

• UN Women’s Fund for Gender Equality
• Selected Grantees 2016–2018 Grant Cycle

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Africa – East and Southern Africa

Kenya

Awarded Grantee: Uraia Trust
Programme Title: Enhancing Political Capacities of Women
Grant Amount: US \$ 384,997
Thematic Area: Women’s Political Empowerment
Sub-Theme: Expanding and Strengthening Women’s Leadership

In Kenya, women’s political participation has remained at levels significantly below the required electoral quota, which limits the representation of a given gender in elective public bodies to a maximum of two-thirds. Some of the most critical barriers to progress include the lack of implementation of quota laws and policies; prevalent discriminatory societal attitudes and stereotypes; structural, cultural and economic obstacles; and a lack of experience in political leadership. The project aims to enhance women's political participation by advocating the inclusion of mechanisms ensuring women's participation in policies and legislative frameworks, including the Political Parties Act 2011 and Elections Act 2011. It will support the achievement by 2017 of the two-thirds gender principle stipulated in the Constitution. In order to achieve that, the capacities of three subnational civil society organizations will be expanded. They will work with male gender equality champions to increase civic awareness of the two-thirds gender principle. The programme builds upon a previous initiative to cultivate the leadership capacities of women in nine counties; it was implemented in collaboration with the National Gender and Equality Commission and civil society organizations.

South Africa (regional)

Awarded Grantee: Women'sNet
Programme Title: Increasing Women's Decision-Making and Influence in Internet Governance and ICT Policy for the Realization of Women's Rights in Africa
Grant Amount: US \$ 257,520
Countries: South Africa, Uganda
Thematic Area: Women’s Political Empowerment
Sub-Theme: Promoting Legislative and Policy Change

In sub-Saharan Africa, a ‘digital gender gap’ persists, with far fewer women than men having access to the Internet. African women's rights advocates are missing from Internet governance policy debates at national, regional and international levels, and in general, women’s participation in education, employment and decision-making related to ICT is low. In South Africa and Uganda, which have adopted laws and regulations to increase women’s access to and roles in ICT, the programme intends to cultivate the ability of female political leaders to effectively influence Internet governance and policy towards the accelerated realization of women's rights. The programme will empower women to take part in the development of national laws and policies as well as regional processes. It will reach out to women political leaders, women’s rights and civil society activists, LGBTI activists, government representatives and community-based activists through online consultations and participation. The programme will promote ICT access and use among women, help build individual and organizational capacities for using ICT, and mobilize networks among women’s organizations.

United Republic of Tanzania

Awarded Grantee: **Pastoral Women's Council**
 Programme Title: **Empowering Pastoralist Maasai Women in Ngorongoro District, Northern Tanzania**
 Grant Amount: **US \$ 390,001**
 Thematic Area: **Women's Economic Empowerment**
 Sub-Theme: **Fostering Entrepreneurship**

· In Tanzania, Maasai women have limited access to essential services and are marginalized in community matters. They do not own or control property; are
 · confined to the domestic sphere; and are responsible for unpaid time-consuming chores such as collecting water. The programme aims to economically
 · empower pastoralist Maasai women in the Ngorongoro District by increasing their incomes and improving their livelihoods. It will establish Women
 · Solidarity Bomas aimed at boosting income through a revolving livestock project, and increase women's access to markets and information about
 · agricultural products. Other objectives are to expand access to land, property and natural resources, raise awareness of legal rights, and ensure that
 · Maasai women actively participate in decision-making around community development. The programme will result in women becoming more self-
 · confident, independent and respected within their communities, placing them in a better position to advocate for their rights at all levels. To further
 · accelerate change, the project will engage with non-traditional partners, including men and boys, community leaders and local government officials.

