



The African Women's  
Development and  
Communication Network

# Mobilizing African Women to Participate and Effect Change



2012

ANNUAL REPORT

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**The African Women's  
Development and  
Communication Network**

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# Table of Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <b>Building on Our Gains:</b><br>Mobilizing African Women & Advancing Our Rights<br>Word from the Executive Director ..... | 2  |
| <b>Moving to Greater Heights:</b><br>Key Milestones in 2012 .....  | 4  |
| <b>FEMNET's Herstory:</b><br>Looking Back, Moving Forward .....  | 6  |
| <b>Global Leadership:</b> .....  | 7  |
| Engagement at the 56 <sup>th</sup> CSW   |    |
| Mobilizing for the Post-2015 development framework   |    |
| Creation of the Africa Regional Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG)  |    |
| <b>Regional Leadership: FEMNET's Work Around the Continent</b> .....   | 10 |
| Force for Freedom: Maputo Protocol @ Work  |    |
| Regional Conference for African Women in Political Leadership  |    |
| Zero Tolerance on SGBV in conflict settings  |    |
| Engendering the Economic Landscape   |    |
| Post Busan: Aid/Development Effectiveness  |    |
| UNiTEd to End Violence against Women   |    |
| Engaging Men in the Struggle for Gender Equality   |    |
| Advocacy Network for RMNCH   |    |
| <b>Nurturing and Tapping into Young Leadership</b> .....   | 17 |
| <b>Another 25 Years and the Spirit of Africa</b> .....   | 19 |
| <b>Financial Statement</b> .....   | 20 |
| <b>Photo Gallery</b> .....   | 22 |



# Building on Our Gains:

## *Mobilizing African Women & Advancing Our Rights*

*Word from the Executive Director*

In this report we reflect on our work in 2012 as we enter our 25<sup>th</sup> year in 2013. In the past 24 years, FEMNET has made remarkable strides towards women's rights and gender equality, complimenting the gains and tremendous momentum at the continental and global levels. In 2012, FEMNET documented and published her journey since 1988 in a book entitled *Herstory: Our Journey Advocating for the Rights of African Women*.

Several factors have created and influenced the social context within which FEMNET tries to deliver on her mandate. This is critical for both the organization, its members and partners in order to be strategic in responding to the advocacy, communication, capacity building and networking needs of the African women's organization whose enhancement is at the centre of the work of we do.



For instance January saw us expand our advocacy to the Pan African Parliament (PAP) during the 18<sup>th</sup> AU Summit, where we were privileged to address parliamentary committee session and raise important issues on women's economic empowerment, and in particular on gender sensitive economic partnership agreements in Africa.

In February, FEMNET was elected as the global feminist coordinator for the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness as a result of advocacy around meaningful participation of women's organizations and networks in the preparations for the fourth high-level forum (HLF-4) and civil society pre-activities in Busan.

FEMNET's niche around mobilization and facilitating the participation of African women in both regional and global processes was evident at the 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March. This resulted in the development of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGOCSW) for Africa and FEMNET was elected co-chair together with FAS.

FEMNET also contributed to the post-2015 development framework by co-convening a Regional African Women's Consultation on Post 2015 Development Framework in October as well as the Africa Wide CSOs Consultation on the Post 2015 Development Framework in Monrovia. In December FEMNET also supported young women members (under age 35) from Liberia, Uganda, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe, to participate in the regional youth consultation on post 2015 in Nairobi. Global, regional, national and thematic consultations will continue in 2013. FEMNET continues to keep a spotlight on the process until there is evidence of integration of women's recommendations in the report of the High Level Panel to the UN Secretary General and thereafter to the General Assembly and beyond.

The urgent need for a regional funding mechanism to support women in political leadership has been identified during previous Annual Regional Leadership conferences organized by FEMNET. The main function of the Fund would be to provide financial and technical support to women in politics to organize their election campaigns, rally the support of women as a strategic constituency for their leadership, and develop and build strategic partnerships and powerful resource networks. At the Fourth Regional Annual Leadership Conference held in Malawi in November 2012 recommendations for the proposed LEAD Fund - A Fund for African Women in Leadership - were validated.

As a membership organization FEMNET's membership has grown over the years. Currently, our membership stands at 132 organizations and 228 individuals in 2012. FEMNET continues to make significant efforts to expand its outreach.

Our work as a Network would not have been possible without the support and enriching partnership that we continue to receive from our partners and friends. I extend appreciation to all our partners who partnered with FEMNET in 2012, among them Sida, Oxfam Novib, Oxfam GB, UN Women, Trust Africa, Urgent Action Fund-Africa, Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF), African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), Fredskorpset (FK) exchange programme partners, Ipas and DFID, among many others.

It has truly been a privilege and honor to partner with people and organizations passionate around the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment including the highly talented and dedicated team of staff.

