

GUINEA

SUPPORTING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY IN FRAGILE STATES

RESEARCH BRIEF



CHANGING WITH THE TIMES

Most [Official Development Assistance] to gender equality in fragile situations goes to education and health; financing gaps remain in the peace and security sector and in economic and productive sectors. Integrating a gender perspective ... does produce better peacebuilding and statebuilding outcomes.

It makes state institutions more inclusive, enhances state legitimacy, fosters justice and security, and helps to unlock women's potential to contribute to economic recovery Donors could also further invest in dedicated gender equality programmes.

OECD, States of Fragility: Meeting Post-2015 Ambitions (1)

43%

of the world's people who live in severe poverty today are located in fragile States. Among them, women, youth and children account for over 70 percent.

2015 marked a turning point for the international community with the global adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The stand-alone goal on gender equality (SDG5) is a major step forward, as are gender indicators linked to the other 16 SDGs.

Yet overcoming today's challenges will require more than law and policy commitments. Real change requires sophisticated tools and innovative strategies that accelerate women's empowerment, and enable men and women to work together towards growth, recovery and collective well-being.

Closing gender gaps and eliminating inequality upholds women's rights, and leads to more cohesive societies

and robust economies. This is especially true in fragile States, home to 43 percent of people living in severe poverty (2). Among them, women, youth and children account for over 70 percent (3).

Given significant knowledge gaps on women's aspirations, needs, and contributions in fragile States, the following research aims to offer a more nuanced analysis of the opportunities available to women.

It also recommends steps to help development partners and local communities tackle some of the most urgent barriers to gender equality and inclusive development.

LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE

The FGE has awarded grants to 50 programmes in fragile States since 2009, including:

27 Political empowerment programmes

23 Economic empowerment programmes

In seven years, UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality (FGE) and its grantee-partners have developed strategies for making gender equality and women's empowerment programming smarter and more responsive to national and local needs.

With 63 grantee organizations operating in 30 of the 50 countries considered fragile by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (4), the FGE has conducted research based on case studies in Guinea, Lebanon and Sudan to help development practitioners understand:

- Empowerment as a suite of capabilities that together lead individuals and communities towards greater resilience, recovery and security
- The urgent need for more gender-responsive policies, services and gender disaggregated data, particularly at the sub-national level
- The gender dimensions of fragility specific to different places and contexts



"If God helps us earn money in the production [of moringa] we can then help our village and do other things as well so that when other people come here and we start living together and helping each other it will bring us happiness. That is what we will do at our village for ourselves. If God helps us we will build a hospital here just like in the capital."

Aissta Keita,
Moringa cooperative President, Kapkin locality

PORTFOLIO OF FGE GRANTS IN FRAGILE STATES* 2009-2016

\$25

million in grants to fragile States

50

gender equality and women's empowerment programmes

63

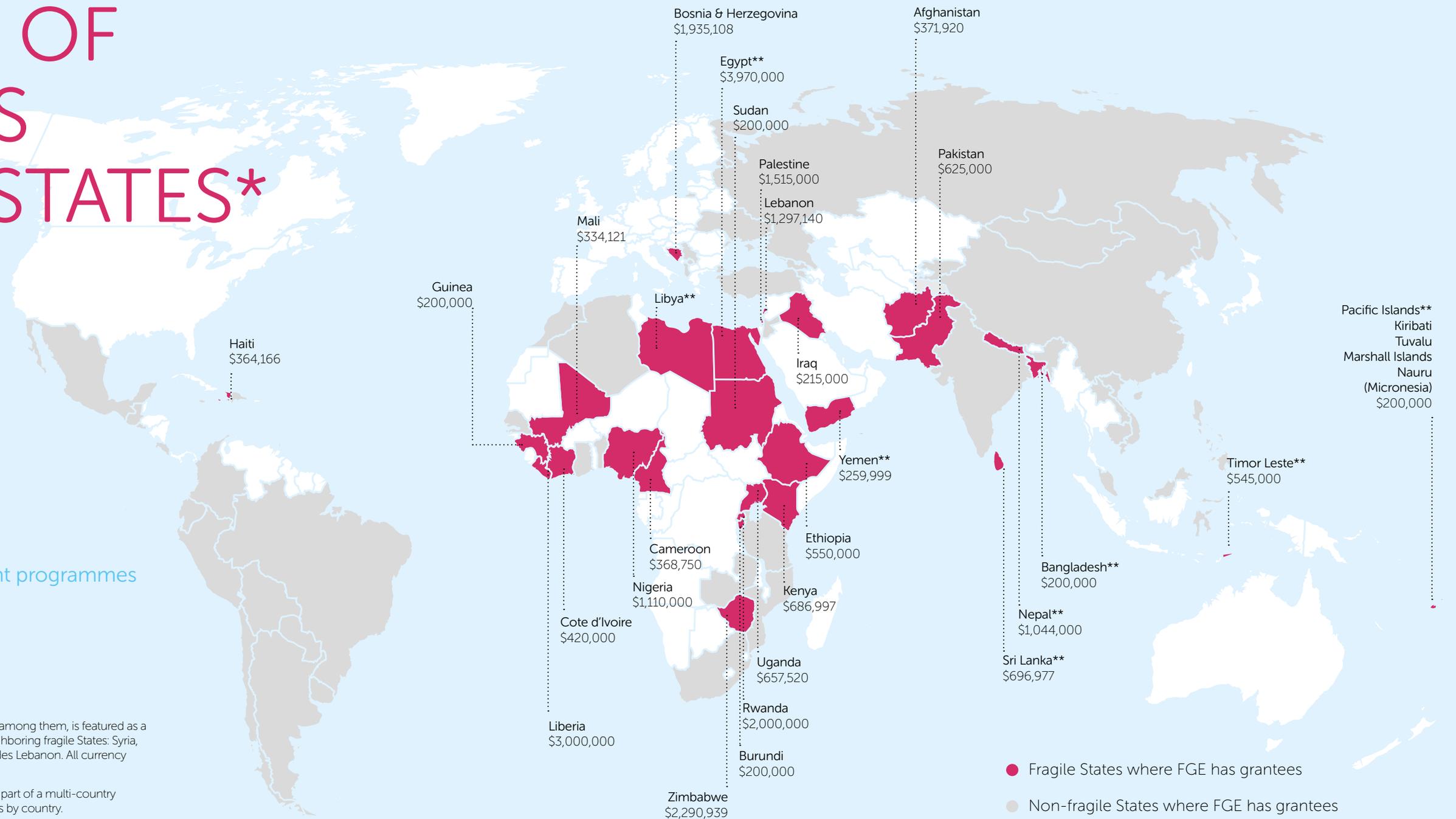
civil society organizations

31

fragile States

* This map is based on OECD's 2015 list of fragile States. Lebanon, while not listed among them, is featured as a case study in this series for its role in managing ongoing emergencies in three neighboring fragile States: Syria, Iraq, and Palestine. For the purpose of this series only, the term fragile States includes Lebanon. All currency values are US\$.

**States in which grantee civil society organizations have received an FGE grant as part of a multi-country programme. See Annex A for a full list of awarded organizations and grant amounts by country.



- Fragile States where FGE has grantees
- Non-fragile States where FGE has grantees

KEY RESEARCH LESSONS LEARNED

STRENGTHEN LINKAGES

between normative commitments and gender equality programme interventions; between humanitarian response and longer term recovery efforts



CONTEXT MATTERS

for understanding the gender dimensions of fragility and the relevant opportunities worth seizing



MAKE PROGRAMMING SMARTER

by building on successes and lessons learned to scale up projects and achieve greater impact



LEVERAGE WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

to harness the full power of response and recovery interventions for gains that empower whole communities



GENDER EQUALITY IS A STRATEGY

not a boutique issue for women and girls; it can be used to transform the position and capacities of all people seeking real change



LOCALIZE GOOD PRACTICES

as pathways towards recovery and prosperity using area-based research, knowledge exchange and partnerships

GENDER DIMENSIONS OF FRAGILITY

In 2015, the OECD introduced a new framework for understanding fragility which aligns with the SDGs. Its report, *States of Fragility: Meeting Post-2015 Ambitions*, outlines five broad, overlapping dimensions that weaken national and local capacities to thrive and recover from shocks (5).

