

AFRICA'S FUTURE IS FEMALE



There are currently
168
MILLION
women active
in sub-Saharan
African
economies.
This number is
expected to grow
by nearly
ONE-THIRD
over the next
10 years

44%

of businesses in Ghana
are run by women

43%

in Cape Verde

41%

in Rwanda

Women
produce
80%
of
Africa's
food



ONE

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Dr Siphso Moyo

My paternal grandmother – who lived to be 102 – was considered by many standards to be a woman who lived ahead of her time. She and my grandfather had seven children - three girls and four boys. Although she was a school teacher and my grandfather a preacher in the Lutheran church they lived a relatively modest rural life. But being an educated woman herself, a value that she enforced very firmly in her family was that all her children – girls and boys – would be given an equal opportunity to receive a good education. Fortunately my grandparents could afford this. However, my grandmother was often heard to say that if their ability to do so was ever curtailed – due to crop failure for example – she would spend her last pound educating her three girls. This was because she held strongly to the belief that while *educating a boy child was to educate the man, to educate a girl on the other hand meant educating a nation.* This belief continues and is evident in my family even today.

The stories you will read about in this report – of courage, resilience and success in some of the most difficult of circumstances – represent a very small cross section of women doing their bit in Africa. However they do clearly demonstrate that investing in women is still the smart thing to do and it yields the highest social return on investments. What the stories will make you appreciate is that women in Africa are truly the backbone of their communities and that the future of Africa will be determined by how well we are able to tap into this wealth of human capital that has largely gone underutilised, underappreciated and undervalued.

We hope these compelling stories will illustrate for you how investing in and tapping into the potential of women is particularly key to unlocking Africa's own economic potential. As a number of studies have shown, an educated woman has the best chance of creating wealth because her education translates into further investment in her own family. It translates into better nutrition for her family, better education for her children, better healthcare, and a better quality of life overall. This is less likely to be the case when a man's fortunes improve. In contrast the money tends to go more towards improving the man's own social status.

Beyond the benefits to a woman's immediate family, the social benefits of investing in women nearly always help to create wealth by women sharing knowledge with other women in their communities based on what they have learned. We at ONE recently heard first hand from a group of African women entrepreneurs who told us how they consciously endeavour to share with their peers any information on what has worked for them because they know it will be put into practice and will help other families in the community.

The inspiring stories of the women in this report will also leave you baffled as to why women continue to face immense challenges – from lack of access to funding for their businesses to negative property rights laws. And yet given half a chance, women will continue to overcome these challenges and to lift their families, their communities and their nations out of poverty.

It is time to invest in African women to create a brighter future for Africa.

Dr Siphso Moyo

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Much more needs to be done to unleash the potential of Africa's 430 million women and girls. The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Summit this September is one place where the world must throw its support behind them.¹ We know what's needed to unleash the potential of women and girls around the globe – better hospitals, more girls in school, easier ways to start and grow a business and greater opportunities for women to be leaders.

Africa's future depends on the continent meeting some seemingly impossible challenges over the next decade: making sure that mothers stop dying while giving birth, carving out a place for itself in the global economy, helping farmers grow enough to feed their families and communities, educating the next generation of leaders. Africa won't be successful unless we invest in the future of its women – as farmers, mothers, doctors, entrepreneurs – and allow them to thrive and drive change, from their homes to the halls of government.

The women profiled in this report – from the Tanzanian sweet potato farmer to the director general of Nigeria's Securities and Exchange Commission – are the powerhouses behind Africa's progress over the last decade, demonstrating what is possible in communities across the continent.

We know that Africa's future is female. Let's make sure that future is a bright one by stepping up our investment in women and girls.



If the world is serious about tackling extreme poverty and disease, then it's time to step up our investments in Africa's women and girls.

It's time to make a change.



Over the past decade, most efforts in the fight against poverty have focused on delivering high-impact solutions such as immunisations, bed nets to protect against malaria and fertilisers to boost farm yields. These investments have achieved impressive results and should be expanded. Yet without creating the long-term conditions for development and self-sufficiency – committed, transparent leadership and strong economies – these results cannot be sustained.

A new development strategy that invests in the potential of African women to improve governance and achieve sustainable, equitable economic growth will help Africa put itself on a path to meet the MDGs by 2015 and to eradicate poverty and achieve prosperity in the years ahead.

The recommendations in this report outline the steps that all development partners should take to improve governance, create economic opportunity and increase smart investments to meet the MDGs by 2015, especially by tapping into the potential of women and girls to drive their countries' development.

1. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are a set of targets aimed at reducing global poverty and disease by 2015. Leaders from 189 nations committed to these goals when they signed the Millennium Declaration at the United Nations General Assembly in 2000. Progress towards the MDGs will be reviewed when world leaders gather for the annual UN General Assembly in September 2010.