As we focus our energies and attention to 2013 and the coming years, FEMNET will continue to expand our role in advocacy, communication and capacity building as we play leading roles in kick starting global movements and campaigns of stakeholders, which aspires, improve policies, raise awareness and will ultimately increase resources for realization of gender equality as well as other forms of social justice.

*Dinah Musindarwezo*

Executive Director

# Moving to Greater Heights:

Launch of findings of multi-country study on gender responsive trade agreements

JANUARY

Engaged with Pan African Parliament at 18th AU Summit in Ethiopia

FEMNET elected as global feminist coordinator for CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness

FEBRUARY

Mobilized African women to participate in the CSW, organized African Women's Caucus sessions

MARCH

Popularization of and engagement of Kilimanjaro Climb as part of Africa UNiTE Campaign against VAW

Maputo Protocol @ Work: Article 14 petition and advocacy in Rwanda.

APRIL

Developed gender mainstreaming manual for adult and continuing education under FELITAMO project

MAY

Increased and enhanced online profile and visibility through engagement with new media

JUNE



## Key Milestones in 2012

**JULY**

Produced guidelines for members and other stakeholders championing Zero Tolerance national campaigns

**AUGUST**

Advocacy network for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH) in Kenya to strengthen accountability to women's SRHR

**SEPTEMBER**

Maputo Protocol @ Work: Mission with special rapporteur in Cameroon. Cameroon deposits instrument in January 2013

**OCTOBER**

Advocacy on Maputo Protocol at African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in Cote d'Ivoire

Mobilizing African women's engagement with Post 2015 development framework begins with convening in Liberia.

**NOVEMBER**

Capacity building for Tanzanian Members of Parliament on reproductive rights and advocacy for progressive RH legislation

4th Regional Conference on African Women in Political Leadership officiated by President Joyce Banda of Malawi

**DECEMBER**

Men's Travelling Conference during 16 Days of Activism against GBV through Central, Southern and Northern Regions in Malawi

# FEMNET's Herstory:

## Looking Back, Moving Forward

Herstory was launched by President Joyce Banda during FEMNET's Fourth Regional Conference for African Women in Political Leadership in Malawi.



*The Women's Decade played a very critical role, not for Government but for the women. Women's awareness came to the fore and they had the official space to organize, network and mobilize each other...*

*When we formed the Kenya NGO Organizing Committee, we did not have an agenda. However, we soon began to understand our role and organized ourselves for the meeting in Arusha. When we came back from Arusha, we had an additional mandate to help African women organize themselves to come to Nairobi...After the Nairobi Forum, we had to create FEMNET and I remember sitting over nights to write proposals and the constitution to register FEMNET in order to have an office space, but in the mean time we used to meet here. This very veranda – is where FEMNET was born... Our driving force was how to get maximum voices from the African continent in Nairobi ('85) and beyond for at that time the African woman's voice was not heard in the international arenas."*

- Excerpt from Herstory: Our Journey Advocating for the Rights of African Women pp. 48-49

In 2012 FEMNET embarked on a journey to document her journey. The publication brings to light the process of development and activists work that has contributed to building the women's movement in Africa in the 80's and 90's. It also acknowledges the contributions of different actors, highlighting the struggles in the last years that have resulted in some of the achievements celebrated today.





# Global Leadership:

## FEMNET'S role in CSW, Post-2015 and GEAR



FEMNET @ UN-CSW in New York

### Engagement @ the 56<sup>th</sup> CSW

The priority theme for the 56<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held from February 27 – March 9, 2012 was the Empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges.

While resources to mobilize and prepare for effective engagement across the continent were in

short supply, FEMNET and other African women's regional organizations still made every effort to popularize the 56th session of the CSW, provide platforms for rural women's engagement and prepare concise policy asks for African governments and development partners. FEMNET led the process of preparing and getting inputs to a written statement by African women's organizations, and disseminating timely updates on the CSW process prior to the session.

FEMNET facilitated the participation of African women, including young women and those living and working in rural areas from all five sub-regions of Africa to attend the CSW, and share experiences from their various contexts.

The main challenge at the 56<sup>th</sup> CSW was the failure by governments to reach consensus on the Agreed Conclusions at critical moment when the CSW focused on rural women, whom the 10 - year review of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) showed are the farthest from achieving the MDGs. The failure of governments to produce Agreed Conclusions at the 56<sup>th</sup> CSW laid bare increasing polarizations in



The FEMNET delegation alone was able to speak on at least 13 panels in the margins of the CSW, including one side event organized by FEMNET. FEMNET also co-convened four sessions of the African Women's Caucus as compared to 5 sessions in 2011.

the inter-governmental process at the UN and the need to widen the democratic space that recognizes regional diversity, and draws upon gender equality and women's human rights mandates at multiple levels. It was agreed after CSW 56 that four new NGO Committees on the Status of Women (NGO CSW) would be established as committees of the Conference of NGOs (CoNGO) at the regional levels in parallel with the UN regional commissions of the Economic and Social Commission. These would interact with UN Women as well as other Regional UN bodies such as UNECA in Addis Ababa for the African region.