They include:

- Economic foundations
- Capacity to adapt to social, economic and environmental shocks and disasters
- Effective, accountable and inclusive institutions

- Violence and peaceful societies
- Access to justice for all

Focusing primarily on economic dimensions, the FGE's research explores:

- How programmes supported by the FGE use gender equality and women's empowerment strategies to strengthen resilience and counter various gender dimensions of fragility, and
- Key gaps and entry points for strengthening gender equality and women's empowerment interventions to contribute to these goals

This series of research briefs present the findings of the FGE case study research and describe the unique gender dimensions of fragility addressed by FGE grantees in underserved localities of Guinea, Lebanon and Sudan.

Each grantee is using different kinds of empowerment programming to help counter fragility by strengthening women's position, opportunities and participation in all areas of life.

COUNTERING FRAGILITY THROUGH EMPOWERMENT

To make gender equality and women's empowerment programming in fragile States smarter and more targeted to women's real needs, the FGE research defines a framework for empowerment based on four components, as detailed on pages 12-13:

- productive resources
- institutional relations
- personal resources
- interpersonal relations

Together, the four components increase individuals' influence over

economic structures and decisions that shape their lives by:

- Expanding their agency to make and influence decisions at all levels
- Enabling them to enjoy greater command of and control over resources

While the FGE continues to support programmes that use mixed-gender empowerment strategies, this research series attempts to better understand the unique barriers and opportunities for women's empowerment in fragile States worldwide, using all four components as areas for investigation.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT FRAMEWORK

FGE's empowerment framework helps programme practitioners approach women's needs as more than just political and economic gains (6). Needs also include improved capabilities, opportunities and relationships as part of an engaged and empowered life.

The four components of empowerment include:

● PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES

interventions that improve access and control over the inputs needed for sustainable income generation and safe, secure livelihoods.

● INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

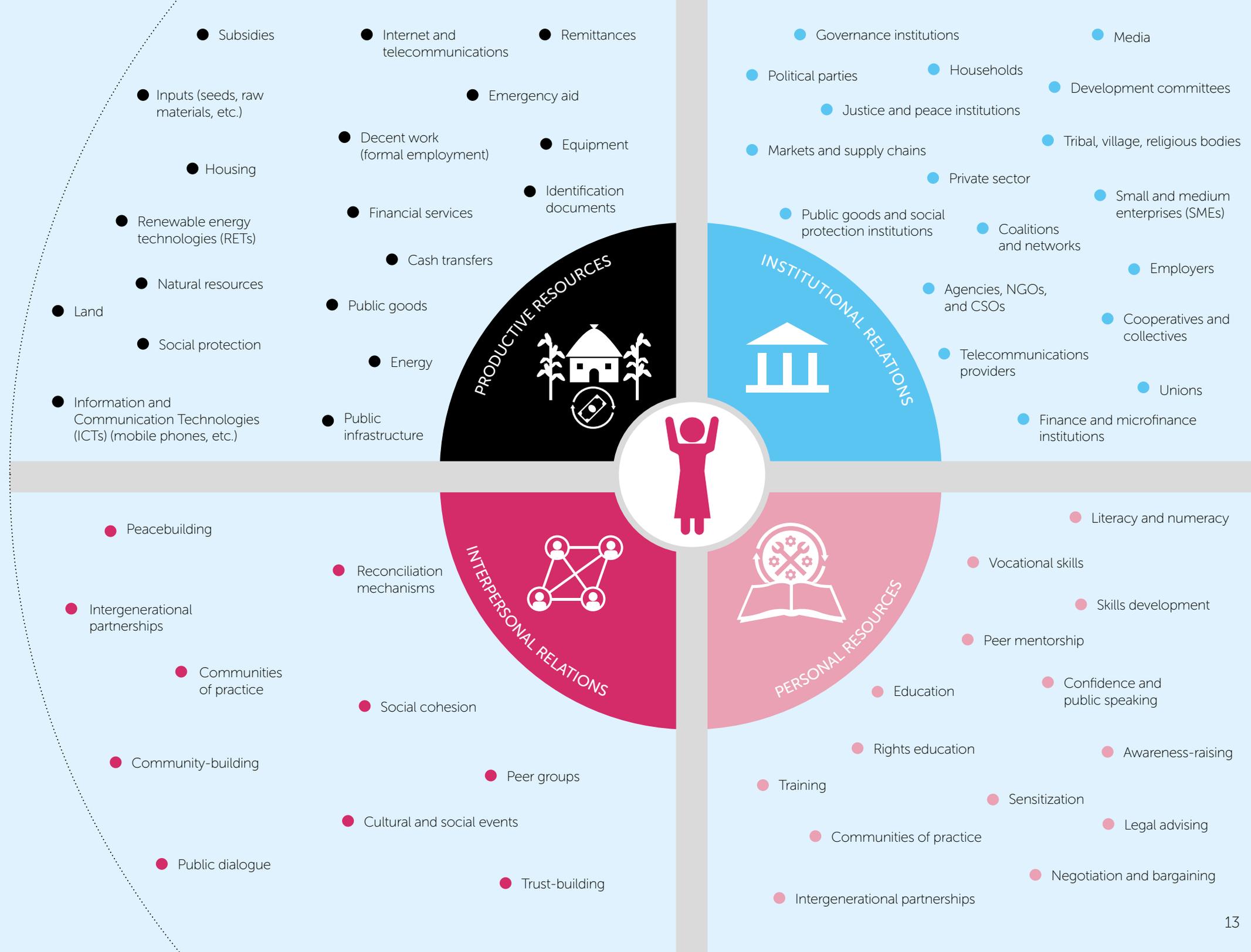
interventions that strengthen relations and commitments between individuals and the formal and informal institutions that shape their lives and opportunities.

● PERSONAL RESOURCES

interventions that increase and expand life skills, knowledge and information, social capital, and opportunities for confidence, agency and collective action.

● INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS

interventions that improve and expand relationships between individuals and communities, and help shift norms and expectations about the roles people can play in society.



REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

73%

Percentage of Guinea's total population living in multidimensional poverty (7). Among them, 17 percent were targeted for humanitarian assistance in 2015 (8).

Guinea is one of three West African States hit hardest by the Ebola outbreak of 2013. It continues to face severely low levels of social, economic and institutional development. These leave it highly vulnerable to poverty and weak public services delivery, particularly education, health, energy and food.

Women and girls living on Guinea's mainland are deeply affected by a host of threats that constrain their social and economic participation, most notably Ebola and HIV/AIDS. Chronic malnutrition, seasonal food insecurity and high infant mortality are also prevalent throughout the country's rural areas (9).

Far from the political tensions that have destabilized Conakry and other urban areas in recent years, the Tristão Islands remain largely isolated from mainland life.

The Islands' main vulnerabilities stem from the lack of public goods and institutions, seasonal food insecurity and potential climate shocks in an area dependent on marine reserves and other natural resources for secure livelihoods.

AT A GLANCE



4th

most gender unequal African State (10)

9th

smallest economy in Africa US \$6.6 billion (11)

66%

women's labour force participation rate [Men's rate: 78%] (12)

US\$ 460

Gross National Income (GNI) per capita (13)

RESEARCH METHODS

282

adult women were surveyed in five localities of Tristão Islands: Katfoura, Kapkin, Kadignet, Katchek and Kasmack.