Africa – West and Central Africa

Benin

Awarded Grantee: **Association Nationale des Femmes agricultrices du Bénin - National Association of Women Farmers in Benin**
 Programme Title: **Initiative for Empowering Women Farmers in Benin - "Miguézé!"**
 Grant Amount: **US \$ 305,000**
 Thematic Area: **Women's Economic Empowerment**
 Sub-Theme: **Supporting Rural Women**

• The empowerment of rural women and women farmers in Benin runs up against barriers such as high illiteracy rates and inferior education for girls; women's limited access to information, including on their rights and legal provisions; and traditional norms that exclude women from land ownership, inheritance and resource management. Rural women are particularly vulnerable to climate change and the subsequent degradation of natural resources, and many struggle to meet basic needs for themselves and their households. The programme seeks to stimulate women's economic empowerment in two rural municipalities, Savalou and Banté. The overall objectives are to ensure women farmers access land, build agricultural and technical skills, and gain self-confidence as agricultural entrepreneurs. The programme intends to facilitate links to microfinance services, help establish women's agricultural cooperatives, and encourage other income-generating activities to boost agricultural productivity and ensure food security. Expanding rural women's knowledge about their land rights will be accompanied by initiatives helping them recognize and claim those rights. New agricultural technologies, more intensive farming techniques and ICT, including mobile banking, will be introduced to improve agri-businesses.

Mali

Awarded Grantee: **Association d'Entraide et de Développement - Aid and Development Association**
 Programme Title: **Aid Program of Rural Women Entrepreneurs in Mali**
 Grant Amount: **US \$ 334,121**
 Thematic Area: **Women's Economic Empowerment**
 Sub-Theme: **Supporting Rural Women**

• Malian rural women have developed resilient strategies to improve their living conditions, including through microenterprises producing food and handicrafts. These small businesses face a number of challenges, however, such as the lack of a legal framework for their launch and development; difficulties accessing national and international markets; limited access to credit, technologies and information; and the inability to certify products. The programme seeks to advance the economic empowerment of rural women entrepreneurs by strengthening their business and technical capacities, and providing access to information on markets, microcredit and ICT, including mobile banking. It intends to establish a multifunctional centre dedicated to women's entrepreneurship in the regions of Sikasso and Segou. Steps to foster microenterprises in food processing will assist the production of shea butter, peanut paste, sesame seeds, cashews and soybeans, and in handicrafts will aid activities such as weaving and dying. Women's economic opportunities should expand, improving living conditions and food security, and reducing poverty. Awareness-raising and media campaigns will garner public support behind a supportive business environment for women.

Nigeria

Awarded Grantee: **Alliances for Africa (AfA)**
 Programme Title: **Implementing 35% Affirmative Action in 5 States in Nigeria by 2018**
 Grant Amount: **US \$ 230,000**
 Thematic Area: **Women's Political Empowerment**
 Sub-Theme: **Expanding and Strengthening Women's Leadership**

- Nigeria contends with a large gap between the numbers of men and women in elected public positions due to a number of factors, including traditional,
- cultural and religious practices that perpetuate male dominance in decision making; non-implementation of existing gender equality laws; and a lack of
- political will within political parties to promote women candidates. The 2015 general elections demonstrated a significant jump in the number of women
- expressing interest in or aspiring to elected positions, however. The programme focuses on increasing their participation, targeting women party members
- and political aspirants, parliamentarians and media personnel in five south-eastern states. It will aim to achieve a mandated 35 per cent electoral quota for
- women in decision-making positions at both the local and national levels before the next general elections in 2019. Strategies will include training women
- political aspirants on public speaking, media engagement, social media and fundraising for electoral campaigning. Advocacy and media campaigns will
- encourage political parties to implement the 35 per cent quota. The programme will engage with non-traditional partners, such as male political party
- members, and community and religious leaders to increase the visibility of women's political leadership.
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Americas and the Caribbean

Bolivia

Awarded Grantee:	Taller de Proyectos del Habitat Urbano y Rural - Projects and Research Workshop on Urban and Rural Habitat (RED HABITAT)
Programme Title:	Women in Construction. Towards its Political and Economic Empowerment.
Grant Amount:	US \$ 269,166
Thematic Area:	Women's Political Empowerment
Sub-Theme:	Ensuring Decent Work and Social Protection

In recent years, Bolivia has made significant advancements in women's empowerment and the recognition of women's rights. Women have entered labour markets traditionally monopolized by men, such as the construction sector. But they still face discrimination and multiple violations of their labour rights, including lower pay for equal work, longer working hours, unsafe working conditions, gender-based violence, sexual harassment, and a lack of social security protection and health insurance. The programme will focus on strengthening women's leadership capacities and promoting their political rights, including through training and specialized technical assistance for local and national policy advocacy on women's labour rights, social security, work safety and equal pay for equal work. It will engage in particular with female construction workers in the municipalities of La Paz and El Alto, employing lobbying strategies to improve legal protections of their labour rights, with an emphasis on the right to social protection and health insurance for women in informal employment. The programme also plans to raise public awareness of the economic value of women's labour in construction, an industry that is currently the second largest contributor to gross domestic product.

