

# Women's Agency, Voice & Participation

Influencing Accountability to Women's Human Rights



*Always in Solidarity with the over 200 girls abducted in Chibok, Nigeria.  
Injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere!*



Since 1988

# 2015

Annual Report

Inform

Mobilize

Participate

Influence

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# Word from the **Chairperson**

**A**frican women have achieved milestones in making sure there are continental, regional and national policy and legal frameworks for women's rights and gender equality. It is evident that twenty years after the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), no country has achieved gender equality. Evidently, there has been notable progress since 1995, however, a lot still needs to be done to turn the promises and intentions (commitments) outlined in the BPfA twelve critical areas of concern<sup>1</sup> into lived realities for African women and girls. Of utmost concern and therefore calls for assertive concerted efforts is the rising level of religious and cultural extremism and fundamentalism. The context is a threat to reversing the gains made on achieving gender equality. The abduction of and still missing Chibok girls in Nigeria is a daunting reminder of the need to stiffen and enforce security measures that ensure women and girls are no longer subjected to abductions, sexual violence and loss of life. The insecurity and violence in South Sudan continues to disintegrate families with women bearing the blunt of the war.



governments, AU and international bodies like the UN because it matters for African women's voice to be heard in those spaces. It also produces results because once global and regional policies are in place and our governments have agreed, then it provides a platform for national policy advocacy work. For example we applaud the increased advocacy and pressure to end child, early and forced marriages with the launch of national-wide, continental and global campaigns, action plans and enactment of laws ban-

ning child marriages like in Malawi in February 2015. Such laws must be followed up by increased awareness and sensitization in the local communities especially amongst cultural and religious leaders to root-out such deeply entrenched harmful practices and traditions that are normalised and accepted by societies where such violations are prevalent. Violators and their accomplices must be arrested and prosecuted immediately. Women's rights organisations must be supported to continue advocating and raising awareness for abolition of early child marriage and other harmful practices like female genital mutilation which are still perverse across the African continent.

The role of women's rights organizations at national, continental and global spaces remains uncontested even as we celebrate the historic adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The implementation phase of the 2030 Agenda will definitely benefit from the vigilant tracking, monitoring and scoring of the set 169 targets, a role well befitting CSOs and women's rights organizations. We will continue to champion and advocate for gender disaggregated data collection, analysis and presentation to aid in policy decision-making and resource allocation. We will also develop accountability tools such as score cards and a gender barometer to periodically track progress and assess women's rights and gender equality outcomes and commitments.

There is definitely an agency for increased engagement by women's rights organizations in policy advocacy with

Bold and transformative leadership that ensures women are equally represented in leadership positions across all sectors must be the guiding principle in all our undertakings from the household to the highest decision-making positions. FEMNET continues to urge our African leaders to lead in championing women's rights and gender equality.

On behalf of the FEMNET fraternity, I applaud all our partners and collaborators and urge them to continue supporting women's rights organisations, advocates and institutions to ensure the gender agenda is achieved and sustained. The Agenda 2030 should be for results and action and no more rhetoric. ■

**Emma Kaliya**

Chairperson, FEMNET Board

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/plat1.htm>



# Word from the **Executive Director**

2015 was an optimistic year for FEMNET with regional and global opportunities that would potentially be a turning point in the advancement of women's human rights and gender equality in Africa and globally.

2015 was the year when world leaders adopted a comprehensive and ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development committing them and the international community to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions, protect the planet and empower all people. Thanks to persistent advocacy and lobbying by women's rights' organizations, the 2030 Agenda aims to end all inequalities and discrimination, and it has a comprehensive goal on *Gender Equality and Empowerment of All Women and Girls* everywhere. The agenda recognizes that SDGs will only be achieved if all women and girls are empowered to take control over and make decisions about all aspects of their lives, and eliminate barriers to their equalities.

In July 2015, global leaders adopted the Addis Ababa Action Agenda during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference on Financing for Development that took place in Addis Ababa. 2015 was also a critical year for the African region, where African Union member states dedicated the year to *Women's Empowerment and Development Towards Africa Agenda 2063*.

FEMNET through her mandate of mobilizing and influencing policies **played a leading role in ensuring that African women and girls were fully engaged and influencing these key processes and their outcomes**. We pride ourselves of having made massive contribution towards the gains on the gender equality and women's empowerment SDG goal 5 being celebrated under the 2030 Agenda at the global level and the AU declaration of women's empowerment adopted by Head of States under the AU theme for 2015. This was only possible with



great collaborations with other women's rights organizations, alliances and coalitions. In this report you will read about our specific engagements and contributions in these key processes and outcomes.

However, we are aware that securing key commitments in global and regional policies is a key step but just a first step towards realizing gender equality, women's human rights and the

empowerment of all girls and women. The true success will lie in the implementation of these commitments. FEMNET continues to partner with other women's rights organizations, broader CSOs, government, intergovernmental bodies at all levels and other key actors to ensure that promises are turned into realities where women and girls enjoy their human rights. At FEMNET we will not rest until we achieve our vision of *"An African society where gender equality is achieved and women and girls enjoy all their rights and live in dignity"*. This vision we share with many of you reading this report which justifies our continuous collaborations and partnerships.