For this brief on Guinea, UN Women's FGE partnered with Partenariat - Recherches - Environnement - Médias (PREM), a grantee organization based in Conakry, Guinea.

With support from PREM and Guinea-based research consultants, the FGE:

- Undertook desk research and data gathering
- Reviewed grantee reporting documents
- Commissioned an area-based gender research report
- Conducted survey and focus group interviews with 282 adult women in five localities of Tristão Islands.

Localities were selected given their proximity to the PREM programme.

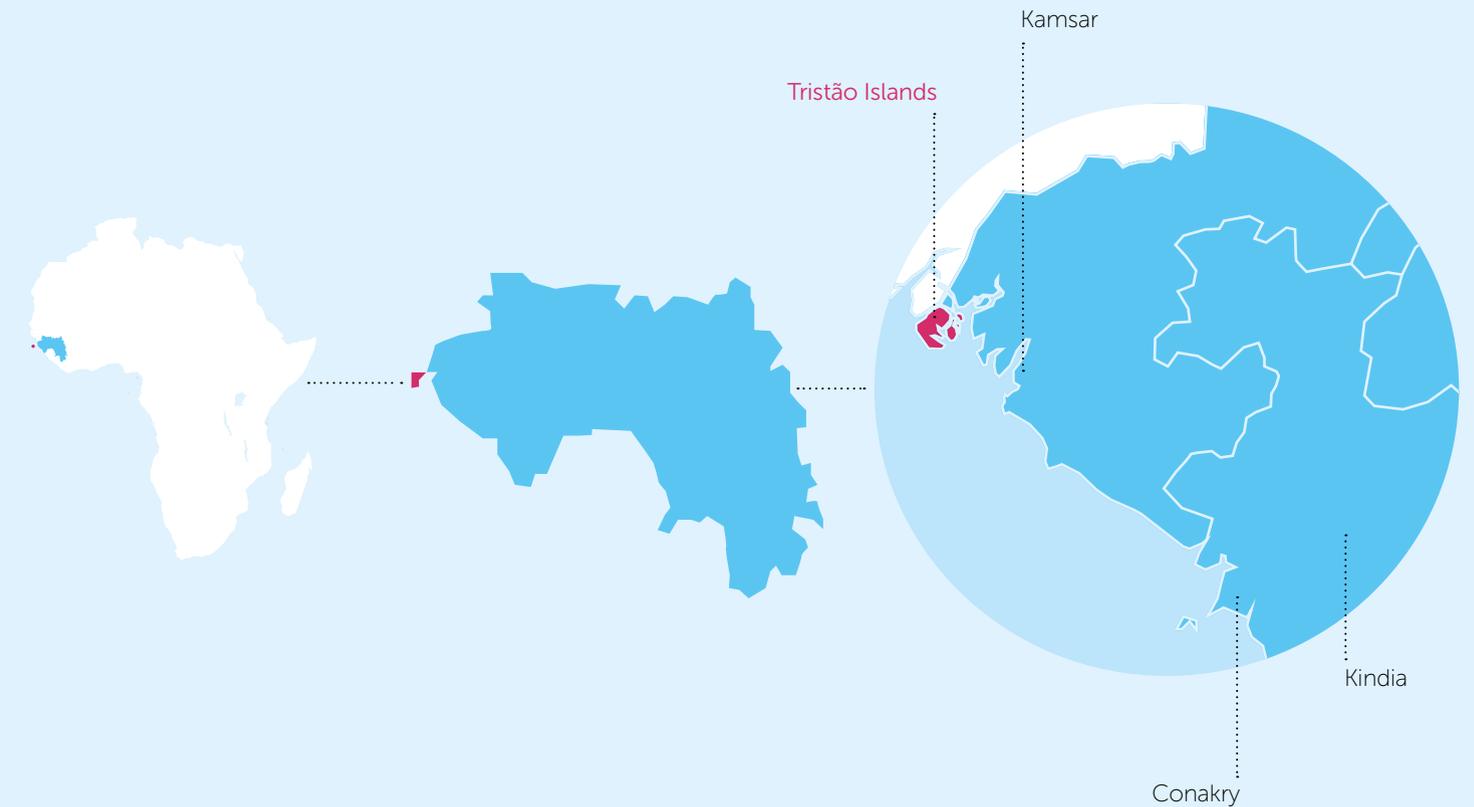
Communities and individual respondents were chosen using random sampling techniques. The surveyed sample included both programme beneficiaries [200] and non-beneficiaries [82].

A 17-question perceptions survey was developed collaboratively from FGE HQ and administered in Soussou, Nalou and French languages by a local research team in August and September 2015.

The survey and area-based research findings are presented under the four components of empowerment: productive resources, personal resources, institutional relations and interpersonal relations.

All data are based on material uniquely produced for this series unless otherwise noted.

TRISTÃO ISLANDS, GUINEA



GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT:

PARTENARIAT - RECHERCHES - ENVIRONNEMENT - MÉDIAS (PREM)



PREM received an FGE empowerment grant of US \$200,000 in 2012 to implement a programme on renewable energy technologies for sustainable livelihoods with women fishers, farmers and dried food producers in Guinea's remote Tristão Islands.

PREM helped organize and register four women's cooperatives with Government offices on the mainland. It also coordinated a locally-owned training programme, teaching over 300 Tristão Islands women to plant,

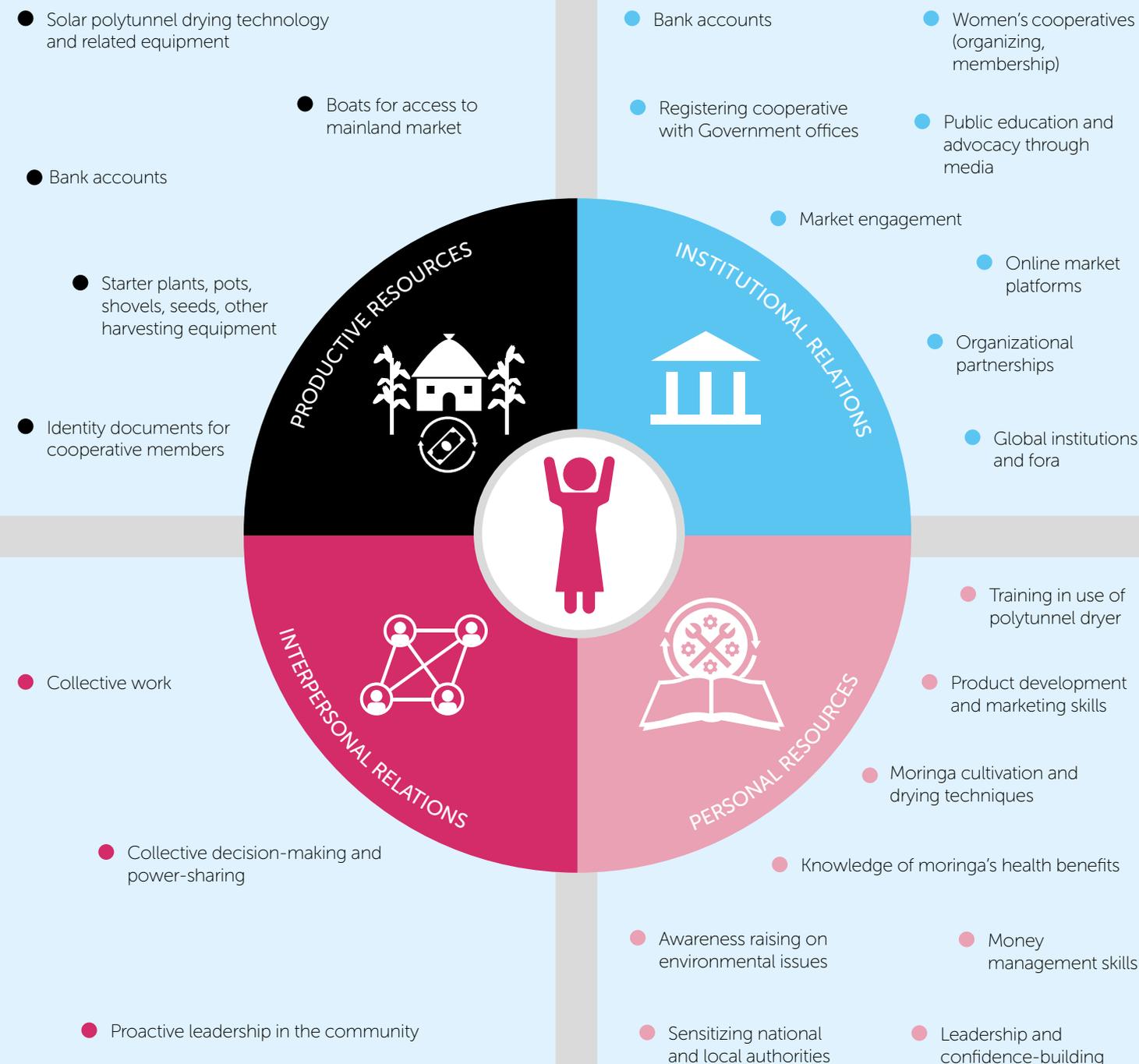
grow, harvest, clean, dry, produce and package goods made from the highly nutritious moringa plant.