The NGO CSWs would be open forums where women's concerns could be brought to the attention of governments during regional UN ECOSOC meetings. They could be partners in implementation and monitoring of UN Women policies and programs and work with UN Women regional civil society advisory groups. Most importantly, they would be responsible for widely disseminating information on the CSW, coordinating the drafting of regional NGO CSW Outcome documents, facilitating communications of other NGO documents and other relevant activities to increase participation in preparation for the CSW. To spearhead the process of developing Africa's NGO CSW, an ad-hoc committee of six regional and sub-regional organizations concerned with women's human rights was constituted in June 2012 with FEMNET and FAS as co-chairs. FEMNET on behalf of the AHC convened a Regional Experts Meeting in Preparation for the 57<sup>th</sup> CSW in Nairobi in November 2012. The meeting resulted in strong recommendations on the theme of the 57<sup>th</sup> CSW (elimination and prevention of violence against women and girls) which were then submitted to UN Women as a Written Statement from the Africa NGO CSW. The meeting also agreed on the issues to be presented to governments, the UN and other stakeholders through the Africa NGO Outcome Document.

### **Mobilizing for the Post 2015 Development Framework**

Debates began in earnest in 2012 as the deadline for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaches. The key concern was how to accelerate progress on the current set of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) while at the same time, consulting both nationally and globally on the goals and targets that could build on and succeed the MDGs.

A Pan African alliance which includes FEMNET, Pan Africa Climate Justice Alliance Beyond 2015, GCAP, ACORD International, Oxfam and African Monitor with support from the UN Millennium Campaign was formed in early 2012 to ensure the next agenda was not prescriptive, but one that reflects Africa's



*H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia*

trajectory with the existing MDGs and mirrors the future we want for Africa.

As part of this process, FEMNET co-organized a regional roundtable discussion in the margins of the AU Summit in Addis Ababa in July 2012, to mobilize civil society actors around the post 2015 consultation process, as well as engage the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General on Post MDGs. A roadmap was developed towards broad based popularization. Consultations were held with H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf; co-chair the UN High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post 2015 Development Agenda and Betty Maina, Kenyan member of the High Level Panel. Critically FEMNET co-convened a Regional African Women's Consultation on Post 2015 Development Framework in October in Monrovia as well as the Africa Wide CSOs Consultation on the Post 2015 Development Framework in Monrovia. In December 2012 FEMNET also supported four young women members (under age 35) from Liberia, Uganda, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe, to participate in the regional youth consultation on post 2015 in Nairobi from December 18-20, 2012.

Through the regional women's consultation, 30 African women's organizations and networks from all 5 sub-regions of the continent developed a common platform in form of a position paper to engage with the Post 2015 framework consultation process. Participants included rural women activists from Kenya and Zimbabwe who were part of the FEMNET delegation to the CSW 56<sup>th</sup> Session. Women's organizations in Liberia and Zimbabwe have participated in national consultations. Global, regional, national and thematic consultations will continue in 2013. FEMNET continues to keep a spotlight on the process until there is evidence of integration of women's recommendations in the report of the High Level Panel to the UN Secretary General and thereafter to the General Assembly and beyond.

### **Creation of the Africa Regional Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG)**

In addition, FEMNET act as a focal point organization for Anglophone Africa in the global UN Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) Campaign. The Campaign advocates for a United Nations that works for women, and one of the key areas of focus was the establishment of UN Women in July 2010. FEMNET maintained pressure for the creation of the Africa regional Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG), noting that the Latin America and Asia Pacific CSAGs had been developed. In the interim, FEMNET was approached by UN Women in Kenya to help set up the national CSAG due to our role and visibility in the GEAR campaign.

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*Consultations were held with H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf; co-chair the UN High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post 2015 Development Agenda and Betty Maina, Kenyan member of the High Level Panel. Critically FEMNET co-convened a Regional African Women's Consultation on Post 2015 Development Framework in October in Monrovia as well as the Africa Wide CSOs Consultation on the Post 2015 Development Framework in Monrovia.*

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# Regional Leadership:

## *FEMNET's work around the Continent*

### **A Force for Freedom: The Maputo Protocol @ Work**

As part of the SOAWR, FEMNET used the African Union January and July Summits to lobby foreign Ministers and other members of national delegations to ratify the Protocol. FEMNET specifically lobbied the Rwandan government to lift barriers to women's access to safe abortion services in line with Article 14 of the Protocol. FEMNET prepared and circulated a petition on Rwanda's safe abortion provisions in the penal code, which was under review. The petition was received by the President, Minister of Justice and the relevant Parliamentary committee. As a result of the petition it was discovered the Rwanda had in fact ratified the Protocol with reservations on Article 14's provisions on medical abortion, and the Rwandan Parliament subsequently opened discussion on lifting of the reservation. The revisions to the penal code passed however there were amendments to improve language on procedures for women to access safe abortion services.

