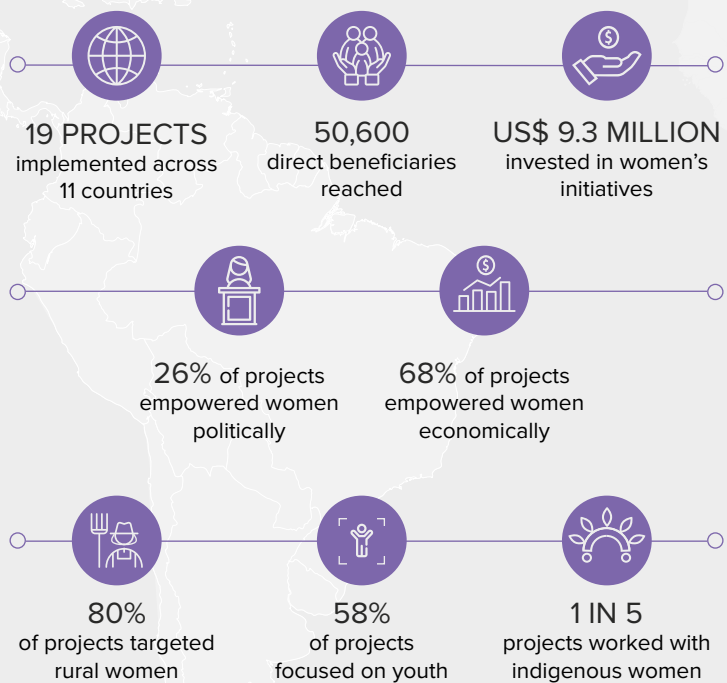
EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA



Small entrepreneur supported by the Pastoral Women's Council in the Arusha District of the United Republic of Tanzania.
UN Women Tanzania / Deepika Nath

2009-2019 PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

Ten Years of Reaching the Furthest Behind



The **Fund for Gender Equality (FGE)** is UN Women's global grantmaking programme dedicated to supporting **women-led civil society organizations** to accelerate **women's economic and political empowerment**. The FGE **benefits women who are furthest behind** by funding organizations best equipped to reach them. In East and Southern Africa, the Fund has worked with refugee and conflict-affected populations, rural women in remote settings, youth, women living with disabilities and indigenous women, among others.

FROM MARGINALIZED GROUPS TO AGENTS OF CHANGE

Below are some snapshots of FGE-supported initiatives in the region:

In **Ethiopia**, the Union of Ethiopian Women Charitable Associations helped 1,900 low-income pastoralist women organize in 42 self-help groups and 24 cooperatives. Women gained basic literacy and self-confidence, built skills in business and agriculture, and accessed land and capital. Members doubled their incomes, collectively saving US\$ 22,000. They sent their children to school and improved their homes. Community attitudes shifted towards deeper acceptance of gender equality and women's ability to make household decisions.

At least 880 women and men from rural host communities and groups of displaced people in South Kordofan state in **Sudan** boosted their income thanks to the provision of crop seeds and milk goats by the Badya Center. Women's status shifted as they performed activities traditionally reserved for men and gained control over their products. Youth-organized theatre groups mobilized locals to undertake community work and fostered awareness of 15,000 people about human rights, ethnicity and conflict prevention.

In **Kenya**, GROOTS established women-led community groups who generated new data on community issues as a basis for policy dialogue and monitoring of government commitments. The 3,000 local champions played a role in preventing gender-based violence against women candidates in the 2013 elections, including through men-led community awareness. The groups allowed at least 230 to gain roles in different social and political institutions where they are pushing forward the gender equality agenda. Another grantee, the Uraia Trust, trained 380 women on political leadership, one-third of whom contested for positions in the 2017 national and county elections; 45 women were nominated as candidates and/or elected and many received public backing from men in their communities, including the only woman elected to the Turkana County Assembly.

In **South Africa** and **Uganda**, Women's Net equipped 200 women with digital literacy skills to overcome the digital divide linked to gender, socioeconomic status, race and age. Over 450 young activists participated in 11 local dialogues for a "feminist Internet", drawing from a social media campaign that reached 19,500 people. Six policy briefs backed advocacy for the inclusion of women and minorities in new Internet-related procedures and policies.

UNIQUE MODEL IN THE UNITED NATIONS: Combines financial and technical support

- Puts civil society first to own the change process
- Invests in local women's organizations
- Global knowledge and results.