Guatemala

Awarded Grantee:	Asociación de Trabajadoras del Hogar a Domicilio y de Maquila - Association of Domestic Workers at Home and Maquila (ATRAHDOM)
Programme Title:	The Rights and Economic Empowerment of Women
Grant Amount:	US \$ 264,166
Thematic Area:	Women's Economic Empowerment
Sub-Theme:	Ensuring Decent Work and Social Protection

In Guatemala, women face violations of their human and labour rights, as well as various forms of gender-based discrimination and high levels of poverty. Those employed as domestic and maquila workers encounter challenges including the lack of implementation of national labour laws and international labour standards, inadequate social protection and minimal wages. The programme focuses on implementing labour standards and improving economic conditions to advance gender equality and economic development, targeting women in agriculture and livestock breeding, factory workers, domestic workers and maquila labourers. Advocacy will back adoption of amendments to labour legislation, particularly with regard to domestic and maquila workers. Dialogue between women and government offices will promote labour rights and better working conditions. The programme also seeks to provide legal support and advice to ensure women workers can access justice. It will develop the capacities of female labour leaders towards the goal of expanding employment opportunities for women and enhancing their economic empowerment.

Haiti

Awarded Grantee: **Solidarite des Femmes Haitiennes (SOFA) - Solidarity of Haitian Women**
 Programme Title: **Strengthening of the Rural Organic Farming Feminist School of Saint Michel the L'attalaye farm**
 Grant Amount: **US \$ 364,166**
 Thematic Area: **Women's Economic Empowerment**
 Sub-Theme: **Supporting Rural Women**

In Haiti, the 2010 earthquake devastated both rural and urban areas, destroying buildings, equipment and infrastructure. Over 600,000 people were internally displaced, further exacerbating food insecurity and poverty. Reconstructing agriculture is critical, as it is the leading sector of the Haitian economy, engaging over 50 per cent of the workforce. Rural women, however, have been among those, finding it most difficult to recover, as they face serious constraints in access to agricultural credit and technologies, markets and infrastructure. They are often victims of multiple forms of discrimination, which hinders use and control of land and natural resources. The programme focuses on their economic empowerment through the establishment of the Feminist Farming School for Organic Agriculture, which will work with young women farmers and agricultural cooperatives in 13 communities. They will develop capacities to apply organic and sustainable agricultural methods, initiate income-generating activities, connect to each other through cooperatives and foster networks for mutual support. Advocacy will aim at eliminating gender-based discrimination against women farmers, and raising awareness of rural women's rights to ensure they have access to and control of land and natural resources.

Honduras

Awarded Grantee: **Asociación Colectiva de Mujeres Hondureñas - Class Association Honduran Women**
 Programme Title: **Human Labour Rights of Women Maquila Workers**
 Grant Amount: **US \$ 369,170**
 Thematic Area: **Women's Economic Empowerment**
 Sub-Theme: **Ensuring Decent Work and Social Protection**

Women in Honduras face escalating violence, widespread and systematic violations of their labour rights, and gender-based violence, all grave concerns for women's organizations and human rights bodies, including the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women. Female workers in the maquila industry are subjected to various forms of work-related abuse, including sexual harassment, salary discrimination and violations of occupational health rights. Urgent measures are needed to end what has become a culture of impunity. The programme will use public campaigns and other strategies to advocate policies on access to work and equal pay for equal work, as well as encourage amendments to existing labour-related public policies and legislation. It targets women in the maquila industry from three municipalities in the province of Cortes, intending to strengthen their capacities to exercise their labour rights, access justice and file complaints for violations. Other efforts will seek to improve the living conditions of women with disabilities or occupational illnesses by providing them with health advice, legal support and health services.