FEMNET also coordinated a high level mission to Cameroon with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in September 2012. The goal was to lobby the government to deposit their instrument of ratification, and support Cameroonian CSOs to plan for joint advocacy on implementation of the Protocol. As a result of the mission, Cameroon deposited its instrument with the AU Commission in January 2013. Cameroonian CSOs also agreed on a joint advocacy strategy on popularization and implementation of the Protocol.

### **Regional Conference for African Women in Political Leadership**



*Malawi conference with Pres. Joyce Banda*

Since 2009 FEMNET has convened Annual Regional Conferences on African Women in Political Leadership. The purpose of these conferences is for African women leaders, in politics and in the women's movement, to share experiences and collectively devise ways to overcome the persistent challenges that hinder women's equal and effective participation in political leadership and decision making processes. The Fourth Regional Conference on African Women in Political Leadership with the theme Inter-

*rogating Gender and Elections and Envisioning Women's Leadership Post 2015* was held in Malawi in November, 2012. The conference was officially opened by Her Excellency Mrs. Joyce Banda, President of the Republic of Malawi, who also officially launched the *Her-story*.

Participants from 18 African countries who fell within the election spectrum within 2012-2015, discussed key impediments to women's full participation in electoral processes, and deliberated on goals for women's participation in decision making for the Post 2015 development framework. Conference participants included a cross section of seasoned and young women politicians, Members of Parliament, Ministers, senior government officials, political aspirants from 18 African countries, leading women rights activists, civil society and research organizations engaged in women's leadership development and key development partners supporting women's political participation initiatives.

### **Zero Tolerance on SGBV in Conflict Settings**

FEMNET as a member of the CSO Coordinating Committee on the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Special Session on sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) compiled a set of guidelines to support Member States in developing their Zero Tolerance national campaigns, to ensure that they were in line with international, regional and ICGLR human rights instruments, with strong multi-sectoral participation and clearly articulated outcomes.

As a result, the Ministers' communiqué at the close of the Kinshasa consultation reflected five specific issues pushed for by CSOs, including through the FEMNET guidelines. On the whole, the communiqué reflected concrete and time-bound actions which were debated at length, with coordinated interventions from the CSO Committee. This demonstrates the inclusiveness of the ICGLR space which has expanded since the Arusha meetings, due to consistent engagement by the SGBV CSO Committee with the ICGLR Secretariat.

In Kenya, FEMNET convened relevant CSOs working on SGBV to disseminate the Kampala and Kinshasa agreements, and were invited by the ICGLR National Coordinator (in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) along with national CSOs to join a National Committee towards implementation of the Kampala Declaration. This set the stage for the structured engagement needed to see that the Declaration is fully implemented, with broad participation. One result in Kenya has already been recorded, when the Deputy Public Prosecutor recently appointed a Special Prosecutor for the Sexual Offenses Act.

### **Engendering the Economic Landscape**

In the margins of the 18<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa, under the theme "Boosting Intra-African Trade," FEMNET launched a documentary and report on the findings from a multi-country research on Gender Responsive Trade Agreements. The Launch which was attended by members of the Pan African Parliament from Rwanda, Botswana, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia, senior officials from the AU Commission and the UNECA, CSOs and private sector served as a platform to lobby key policy and intergovernmental officials on the gender dimensions of trade agreements. FEMNET also began carving a niche for herself on expertise in gender and trade, as acknowledged by the AUC Director of Trade and Industry and the Pan African Parliament officials.

## Post Busan: Aid/ Development Effectiveness

FEMNET participated in post-Busan CSO meetings that took place in February as well as the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) Global Council meeting in December 2012 to define the priorities of the global CSO community post-Busan. Building on the results achieved in Busan at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4), FEMNET continued to influence the development cooperation agenda with a shared women's rights perspective. FEMNET co-convened a global women's consultation and an Africa Regional Consultation in July, a Post Busan session at the 2012 AWID Forum to encourage greater engagement in the aid effectiveness from other women's rights activists.