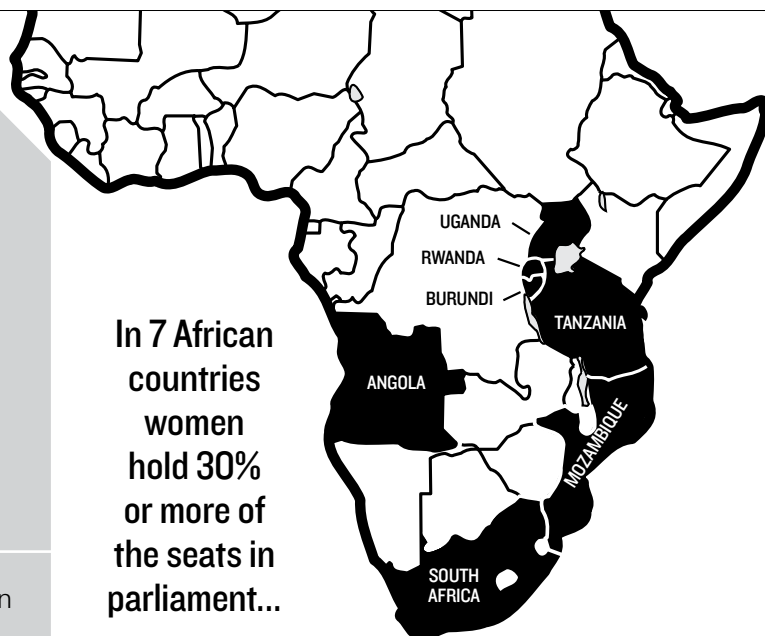


Women are already playing a critical role in advocating for more honest, committed leadership in Africa, perhaps because they and their families stand to benefit tremendously from improved governance.

For an African family, curbing corruption will mean not having to pay a bribe to lease a plot of land or face inflated prices for medicine at their local clinic. Open and accessible budgets will mean that parents can monitor whether funds are reaching their children's school or if revenue from natural resources such as oil is being invested in roads or wells for their village. Peace and stability will mean that women can work late in the evening without fear of harassment, and free and fair elections will mean that every citizen has a voice in their government and the opportunity to stand for office.

Committed leaders who are accountable to their citizens will enable the key building blocks of development – a thriving economy, an active civil society and effective resources for fighting poverty – to be put into place. Improvements in governance will require empowering African women as leaders and advocates and removing the legal, administrative and traditional barriers that impede their success.

As policy-makers, women can bring a unique perspective to decision-making. Through their role as care-givers in their families, women have an interest in ensuring that resources for areas such as health and education are spent wisely. Studies have also found that the greater the representation of women in parliament the lower the level of corruption.² Further, countries that have successfully emerged from conflict, such as Liberia and Mozambique, have also shown that putting women at the helm of reconciliation and recovery can turn even the most impoverished countries into beacons of progress in the fight against poverty.

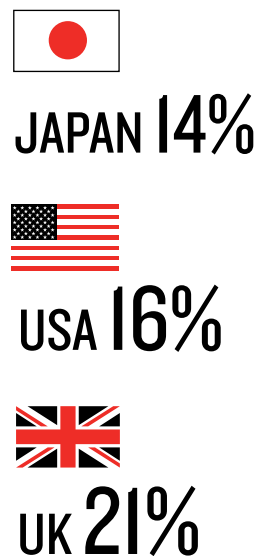


Women make up 56% of the Rwandan Parliament, the highest percentage of female legislators of any country in the world⁶



A well-governed future

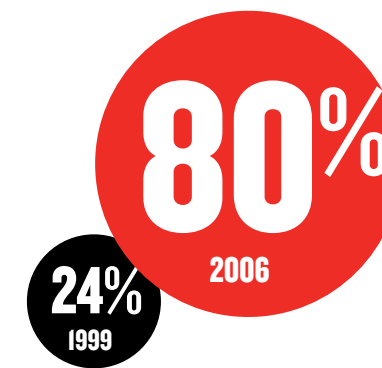
...this compares with 14% in Japan, 16% in the United States and 21% in the United Kingdom⁴



A World Bank study of 100 countries found that the greater the representation of women in parliament the lower the level of corruption⁵



Women are outnumbered four to one in legislatures around the world⁷



Proportion of grants reaching schools in a Ugandan community in 1999 compared with 2006, after a newspaper campaign advertised to parents how much their schools should be receiving³

2. D. Dollar, R. Fisman and R. Gatti. "Are Women Really the 'Fairer' Sex? Corruption and Women in Government". Policy Research Report on Gender and Development Working Paper Series No. 4, The World Bank. http://www.huntalternatives.org/download/169_womencorruption1999.pdf 3. R. Reinikka and J. Svensson. "Fighting Corruption to Improve Schooling: Evidence from a Newspaper Campaign in Uganda". <http://econ.lse.ac.uk/staff/rburgess/eea/svenssonjeaa.pdf> 4. Interparliamentary Union. "Women in National Parliaments". <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm> 5. D. Dollar, R. Fisman and R. Gatti, op. cit. 6. UNIFEM. "Women's Land and Property Rights". http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/women_poverty_economics/land_property_rights.php 7. Inter-Parliamentary Union. "Women in National Parliaments". <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm>

A well-governed future

Fighting for reform in Nigeria

Arunma Oteh knows change isn't always easy. But when she took over as director general of Nigeria's Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in early 2010, she knew that big change was needed. Nigeria was still struggling to recover from the global financial crisis. And the country – home to Africa's second-biggest stock market – was fighting against a reputation for corruption.