Mexico

Awarded Grantee: **Instituto de Liderazgo Simone de Beauvoire, AC - Simone de Beauvoir Leadership Institute (Civil Association)**
 Programme Title: **Empowerment for an Agenda of Social Responsibility in Care Work**
 Grant Amount: **US \$ 214,166**
 Thematic Area: **Women's Economic Empowerment**
 Sub-Theme: **Ensuring Decent Work and Social Protection**

- Workplace gender discrimination means many Mexican women workers face precarious work conditions, receive lower wages and find few opportunities
- for career advancement. Most have informal sector jobs where their labour rights are not recognized, and they have no social protection. Women account
- for 94.2 per cent of domestic care workers, for instance, who as a group contend with some of the worst rates of discrimination. The programme seeks to
- economically empower women through the enhancement of public policies, provision of services and advancement of guarantees of female domestic
- workers' rights. It will directly target female domestic workers and their employers to eliminate work-related discrimination, and improve work conditions
- and livelihoods. Advocacy will engage both federal and local authorities in Mexico City around strengthening the legal framework, public policies and
- programmes related to domestic care services and the labour rights of domestic workers, including in terms of social security protection and health
- insurance. Awareness campaigns will aim at shifting stereotypes about care work and domestic workers, while networks will be fostered to empower
- domestic workers to claim their rights.

Paraguay

Awarded Grantee: **Centro de Documentación y Estudios - Center of Documentation and Studies**
 Programme Title: **Empowering Women for Political and Economic Equality in Paraguay**
 Grant Amount: **US \$ 339,166**
 Thematic Area: **Women's Political Empowerment**
 Sub-Theme: **Promoting Legislative and Policy Change**

- Women's empowerment in Paraguay lags behind as a result of political, economic and social challenges, including the lack of a legal framework for gender
- equality. Presidential and general elections in 2018 present opportunities to increase women's political empowerment by reaching the established
- electoral quota for women to comprise 30 per cent of parliamentarians, up from the current share of 16.8 per cent. The programme seeks to enhance
- women's political participation and leadership, including by positioning the debate on gender parity at the national level and generating concrete
- proposals to boost women's engagement. It targets women members of political parties, grass-roots groups, domestic workers organizations, rural
- women's groups and indigenous organizations. Training will develop the capacities of women aspirants for political office and women within political
- parties. Advocacy will support the process of social transformation and full respect for women's rights, including by mobilizing women's organizations
- behind adoption of the draft Law on Gender Equality, which was launched by women politicians, parliamentarians and various women's organizations.

Arab States

Algeria

Awarded Grantee:	Association El Ghaith - El Ghaith Association
Programme Title:	Self-Promotion of Vulnerable Groups (Women and Girls) by the Creation of Income-Generating Activities
Grant Amount:	US \$ 295,000
Thematic Area:	Women's Economic Empowerment
Sub-Theme:	Supporting Rural Women

- Many rural Algerian women work as agricultural labourers, cultivating vegetable gardens and selling their produce; others have their own small businesses.
- Multiple challenges to their economic empowerment include limited education, inequality and discrimination in terms of property rights and access to resources, and a disproportionate burden from time-consuming household chores, such as carrying water and collecting firewood. This programme seeks to promote rural women's economic empowerment through various agricultural activities to improve their livelihoods, building on a previous programme funded by the FGE. It targets rural women, agricultural workers, female heads of households, widows, socially disadvantaged women and others in the Bordj Bou Arreridj region. Income-generating activities will be encouraged through microloans for women trained on business skills, with networks and cooperatives among rural women entrepreneurs formed to provide ongoing support. Awareness-raising and advocacy efforts will sensitize local authorities and communities on the contributions of women to sustainable development and their communities, and engage men and boys as partners for change.

