Mozambique

Maira Assane Amade, from Lumbo, Ilha de Mozambique, joined the Rapariga Biz Joint Programme in 2017. The programme aims to improve girls and young women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as increase livelihood opportunities through skills trainings. “Me and my partner had separated, I lived with my father and stepmother. I raised two children by myself, fought to get back to school, and I had no regular means of income. I was completely dependent on my father, until one day a mentor from the Rapariga Biz programme approached me and asked if I would be interested in joining the project. I was! says Amade of her experience. “Today, I have a steady salary, I can pay for my children’s school fees, and provide for myself and my children.”

Liberia

E. Wilkins Nah is a public prosecutor at the front line of the fight against sexual and gender-based violence in Liberia. “When I took over as [Prosecutor] in Bong County, I had no understanding of how to deal with cases of rape or other cases on violence against women because I had never been trained in this area,” he says. “After I received training sessions through UN Women […] I became aware of the ethical principles of dealing with cases of violence against women.” Wilkins Nah received training through the Joint Programme on Sexual Gender-based Violence and Harmful Traditional Practices.

“I work in construction, I am living my dream!”

– Maira Assane Amade

“We need men who will stand up for the rights of women and girls.”

– E. Wilkins Nah
Colombia

Deyanira Cordoba is part of the Empowerment of Women Coffee Growers of Tablon de Gomez project under UN Women’s economic empowerment programme in Colombia. “I joined the project last year, and since then I have learned the value of women. I used to have a low self-esteem before, but not anymore. I have learned to be comfortable in my own body,” says Cordoba of her experience. “It’s not just men who can do business. We women can make and achieve our own goals.”

“My dream is to become a coffee entrepreneur and help my parents and my community.”  
— Deyanira Cordoba

Moldova

Victoria Danila, 34, is an entrepreneur from Chisinau, the capital of Moldova, who designs clothes and other products tailored to the needs of premature babies with her brand Davitex Neo. She participated in UN Women’s Start-up Academy in Moldova, financed by Sweden, which aimed to encourage women to become innovative entrepreneurs in technology. Together with 200 women, she received business management skills and exchanged experience with successful business leaders, specifically in information and technology. “I attended many seminars, trainings and workshops that gave me the opportunity to know more about how to develop a business, about management, sales and other business processes,” says Danila about her time with the academy.

“A woman brings added value to business because she focuses on social responsibility.”  
— Victoria Danila