For Arunma, when an investor puts money in the market – whether a group of woman starting a new business in Nigeria or a big company overseas – they must trust that their money will be handled fairly—no foul play. So it was time to send the signal to everyone that improper behaviour would not be accepted.

“In my country, the entrepreneurial spirit is just outstanding,” says Arunma. “You’ve got really hard-working people who want to make a real difference, and the markets provide a way for people to raise capital and to invest. That’s why we at the SEC must have zero tolerance

for anything that’s improper, because the capital markets are built on trust.”

Over the past six months, Arunma has been working hard to combat corruption head on so that everyone hears one clear message: Nigeria is a great place to invest. “Local and international investors need to understand that things have changed.”

At the start of the year, she promised tougher regulation of Nigeria’s capital markets. She’s launched investigations to restore confidence and to address issues of accountability and financial mismanagement. She’s let directors go over concerns about

fair leadership. She’s working to update the SEC’s code of corporate governance, adding in rules that state “no more than two members of the same family may sit on a company’s board to ensure independence.” She understands that when the world trusts Nigeria as a world-class market, it will want to invest. And when it invests, that means more jobs, a stronger tax base and thus better schools, better roads, more access to clean water for her community and her country.

Arunma is taking giant strides towards reforming corporate governance practices in Nigeria.

Recommendations for world leaders

Improving governance

More must be done by all development partners to ensure that donors and African countries institute policies that eliminate corruption and maximise the impact of development investments. In 2010 and beyond, development partners should collaborate towards the following goals:

- **Reward good governance:** In better-governed countries that have demonstrated a commitment to development, transparency and fighting corruption, donors should provide the flexible support needed to build lasting infrastructure and systems, as well as focused investment promotion policies and trade incentives. In countries with governance challenges (especially fragile and post-conflict states), donors should invest in social sector interventions and provide development assistance that supports efforts to increase transparency and accountability and strengthen civil society.

- **Support global governance initiatives:** All countries have a role to play in eliminating global corruption and improving transparency. Governments can help ensure that private sector investments in Africa are carried out in an open, honest manner by supporting transparency and anti-corruption initiatives such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), the Natural Resource Charter and the UN Convention Against Corruption. Governments should also close their banks to resources that may have been illicitly gained by corrupt politicians, while also helping to ensure that any

existing stolen assets are returned to the countries that need them by supporting the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative.

- **Budget for development:** African governments should make and honour commitments to finance their own poverty reduction, and also ensure that their budgets are publicly accessible so that citizens can monitor resources directed towards development priorities.

- **Support citizens' groups in Africa:** African citizens need to be empowered to advocate for their own development priorities. African governments should ensure that civil society groups are guaranteed the space to engage, together with protection and access to information that they need in order to be effective. Donors can play an important role in strengthening their voice by providing financial and technical assistance. Because of the central role that women play in their communities as mothers, teachers, nurses and caregivers, they can be effective leaders in pushing for more responsible spending and for policies to improve health and education.

- **Ensure a legal framework for equality:** Governments should ensure that every citizen is granted equal rights, protection and opportunities under the law. Policies to guarantee that women are able to participate in government, access credit and own and inherit property need to be enforced by leaders at all levels to ensure that women can play an active role in their communities and economies.



Women are a driving force behind Africa's economy, running an estimated 48% of small and medium-sized businesses and growing 80% of the food.⁸

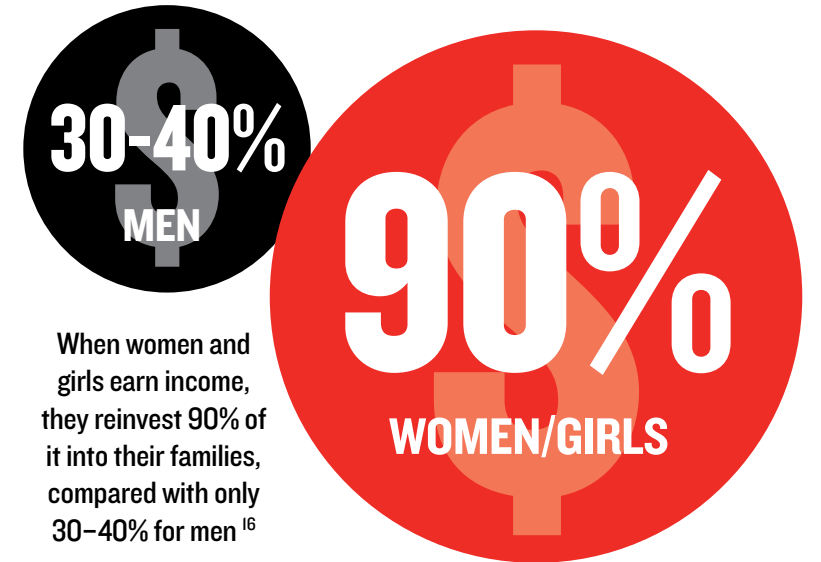
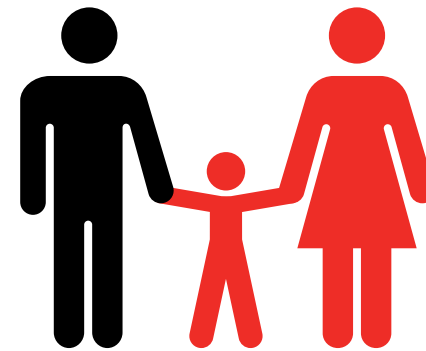
Although women's work is a major engine of economic growth in Africa, they face significant barriers when it comes to gaining an education, owning property and accessing credit and financial services.