On behalf of FEMNET Board, staff and entire FEMNET Network, I want to acknowledge with heartfelt appreciation the continued financial support of our partners in 2015 who include:- the Embassy of Sweden in Ethiopia, Oxfam Novib, Urgent Action Fund-Africa, International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC), Ipas Africa Alliance, Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU), Anonymous, Fredskorpset (FK), Hivos, African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and Global Fund for Women and Amplify Change. ■

**Dinah Musindarwezo,**  
Executive Director, FEMNET

# Mobilizing, Informing, Participating & Influencing in 2015

The year 2015 was a critical period for women's human rights advancement - affirming the continuous need for FEMNET's strong leadership in mobilizing and coordinating women's rights organizations and activists. Throughout the year, we continued to mobilize and ensure that African women and girls remained informed and engaged in sustained advocacy actions, influencing key policy decisions to ensure the women's human rights agenda is at the centre of development outcome documents from the national, regional and global arena.



## Influencing African Union to Prioritize and Deliver on Women's Human Rights

The African Union for the first time in its history dedicated 2015 as a year of women's empowerment under the theme "*Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063*".

FEMNET participated in the January and June Summits, facilitating African women's collective voices through common statements and advocacy messages to Governments so as to influence the Summit's outcome. FEMNET joined other women's rights organization in advocating for a more comprehensive approach to gender equality as provided for under the Maputo Protocol with special focus on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, women's property rights and the right to participate in decision making. As a result of this advocacy the AU outcome also captured the priority of enhancing women's access to health, participation in governance and mutual accountability. The press release on the Outcome of AU Summit<sup>2</sup> outlines the key decisions and commitments arrived at by the Heads of States, emphasizing mutual accountability and the need to strengthen the AU to remain committed to delivering on the gender equality and women's human rights agenda.

In 2015, FEMNET was present where significant milestones on women's human rights took center stage:

- AU recognized women's empowerment as a development agenda for concretization of Agenda 2063
- Beijing turned 20 and was reviewed
- First women's forum on FfD
- Adoption of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the Solidarity for African Women's rights (SOAWR) Coalition was also held in the margins of the 24th Summit of the African Union that took place in Addis in January 2015. In mapping out the priority areas of focus for 2015, members highlighted the need to promote Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) by issuing statements to condemn retrogressive laws in respective countries. Additionally, members planned to steer national level engagement in countries that have reservations on Article 14 2 (c).

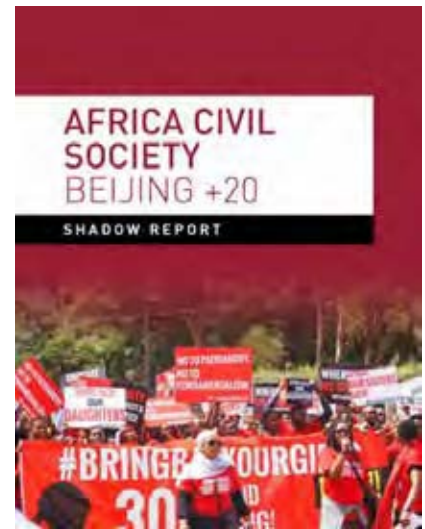
<sup>1</sup> <http://summits.au.int/en/24thsummit>

<sup>2</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6HUT4Jrkt9dcjdoOUN0Z2t5aGs0SFZnTjU2Z0JWTKlCenVF/view>



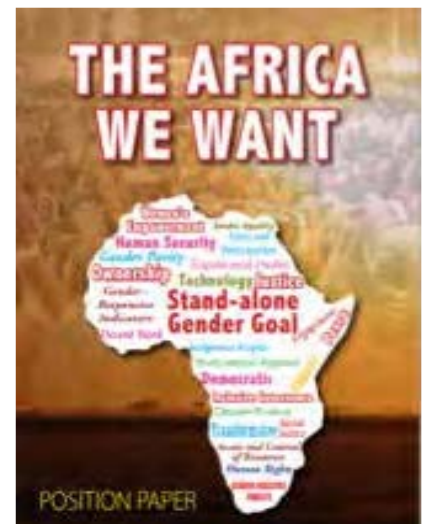
## ♀ Celebrating 20 Years of Beijing

2015 marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action agreement<sup>3</sup> signed by 189 countries that attended the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China. The 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) that took place from 9<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015 in New York, USA dedicated its theme to the review of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing +20). FEMNET mobilized close to 150 African women and coordinated the CSOs Taskforce to engage in the regional and global review processes and influence the outcomes. The position paper, 'Equal Say, Share and Control: The Africa We Want'<sup>4</sup> as well as the CSO Regional Shadow report<sup>5</sup> commissioned by FEMNET and partners, provided an alternative narrative from the Governments' reports on the implementation of Beijing and were instrumental in various advocacy related missions at CSW59. FEMNET as a co-facilitator for the NGO CSW/Africa coordinated the African Women's Caucus at the CSW59 and issued a written Statement<sup>6</sup> calling for "increased political and financial commitments by governments through their national mechanisms for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, acknowledging there was a general failure to allocate substantial resources for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action".



## ♀ Shaping the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Following more than two years of rigorous consultations, discussions and negotiations, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>7</sup> was adopted in September 2015. In 2015, FEMNET continued to mobilize her members and partners who played a significant role during the final negotiation processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. FEMNET supported African women rights organizations to CSW59 and follow up negotiation meetings calling for a transformative stand-alone goal to achieve gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment that is grounded in human rights and tackles unequal power relations. In addition, we joined other regional and global women's rights organizations in calling for the integration of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment consistently across the entire framework through data collection disaggregated by sex and gender – sensitive targets and indicators.



