

JAPAN: VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Indonesia



“What is most important is to empower women and to ensure they are not experiencing violence, so that women can return to being solidarity makers.”

– Hikmah Bafagih

“Our vision is to create an inclusive Islam, having people oppose me is very common,” says **Hikmah Bafagih**. Bafagih is a professor, community organizer and peace-builder in East Java, Indonesia. She guided community discussions on women’s contributions to peace as part of UN Women’s new regional programme on preventing violent extremism in Asia. “We do a lot of programmes to prevent radicalization and intolerance [...] we can’t just expect that to happen, we must do something today,” she says.

Kenya



“Girls need to believe in themselves. Then they will have the drive to achieve their dreams.”

– Wilma Riziki Kazunguis

Wilma Riziki Kazunguis is a young woman from Kilifi, Kenya with big dreams who found the support and opportunity she needed through UN Women’s Japanese funded programme, ‘Moving the Goalposts’. She not only learned to play football, but received livelihoods skills training, including how to build financial independence. Wilma now passes on her skills and experience to younger players as a coach and referee and as a young business owner, she also mentors other girls to pass on her life and business skills.

“My life has changed tremendously. I provide for my grandfather and my three siblings.”

Democratic Republic of Congo



“One must always think about how you can get your hands dirty to attain your goals.”

— *Nahimana Fainesi*

Nahimana Fainesi, age 30, fled her native Burundi in July 2015 and has since been living in the Lusenda refugee camp in Fizi, Democratic Republic of Congo. She works as a farmer in a UN Women cash-for-work programme there. “When I got to the Lusenda Camp [in Democratic Republic of the Congo], I had no hope. UN Women gave me hope, motivation and empowerment. After some time, I was appointed committee member of the women’s group. I found a job [through a cash-for-work programme] and that money helped me cross back to get my children,” she says of her experience.

Lebanon



“All the training sessions [I received] have helped me understand that women can be independent and can make their own decisions.”

— *Rabiha Khalloof*

Rabiha Khalloof is a 47-year-old Syrian refugee who fled to Lebanon three years ago. “The war swept everything away,” she says. She is among 520 Syrian women refugees who have received training and economic assistance from a UN Women project. Today Khalloof is earning an income for the first time and aspiring to teach other women to start their own businesses. She discusses her return to Syria. “Our society needs women to help future generations succeed. I will share the knowledge I have gained in Lebanon with other Syrian women when I go back to my hometown in Syria.”

Photos: above left: UN Women/Catianne Tijerina; above right: Fair Trade Lebanon