Egypt

Awarded Grantee:	Association of the Egyptian Female Lawyers (AEFL)
Programme Title:	Enhancing Women's Political Participation
Grant Amount:	US \$ 260,000
Thematic Area:	Women's Political Empowerment
Sub-Theme:	Expanding and Strengthening Women's Leadership

- Women's participation in Egypt's national parliament and local councils is limited by barriers including weak political party support for women candidates, a lack of affirmative measures and male political dominance. The programme seeks to enhance women's political participation and prepare women leaders for the electoral process in disadvantaged areas of eight governorates in Upper and Lower Egypt. It will reach out to women political leaders and aspirants, as well as male politicians, community and traditional leaders, government agencies, rural and indigenous people, people living with disabilities and students. The programme plans to cultivate the skills of young female leaders to campaign in future elections, and to raise awareness of the importance of women's leadership among university students, political parties and national councils. It will engage men as non-traditional partners, and use advocacy and awareness campaigns to mobilize collective efforts encouraging women leaders and politicians. Other interventions will strengthen the knowledge and skills of NGOs to mobilize communities behind women leaders and candidates. Alliance-building and networks in the eight targeted governorates will rally additional support.

Lebanon

Awarded Grantee: الاسرة وتمكين التنمية على للعمل الاسرة تنظيم جمعية - **Lebanon Family Planning Association for Development & Family Empowerment**
 Programme Title: **Promotion of the Economical Status of Rural Women in South Lebanon**
 Grant Amount: **US \$ 255,000**
 Thematic Area: **Women's Economic Empowerment**
 Sub-Theme: **Supporting Rural Women**

Economic instability has a particularly adverse impact on women in Lebanon. Their unemployment rate is higher than that of men, and the gap between economically active women and men is substantial—21.1 per cent for women compared to 66.9 per cent for men. Women are eager to become more active in the labour force, despite the challenges they encounter. The programme will assist young female entrepreneurs in rural areas to improve their productivity, as well as control over and access to economic resources. It plans to assist existing cooperatives to become profitable, sustainable organizations better equipped to attract resources and compete in different markets. Capitalizing on present networks, it aims to foster collective strength in tackling economic challenges. Trainings will help women improve production and sales, and use information and communication technologies to boost access to information and markets, including through an e-marketing portal. A permanent market to be established in Beirut will link women producers to different national and regional outlets, creating new market connections and income opportunities. Microloans will expand financial support for beneficiaries, while media campaigns will raise awareness about women's microenterprises. Close coordination with municipalities will back a common community agenda for key women's issues.

State of Palestine

Awarded Grantee: نابلس - الأمهات مدرسة جمعية - **Mother's School Society - Nablus**
 Programme Title: **Empower Women for Their Dignity and Future**
 Grant Amount: **US \$ 200,000**
 Thematic Area: **Women's Economic Empowerment**
 Sub-Theme: **Promoting Legislative and Policy Change**

In the northern West Bank of the State of Palestine, serious violations of women's labour rights occur, particularly in the private sector. These relate to low wages, long working hours, sexual harassment and more. This programme focuses on five low-wage professions that employ 60 per cent of all working women and have higher incidences of violations—women working in sewing workshops and kindergartens, and as secretaries and administrative assistants, shopkeepers and domestic workers. Women most vulnerable to exploitation include those with disabilities, widows and women heads of household. The programme will help forge a coalition of empowered community-based organizations to lobby for improved working conditions for women and directly address grievances with employers. It will advocate revising legal frameworks to uphold decent work and gender equality in the workplace, while engaging trade unions in dialogues about women's labour rights. Public outreach will help raise awareness on persistent work-related discrimination against women. Mediation techniques will be deployed to resolve workplace disputes, including through local communal mediation units involving different stakeholders and community leaders that operate outside usually prolonged and expensive judiciary channels.

Yemen

Awarded Grantee: **Youth Leadership Development Foundation**
 Programme Title: **Women in Politics**
 Grant Amount: **US \$ 259,999**
 Thematic Area: **Women’s Political Empowerment**
 Sub-Theme: **Expanding and Strengthening Women’s Leadership**

- Since Yemen’s 2011 uprising, women there have sought greater involvement in decision-making. Civil society organizations have taken opportunities to
- engage young women by cultivating their leadership and other skills, and encouraging their participation at all levels, aiming to change traditional
- stereotypes that limit women’s roles. The programme seeks to advance women’s active involvement in decision-making in political parties, targeting
- women and men who are parliamentarians and political party activists, as well as community leaders, students and youth. There will be a substantial
- emphasis on engaging male political and community leaders to build a foundation of support for women’s political empowerment. Through training and
- dialogues, political party members will gain theoretical and practical knowledge to develop gender-responsive visions, strategies and policies. Practices
- from parties in Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia will be shared towards creating a regional network for regular exchanges on widening women’s engagement,
- while media campaigns will champion women’s political roles.