On the eve of the adoption of the landmark global agenda FEMNET and SOAWR Coalition members mobilized over 140 advocates to endorse a Statement urging their leaders specifically African Governments to support

<sup>3</sup> <http://beijing20.unwomen.org/en/step-it-up>

<sup>4</sup> <http://femnet.co/index.php/en/beijing-plus-20/item/326-africa-cso-position-statement>

<sup>5</sup> <http://femnet.co/index.php/en/beijing-plus-20/item/339-africa-civil-society-shadow-report-on-beijing%2020>

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2015/NGO/89](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2015/NGO/89)

<sup>7</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

targets related to sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the Agenda in line with existing African commitments that guarantee universal access to a comprehensive package of sexual and reproductive health services. In the coming years, FEMNET will continue to position herself to increasingly raise awareness on the 2030 Agenda and more so to collectively advocate for its implementation from the national to regional and global arena with full participation of all the categories/groups of women and girls everywhere, since its mantra is leave no one behind. FEMNET also recognizes that while the 2030 Agenda is one of the first global attempts to be ambitious, global commitments on gender and women's rights are still as relevant and important particularly the Maputo protocol whose language on SRHR is stronger than that in Agenda 2030.



## **Building Feminist Knowledge at the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development**

In July 2015, African Continent hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD3). FEMNET played a key role in mobilising African women and girls to participate and influence the outcome in favour of the gender equality agenda and addressing the structural and systematic inequalities that continue to perpetuate gender inequalities especially in the global south.



Photo courtesy: FEMNET

*Representatives of African women's rights organizations, trade unions, peace and civil society organizations, indigenous, faith-based and community-based organizations, media and academia met in Nairobi, Kenya from 6 – 8 May 2015 to reflect and deepen their analysis on Financing for Development (FfD) and the Post-2015 Agenda through a feminist lens.*

<sup>8</sup> <http://femnet.co/index.php/en/post-2015/item/378-report-african-feminist-meeting-post-2015-agenda-financing-for-development>

In preparations for the FfD3, FEMNET in partnership with the Post 2015 Women's Coalition, the International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC) and the African Women Development Fund (AWDF) co-organized the Africa Feminists Regional Meeting on Post 2015 and FfD<sup>8</sup>, bringing together close to 60 representatives of African women's rights organizations, trade unions, peace and civil society organizations, indigenous, faith-based and community-based organizations, media and academia from 17 African countries working in the spheres of agriculture, environment, finance, governance, health, law, leadership and trade. The meeting resulted in deepening their understanding and developing of key policy recommendations<sup>9</sup> around both FfD and the Post-2015 processes. In particular the key recommendations for financing for gender equality, were strategically used for advocacy and awareness raising during the AU Summit in June 2015 and the Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in July 2015. In addition, FEMNET in partnership with Women Working Group on Financing for Development co-convened a Women's Forum in the margins of the FfD3 which brought together over 160 gender activists to provide a feminist analysis and knowledge on FfD and thereby consolidate their advocacy positions and develop common advocacy strategies to be used during the CSOs forum and the FfD3 conference.

Participation in the FfD3 was an opportunity to push for a transformative agenda that commits to advancing gender equality, women's empowerment and women's human rights. Given that one of the major constraint of achieving gender equality and women's rights is inadequate resources, we advocated for increased resources commitment to facilitate the implementation of instruments on women's human rights including Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in addition to the gender agenda of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



*Dinah Musindarwezo, Executive Director, FEMNET and Lakshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director UN Women*

As a member of the Women Working group on Financing for Development, FEMNET's niche was to bring to the table the African women's collective voice advocating for FfD3 to address the systematic and structural issues affecting women in developing countries, scaling up resources for gender equality and women's rights among others. Although not all the demands made it to the final document, reference to gender equality and women's rights is made throughout the document which can be used as entry points to advocate for a more transformative language in other policies and implementation of commitments at the national levels. Read the Civil Society Response to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development<sup>10</sup> and the Reaction to the Outcome Document of the Third FfD Conference (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) by the Women's Working Group on FfD<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>9</sup> <http://femnet.co/index.php/en/post-2015/item/358-policy-recommendations-financing-for-development>

<sup>10</sup> <https://csoforffd.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/cso-response-to-ffd-addis-ababa-action-agenda-16-july-2015.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <https://wwgonffd.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/women-working-group-reaction-to-addis-ababa-action-agenda-17-july-20151.pdf>





## Transforming Macroeconomic Policy Models to Deliver on Women's Human Rights and Gender Equality

Recognising the failure of the current macroeconomic policy models to deliver on the women's human rights and gender justice, FEMNET intensified its efforts to advocate for alternative models that put human rights and gender equality at its center. This has been done through forging strategic and key partnerships with mainstream CSOs, UN Agencies and Academia among others. In June 2015, FEMNET joined other Pan-African networks (TJN-A, TWN-Af, ITUC-Africa, Afrodad and Trust Africa) to form the Interim Working Group (IWG) of the African IFF Campaign Platform that launched an Africa wide "Stop the Bleeding" campaign in Nairobi, Kenya with the aim of curtailing the rising 'bleeding' of Africa's resources through Illicit Financial Flows (IFF). FEMNET Campaign has raised awareness and calls for collective citizen-led advocacy actions that hold decision-makers accountable, and demanding them to take this issue seriously and begin to take concrete measures to curb IFFs. FEMNET is keen to continue mobilizing African women to actively take part in the conversations around IFFs and Financing for Development more broadly and to provide a feminist analysis of these issues.