*Engagement guide on Development Effectiveness for African women's organizations' use in lobbying their governments.*

These key demands are a living document open for comments and endorsements\*

### Key Demands from Women's Rights Organizations and Gender Equality Advocates

To the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Busan, Korea, 2011) and the Development Cooperation Forum (2012)

*Well-articulated demands were used to influence spaces and processes of relevance.*

## UNiTEd to End Violence against Women

Structural and institutional barriers which discriminate against girls and women underlie social, economic and political inequalities and perpetuate poverty. Women's rights are also directly affected by religious fundamentalism which through efforts to control women's bodies and roles can have a negative impact in terms of reduced SRHR and freedoms, reduced or denied autonomy and rights in the public sphere, and increased violence against women. Our goal is to ensure that society fully values and appreciates women and the role they play in the development of our continent and women are able to defend themselves against bodily abuse and attacks on their dignity.

The UNiTE Campaign is a global initiative launched by the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon aimed at bringing an end to violence against women and girls (VAW/G) through: preventing violence, providing services to survivors and promoting access to justice. FEMNET began its engagement with the Africa component, Africa UNiTE, prior to, during and after its flagship event, the Mount Kilimanjaro Climb that took place in March 2012 and involved over 70 climbers from 36 African countries.

FEMNET set up a Crowdmap, to map out the events taking place in solidarity around the continent. FEMNET was able to take part in the Africa UNiTE events and used several

outlets to document and popularize the Climb but more importantly the Campaign and its mission to end VAW through daily blogs, pictures, videos, tweets, and links on the Campaign as well as solidarity events on its social media sites. This was used to mobilize citizens and governments to act.

This translated into more African citizenry being aware of the campaign and its objectives, and able to engage in addition to the FEMNET report on the Kilimanjaro Climb. FEMNET continues to support the Africa UNiTE Campaign in developing its communication strategy.

FEMNET has also been central to organizing the launch of the Kenya Chapter of the Africa UNiTE Campaign, which was successfully done in November 2012 in Nairobi. It brought together over 300 participants from various counties in Kenya including; political parties, government officials, media personnel, civil society, male and female activists and religious and cultural gatekeepers. It sought to promote a multi-sectoral and multi-pronged approach to preventing and combating violence, especially to ensure a violence-free election period in Kenya in March 2013.



## Engaging Men in the Struggle for Gender Equality

We continued to strengthen our Men to Men programme to *create a critical mass of African men who are able to influence communities, organizations, and the public to embrace gender equality and women's human rights as a norm.* As key decision makers and influencers and custodians of culture and religion, men have an important role to play in helping to shift social norms to support girls and women. This includes traditional and religious leadership, but also boys and young men at the community level. In Uganda, a sustained partnership with the Men to Men constituency in Gulu has led to innovative methodologies to work warriors in Karamajong while undergoing initiation which links masculinity to cattle rustling for bride price and a value system that attaches cattle ownership to wealth which has led to the death of many young men. Approaches which have changed male gatekeep-

ers to enablers – either through getting major influential male opinion leaders on board, or working with the whole community through participatory approaches have led to successful and progressive change catalyzed by our men to men programme.



### Men to Men partners in Uganda and Tanzania

In this period, FEMNET provided technical support for advocacy training for the Men to Men Constituency in Uganda in partnership with iCON. A Leadership Enhancement training seminar of the Masculinity Transformational Leadership Fellowship Programme was held for Men in Gulu - Northern Uganda where 30 Men to Men constituency members participated. The training curriculum for Uganda was extended to cover policy advocacy on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) laws and communication strategies including working with the media. Currently the team is working to follow up on the implementation of the 2008 Uganda Domestic Violence Act with support from iCON. Men to Men members expanded the programme to other parts of Northern Uganda to cover eight districts.

In Tanzania, the project continued to offer both technical and financial support to the African Life Foundation and the Men to Men constituency members.

### Outreach Targeting Communities Facing Domestic Violence in Kenya

At the beginning of the year, a lobby group called Maendeleo ya Wanaume claiming to be working on the rights of men embarked on a campaign to profile cases of men who were battered by women in Kenya. This attracted a lot of media attention both locally and internationally, with gory images of men who were battered showcased on the front page of a leading newspaper. Unfortunately, when the media was awash with cases of battered men, a woman was killed in a case of domestic violence but was only featured in a caption in the middle pages of the same newspaper. These events confirmed how violence against women has been normalized by society and the media making it unworthy of attention and action. The attention given to the cases of male survivors of violence ended up eroding objective dialogue on the actual situation of violence in which women are predominantly victims. As a result, this project intervened to promote inter-gender dialogue sessions targeting couples in the hard hit areas of Gatanga in Kiambu and Mukurwe-ini in Nyeri.