Asia and the Pacific

Cambodia

Awarded Grantee: **Banteay Srei - Citadel of Women**
 Programme Title: **Sustainable Economic Empowerment of Cambodian Women (SEECW)**
 Grant Amount: **US \$ 400,000**
 Thematic Area: **Women’s Economic Empowerment**
 Sub-Theme: **Supporting Rural Women**

- In Cambodia, rural women face gender-based discrimination coupled with insufficient social protection. Many lack the knowledge, skills, technology and resources to seize opportunities from a growing demand for sustainable and organic farming. They are vulnerable to rising food prices, natural disasters and land degradation among other issues. When households come under stress, women are more susceptible to gender-based violence while girls are more likely to drop out of school. The programme focuses on increasing women’s economic opportunities, access to natural resources and control over household finances, and building their resilience to climate change and natural disasters. It will reach out to rural women, including those with additional vulnerabilities related to disability, their role as heads of households or domestic violence. Income-generating activities will cultivate skills and confidence, and increase employment options. Development of women’s capacities and leadership skills will contribute to broader social change and community development, as will the engagement of men and boys in supporting women’s economic empowerment.

Nepal (Regional)

Awarded Grantee: **Feminist Dalit Organisation**
 Programme Title: **Strengthening Policies and Budgets for Dalit Women’s Economic Rights in South Asia**
 Countries: **Nepal, Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka**
 Grant Amount: **US \$ 400,000**
 Thematic Area: **Women’s Economic Empowerment**
 Sub-Theme: **Promoting Legislative and Policy Change**

- Caste-based discrimination affects over 260 million people globally, especially in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Among the "Dalits" (formerly “untouchables”), women face a triple burden of discrimination based on their class, caste and gender. The programme seeks to empower them through strengthening regional and national policy and budgetary frameworks to advance their economic rights. It will operate in four countries—Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka—and engage with civil society activists, parliamentarians and media personnel. Activities will involve training and capacity building, provision of employment opportunities and the promotion of women’s entrepreneurship. The programme intends to build Dalit women’s capacities to participate in developing policies and programmes geared towards the empowerment of the Dalit community, and to focus public attention on the urgent need to take measures to protect their rights. It will forge non-traditional partnerships with men and boys to accelerate women’s economic empowerment.

Philippines

Awarded Grantee: Atikha Overseas Workers and Communities Initiatives Inc.
Programme Title: Coming Home: Reintegration Program for Domestic Workers from the Philippines
Grant Amount: US \$ 399,925
Thematic Area: Women’s Economic Empowerment
Sub-Theme: Fostering Entrepreneurship

Many Filipino women seek economic opportunities as migrant domestic workers across Asia and the Middle East. With low social status, they are vulnerable to physical, psychological and sexual abuse, and experience multiple forms of discrimination. Upon returning to the Philippines, they can face various challenges, including difficulties reintegrating after long years of separation, estranged relationships with children and spouses, a lack of savings, limited employment opportunities and inadequate support systems to facilitate reintegration. The programme will seek to empower women domestic migrant workers before, during and after migration. Partnerships with multiple stakeholders will propel policy advocacy at the national and local level for establishing comprehensive reintegration programmes, while the programme will assist domestic migrant workers and their families with psychosocial, financial and technical preparation for reintegration. It intends to build migrant women’s entrepreneurial skills and financial literacy, and use income-generating activities to expand economic opportunities that are not only profitable but support fair trade and environmental principles. Networks between migrant organizations will facilitate information exchange, including with respect to available services and governmental programmes to enable reintegration.