## Towards the Development of a Gender Responsive Macroeconomic Framework

In December 2015, FEMNET in partnership with UN Women co-organized a Regional Technical Experts roundtable Workshop on Gender and Macroeconomic Policies with a view to analyze progress made to mainstream gender in macro-economic policies and frameworks in Africa and ultimately identify key strategies, implementable actions, requisite partnerships and resources that would catalyze the discussions for the development of a gender-responsive alternative macro-economic framework as well as promote its adoption by African governments. The two-days discussions amongst the thirty (30) policy advocates, academicians, and experts related broadly to gender, financing, taxation, unpaid domestic and care work and macroeconomic policies.



## Empowering Women, Religious & Cultural Leaders to Unpack and Advocate for SRHR in Kenya

FEMNET continues to innovate new ways of promoting women's rights by strengthening its evidence-based advocacy and increasing demand for Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) for women and girls in Kenya. In 2015, FEMNET built the capacity of 120 religious, cultural and women leaders to promote SRHR for women and girls in Tharaka Nithi and Homabay Counties in Kenya. Through this project, women, religious and cultural leaders established community dialogue forums where SRHR concerns for women and girls are openly discussed and addressed. Using the dialogue forums, women, religious and cultural leaders are advocating for the elimination of harmful cultural practices including female genital mutilation (FGM)

<sup>12</sup> <http://stopthebleedingafrica.org/>



and widow cleansing and inheritance among others. This engagement has created space for women to engage cultural and religious leaders directly on diverse SRHR issues including family planning, access to safe abortion, women's and girls' sexual rights among others.

The passing of the Protection of Domestic Violence Act (2015) is a major step in prevention of domestic violence in Kenya. This enactment follows years of advocacy that was led by CSOs and FEMNET was a major stakeholder. By adding the men's voices to domestic violence, Members of Parliament recognized that gender based violence affects both men and women although in a disproportionate manner with women facing more violence. The PDV Acts gives impetus to our engagement with religious, cultural and women leaders as it outlaws harmful cultural practices like FGM and widow cleansing.

It also echoes other laws including the Sexual Offences Act (2006) and the Prohibition of FGM Act (2010).

FEMNET engaged and mobilized women's rights organization to participate at the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development from 13 – 17 April 2015 in New York whose theme was *"Realizing the Future We Want: Integrating Population Issues into Sustainable Development"*. FEMNET coordinated advocates from the African region to advocate using the Addis Ababa Declaration on the review of the ICPD as the guiding document as well as keeping our constituencies updated and following through live tweets.



# Communication & Information

## Sharing for Advocacy

Communication is core to FEMNET's work and compliments its advocacy and policy influencing work at all levels. Through Communication, FEMNET mobilizes women and girls in Africa and ensures that they are better informed and are able to meaningfully engage in and influence processes using a variety of platforms and tools. Our engagement on social media has been to inform and connect, but also as a mobilizing tool and a key advocacy strategy to inform policy by engaging policymakers and reaching out to them directly with our key messages. For instance prior to and during the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in September 2015, FEMNET mobilized and engaged with the online community, which includes policymakers and other policy influencers with timely and critical messages, aspirations and opinions shared on the following hashtags:

**#AppealToAfricanLeaders**  
**#2030Agenda** **#GlobalGoals**  
**#SDGs** **#SRHR**  
**#TheAfricaWeWant** **#Agenda2063**

In 2015...

Facebook



10,147 likes



Twitter



9,693 followers



Youtube

18,000 views



44,000

16,000 views /downloads per month in 2015 on the bilingual website is another platform that is used to share the latest information.



FEMNET Secretariat



@femnetprog



FEMNET1



FEMNET.wordpress.com

FEMNET's communication team hosted and participated in a number of tweetathons that brought diverse women's rights issues to the fore of development discourse such as **#TheAfricaWeWant** tweetathon which was featured on Al Jazeera's the Stream; **#MenstruationMatters** and **#BreakTheSilence** commemorating the very first Menstrual Hygiene day; **#EndFGM** **#Zerotoleranceday** **#TogetherforZero**, **#AfricanGirlChild**, **#EndChildMarriageNow** tweetathon in line with the AU Campaign Launch to end Child Marriage, which culminated into an interview on Al Jazeera; **#Beijing20**, **#MydressMychoice**, **#BringBackOurGirls**, **#JusticeForLiz**, which were all calling for a respect of women's bodily integrity and dignity.

Regular updates on all these processes continued to be shared with FEMNET members and partners via dedicated listserv and social media platforms. Currently, FEMNET has listserv dedicated to Members, Partners, Young activists, Post-2015, CSW, Leadership, Beijing +20, FfD, and Media with over 3,000 members.

FEMNET generates knowledge products to contribute to the body of knowledge in the area of gender equality and women's human rights. In 2015, we produced the products below; -

- **Monthly E-Bulletins** – with latest news, notices and opportunities on women, for women and about women in Africa.
- **African Women's Journal** – our flagship publication contributing analytical researched case studies and best practices articles on the gender equality agenda and in commemoration of the African Women's Decade (2010-2020). The 2015 Issue was themed African Women in Power and Politics exploring both the individual and collective experiences of past, aspiring or current women in power and politics.
- **Reaching Back to Get it Right** – a review of our past and current strategies, analysing the context in which we work in, including FEMNET's contribution to the African women's movement more broadly.
- **On Making Promises to Women & Girls: It's Time for Authentic Realization** – an opinion piece calling on African leaders to integrate promises made and the related parts of the 2030 Agenda into their domestic political processes and policies and – most importantly – to allocate adequate and sufficient resources (financial, technical and human).