By installing and training local women in the use of solar polytunnel dryers, local communities have gained direct access to an efficient and cost-effective energy source that enables them to transform moringa, fish, fruits and nuts into marketable dried food products.

Adding to the benefits of 25,000 new moringa trees planted by

local women since 2013, PREM's installation of polytunnel dryers has helped reduce local greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 40 tonnes per year (14).

The Women's Empowerment Framework on page 19 outlines where PREM's programme interventions have helped strengthen the local conditions and opportunities for women's empowerment in each of the four areas.





"When we have a lot of moringa we cannot sell it all on our own. There must be someone to help us."

Aissta Keita,
Moringa cooperative President, Kapkin locality

WHAT IS MORINGA?



Watch the FGE's 4-minute video about the women moringa producers of Guinea's Tristão Islands: www.unwomen.org/fge

Moringa is a resilient, drought-resistant, nutrient-rich tree that grows well in dry and tropical climates. It has a long history of traditional use as a food staple in rural areas and as a medicinal remedy throughout West Africa, South Asia and the Americas.

Consumed as a powder, tea, paste or sauce over fish or rice, moringa has been associated with high levels of vitamin C and over 300 medicinal benefits, including a 96 percent reduction of bacteria when its seeds are added to water supply (15).

In recent years, global demand for moringa has been on the rise, as have its market prices.

Moringa supports biodiversity by keeping soils rich with nutrients and moisture, and serves as a reliable food source, insensitive to changes in the environment.

Prior to the PREM programme, Tristão Islands communities used moringa mainly as a dietary complement. Learning to plant, grow, harvest, wash and dry, and package new moringa products through the programme's trainings has created new economic opportunities for local women.

Yet there is still room to improve women's packaging and pricing know-how, and a need to fine-tune their negotiating skills and knowledge of local, national, and regional moringa markets, supply chains and mass distributors.

The women's cooperatives organized by PREM are eager to master these next steps and increase their income earning potential.

RESEARCH FINDINGS



KEY FINDINGS SUMMARY

● Productive resources

82

Women's unpaid time burdens are significant. Local women said they spend an average of 82 hours per week on unpaid household-related activities such as child care, cooking, cleaning, wood and water fetching and so on.

43%

Women want more and better opportunities for paid work and income generation. Only two out of three women (43 percent) said they had been paid for their work within the previous month, despite working long hours on household activities and subsistence farming.

68%

Women's lack of identity documents is an economic barrier. At least two out of three women (68 percent) said they do not possess identity documents, which can prevent them from acquiring loans, opening a bank account or claiming social protection from administrative offices on Guinea's mainland.

57%

Women show some readiness to engage in mobile financial services. Nearly three out of five women (57 percent) said they are currently using mobile phones, and many expressed an interest in decentralized savings and loan services which would eliminate the need for face-to-face interaction with mainland banking institutions.

25,000

Women take pride in helping to restore their natural environment. Some 25,000 moringa and amaranth trees have been planted by local women's cooperatives who are motivated to promote biodiversity, improve community health and ensure sustainable incomes.

● Institutional relations

57%

Women feel mainland authorities do not understand their economic needs. Nearly three out of five women (57 percent) said mainland authorities do not understand their economic needs, in particular their need for public goods such as health, education and energy services.

26%

Women are more satisfied with their influence over economic decisions in the household than in the community. Whereas more than three out of five women (65 percent) said they are very satisfied with their decision-making influence in the household, only 48 percent said the same of their influence over community level economic decisions – a satisfaction gap of 26 percent.

● Personal resources

300

Women want improved market skills and knowledge to help them access and navigate markets better. Over 300 rural women received vocational training in moringa production, but many said their market-oriented skills are still too weak to sell the products effectively. As women's production skills improve, their demand for complementary market skills also grows: product development, pricing and knowledge of supply chains.

95%

Women show a high demand for literacy and numeracy training. An overwhelming majority – 95 percent – of women said they are not at all satisfied with their current ability to read and write. Many said investing in education for themselves and their children is an economic priority.

● Interpersonal relations

98%

Women are taking action to help communities adapt and respond to a changing environment. Whereas less than two percent of local women said conflict is an issue of importance, 98 percent said changes to the natural environment over the previous 10 years have greatly affected their lives and increased concern about the sustainability and security of their fragile coastal area.



PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES

82

Average number of hours women said they spend on unpaid household activities each week.

Time burden

- Respondents said they spend an estimated 70 to 100 hours per week on unpaid household activities – the equivalent of nearly two full-time jobs, according to international standards (16).
- As household managers, local women invest significant time in unpaid household activities: child care, cooking, laundry and cleaning, water and wood fetching, and caring for family members and livestock.
- Time spent on unpaid household work reduces time for other activities, such as to earn income, improve education, engage in the community, participate in political activities and so on. This dynamic is sometimes referred to as “time poverty.”
- Because cooking and laundry require a fuel source and/or water, they impose double burdens on women and girls, who are primarily responsible for fetching wood, charcoal and water.



"In our village ... there is a lot of unpaid work ... that the women do each day. The exploitation of the palm trees is unpaid, removing the garbage is unpaid. Ploughing the fields ... washing the kids and ... cleaning the house, all is unpaid."

Foulematou Keita,
Moringa cooperative President, Katfoura locality

35%

Percentage of women who said access to a loan would greatly improve their income generation opportunities. The same percentage said it would not increase their opportunities at all.

Credit and savings

- The Tristão Islands have no formal lending institutions, so all borrowing and lending is very small in scale, usually through local *tontine* or *sere* collectives.
- Many women said they are afraid to accept credit from an institution due to unpredictable terms, lack of a guarantor, short repayment periods, high interest rates and uncertain collection methods. Most said they would need to get permission from their husband or father to take a loan, since it would need to be registered in his name. This is especially true for the 68 percent of women who said they do not possess any formal identity documents.
- A majority of women said they would use a loan to invest in small trade of local agricultural products (moringa, rice, palm oil, groundnuts, cassava, etc.) or fish products (fresh or smoked fish, dried oysters). Many were eager to increase their earnings, but felt they needed additional assets, skills and knowledge to do so.

57%

Percentage of women who said they are currently using a mobile phone, but none said they are currently using their phone for mobile funds transfer.