Economic opportunities, especially for women, are essential for African families to build a pathway out of poverty and for countries to generate the revenue they need to become self-sufficient. When women have access to higher education, are able to own land and property and manage their own financial assets, economies thrive. And the benefits of economic growth are also more likely to reach entire families when women are engaged – women invest 90% of their earnings into the health, education and well-being of their families, compared with 30–40% for men.⁹

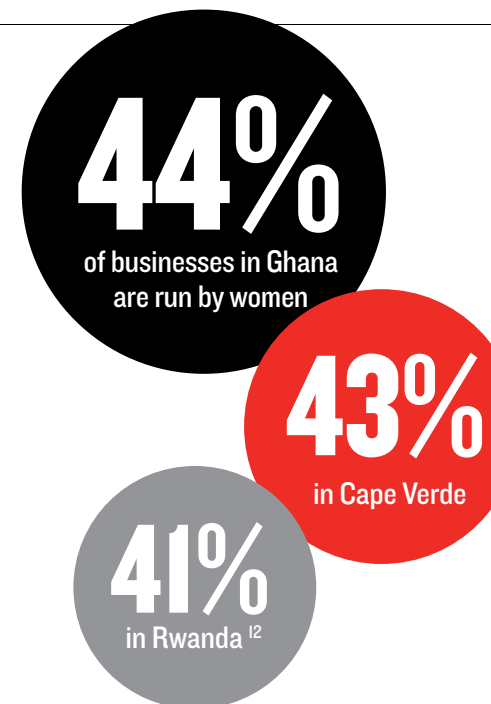
Economic growth for countries is driven by trade and investment, but the world's poorest people are focused less on economic policy and more on the opportunities that will provide them and their families with a pathway out of poverty. To seize these opportunities, African women need access to secondary school and skills training for future jobs. African farmers and small business owners, the majority of whom are women, also need access to capital and financial services to expand their businesses and invest in new ventures. To sell their goods across different markets, business owners also need fair trade laws, simple customs procedures, good roads, reliable electricity and access to technology such as cell phones and the internet.

There are currently **168 million women** active in sub-Saharan African economies. This number is expected to grow by nearly one-third over the next ten years¹¹

A child's probability of survival is increased by 20% when household income is controlled by the mother rather than the father¹⁷



A prosperous future



Limited education and employment opportunities for women in Africa reduce annual per capita growth by 0.8%. Had this growth taken place, Africa's economies would have doubled in size over the past 30 years¹³

Only 25% of internet users in Africa are women¹⁴



Eight out of ten women in the sub-Saharan African workforce do not receive a formal wage or salary¹⁵

8. International Finance Corporation. "IFC Supports Women Entrepreneurs". http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/africa.nsf/Content/MainStory_GOWE_August2007; and ICRW. R. Mehra and M. Hill Rojas. "Women, Food Security, and Agriculture in a Global Marketplace". <http://www.icrw.org/files/publications/A-Significant-Shift-Women-Food%20Security-and-Agriculture-in-a-Global-Marketplace.pdf> 9. C. Fortson, op. cit. 10. UNDP. "Gender and Poverty". http://www.undp.org/poverty/focus_gender_and_poverty.shtml 11. FAO. FAOSTAT Database. <http://faostat.fao.org/site/550/DesktopDefault.aspx?PageID=550#ancor> 12. World Bank. "Doing Business: Women in Africa". http://www.doingbusiness.org/documents/Women_in_Africa.pdf 13. Africa Partnership Forum. "Gender and Economic Empowerment in Africa". <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/57/53/38666728.pdf>

14. International Center for Research on Women. "Bridging the Gender Divide: How Technology Can Advance Women Economically". 2010. <http://www.icrw.org/files/publications/Bridging-the-Gender-Divide-How-Technology-can-Advance-Women-Economically.pdf> 15. ILO. "Global Employment Trends for Women". March 2008. http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_091225.pdf 16. C. Fortson, op. cit. 17. Thomas, Duncan. "Intra-Household Resource Allocation: An Inferential Approach." The Journal of Human Resources. 1990: 4.

A prosperous future

Doing business in Rwanda

Sisters Janet Nkubana and Joy Ndunguste never dreamed they'd be doing business with Macy's.