## Intensified our Media Engagement

FEMNET continues to engage and sensitize media personnel on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) advocacy. In February 2015, a Media Sensitization Session on SRHR brought together 20 champions of SRHR (journalists and CSO representatives) who shared current issues around SRHR in Africa and their contribution as media in reporting SRHR in ways that inform the readers, influence decision-makers and evoke alternative ways of 'doing' and 'being - not just telling the "story" but rather putting a heart and reality to the story and contextualize it to the reality on the ground. The Maputo Protocol, sexual and gender based viol a, Tanzania and South Sudan who strategized and planned their communication and advocacy actions prior to the Financing for Development (FfD) in July 2015 and 2030 Agenda adoption in September 2015. The workshop was modeled after a meeting held in February 2015 among Ford Foundation grantees who worked together to develop coordinated, strategic communications activities (nationally, regionally, and globally) around women's rights and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), within the Post-2015 context. The result was a strategic

As a strategy, FEMNET deliberately includes media personnel to attend and participate in key advocacy meetings in order to enhance and facilitate nuanced and informed coverage around women's rights.





*Media and communication experts who participated in the Strategic Communications training in June 2015.*

communications plan with the goal of raising visibility for critical issues, building engagement and support, and, most important, influencing outcomes and negotiations of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Regular, timely and relevant blog posts continue to be posted on FEMNET's blog such as the following:-

- The Gender Equality, Tax Justice and Economic Growth Conundrum  
<https://femnet.wordpress.com/2015/06/09/the-gender-equality-tax-justice-and-economic-growth-conundrum/>
- Women's Forum: Feminist Perspectives on the Third International Conference on Financing for Development  
<https://femnet.wordpress.com/2015/07/29/womens-forum-feminist-perspectives-on-the-third-international-conference-on-financing-for-development/>
- Finance Her Future: Gender Responsive Budgeting  
<https://femnet.wordpress.com/2015/08/04/finance-her-future-gender-responsive-budgeting/>
- An Alternative Global Economic Order: Can it ever be achieved?  
<https://femnet.wordpress.com/2015/08/05/an-alternative-global-economic-order-can-it-ever-be-achieved/>
- Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment & Money – What Formula Works  
<https://femnet.wordpress.com/2015/08/07/gender-equality-womens-empowerment-money-what-formula-works/>
- Who does Justice and Privilege belong to?  
<https://femnet.wordpress.com/2015/05/25/who-does-justice-and-privilege-belong-to/>

- African Feminists Strategy Meeting: Financing for Development (FfD) & the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

<https://femnet.wordpress.com/2015/05/20/african-feminists-strategy-meeting-financing-for-development-ffd-the-post-2015-development-agenda/>

- FEMNET participation at the Guardian’s Live Q&A on making the SDGs work for girls.

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2015/may/21/live-qa-how-can-the-sustainable-development-goals-do-more-for-girls#comment-52916705>

Sad moments in 2015 include:- the brutal murder of women’s human rights defender such as Ugandan Senior Principal State Attorney, Joan Magezi, who was murdered by unidentified assailants. Education was under attack with over one hundred students losing their lives in the Garissa attack in Kenya. The Ebola outbreak, which mainly affected Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and claimed more than 11,300 lives to date, with women and girls bearing some of the greatest devastation of the disease.



The Burundi crisis persisted, raising fears of a return to civil war. ICGLR National Civil Society Committee demanded different stakeholders including the AU, UN, ICGLR, CSOs and the East African community to intervene - through inclusive dialogue and commitment to sustainable peace in Burundi.

**THIS IS NOT  
#THEAFRICAWEWANT.  
#BringBackOurGirls**

2015, marked one year since hundreds of girls were abducted from their school in Chibok, Nigeria. We joined the Global Week of Solidarity Action by reaching out to the newly elected President in Nigeria, H.E. Muhammadu Buhari, urging him to act expediently and willingly to #BringBackOurGirls and enforce security to ensure women and girls are no longer subjected to abductions, sexual violence and loss of life. In an Open Letter to President Muhammadu Buhari to #BringBackOurGirls<sup>1</sup>, FEMNET and over 200 feminist, women and girls’ rights, gender and social justice institutions and organizations urged the President to act and make his “tenure be one in which Boko Haram, and any other fundamentalist and extremist groups who wreak havoc, be challenged and overcome by the collective will and commitment to ensure the safety and security of every citizen – a tenure that values the lives of its girls and boys in the North as it does in the South, its rich as its poor, its majority groups as its minority groups.” Let us all refuse to forget these girls<sup>2</sup> and continuously amplify our voices in all spaces we occupy to call for their immediate release and rescue. Still Waiting for the Chibok Girls<sup>3</sup>.

1 <http://www.femnet.co/index.php/en/press/item/360-open-letter-to-president-muhammadu-buhari-to-#bringbackourgirls&Itemid=439>

2 <https://femnet.wordpress.com/2015/04/09/one-year-on-we-have-not-forgotten-bringbackourgirls/>

3 <http://mediadiversified.org/2015/12/15/still-waiting-for-the-chibok-girls/>

# Moving Ahead: Partnering for collective accountability on women's rights

FEMNET has been impactful in enriching and amplifying the voices of African women in key regional and global processes and fora as well as strengthening linkages among women rights organizations. As we embark on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) and Africa's Agenda 2063, our strategic role remains in mobilising, movement building and partnering with all stakeholders and holding our governments accountable to the realization of these all-too-ambitious and much needed aspirations and goals.