Mobile connectivity

- Telecommunication service on Tristão Islands is limited and varies at different times of day. Given the area's proximity to neighbouring Guinea-Bissau, locals are often more successful picking up connections from networks there.
- Telecommunication companies throughout Africa are offering mobile money transfer services such as Orange Guinée as an alternative to banks. On Guinea's mainland, the closest provider for this service is in the city of Kamsar.
- While transferring money on mobile phones is still unutilized in the Tristão Islands, over 57 percent of women said they currently use a mobile phone.



PROGRAMME LESSON LEARNED

One of PREM's goals has been to support Tristão women to earn and save income on a larger scale than they have been able to achieve as members of local *tontine* or *sere* collectives.

PREM organized over 300 women into four women's cooperatives and registered each cooperative with government offices on the mainland. Because no formal banking or lending institutions operate on the Islands, PREM also opened bank accounts on the mainland for each cooperative, while serving as the guarantor.

This has not had the intended impact, however. Since the bank where the accounts were opened offers no mobile money transfer services, banking requires formal, in person interaction with the banking institution. This intimidates most women. Women have not enjoyed access to funds when they needed them most, and many felt they could not access funds without PREM's accompaniment.



"The [moringa] cooperative is the strength of these women. To put their hands together and help each other. We work and put our money into the bank. Later we will be able to do something with it. When one of us faces a problem, we can help her. That's why we put the money in the bank."

Foulematou Keita,
Moringa cooperative President, Katfoura locality



"It is because of the moringa that we have power [electricity] here now."

Aissta Keita,
Moringa cooperative President, Kapkin locality

1/3

of household incomes are spent on boat rides to the mainland and other energy needs. Wood for cooking, heat and light is typically foraged rather than purchased.

62%

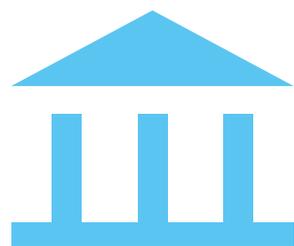
Percentage of women who said membership in a cooperative or collective currently enables them to have access to land.

Energy

- The Tristão Islands are not connected to Guinea's national electricity grid, being powered mainly by wood, charcoal and fuel (as is most of rural Guinea). Wood is foraged on a daily basis, as diesel and kerosene are cost prohibitive for the average local family.
- Most household activities and lighting of community areas after dark demand high levels of unpaid time and labour.
- Since women and girls tend to fetch wood and water, energy concerns are very close to their everyday lives. Many women associated safety concerns to the journey of fetching wood and water, primarily because of the risk of encountering snakes.
- Many women said investing in local energy resources using funds from moringa sales would be a priority for them.

Land and property

- Land ownership is based on tribal affiliation, and it is generally inherited through patriarchal lines. Local women did not appear to perceive land access as a significant economic barrier, stressing their desire to own physical property as a concern of greater importance.
- Women said accessing land and/or credit would improve income generation, but alone would not help them overcome the most urgent barriers: lack of quality seeds and farming equipment, limited access to the plastic sheeting needed for the polytunnel dryers, and a lack of the most critical market opportunities and skills: pricing, packaging and negotiating.
- Women said the goal of owning or controlling more land would be to harvest and sell more of their own products, and to manage and invest their own earnings for the benefit of the larger community.



INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

65%

Household

Percentage of women who said they are very satisfied with their ability to influence decision-making in the household and in the community, respectively.

48%

Community

The household

- The Tristão Islands currently have no formal medical or school facilities. In lieu of public institutions, the household is where children are born and educated, and where family members are treated for illnesses using natural remedies and other traditional methods.
- Households are important social and economic institutions where a strong majority of women perceive themselves as having voice and influence.
- Polygamy is common on the Islands, making the household an extended and sometimes complex institution of not only spousal relationships but also peer-to-peer relationships between co-wives.
- PREM has helped strengthen the lines of communication and action between local households, the newly organised women's cooperatives and governance institutions on the mainland and on the Islands.

57%

Percentage of women who said formal government authorities do not understand their economic needs.

Governance

- The Tristão Islands are isolated from the administrative and governance institutions of mainland Guinea.
- Because local governance is overseen by tribal and village elders, women's cooperatives and interpersonal relationships generally are very important in shaping community decisions and governing social relations.
- To deepen systems of self-governance, PREM helped local women nominate and elect a president and secretary for each women's cooperative. Local village elders could join but not necessarily in a leadership role, a step taken to avoid the automatic reinforcement of existing power structures.
- Only a third (32 percent) of women said they possess official identification, a potential barrier to voting and institutional interactions of any kind on the mainland. Membership in a women's cooperatives offers the added benefit of a formal identification card as a registered cooperative member.

Global and regional advocacy

- In 2015, PREM began participating in regional and international fora as an advocate for gender equal sustainability and renewable energy solutions.
- With technical support from FGE regional staff, PREM attended a regional validation workshop in June 2015 on the policy of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access.
- PREM representatives also attended the United Nations Framework for Climate Change Convention conference (COP21) in Paris in 2015 to receive a Momentum for Change award. It recognized PREM's support in helping local women reforest northern Guinea by planting over 25,000 trees.

43%

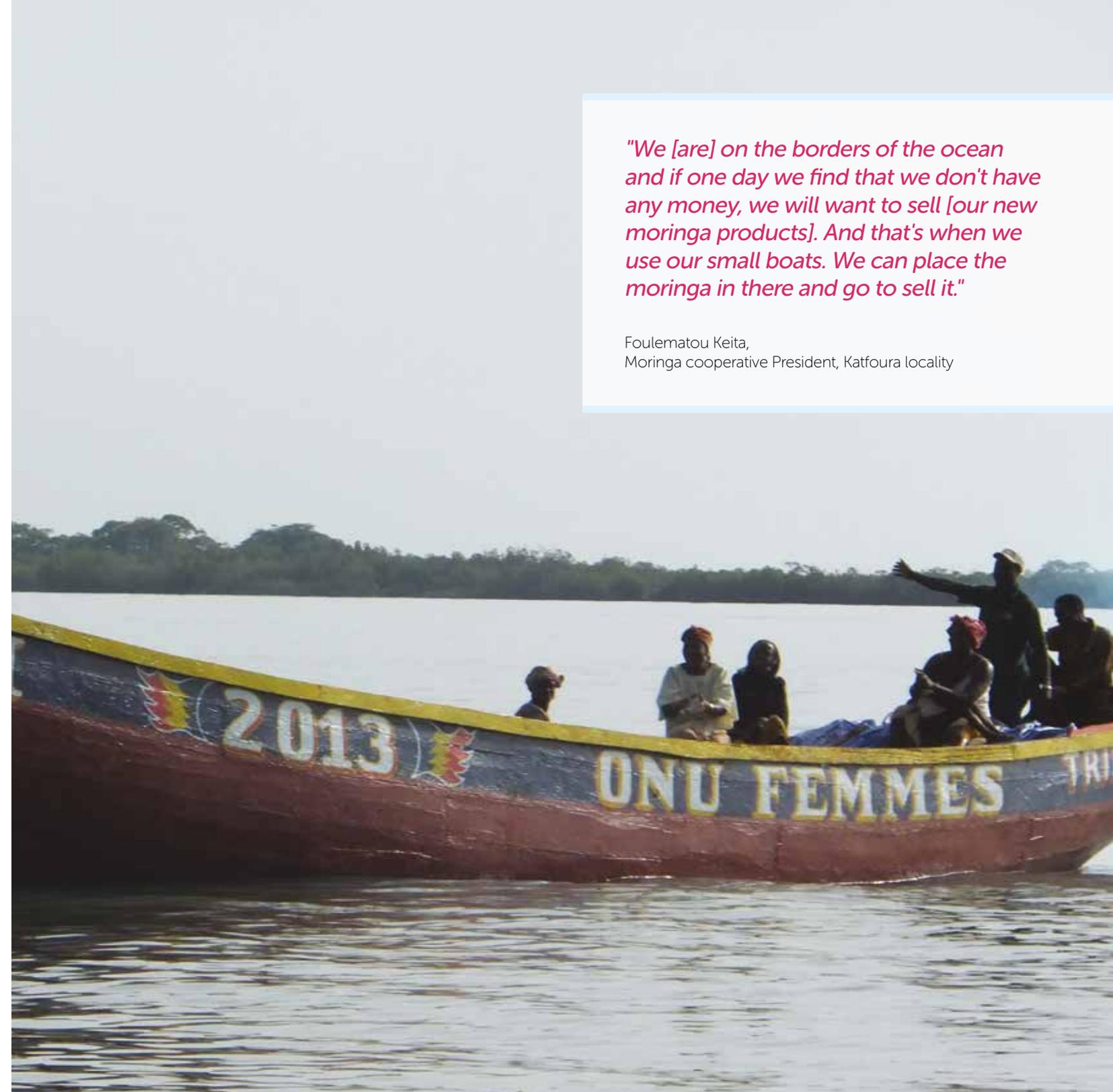
Percentage of women who said they had not been paid for work outside the home within the previous month.

