



PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY:
REMAINING CHALLENGES & THE WAY FORWARD

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Presentation Outline



Empowerment, Human Rights and Mainstreaming

Realities of women's LIVES and gender Relations impacted by Poverty, Insecurity, Impunity and Patriarchy

The Future MUST focus on...Voice, Accountability and Resources

Progress for Women, progress for all



Her Story (Rozaria)

- Born in rural Murewa, 1923; 3rd Grade Education
- Married at 15, to a young man chosen by her father
- Gave birth to 13 children, 6 living now; 2 died of AIDS and 2 have mental health problem
- She fostered/adopted 5 children; cared for 10 orphans
- Lived as a widow for 28 years, Sent all her children to school; including girls imprisoned during wartime
- A active member of all development Committees in her village
- Died at home in 2006; an unsung heroine, a mentor with unfilled potential

The fundamentals..... towards Gender Equality



Its about human rights, women, men and children as subjects of rights,

A human rights approach...with accountability grounded on normative legal and political instruments, ie CEDAW, Protocols on Women's Rights, Beijing Platform for Action etc

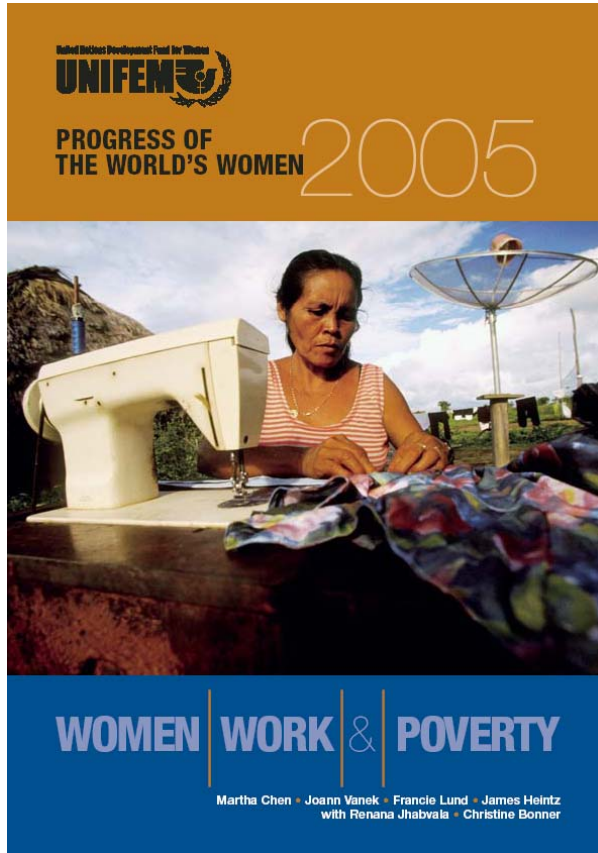
Its about Empowerment especially of women; that places opportunities, capabilities and choices at the core

Demands a “corestreaming” approach that that is transformative and questioning of the norms, processes and value systems

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Challenges

Development Approaches (1...)



- More upstream (policies, institutions and processes) vs communities
- Centralisation of power and resources in state institutions;
- Balancing approaches, empowerment, rights and mainstreaming

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Challenges 2...



Knowledge and technology defined world, challenge and opportunity for promoting gender equality.



- Infrastructure and ICTs access
- Technology services and tools for time and energy efficiency for women

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Challenges (3...)

Interface of poverty, violence
(including conflicts), disease and
Patriarchy



- Approaches to poverty focuses on poverty alleviation and not wealth creation
- Conflict, violence and wars reduce women's organising, rights in massive scars of rights violations and fractures institutions
- HIV & AIDS, vulnerabilities, risks and care policies

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The Future

Some Recommendations



Building and Sustaining the
Voice

Demanding Accountability for
Gender Equality

Resourcing for Empowerment,
Equality and Rights

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SUSTAINING VOICE



- **Whose voice?** Women, young people, men, communities, leadership, diversity, networks, political, collective voice
- **For What?** for equality, rights and empowerment, for recognition, for valuing, for transformation, for protection, for opportunities, for capacities, for options and for a life with dignity
- **Where?** In decision making spaces, in academic and research institutions, in advocacy and public awareness, in political debates, in private sector, in our families and communities

Demanding Accountability for Gender Equality



- Accountability to implement the multiple full baskets of international, regional and normative instruments and commitments to gender equality
- Accountability through legislative and policy strengthening, reform and harmonisation
- Accountability through an end to impunity
- Accountability through gender responsive resource management
- Accountability through the political and governance process in public office
- Global accountability and Private sector responsibility



Resources for Empowerment, Equality and Rights

- Gender Responsive Budgeting Approaches must be sustained....national revenue/spending
- Gender Equality in Aid Effectives (Paris Principles on Donor Coordination..)
- Integrating Gender Equality in Post Conflict Needs Assessments and Multi-Donor Trust Funds (ie Sudan)
- Natural Resources Management (land, minerals, oil etc)....rights and empowerment
- Investment Policies harmonization with development goals and values of empowerment, rights and equality

United Nations Development Fund for Women



THANK YOU

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