As we acknowledge great efforts and great strides made in 2015, we believe much more remains to be done to overcome the persistent obstacles. **Gender equality is still not a reality.** We welcome 2016 with boldness and determination to continue speaking against and dismantling norms and behaviours that persistently claw back and deter us from realizing our vision of an African society where gender equality is achieved and women and girls enjoy all their rights and live in dignity.

**Hon. Bathabile Dlamini, the Minister of Social Development in South Africa on the occasion of the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW59) reiterated the fact that "laws and policies alone do not automatically result in the changes we want, but it does provide us with a normative framework to rally our people to change their attitudes, hearts and mindset. Having the right policies and laws in place, does serve to engage all of our people in dialogue around changing the norms and values that give rise to and sustain the oppression and the perpetuation of violence against women. Laws and policies provide a legal framework for women to seek protection and support from the state while we work to change patriarchy and its related belief systems that seek to perpetuate ideas around male superiority and privileges.....the time has come to keep the Beijing fire burning and to translate both the Declaration and the Platform into a living reality for the majority of women across the globe. And that time is now!"**

Indeed, the increasing rhetoric on women's and girls' development must be matched with increased resources for transformative, long-term and long-lasting development. Policymakers and practitioners need to capitalize on the high-level momentum regarding women's rights and leadership, and ensure that good intentions do not get stuck at the level of commitments and conferences. Women's rights and more equitable gender relations can be achieved only through real and concrete actions of all concerned.

We applaud our members, partners, colleagues, friends who stood with us, cheered us on, strategized with us and yes, joined us in demanding for a better world for women and girls. We remain committed to keep on informing and mobilizing African women and girls, in order for us to proactively participate and strategically influence processes and policies that affect our lives. **We invite you to join and support us as we imagine and work towards an Africa society where we accomplish unconditional equality for women and girls. Together we can and we will!**



## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

ASSETS	2015	2015	2014	2014
	Kshs	USD	KShs	USD
<b>Current Assets:</b>				
Receivables	1,442,851	14,104	1,232,610	13,597
Cash and Cash Equivalents	77,883,002	761,320	28,546,986	314,914
	<u>79,325,853</u>	<u>775,424</u>	<u>29,779,596</u>	<u>328,511</u>
<b>Long Term Assets:</b>				
Property and equipment-net of accumulated depreciation	14,771,047	144,389	15,539,187	171,420
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>94,096,900</u></b>	<b><u>919,813</u></b>	<b><u>45,318,783</u></b>	<b><u>499,931</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	4,609,882	45,062	2,419,280	26,688
Restricted / Deferred income	72,559,311	709,280	29,042,336	320,379
	<u>77,169,193</u>	<u>754,342</u>	<u>31,461,616</u>	<u>347,067</u>
<b>Reserves</b>				
General reserve	16,352,451	159,848	13,281,911	146,518
Capital reserve	575,256	5,623	575,256	6,346
	<u>16,927,707</u>	<u>165,471</u>	<u>13,857,167</u>	<u>152,864</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Reserves</b>	<b><u>94,096,900</u></b>	<b><u>919,813</u></b>	<b><u>45,318,783</u></b>	<b><u>499,931</u></b>





## STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2014</u>
	KShs	USD	KShs	USD
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUES</b>				
Grant received	176,156,898	1,721,964	103,940,439	\$1,146,613
Finance income	1,657,629	16,204	1,542,835	\$17,020
Other income	<u>237,676</u>	<u>2,323</u>	<u>275,794</u>	<u>\$3,042</u>
Gross Revenue	178,052,203	1,740,491	105,759,068	\$1,166,675
Less: Restricted/deferred income	<u>(69,059,311)</u>	<u>(675,067)</u>	<u>(27,542,336)</u>	<u>(\$303,832)</u>
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b><u>108,992,892</u></b>	<b><u>1,065,424</u></b>	<b><u>78,216,732</u></b>	<b><u>\$862,843</u></b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Programme expenses	90,977,995	889,325	87,470,547	\$964,926
Establishment expenses	4,139,530	40,465	4,110,062	\$45,340
Administration expenses	<u>10,804,827</u>	<u>105,619</u>	<u>12,336,384</u>	<u>\$136,088</u>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b><u>105,922,352</u></b>	<b><u>1,035,409</u></b>	<b><u>103,916,993</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,146,354</u></b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	3,070,540	#	30,015	<b>(25,700,261)</b>
General reserves at beginning of the year	<u>13,281,911</u>	<u>129,833</u>	<u>38,982,172</u>	<u>\$430,029</u>
General reserves at end of the year	<b><u>16,352,451</u></b>	<b><u>159,848</u></b>	<b><u>13,281,911</u></b>	<b><u>\$146,518</u></b>

The financial position of FEMNET closed the year 2015 with a net assets balance of US\$ 159,848

FEMNET recorded US\$ 1,721,964 in support and revenue in fiscal year 2015, of which US\$ 675,067 is deferred (restricted) for use in the following periods. The organisation continuing to have very strong expense ratios with programme expenses representing 85.90% of the total expenses.