The market

- For Islands communities, accessing markets is a very time and labour intensive undertaking, as the nearest mainland city, Kamsar, is nearly two hours by boat. Women and men traders plan for days before loading their sellable products—including livestock and bulk packages of dried goods—onto small wooden boats and head to the mainland. If fuel for motorized boat travel is cost prohibitive, they will have to row themselves round-trip.
- Connecting local women with national distributors of moringa and dried fish products could be worthwhile future activities.
- With technical support from FGE's regional staff, PREM met with two Senegal-based online market platforms: Sooretul and Enda Pronat. PREM gained new information about quality standards and licensing requirements, and packaging and marketing norms—all important steps for scaling up local women's sales.
- As demand and consumer prices for moringa products grow in both regional and international markets, the need to understand market venues, supply chains and pricing norms also increases. Local women need additional market skills and knowledge to operate more competitively in these areas.

"We [are] on the borders of the ocean and if one day we find that we don't have any money, we will want to sell [our new moringa products]. And that's when we use our small boats. We can place the moringa in there and go to sell it."

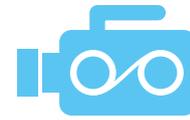
Foulematou Keita,
Moringa cooperative President, Katfoura locality





"We wish for our plantation to exceed what it is now. We want it to become bigger. That's what we want."

Aissta Keita,
Moringa cooperative President, Kapkin locality



Watch the
FGE's 3-minute video
about women's
cooperatives on
Tristão Islands:
www.unwomen.org/fge

Cooperatives and collectives

- *Tontines* are local neighbourhood collectives, usually composed of 5-10 members who know each other well as neighbours and friends. Members pool monthly contributions, and each member has a turn to draw on the funds. *Tontines* are used for small-scale local savings for emergencies and special costs such as funerals and weddings.
- As members of the moringa cooperatives organized by PREM, women gain a new collective capacity to shape economic and political decision-making at the local level. This can pave the way towards stronger relationships with mainland governance institutions and strengthen women's social protection claims.
- Cooperatives –such as those organised by PREM– can have up to 10-40 members, and may include women and/or men. Membership is voluntary, and the main functions are to help organize economic activity, strengthen collective decision-making and scale up the potential for savings and money management.
- Cooperatives have elected leadership and an organizational hierarchy with a president and a treasurer. Formally registered with the Government, they adhere to a guiding document that binds members to a code of conduct. They are also taxable entities.

GOOD PROGRAMME PRACTICE

One of the ways PREM helps society see the links between its work with the Tristão Islands women and national environmental challenges is by using national and international media outlets to raise awareness. It has showcased the leadership roles women take in creating practical, sustainable solutions to Guinea's most urgent development challenges, particularly those related to environment and natural resource management.

To spread the word about these success stories, PREM has coordinated over 50 media interviews with women's collective members and PREM staff. They have stressed how gender equal development is a national issue of importance and showcased rural strategies that help communities adapt to a changing climate.



"PREM's media outreach has increased the programme's visibility and has positively impacted the women's motivation and self-esteem as they watch and listen to themselves over radio and TV."

PREM



PERSONAL RESOURCES

95%

Percentage of women who said they are not at all satisfied with their current ability to read and write.

Training and education

- Women felt they had come out of obscurity through the moringa trainings organized by PREM and its civil society partners. These took place in the mainland city of Kindia, giving eight women a chance to engage with mainland society as more than just market traders.
- The expansion of literacy training in the Tristão Islands would be welcomed. Many women are market traders and regularly need to negotiate their way through different transactions. Literacy and numeracy skills would add a practical dimension to overall skill-building.
- Over 300 women have been trained in moringa production as a result of the programme.



"We've been sent to Kindia and that's where we were trained on how to wash the moringa, how to place it in a clean mixture, how to pound it, and how to lay it to dry out."

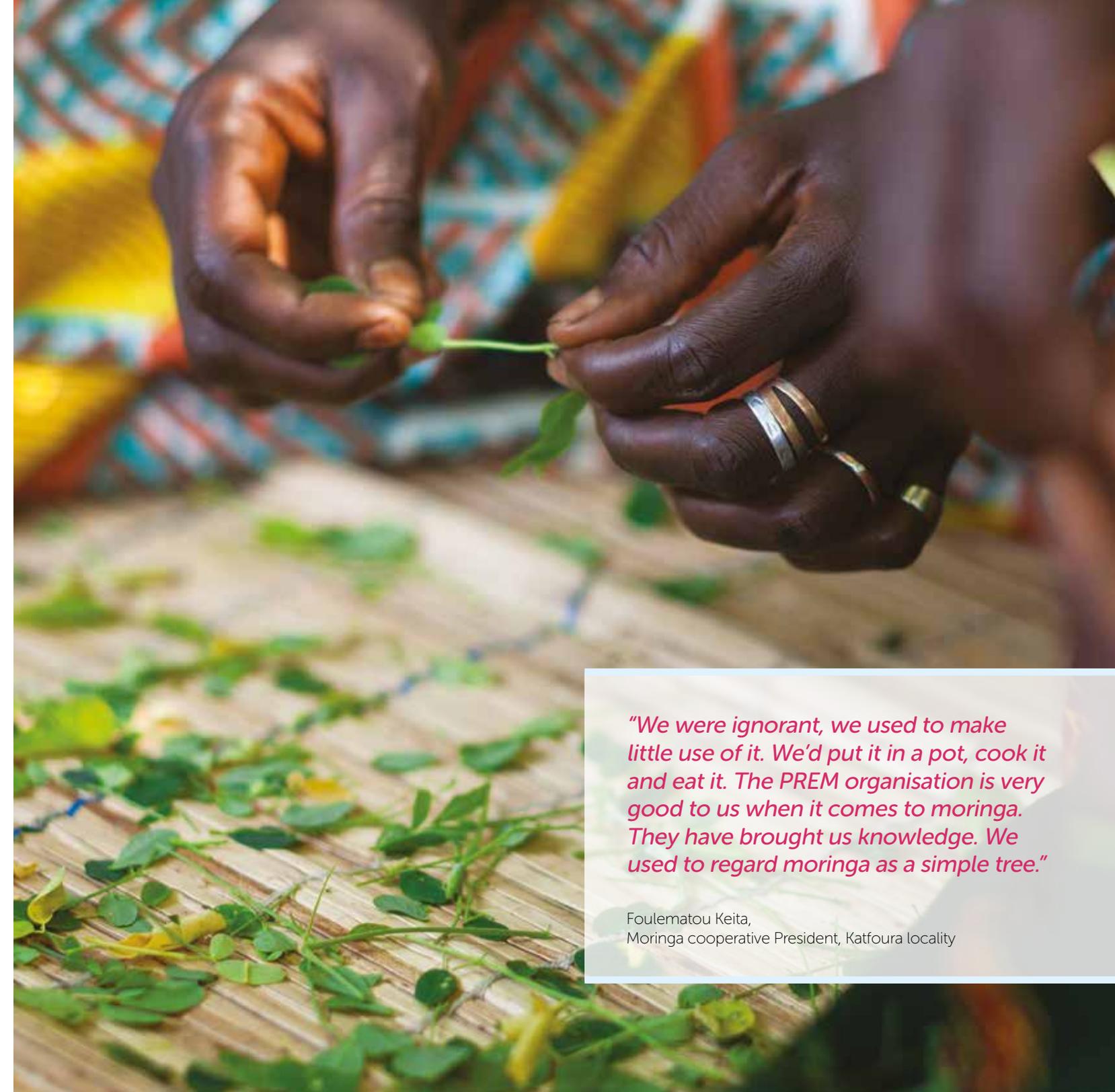
Aissta Keita,
Moringa cooperative President, Kapkin locality

98%

Percentage of women who said changes to the environment over the last 10 years have greatly affected their lives.

