



IMPACT STORIES



UNITED KINGDOM: VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Palestine



“If you find yourself in a place that allows you to make a real difference in other women’s lives, obstacles will not stop you anymore.”

– *Ayah al-Wakil*

Growing up in Gaza Strip studying law, **Ayah al-Wakil** understood how the Shari’a courts did not always reflect the interests of women. “I became determined to improve women’s lives in my hometown.” In 2015, al-Wakil attended a training with the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, supported by UN Women. “The training changed my life—I learned every essential skill during that year, from filing cases to arguing in court to defend women’s rights, skills that I still use every day,” she says.

Timor-Leste



“When you are going through something in your marriage, you think about the kids and how you are going to feed the kids if you don’t have [your husband] anymore.”

– *Rosalina Moniz*

Rosalina Moniz, an outspoken women in her 50s from western Timor-Leste, is the survivor of years of domestic violence. She often felt as if there was no way out. Rosalina has been living on her own for several years now, and used a micro-grant and training from UN Women and its partner organizations to start numerous small businesses from brick-making to food conservation. One such project was a garden started with nine other people. “We still talk about other things we can do as a group to earn money, and the more people join, the more ideas we have.”

India



“If all people start boycotting such weddings, it would definitely help eliminate child marriage.”

— *Malti Tudu*

Malti Tudu is a young woman working in her rural community in Bihar, India to stop child marriages. Ms. Tudu is a member of one of the 100 Women Peer Groups set up across five rural Indian states, which more than 2,800 rural women and girls have joined. They are part of a grassroots mobilization effort within a comprehensive violence prevention project for ethnic minority women, supported by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. “Women’s groups are important avenues from which one can derive energy and support to carry on. The training I received...helped me build my skills in counselling and provide support to women and girls in my village.”

Kenya



“Whenever the [water] pump breaks down, we have to dig along the dry river beds for remnants of light showers”

— *Paulina Epung’u*

In the Turkana county of northern Kenya, **Paulina Epung’u** walks for miles and queues at water points on a regular basis. “This is my routine three times a day,” says Epung’u, aged 58 and a mother of seven. “I have to fetch water for our use and for the goats and sheep too, as they are too weak to walk.” Due to gendered inequalities, women like Epung’u bear the brunt of the impact of the ongoing drought in the region. UN Women is working with Kenya’s National Drought Management Authority to ensure that all interventions to address the drought take into considerations the unique vulnerabilities of women and girls.

Photos: above left: UN Women/Biju Boro; above right: UN Women/Kennedy Okoth