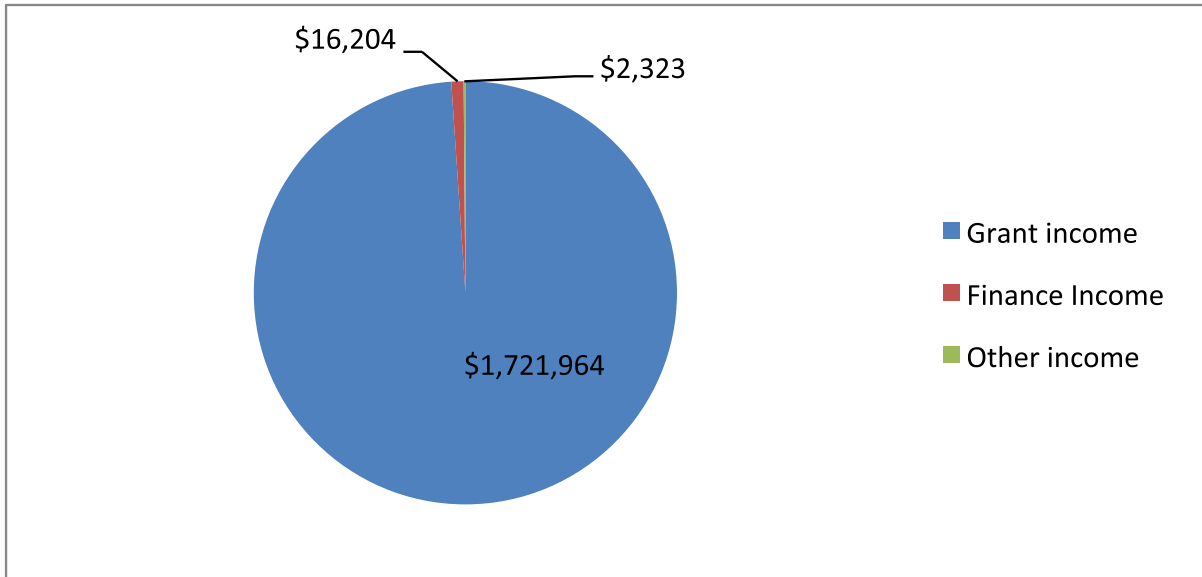
The Assets include a 2 acre land in the outskirts of Nairobi presented at cost (2012)

\* The figures have been translated at rate of USD 1 = KSh 102.30; Euro 1=111.78 (2014: USD 1 = KSh 90.65; Euro 1 = 110.25)