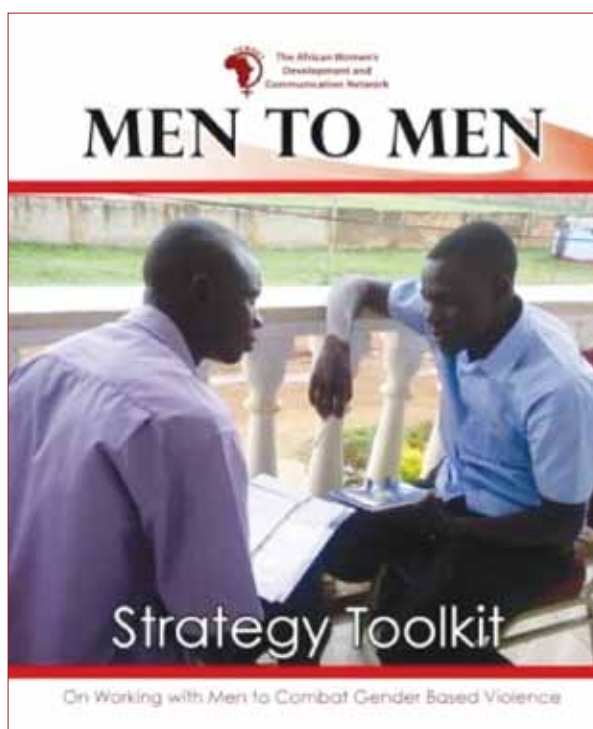
The dialogue sessions included students, church leaders, chiefs, Ministry of Gender officials, couples living in violent relationships, men and women. They critically looked at forms and acts of violence among couples, its manifestations and impact on men and women. The session concluded by establishing a common bond for action at individual and community levels, such as reducing incidences of alcohol and drug abuse. Follow up activities in the form of counseling sessions as well as community dialogue forums were also undertaken in conjunction with partners.



### Men to Men Strategy Toolkit and Training Manual on GBV

FEMNET has for many years objectively worked with men to end gender based violence through training and practical engagements. The Men to Men Strategy Toolkit is a collection of rich experiences and contributions from a diverse team of male gender advocates who have been working with FEMNET's Men to Men programme since its inception in 2003. It can be used in bits or in full to reach men in order to end gender based violence in Africa or for other social development programs.

The development of the Men to Men Training Manual on Gender Based Violence was part of the ongoing regional capacity development strategy to support the expansion of the Men to Men programme beyond the East African countries and strengthen the capacity of in-country teams to train men on GBV. The Manual will be launched during International Father's Day in 2013.



### Advocacy Network for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH)

The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) is collaborating with International NGOs and the African CSO Coalition on MNCH (of which FEMNET is a member) to support country and regional level advocacy for the implementation of the commitments contained in the Global Strategy on Women's and Children's Health. Family Care International (FCI) as the international NGO and FEMNET as the indigenous organization are the partners coordinating implementation in Kenya.

Under phase one of the project, FEMNET and FCI undertook a desk review of organizations working on RMNCH in Kenya, and convened a CSO Consultative Meeting on the Global Strategy on Women and Children's Health in May 2012. A SWOT analysis of existing structures, strategies and ways of working on RMNCH advocacy was carried out during the Consultation. A National RMNCH advocacy steering committee was formed and met in July 2012, to formulate a framework and guiding Action Plan. It was agreed that under phase two of the project, FEMNET and FCI would serve as a joint secretariat for the steering committee, and coordinate follow-up activities including; conducting an in-depth mapping of civil society organizations working on RMNCH advocacy in Kenya and carrying out capacity building workshop.

To deal with the rapid formation and demise of coalitions, the Steering Committee will adopt clear Terms of Reference, rotational chairing as some of the strategies to deal with this threat.

## **Progressive Reproductive Health Legislation:**

### ***Capacity building for Tanzanian Members of Parliament***

A consultation for Tanzanian Members of Parliament was convened in partnership with Ipas Africa Alliance and TAWLA (Tanzania Women's Lawyers Association) in November, 2012 in Tanzania. The purpose of the consultation was to discuss how to strategically position reproductive rights within the ongoing Tanzania Constitutional review process in order to lay firm foundation for progressive subsidiary legislation, policies and guidelines after adoption of the new Constitution. The workshop focused particularly on the issue of unsafe abortion.

The consultation was a follow up to the work began by FEMNET and White Ribbon Alliance- Tanzania after the East African Caravan on Maternal Health in 2010. The partners met with parliamentarians to raise awareness on the situation of maternal deaths in Tanzania, and disseminate the Heads of State decision from the AU Summit on Maternal and Child Health held in July 2010. As a result of this engagement the parliamentarians formed a Safe Motherhood Taskforce.

Participants at the Zanzibar meeting were drawn from the Safe Motherhood Taskforce, as well as various parliamentary committees (Population; HIV; Constitutional Affairs, Public Accounts, and others). The Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs was also in attendance, as were representatives of the Medical Women's Association of Tanzania and resource persons from Kenya and Mozambique.

In depth discussions were held on unsafe abortion and its contribution to maternal deaths in Tanzania, and participants reviewed a draft reproductive health Bill prepared by TAWLA. By the end of the meeting MPs were clear on the importance of women's reproductive rights including access to safe abortion services, and committed to advocating for strong and positive language (and protect against anti-choice language) in the new Constitution. They applauded the proposed Bill and provided valuable proposals to TAWLA on the way forward.