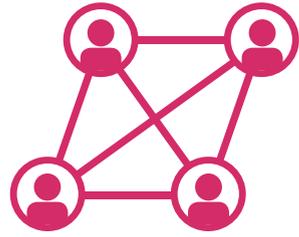
Knowledge and information

- More and better market skills continue to be in high demand, and increasingly so as women's production skills improve. Skills demanded include everything from money management to negotiation to packaging, marketing and pricing.
- Significant knowledge gaps exist among local communities and civil society partners on the best ways to market moringa effectively and on a larger scale.
- Local women struggle with pricing and may be selling goods—especially moringa products—far below market value when trading outside of their immediate community.
- There is an urgent need to understand the moringa supply chain in West Africa and beyond, and to map where markets are and how to access them, including online.
- In the longer term, improving women's knowledge on biodiversity and natural resource management will uphold sustainable practices.
- PREM has provided some training on environmental topics, and their importance is likely to increase over time.



"We were ignorant, we used to make little use of it. We'd put it in a pot, cook it and eat it. The PREM organisation is very good to us when it comes to moringa. They have brought us knowledge. We used to regard moringa as a simple tree."

Foulematou Keita,
Moringa cooperative President, Katfoura locality



INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS

98%

Percentage of women who said conflict is not affecting their lives today.

Social Cohesion

- The programme has created new bonds between local women of different social status and communities, as they work together to produce and sell moringa. Many have common goals for their communities and families: electricity, medical and educational facilities, and other opportunities for a life of security and well-being.
- While Conakry has drawn attention for political violence over the last decades, less than 2 percent of respondents said conflict is affecting their lives in Tristão Islands today.
- Being isolated from mainland society has its advantages. All five localities of the Islands enjoy a high degree of social cohesion. Cooperation and frequent interaction are a staple of everyday life.
- PREM has been keen to preserve strong community bonds while bolstering collective capacities to adapt to environmental shocks. It encourages opportunities for women to take more active leadership roles in all areas of life, including on issues related to natural resource management and environmental conservation.
- At all stages, PREM has engaged men from local communities to ensure that the purpose of the women's cooperatives is understood and their moringa production activities respected. It has emphasized how moringa production can boost incomes and help coordinate natural resource management for the larger community.

Integrating empowerment activities into programme interventions in fragile States can strengthen resilience and facilitate recovery, especially among the most underserved communities (17).



CONCLUSIONS: COUNTERING FRAGILITY BY EMPOWERING WOMEN



Productive resources

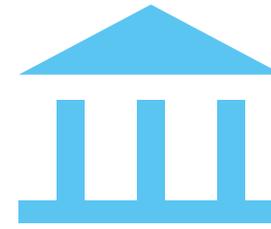
Women want more and better income generation opportunities that help scale their production and sale of dried fish, fruits, nuts and moringa-based products. To achieve this, women want more sustained access to the inputs they need most: smart seeds, starter plants and high technology equipment; material to construct more polytunnel frames; bulk supply of the plastic sheeting used to cover polytunnel dryers and packaging materials for consumer-ready products.

Crucially, women also want better opportunities to access and navigate higher value product markets in the long term.

Women's unpaid time burdens are significant, in particular their time

spent on wood fetching for energy use. Polytunnel dryers have helped local women manage their energy-intensive food drying activities better, but everyday life on the Islands still requires frequent wood fetching and burning for basic energy needs: cooking, water boiling and lighting of public areas after dark.

Women want to grow their incomes to invest in public goods for the larger community, and many said education, health and energy would be top priorities. Women want access to financial services, but few want to interact with mainland institutions. In the long run, more decentralized savings and loan opportunities can help women's cooperatives achieve their goals through collective money management.



Institutional relations

Women feel that mainland authorities do not understand their economic needs, and very few have ever interacted with mainland institutions in person. Women's lack of familiarity and confidence in engaging with mainland institutions is itself an economic barrier. For instance, women cooperative members were not comfortable going into the bank where PREM opened accounts for them and most felt they could not even enter the building without PREM's validating presence.

Women's lack of identity documents is also an economic barrier. Two out of three women said they do not have personal identity documents, indicating a lack of civic status and preventing them from being able to participate in national political activities, obtain a loan, own property or realize the most basic rights and benefits of citizenship.

Women are slightly more satisfied with their ability to influence economic decisions in the household than in the broader Tristão Islands community. But women's influence over community-level decisions is improving as a result of the women's moringa cooperatives and their self-governance practices.

There is considerable scope to sensitize mainland authorities and community leaders to the less discussed needs of Islands women, for instance the need for gender-responsive medical and educational services, especially pre- and post-natal care in an area with observably high infant mortality rates.



Personal resources

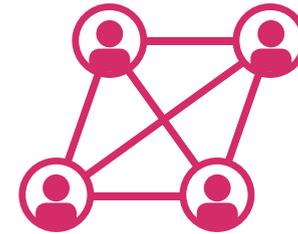
Women want improved market skills, specialized knowledge and professional networks to help them access and navigate markets more effectively. Women's lack of market know-how emerged as one of the most significant barriers to sustainable income generation, and women strongly conveyed their interest in overcoming these barriers with help from outsiders.

As women's production skills improve their demand for complementary market skills takes on greater importance: women highlighted product development, money management, pricing and negotiation and knowledge of supply chains as weaknesses in urgent need of improvement.

Women want to improve their literacy and numeracy skills as well, and most women recognize these basic skills as being essential not only for personal growth but also for child well-being and market

navigation. Many local women do not have a firm command of spoken or written French: an added barrier to engagement with mainland society and institutions.

Given local women's active participation in the newly organized moringa cooperatives, a literacy and numeracy training of trainers (TOTs) module which is tailored to local women's needs and experiences and implemented by cooperative members themselves could be worthwhile.



Interpersonal relations

Women are taking action to help communities adapt and respond to a rapidly changing environment because it is an issue of serious concern not only for women but for the larger Tristão Islands community.

As a vulnerable coastal area which is prone to ocean storms and dependent on local marine and plant life for its livelihoods, local women are eager to help the community adapt to and help mitigate future soil erosion, resource depletion and over-cultivation of plant and animal life – such as moringa – that help maintain biodiversity.

Local communities enjoy high levels of social cohesion and cooperation, and virtually no women identified conflict or personal safety as issues of major concern. Strong interpersonal relations at the local level are important assets that help foster and reinforce social and economic resilience through mutual care for the environment.

While community efforts to adapt continue to be strained by a lack of infrastructure and public goods, local women are playing their part. Through participation in the moringa cooperatives, women are using their new social influence to conserve natural resources and keep local mangrove forests healthy.



"What women can do is put their hands together to take the right decision for making peace in the world [We] can do something that can bring peace to the country The women that are on the border of the waters [Tristão Islands] and those in the capital [Conakry] will put their hands together and make a difference."