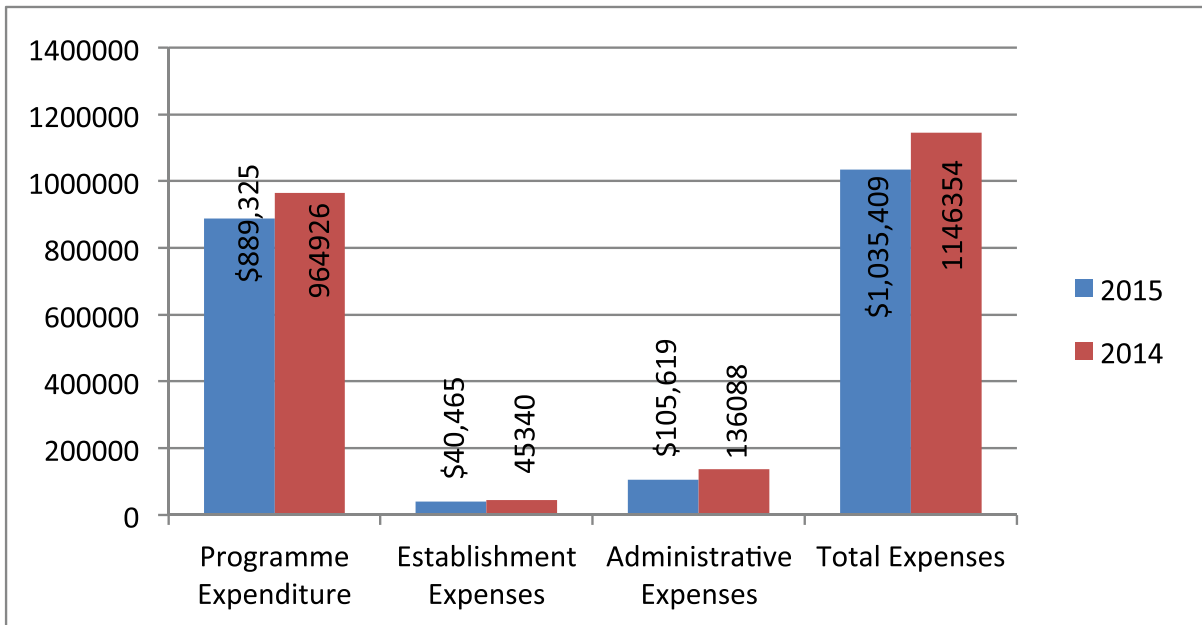


# STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

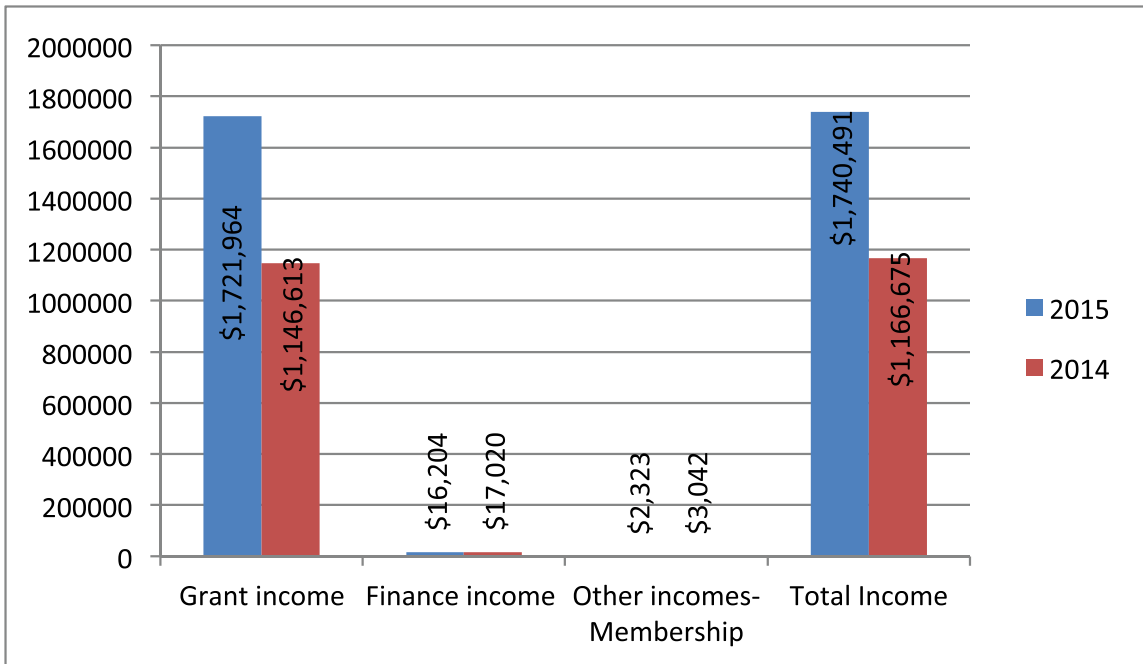
## INCOME FOR THE YEAR 2015



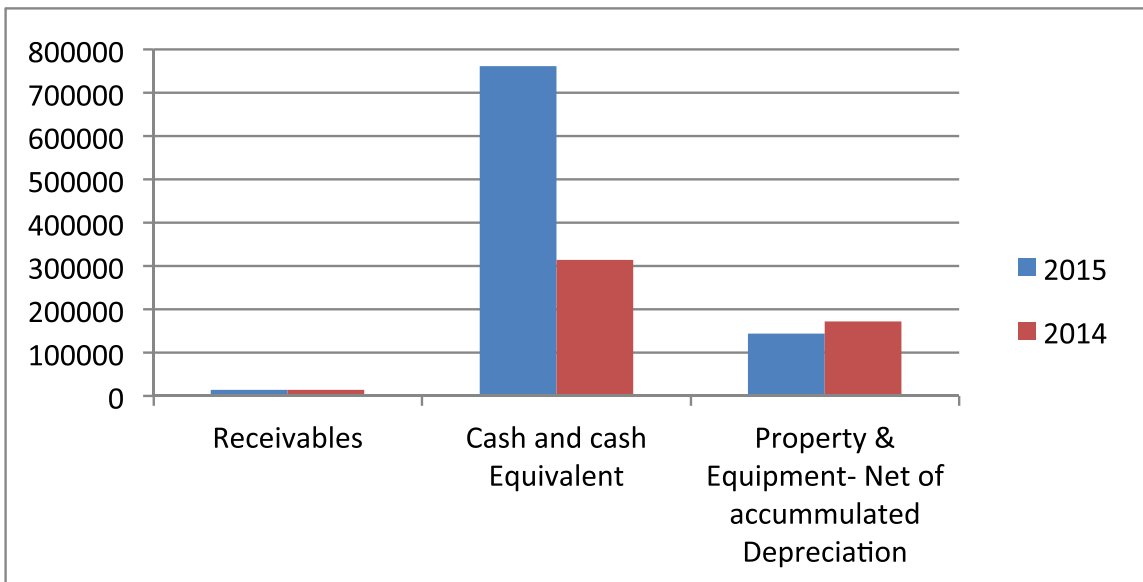
## EXPENDITURES FOR 2015 AND 2014-COMPARATIVES



## INCOME FOR 2015 AND 2014- COMPARATIVES



## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014





# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## 17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted on 25th September 2015 and comprising of the 17 ambitious goals (also being referred to as the sustainable development goals – SDGs) promises to “leave no one behind” in ending all forms of poverty, fighting inequalities and tackling climate change. Each goal has specific targets (a total of 169 targets) to be achieved over the next 15 years.

<p><b>1</b> NO POVERTY</p>	End poverty in all its forms everywhere	<p><b>10</b> REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	Reduce inequality within and among countries
<p><b>2</b> ZERO HUNGER</p>	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture	<p><b>11</b> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
<p><b>3</b> GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	<p><b>12</b> RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
<p><b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all	<p><b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION</p>	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
<p><b>5</b> GENDER EQUALITY</p>	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	<p><b>14</b> LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
<p><b>6</b> CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	<p><b>15</b> LIFE ON LAND</p>	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
<p><b>7</b> AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all	<p><b>16</b> PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
<p><b>8</b> DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	<p><b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.
<p><b>9</b> INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation		

Source: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>  
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>





## The African Women's Development and Communication Network

FEMNET (The African Women's Development and Communication Network) is a feminist, pan-African organization established in 1988 with over five hundred individual and institutional members in 43 countries across Africa and in the Diaspora working to amplify African women's voices, influence policy and decision-making and advance women's human rights. The Network was set up to share information, experiences, ideas and strategies among African women's CSOs and individual activists as a strategy for collective organizing and strengthening women's capacity to participate effectively and influence development processes at national, regional and global levels. With her Secretariat base in Nairobi, Kenya, FEMNET continues to strengthen the role and contribution of African CSOs focusing on women's rights, gender equality and women's empowerment.

### Connect with us!



FEMNET Secretariat



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