

DENMARK: VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Ukraine



“I started to do community mobilization for empowerment because I want changes.”

– Natalia Slavinskaia

Natalia Slavinskaia lives in a village and noted that a lack of quality services to support the community was leading to migration from the community. Through UN Women-led training in identifying local community needs and engaging in dialogue with local authorities for these needs to be included in local development plans and budgets, Natalia is working to improve and create the support services in her community. She has created three local self-help groups to support vulnerable people to initiate changes to improve their lives.

Nepal



“Nobody, especially not women and school-going children, should have to walk for hours for water.”

– Sita Shrestha

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.

Mali



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

— *Haidara Djeneba Sy*

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.

Ethiopia



“I want other girls to know that they can do it. If they want to, it is possible to achieve what they want to achieve.”

— *Rebecca Azanaw*

Rebecca Azanaw was one of the participants at the first coding camp for African girls, part of the African Girls Can Code Initiative (AGCCI). Since the coding camp, Azanaw has continued to hone her skills in python programming language. She is also spreading her new skills, by founding a coding club at her school, in Addis Ababa, to teach other young girls to code.

This joint programme between UN Women and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which is funded by the Government of Denmark, is supporting young girls to develop interest in coding and facilitate their career choices in ICT.

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