When they started their basket business under a tree in the remote village of Gitarama, they had just 27 weavers. They bought materials with the winnings from a World Bank business plan contest and opened a small showroom in Kigali after selling a piece of property, something Rwandan women couldn't do until 1999. Then their peace baskets, woven by both Hutu and Tutsi women, hit the pages of Marie Claire magazine. Over 1,000 orders were placed. Oprah magazine soon followed. And after the business received support from USAID to participate in a New York trade show, the baskets went global. The sisters signed a contract with the US department store Macy's, partnered up with a US marketing and trade company and, before they knew it, their peace baskets were sitting in American family homes all across the country.

"I have survivors, I have widows, I have women whose husbands are in prison," says Janet. "To see them sitting under one roof weaving and doing business together is a huge achievement ... these women are now together, earning an income. It is amazing."

Janet and Joy's company Gahaya Links now employs over 4,000 women, and in 2007 the business produced 35,000 baskets with annual sales of \$300,000. In fact, Gahaya Links is now the leading exporter of Rwanda's one-of-a-kind baskets under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (which allows Rwandan exports duty-free entry into the US market).

But the business hasn't just changed Joy's and Janet's lives – it's also meant a brighter future for thousands of underprivileged mothers, daughters and sisters all across Rwanda. Women employed by Gahaya Links have learned new skills

as part of the company's rigorous training programme. Proceeds from the baskets have helped over 18,000 children go to school. The group has started a communal bank. And women say they're now being treated with more respect in their communities.

This doesn't mean that the sisters' days are challenge-free. Shipping costs are still high and it can take months to get the organic dye and shipping materials from countries right next door. But they've already expanded into new products – jewellery and textiles – and they're hoping to open in new markets: Europe and Canada. Janet and Joy are working to employ their community and country for the long term.

– Story adapted from the *International Finance Corporation and the World Bank "Doing Business Women in Africa" 2008 report.*

Recommendations for world leaders

Creating economic opportunities

Economic growth can help to fuel development and poverty reduction. Ensuring that this growth helps the poorest people lift themselves out of poverty will require investments and policy changes from all development partners. In 2010 and beyond, development partners should collaborate towards the following goals:

• Expand access to financial services and technology:

Access to reliable and affordable financial services is critical for families and businesses to invest in new opportunities and to protect themselves against unexpected shocks. Women especially should be targeted with these services and the technology to take advantage of them, such as mobile phones. Support for micro-businesses can spark economic productivity, but even more critical is support for small and medium-sized enterprises, which make up the majority of African businesses and are often headed by women.

• Strengthen infrastructure: Trade within African countries as well as with other African and international trading partners requires a means to transfer information and goods. A strengthened transportation, communication and energy infrastructure would enhance the feasibility and profitability of regional and international trade. Developed countries can help support economic growth through investments in institutions such as the African Development Bank, which supports the growth of regional "economic corridors" through improvements in infrastructure.

• Encourage investment: Private investment opportunities are growing across Africa in emerging sectors such as renewable energy sources and telecommunications. Developed and developing countries should use international opportunities, such as the UN High-Level Review of the MDGs and the G20 Summits, as a platform to increase awareness of investment

opportunities in Africa and to incentivise investment in the continent. To boost livelihoods in rural areas (where nearly 75% of Africans live and work), development partners should in particular encourage public and private investments in agricultural productivity and agribusiness.

• Prioritise agreement of global trade policies that support development:

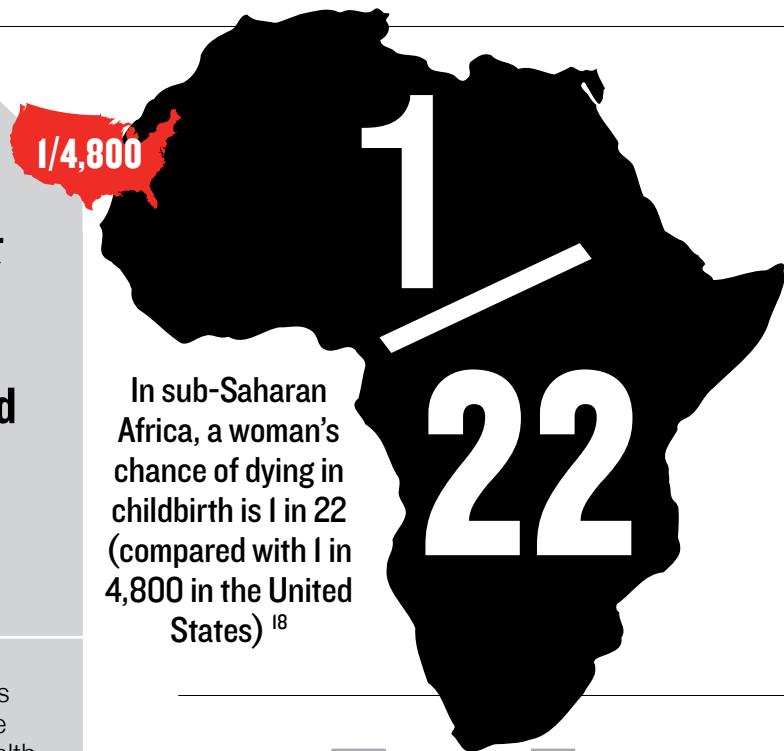
Developing countries face barriers in accessing global markets (often because of duties or quotas), overcoming the impact of agricultural subsidies and addressing supply-side constraints. Global partners have been deliberating a Doha Development Round of trade talks through the WTO for nearly ten years, but have yet to come to agreement on any of these priority policy areas that could truly benefit the poorest people.