### **Enhancing Communication and Relevance**

FEMNET has advanced in its communications infrastructure by investing heavily in improving its outreach through producing and disseminating of information on women's empowerment and development. In 2012, FEMNET enhanced its online presence and relevance through a revamped website ([www.femnet.co](http://www.femnet.co)) and new forms of media such as blogs, facebook, twitter, YouTube as well as a series of online newsletters. In this way FEMNET is able to also showcase the work of its members thereby engaging a broader constituency on the importance of supporting women's rights and share opportunities with its constituents in that respect. The creation of stronger linkages amongst member organizations has also been strengthened through the use of sub-regional listservs. As a result of these efforts, FEMNET has been able to engage new and important stakeholders and constituents such as the youth, academia, the media, intergovernmental agencies and state institutions.

FEMNET has formulated a course of action over the next few years to address the structural weaknesses identified among member organizations. These organizations form the nucleus of the movement for gender equality in Africa. Yet for the most part these organizations are relatively weak.

## Nurturing and Tapping into Young Leadership

The internship programme at FEMNET has been going on for more than 15 years now. The purpose of the internship programme is to develop the skills and potential of young women activists so that they can get involved in building the women’s movement. The programme is designed to impart skills, mentor and support young women to learn, explore and actively participate in championing for women’s rights issues. The interns are provided with opportunities to attend meetings with other NGOs and CSOs, to sharpen and enhance their advocacy and communication skills, in line with the work of FEMNET. Specific opportunities are provided to enable the interns to gain skills and knowledge through a variety of learning experiences.



“ My FEMNET internship experience has been invaluable and memorable. As a result of seeing the day-to-day operations of a regional nongovernmental organization with such integrity, and my exposure to various prominent staff, I have gained essential skills at both the professional and academic level. I found an amazing support system. The program is unique in that it really integrates the interns into the team and its rhythm of work.”

**Susan Maina** Resource Centre Intern



“ I have grown in my skills including but not limited to women empowerment, website management, communication, and social media management, advocacy on different issues including Aid Effectiveness...This has been one of the most eye opening experiences for me and I believe it is also the beginning of a bright future for me in women’s and human rights. FEMNET as an organization truly practices its gender policy as it trains young women to be the successor generation of women leaders.”

**Hannah Ondiek** Communication Intern

FEMNET has been a partner in the Norwegian Fredskorpset (FK) Exchange programme, which facilitates the exchange of personnel (ages 22 – 35 years) within participating organizations with an aim to transfer expertise/skills and promote networking for a period of ten months. In 2012, FEMNET received a fellow from Public Affairs and Parliamentary Support Trust (PAPST) in Zimbabwe to work on strengthening FEMNET’s monitoring and evaluation (M & E) in programs and activities for better output measurement and improved service delivery. FEMNET in exchange sent a fellow to Idasa in South Africa to work on heightening consciousness of gender mainstreaming amongst project staff at Idasa. FEMNET has been able to increase opportunities to its young membership to gain tangible and professional knowledge and skills around a variety of issues. Additionally, FEMNET’s M&E has been significantly strengthened as a result of the exchange program.



“ It has been a rewarding nine months with FEMNET, and I would like to thank all staff for the opportunity to be part of the FEMNET family, opportunities for exposure in women’s rights programming, and support as I tried out new things and got new insights.”

**Dorothy Kadkizano** PAPST’s FK Fellow  
sent to FEMNET



“ I was privileged to be sent to Idasa (South Africa) by FEMNET. The fellowship lasted 11 months, with a month spent at FEMNET doing some follow up activities. Being part of the Idasa team has built my confidence to engage with people from different backgrounds. I will be forever thankful for the opportunities of learning and growth that have been opened to me.”

**Tsitsi Mhlanga** FEMNET’s FK  
Fellow sent to Idasa

## Another 25 years and the Spirit of Africa

The coming year 2013 present numerous opportunities for FEMNET to leverage her convening, advocacy and communication approaches. These include the commemoration of the 50 years of OAU/AU, the 10 anniversary celebration of the AU Protocol on the Rights of Women and the third year into the African Women's Decade (2010-2020).

By the end of 2012, FEMNET entered into partnership with the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) to implement a four-year capacity building project that seeks to strengthen linkages and enhance networking, communication and information sharing capacities of FEMNET member organizations. Through the ACBF project, FEMNET will provide support, information, dialogue, skills development and also the development of tools and models of good practice to help strengthen institutional effectiveness.

Although African countries continue to sign and ratify international, regional and sub-regional instruments that seek to protect and promote the rights of women very little has been translated into action/practice. Domestication of these instruments into national legislation lags way behind and is compounded by a lack of adequate infrastructure that can translate rights into meaningful realities for women.

