**Moldova**

Maia Taran, 38, lives in Firladeni, a village in the south of Moldova. She suffered from domestic violence for over 10 years until a nurse took her to the women’s shelter in Causeni. “I got psychological support, I learned about the laws that can protect me, how to manage my own money and become financially independent.” Taran has become a “positive champion” and helps other women survivors to speak out and seek help. With Denmark’s support, UN Women is helping survivors like Maia to empower almost 600 women in their communities.

“There was an entire team of professionals who understood what I had gone through, and other survivors.”

– Maia Taran

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**Nepal**

Sita Shrestha, 19, walked miles before school each morning to fetch water for her family. Water shortage has always been one of the biggest problems in the village of Chilaune, Nepal, and after the 2015 earthquake many of the water spouts dried up. Shrestha took part in a two-day training on leadership organized by SAATHI, a women’s group supported by UN Women. Following this, she helped construct a tap and organize villagers to turn a natural water source into a shared public space. “The training and this project have been a life altering experience. I have become more confident, have started thinking about how else I can help my community and plan for the future,” says Shrestha. “Nobody, especially not women and school-going children, should have to walk for hours for water.”

– Sita Shrestha

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**IMPACT STORIES**

*Banner photo: © UN Women/Anastasia Tiurmenko*

*Above left: © UN Women/Marina Vatav; above right: UN Women/N. Shrestha*
Ethiopia

Birtukan Fekadu, 22, is a farmer in Yayagulele, Oromia region of Ethiopia. Fekadu and her husband struggled to find a way to support themselves until she joined a women’s savings and credit cooperative, supported by UN Women. Through the cooperative, she learned about agriculture productivity, business skills, leadership and women’s rights, and received a small loan. Now she earns enough to feed her family, and no longer worries about money to send her son to school. “For me, even the ability to go out, work outside the house and be an active member of a women’s working group is new, and it means a lot,” says Fekadu.

Mali

Haidara Djeneba Sy, is a religious woman leader from Yirimadio, Mali. Sy preaches and educates women and men about women’s rights, and fights to combat the radicalization of youth in her community. In May 2016, she became the first woman Vice President of the National Network of Malian Muslim Youth (UJMMA). UN Women in Mali works with UJMMA on peace-building initiatives and supported the Third National Forum of UJMMA, which included a special session on Muslim women’s roles in fighting religious extremism.

“As women of faith, as leaders, we must persevere and advocate for our rights.”
— Haidara Djeneba Sy

“Not only did we have no money to buy food with, we didn’t know how to change that.”
— Birtukan Fekadu

Photos: above left: UN Women/Coumba Bah; above right: UN Women