Women are especially central to the three Millennium Development Goals that are focused on improving global health, with targets aimed at reducing child and maternal deaths and curbing the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases.

African women are hit the hardest by diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria and suffer the most from the lack of trained staff, basic health supplies and access to clinics and hospitals. But, as mothers, they are powerful forces in improving the health of their children.

Equipping one woman with the proper knowledge and tools – for example, to prevent HIV/AIDS, determine the size of her family and the spacing of her children, give birth safely in a health facility and protect her children from getting preventable diseases such as diarrhoea and malaria – will also help ensure that families grow to be healthy and strong. And because women fill the ranks of nurses, health workers and care-givers for neighbours and family members with HIV/AIDS, they often act as liaison points for improved health across their communities.



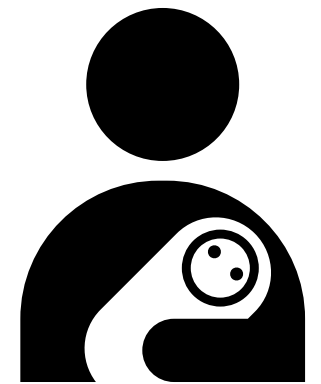
In sub-Saharan Africa, a woman's chance of dying in childbirth is 1 in 22 (compared with 1 in 4,800 in the United States)¹⁸

In South Africa, young women are three times more likely to be infected with HIV than young men²⁶



Children who lose their mothers are five times more likely to die in infancy than those who do not¹⁹

One-quarter to one-half of girls in developing countries become mothers before they turn 18²⁴

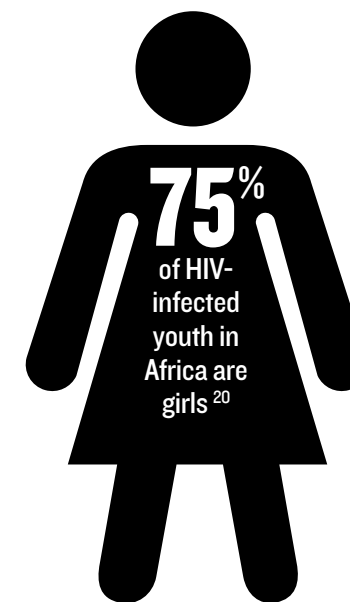


A healthy future



Complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death for girls aged 15–19 in developing countries²⁷

Each year, 10–15 million women suffer severe or long-lasting illnesses or disabilities caused by complications during pregnancy and childbirth²³



Access to skilled birth attendants is 50% for African women²⁵



< 2%

More than 1,000 babies are born with HIV every year, but with medicine and services the risk that HIV-positive mothers will pass on the virus to their babies can be reduced to less than 2%.²¹ Botswana, Namibia and Swaziland are close to virtual elimination of mother-to-child HIV transmission²²

18. UNICEF. "The State of the World's Children Statistical Tables", 2009. http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/SOWC_Spec_Ed_CRC_Statistical_Tables_EN_111809.pdf 19. S. Brown. UNICEF. "Working Together for Maternal and Newborn Health". <http://www.unicef.org/sowc09/docs/SOWC09-Panel-5.1-EN.pdf> 20. Global Coalition on Women and AIDS. "Keeping the Promise: An Agenda for Action on Women and AIDS". http://data.unaids.org/pub/Booklet/2006/20060530_FS_Keeping_Promise_en.pdf

21. UNICEF. "Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission". http://www.unicef.org/supply/index_42855.html 22. UNAIDS. "UNAIDS Satellite Explores Paving the Way Towards Virtual Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV". http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/Resources/FeatureStories/archive/2010/20100720_sattelite_pmtct.asp 23. UNFPA. "UNFPA Scales Up Efforts to Save Millions of Women". <http://www.unfpa.org/public/global/pid/979> 24. UNFPA. Adolescents Fact Sheet. http://www.unfpa.org/swp/2005/preskit/factsheets/facts_adolescents.htm 25. UNICEF. ChildInfo. Maternal Health. http://www.childinfo.org/delivery_care.html 26. World Bank. "World Development Indicators and Global Development Finance". <http://databank.worldbank.org> 27. G.C. Patton et al. "Global Patterns of Mortality in Young People". Lancet vol. 374.

A healthy future

Walking to a healthier future in Ethiopia

Walking miles to fight disease is all in a day's work for Lomita. Lomita has been a health extension worker in Ethiopia for three years – four if you include the one year's intensive training.

She's one of over 30,000 educated Ethiopian women who travel from rural home to rural home to teach families how to prevent disease.

"I love my work because I am part of this community. I share their sadness or their suffering. Becoming a health extension worker and helping my people is a true gift," she says.

In fact, the government has now trained two workers in every village to help deliver bed nets to protect families from deadly malaria-carrying mosquitoes, vaccines to keep kids

healthy and medicine to treat the sick. As part of her job, Lomita also keeps track of the number of pregnancies, births and types of disease that she sees. She then shares this with the government, giving officials better statistics to decide where to channel their funding.

