Empowering women in Africa

Countries in Africa have made impressive progress in their efforts to empower women and achieve gender equality. But much work remains to be done.

**Unparalleled progress**

- **Percentage of women land holders in Africa in the 1990s and 2012:**
  - 1990s: 7%
  - 2012: 15%

- **Sub-Saharan Africa doubled the proportion of seats held by elected women in 10 years.**

- **Decrease in maternal deaths from 1990 to 2010:** 42%

- **From 1992 to 2011, women took part in 6 out of 15 peace processes in Africa.**

**But considerable challenges**

- **With equal access to resources, women could increase yields on their farms by 30%**

- **Only 20% of all government ministers are women.**

- **$60 billion**
  - Annual economic losses due to gender gaps in labor and education in Africa.

Learn more on www.africa.undp.org
With UNDP’s support:

Senegal increased the number of elected women from 22.7% to 42.7%.

In Kenya, women now hold 21% of the seats in the National Assembly, up from 10%. Ghana, Lesotho and Togo increased their proportion of elected women by 2.2%, 2.8% and 4.3% respectively.

100,000 women in West Africa have better access to energy and more time to plan their futures.

Thanks to Zimbabwe’s new constitution, which introduced gender quotas in the public sphere, there are now 35% of women in Parliament.

Sierra Leone passed a sexual offenses law introducing strict minimum sentences for offenders.

30% of all new land allocations in Zambia are now reserved for women.

The road ahead:

UNDP Africa has created a pioneering talent pool to promote women into positions of leadership.

The proportion of women Resident Representatives in Africa has increased.

More training under way for UNDP Africa staff to contribute to gender-related results.

Objectives:

1. Improve UNDP’s leadership and accountability on gender in Africa
2. Promote opportunities for career advancement for women
3. Reinforce gender programming.