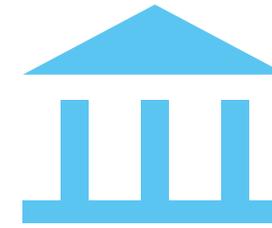
Aissta Keita,
Moringa cooperative President, Kapkin locality

RECOMMENDATIONS



Productive resources

- Support local women's cooperatives to sell their moringa and other dried food products in higher value markets. For instance, help them to secure export licensing and have local products tested in national laboratories to ensure quality standards. Given the high local capacity for bulk production of moringa and other products, it may be worthwhile to link women's cooperatives with national, regional, international and online distributors and consumer marketplaces, and to help them navigate favorable terms in those spaces.
- Help women's cooperatives leverage long-term access to better quality inputs, including:
 - › Production equipment
 - › Packaging material
 - › Plastic sheeting used for polytunnel dryers
- Consider sponsoring women's cooperatives for group credit opportunities with financial institutions on the mainland and provide the complementary money management training they need; this can reinforce collective resource management and inspire local investment.
- Given high levels of social cohesion and cooperation on the Islands, consider piloting additional renewable energy technology interventions that can help local communities store and utilize solar, hydro and wind energy to reduce women's unpaid time burdens and improve community well-being.



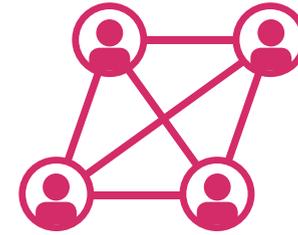
Institutional relations

- Optimize knowledge of the local context and culture(s) to identify institutions on the mainland that can help Tristão Islands communities gain access to Government, public and private services. Dedicate some effort to sensitizing them to the economic needs of Tristão women and their communities, for instance the need for sexual and reproductive healthcare, identity documents and decentralized educational and financial services.
- Support women's cooperatives to secure identity documents for members and their children, and help them build relationships with Government and public institutions on the mainland to gain access to services. This can support their long term goal to bring public goods to the Islands.
- Reinforce the role of women's cooperatives as flourishing local institutions on the Islands by encouraging them to recruit and train new members, and to designate unique roles for themselves in the community, for instance as hosts of public events or celebrations.
- Help cooperative leaders to formulate community-based action plans for local development and resource management; consider linking them with Government offices, development professionals and civil society partners on the mainland to garner interest and support for sustainable Islands development.



Personal resources

- Utilize and scale up training of trainers (TOTs) modules that help local women and community transfer skills and knowledge from the mainland over time.
- Identify applied learning strategies that combine vocational and non-vocational skill-building as often as possible. This may mean, for instance, supporting women's cooperatives to organize daily or weekly numeracy and literacy trainings that use mobile phones as a learning tool.
- Tailor trainings to complement new economic opportunities and institutional relationships. For instance, role-play market interactions as a way to teach negotiation skills or implement a training module on product pricing that teaches women to use their mobile phone for simple math.
- Find ways to make women's rights and gender equality topics less "theoretical" by relating them to everyday realities and experiences in the local environment. Remember that women and girls may also need to see the practical value before considering the training worth their time.
- Mentor women's cooperatives on interpersonal advocacy and dialogue with public and private sector duty bearers. Help women develop the skills needed to manage these relationships as community representatives in the long-term.



Interpersonal relations

- Engage in discussion and debate on climate change, biodiversity, resource management, energy consumption and other social issues that local communities have opinions about – and want to take action on. Be sure to engage women and men in discussions about the unique gender dimensions of such issues.
- Support local women to carve out a voice for themselves on gender-sensitive issues that are under-addressed in existing public spaces. Sexual and reproductive health may be one such area for greater women's voice, awareness-raising and sensitization of authorities on the mainland.
- Bring women into the process of engaging with local authorities rather than acting as their spokesperson in the long-term. Recognize that women want to develop and articulate their own voice within the communities where they live.
- Sensitizing local authorities depends on strong interpersonal relationships that are built on some degree of trust and familiarity. Given the geographical distance between Tristão Islands and the mainland, establishing and maintaining such relationships will require both effort and planning over time.

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ANNEX A

FGE GRANTS IN FRAGILE STATES

Political empowerment – awarded CSOs

Africa

Burundi: UNIPROBA | \$200,000
Kenya: GROOTS Kenya Association | \$302,000
Kenya: Uraia Trust | \$384,997
Nigeria: Alliances for Africa (AfA) | \$230,000
Nigeria: BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights & KIND | \$480,000

Arab States

Egypt: Egyptian Center for Women's Rights | \$545,000
Egypt, Libya and Yemen: Karama | \$565,000
Egypt: Women and Memory Forum | \$200,000
Egypt: Association of the Egyptian Female Lawyers | \$260,000
Iraq: Women's Empowerment Organization | \$215,000
Palestine: Anabta Women Welfare Society | \$200,000

Asia and the Pacific

Afghanistan: Afghanistan Watch | \$210,000
Nepal: Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Nepal | \$394,000
Nepal, Philippines: Tebtebba | \$250,000
Pacific Islands (including Kiribati, Marshall Islands and Tuvalu): Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat | \$200,000

Europe and Central Asia

Bosnia and Herzegovina: KULT and BH Experts Association | \$462,768

Nigeria: Community Life Project | \$400,000
Uganda, South Africa: Women's Net | \$257,520
Zimbabwe: Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network (ZWRCN) | \$1,680,939

Palestine: Association of Women Committees for Social Work | \$450,000
Palestine: Dalia Association | \$200,000
Palestine: Palestinian Centre for Peace and Democracy and Jerusalem Centre for Women (JCW) | \$200,000
Regional (including Egypt and Palestine): Stars of Hope Society | \$265,000

Pakistan: Pak Women & Women Association Struggle for Development | \$220,000
Sri Lanka: Women and Media Collective | \$496,977
Southeast Asia (including Timor-Leste): International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAP) | \$545,000

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Gender Center of Bosnia and Herzegovina and SNV, BiH Office | \$1,472,340

Economic empowerment – awarded CSOs

Africa

Cameroon: Horizons Femmes | \$368,750
Ethiopia: Union of Ethiopian Women Charitable Associations (UEWCA) | \$550,000
Cote d'Ivoire: Organisation Nationale pour l'Enfant, la Femme et la Famille (ONEF) | \$420,000
Guinea: Partenariat Recherches Environnement Médias (PREM) | \$200,000
Liberia: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Market Women's Fund | \$3,000,000
Mali: Association d'Entraide et de Développement | \$334,121

Arab States

Egypt: Ministry of Manpower and Emigration and American University of Cairo, Social Research Centre | \$2,400,000
Lebanon: Lebanon Family Planning Association for Development & Family Empowerment (LFPADÉ) | \$255,000

Asia and the Pacific

Afghanistan: Women and Children Legal Research Foundation | \$161,920
Bangladesh: Bolipara Nari Kalyan Somity (BNKS) | \$200,000

Americas and the Caribbean

Haiti: Association d'Entraide et de Développement | \$364,166

Rwanda: RCN Justice & Democratie and Haguruka | \$2,000,000
Sudan: Badya Centre for Integrated Development Services | \$200,000
Uganda: Shelters and Settlements Alternatives: Uganda Human Settlements Network | \$200,000
Uganda: Uganda Women Concern Ministry | \$200,000
Zimbabwe: Basilwizi Trust | \$200,000
Zimbabwe: Ntengwe for Community Development | \$410,000

Lebanon: Amel Association | \$325,000
Lebanon: Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon | \$280,000
Palestine: Mother's School Society in Nablus | \$200,000

Pakistan: Thardeep | \$405,000
Sri Lanka: Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR) | \$200,000
South Asia (including Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka): Feminist Dalit Organization | \$400,000

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