Because of her hard work, Lomita has seen much less illness in her village. As she says, "Because we educate the community, they make better choices." She's proud to see that they're making better choices – and her country, too. The health

extension worker programme – supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations (GAVI) – has helped cut malaria cases in half and has given more Ethiopians access to vaccines than ever before.

Lomita's helping to keep her family, her community and her country healthy for the long term.

– Story adapted from the *Living Proof Project* and the *Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*

Recommendations for world leaders Improving health

Access to life-saving interventions such as antiretroviral therapy for HIV/AIDS, bed nets to protect against Malaria, and vaccines has expanded dramatically over the past decade. However, health systems in sub-Saharan Africa remain extremely weak and the region lags far behind in prevention, treatment and care efforts, particularly with respect to tuberculosis, maternal, newborn and child health. In 2010 and beyond, development partners should collaborate towards the following goals:

- **Continue to fight infectious diseases:** Improving health for African

women and their families requires sustaining the progress made against diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, Malaria and polio, which often hit women and children the hardest. Between 2011 and 2013, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria will need \$17–20 billion to maintain successful programmes and meet demand for new ones.

- **Increase efforts for maternal, newborn and child health:**

Development partners need to increase access to interventions that will keep mothers and children healthy from pregnancy to five

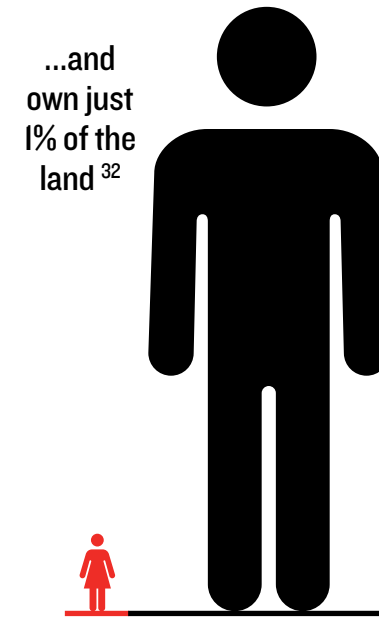
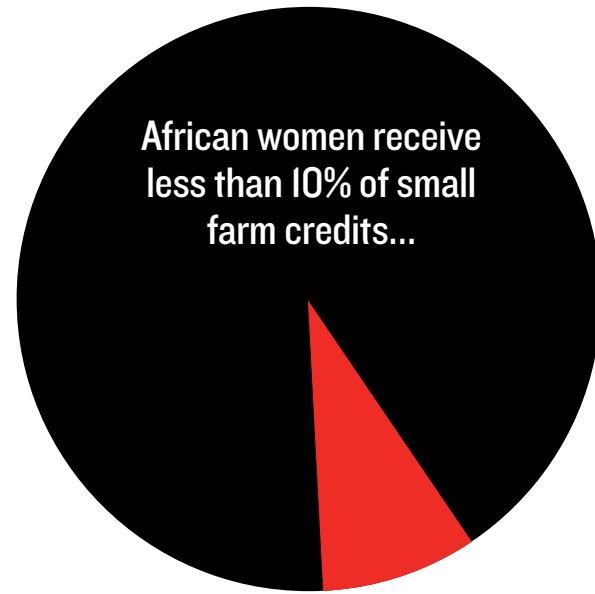
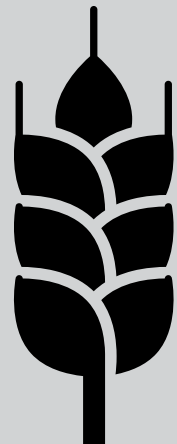
years of age, along with support for strengthening overall systems and infrastructure to improve health more broadly. One critical multilateral mechanism for improving child health is the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations (GAVI). GAVI will need an additional \$4.3 billion between 2010 and 2015. Development partners should also clarify and follow through on their commitments to the 2010 Muskoka Initiative to improve maternal, newborn and child health.



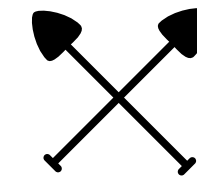
Women make up the majority of farmers in Africa, producing an estimated 80% of the continent's food.²⁸ With nearly 75% of the continent's population living and working in rural areas, poverty reduction is closely related to food security and farm productivity.²⁹

Although it is women who are preparing the fields, weeding, harvesting the crops and selling them in local markets, in many families and communities men own the land, receive the training and have better access to tools, seeds, fertiliser and credit. As a result, women cannot access profits, cannot reinvest them or access capital to expand their investments and, as a result, cannot work their way out of poverty, despite their efforts.