FEMNET intends to build on the achievements that have accrued from the support provided in 2012 and the previous years to scale up its activities by increasing partnerships and opportunities for capacity building in order to respond to the growing demand from our members and partners. FEMNET will focus on those groups of women from marginalized communities such as young women, the disabled and women living with HIV/AIDS. FEMNET will also seek to increase its level of membership and representation in those geographical areas that have so far been under represented in our membership.

*“Someday...everybody will think it was always, just exactly as many young people think, that all the privileges, all the freedom, all the enjoyments which women now possess always were theirs. They have no idea how every single inch of ground that they stand upon today has been gained by the hard work of a handful of women in the past.”*

- Susan B Anthony.

**A luta continua!**

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011

| ASSETS   | 2012              | 2012           | 2011              |
|--|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
|  | Kshs              | USD            | KShs              |
| <b>Current Assets:</b>                                 |                   |                |                   |
| Receivables  | 1,134,506         | 13,506         | 979,570           |
| Investments at Market Value                            | 10,072,315        | 119,908        | 9,053,235         |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents                              | 50,208,375        | 597,719        | 63,819,584        |
|  | <u>61,415,196</u> | <u>731,133</u> | <u>73,852,389</u> |
| <b>Long Term Assets:</b>                               |                   |                |                   |
| Property and equipment-net of accumulated depreciation | <u>14,057,128</u> | <u>167,347</u> | <u>13,811,236</u> |
| Total Assets   | <u>75,472,324</u> | <u>898,480</u> | <u>87,663,625</u> |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>                        |                   |                |                   |
| Current Liabilities                                    | 5,563,039         | 66,227         | 14,098,360        |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses                  | 34,978,723        | 416,413        | 43,415,725        |
| Restricted / Deferred income                           | <u>40,541,762</u> | <u>482,640</u> | <u>57,514,085</u> |
| Reserves   | 34,355,306        | 408,992        | 29,574,284        |
| General reserve  | 575,256           | 6,848          | 575,256           |
| Capital reserve  | <u>34,930,562</u> | <u>415,840</u> | <u>30,149,540</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Reserves                         | <u>75,472,324</u> | <u>898,480</u> | <u>87,663,625</u> |

## STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011

|  | 2012               | 2012             | 2011               |
|--|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
|  | KShs               | USD              | KShs               |
| <b>SUPPORT AND REVENUES</b>                |                    |                  |                    |
| Grant received                             | 154,792,368        | 1,842,766        | 138,988,714        |
| Finance income                             | 2,676,162          | 31,859           | 3,365,881          |
| Other income                               | 2,528,882          | 30,106           | 3,745,167          |
|  | 159,997,412        | 1,904,731        | 146,099,762        |
| Less: Restricted/deferred income           | (30,978,723)       | (368,794)        | (39,915,725)       |
| <b>Total Support and Revenue</b>           | <b>129,018,689</b> | <b>1,535,937</b> | <b>106,184,037</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                            |                    |                  |                    |
| Programme expenses                         | 108,210,632        | 1,288,222        | 87,467,285         |
| Establishment expenses                     | 3,539,780          | 42,140           | 3,367,630          |
| Administration expenses                    | 12,487,255         | 148,658          | 10,208,336         |
| <b>Total expenses</b>                      | <b>124,237,667</b> | <b>1,479,020</b> | <b>101,043,251</b> |
| Surplus for the year                       | 4,781,022          | 56,917           | 5,140,786          |
| General reserves at beginning of the year  | 29,574,284         | 352,074          | 24,433,498         |
| <b>General reserves at end of the year</b> | <b>34,355,306</b>  | <b>408,991</b>   | <b>29,574,284</b>  |

FEMNET's financial position continues to improve with a net assets balance of US\$ 358,565 at 2012 fiscal year end.

FEMNET recorded US\$ 1,904,731 in support and revenue in fiscal year 2012, US\$ 368,794 of which is restricted for use in the following periods. The expenses increased by 23% while continuing to have very strong expense ratios with programme expenses representing 87% of the total expenses.

Financial commitment relating to purchase of long term asset (2 acre freehold land for USD 128,738) initiated in 2011 was concluded during the year.

\* The figures have been translated at rate of USD 1 = KSh 84; Euro 1=111 (2011: USD 1 = KSh 81; Euro 1 = 108)

\* FEMNET's financial statements have been independently audited by accounting firm of Otieno Oboge & Co (Certified Public Accountants) and received an unqualified audit opinion as to their fair presentation in conformity with International Financial reporting Standards and the Kenyan Non-Governmental Organisations ( NGO) Act. A complete set of audited financial statements is available upon request.









*25* Years of Promoting  
Women's Rights  
in Africa