Samoa

Awarded Grantee: Samoa Victim Support Group
Programme Title: Economic Empowerment of Women Married into a Village in Rural Samoa
Grant Amount: US \$ 200,000
Thematic Area: Women’s Economic Empowerment
Sub-Theme: Ensuring Decent Work and Social Protection

In Samoa, when women marry into a different village and live with their in-laws, they are known as nofotane. With an inferior social status, many are vulnerable to domestic violence or exploitation. Nofotane women are often “hired” by their husband’s extended family to work as domestic servants. Since Samoan law currently does not recognize the rights of these informal workers, many end up working in poor conditions without financial remuneration. Discriminatory gender norms compound their marginalization, since they lack awareness of employment rights and opportunities, and they often lack decision-making power both at the family and village level. The programme plans to empower nofotane domestic workers by strengthening their understanding of their rights and advocating for formal recognition of their work. Other forms of economic empowerment will come through training nofotane who have survived violence on environmentally sustainable livelihoods, with an emphasis on agricultural crop diversity and increased resilience to natural disasters and climate change. Other activities will raise awareness about the importance and benefits of rural women’s active participation in matters of governance and the protection of their labour rights, aiming for community recognition of the equal value of the work performed by rural women. To shift discriminatory attitudes, the programme will engage men and boys as well as community leaders in dialogue geared towards broader support for women’s economic and political empowerment.

Europe and Central Asia

Albania

Awarded Grantee: Association for Women with Social Problems
Programme Title: Women Rights - From Concept to Albanian Reality
Grant Amount: US \$ 200,000
Thematic Area: Women’s Political Empowerment
Sub-Theme: Expanding and Strengthening Women’s Leadership

• In Albania, despite the establishment of gender equality frameworks and institutional mechanisms to promote women’s rights, implementation has been limited. A commitment to implement UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, for instance, has not been widely shared with the public or carried forward through development of a National Action Plan. The programme aims to enhance women’s participation in the peace-building process by encouraging the development of the plan. It seeks to strengthen the capacities of women’s organizations to actively engage in protecting women’s rights and monitoring the compliance of national legislation with international human rights principles. Through unified advocacy and awareness-raising, these groups can press for full compliance with resolution 1325. The programme will engage with men and women, including from marginalized and vulnerable backgrounds, community-based groups, civil society activists, government representatives and media personnel.

Armenia

Awarded Grantee: Green Lane Agricultural Assistance NGO
Programme Title: Economic Empowerment of Rural Women Groups through Capacity Building
Grant Amount: US \$ 315,000
Thematic Area: Women’s Economic Empowerment
Sub-Theme: Supporting Rural Women

• Armenian women have prominent roles in agriculture, but earn approximately 30 per cent less than male farmers, due to a lack of resources, technology and knowledge, and the use of traditional agricultural practices associated with subsistence farming. Social, cultural and economic challenges include higher levels of poverty, unemployment and food insecurity among women. The programme seeks to improve livelihoods and reduce poverty levels in 15 communities by increasing rural women’s skills and productivity in sustainable and organic farming, working through already established women’s farmer groups. Participating rural women will learn to incorporate more natural and environmentally friendly agricultural practices to improve the quality and quantity of their yields, and will increase the marketability of their products through new marketing channels. By strengthening these women farmers’ groups, the programme also seeks to enhance the role of women in community-level decision-making processes and foster increased awareness of the needs and priorities of rural women among local authorities.

Turkey

Awarded Grantee: **AÇEV - Mother Child Education Foundation**
 Programme Title: **Politics for Women: Empowerment through Representation (POWER) Project**
 Grant Amount: **US \$ 355,000**
 Thematic Area: **Women’s Political Empowerment**
 Sub-Theme: **Expanding and Strengthening Women’s Leadership**

- In Turkey, challenges to women’s political participation are particularly acute at the local level. Women remain underrepresented in key local government
- processes—particularly women at lower levels of socio-economic development and education. Less than 40 per cent of Turkish women above 15 years of
- age hold a literacy certificate or primary school diploma. Among socially disadvantaged women, the rate of illiteracy or low education is even higher, which
- results in their exclusion from many spheres, including political ones. The programme seeks to support young socially disadvantaged women in four cities
- to claim their civil and political rights, and encourage them to participate in important local decision-making mechanisms. Through trainings and
- workshops, women will acquire literacy skills and knowledge to exercise their political and civil rights, as well as greater self-confidence and guidance on
- their continued education. The process will also encourage some marginalized women to become more engaged in social and political discussions, and
- eventually to take part in local decision-making spaces. Outreach to men and boys will further mobilize support for women’s continued education and
- participation in all realms of public life.