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TO GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT:

Reaches the most marginalized

- Local impact (builds skills and creates women's groups)
- Changes social norms
- Reduces inequalities among civil society organizations.



FGE is a different donor. They really listen and engage. They are flexible. We feel like it is one of the few donors that actually understands us.

**Pastoral Women's Council,
FGE partner in the United Republic
of Tanzania**



Members of a self-help group in Ethiopia counting the weekly money they have saved.

Courtesy of Union of Ethiopian Women Charitable Association (UEWCA)

TALES OF EMPOWERMENT

FROM OUTCAST TO LEADER: THE POWER OF SELF-HELP GROUPS IN RURAL TANZANIA



Mama Joyce Eliabu Munuo in her new office after being elected Chairperson of Messe Village in the United Republic of Tanzania. Courtesy of KWIECO

14 December 2014 was a memorable day for Mama Joyce Eliabu Munuo, then age 44. Joyce won 160 out of 204 votes for Chairperson of Messe Village in Tanzania, where she was the first woman ever to win the seat.



I would not have done this if not for the support from my peers. [...] I want to show the world that a woman can bring better changes.

Mama Joyce Eliabu Munuo

Joyce faced a number of challenges in her life, including being discriminated against for not having children after her marriage. When the Kilimanjaro Women Information Exchange and Consultancy Organization (KWIECO) introduced their project in her village in 2013, she joined it.

The skills she gained on enterprise management allowed her to invest in improving the productivity of her cattle, increasing her income and standard of living. With the human rights knowledge she acquired, Joyce was able to support community members in need. Her many contributions led other group members to encourage her to run for a leadership position.

“I would not have done this if not for the support from my peers. [My husband] asked me if I was sure of what it means to compete with a man who has been in leadership for seven years, but I told him I want to show the world that a woman can bring better changes. Now that I have a huge responsibility ahead of me.”

In total, KWIECO created 50 peer support groups across four districts in Tanzania. Nearly 1,200 women saved more than US\$ 673,000 and provided over 3,500 loans worth US\$ 204,000. The groups also opened bank accounts, becoming eligible for government support and grant schemes. Joyce was one of five women out of 46 elected in 2014 as village chairpersons in the project's 12 targeted wards in four districts. One out of three women elected members of local councils for the first time had been supported by KWIECO.

2018-2019 UPSCALING AND SOCIAL INNOVATION INITIATIVE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Launched in 2018, the FGE's Upscaling and Social Innovation Initiative works with grantees to enhance their abilities to accelerate the empowerment of women and girls in vulnerable and marginalized positions. The Fund is testing new approaches by providing nine existing grantees with additional funds, coupled with intensive training and coaching. In applying beneficiary-centred principles, grantees are gaining a deeper understanding of communities they serve. They are testing scalable models and experimenting with innovative solutions to the challenges they face.

In the East and Southern Africa region, FGE partner Pastoral Women's Council (PWC) in the **United Republic of Tanzania** was selected to expand its project and gain social innovation skills through an additional grant of US\$ 175,000.

Maasai women in Tanzania face multiple forms of discrimination including forced marriages, few chances to go to school, heavy workloads, exclusion from decision-making, little access to essential services and productive resources. Since 2016, the Pastoral Women's Council (PWC) has helped 6,000 pastoralist women better their livelihoods and economic status through wider access to and control over clean water, land and livestock. Organized in savings and loans groups, and equipped with basic literacy and business skills, women are now able to purchase food, pay school fees for their children and cover hospital bills. The groups have also contributed to reducing women's economic dependency on their husbands and to gaining respect from men in their communities.

PWC's upscaling project is building on this successful model, targeting five new villages to expand the reach to an additional 6,000 women. A social innovation initiative aims at expanding women's land ownership. Applying beneficiary-centered methodologies, PWC is testing new approaches to nudge educated men to legally bequeath land to their daughters. The hope is that this will trigger a new social norm that will improve women's prospects for inheritance.

Our targeted population



INDIGENOUS WOMEN



RURAL WOMEN



SURVIVORS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



YOUNG WOMEN



SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY VULNERABLE

Do you want to learn more? Are you ready to invest in women changemakers and innovators for gender equality?
Do you feel as excited and committed as we do about our work?

Tell us all about it at fund.genderequality@unwomen.org