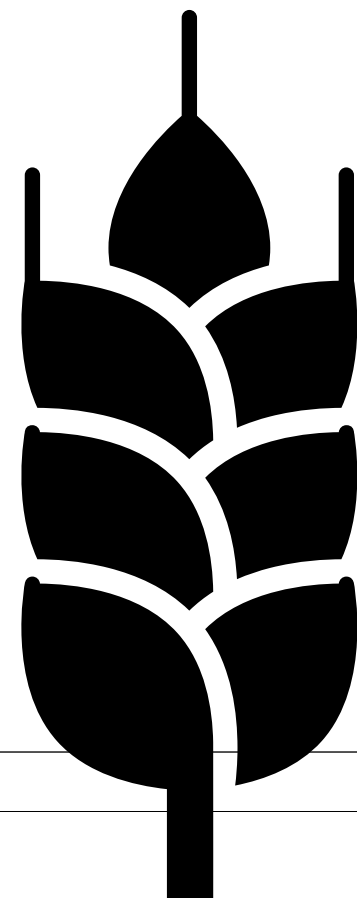
Reaching women with equal access to these assets is proven to boost production and yields, by up to 22% according to some studies.³⁰ Empowering women with control over their land also helps to ensure that their families will reap the benefits. Studies show that when women own land and manage their earnings, their agricultural productivity also increases and their children eat more healthily.³¹



When women have equal access to inputs such as training, tools and fertiliser, total yields can increase by up to 20% ³³



A food-secure future

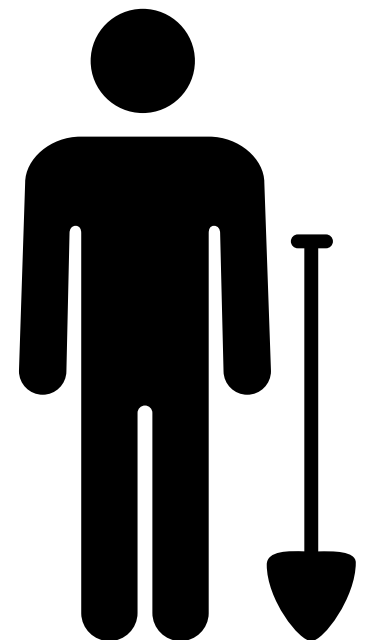


In Kenya women produce **80%** of the food³⁴...



...represent 70% of all agricultural workers...

...and manage more than one-third of smallholder farms, but they receive less than 10% of the credit provided for smallholders³⁵ and own less than 10% of the land ³⁶



28. ICRW. R. Mehra and M. Hill Rojas, op. cit. 29. World Bank. Regions. <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTARD/0,,contentMDK:20445375~menuPK:1308541~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:336682,00.html> 30. Quisumbing, A. "Male-Female Differences in Agricultural Productivity: Methodological Issues and Empirical Evidence." World Development 24, 1996: 1579-95. 31. International Center for Research on Women. "Assets and Property Rights". <http://www.icrw.org/what-we-do/property-rights>

32. ICRW and Women Thrive. K. Selvaggio et al. "Value Add: Women and U.S. Foreign Assistance for the 21st Century". <http://www.policyarchive.org/handle/10207/bitstreams/9660.pdf> 33. IFAD. "Assessment of Rural Poverty: Western and Central Africa". <http://www.ifad.org/poverty/region/pa/english.pdf> 34. USAID. Women in Development: Country Snapshot: Kenya and Agriculture & Micro-enterprise. http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/wid/snapshot/africa/kenya/kenya_ag_me.html 35. World Bank. Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook. p.16. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGENAGRLIVSOUBOOK/Resources/CompleteBook.pdf> 36. World Bank. Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook. p.15. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGENAGRLIVSOUBOOK/Resources/CompleteBook.pdf>

A healthy future

Harvesting a brighter future in Tanzania



Maria Mchele Mwasonge used to sleep on a rag on the floor with her five children.

But then she met Mwanaidi Rhamadani, a trained female farmer in her home of Mwasonge, Tanzania. Mwanaidi told her about a new kind of crop that was bred just for their region – the orange sweet potato, rich in vitamins and nutrients – and Maria jumped at the chance to learn more. She discovered the best seeds to grow on her small patch of land, the smartest ways to use water and how to split one vine into two. She even learned how to get the best price for her potatoes at market.

Today, thanks to this training, funded by USAID, Maria sells a lot more

than just potatoes. “Now, I sell seeds, chips, biscuits, doughnuts, flour, even pancakes, all made from sweet potatoes.” In fact, programmes like this have helped farmers like Maria increase their income by up to 400% – and she’s using this new income to send her children to school and build a new, sturdy home. Maria and her children won’t have to sleep on a rag on the floor any more.

“I work happily knowing that I will be getting out of poverty by doing what I’m doing. And when I sleep, all I think about is the potatoes,” she says.

Maria’s now teaching other farmers exactly what she’s learned. And she’s even helping her community to get healthy. The town’s health centre has said that, because kids are eating more nutritious food, there’s much less malnutrition amongst Mwasonge’s children under five.

Maria’s helping to feed her family, her community and her entire nation for the long term.

– Story adapted from the *Living Proof Project* and the *Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*

Recommendations for world leaders

Achieving food security

Despite increased global attention on food security, smallholder farmers across the globe still face significant barriers in increasing their productivity, accessing markets, and providing enough nutritious food to keep their families and communities nourished. In 2010 and beyond, development partners should collaborate towards the following goals:

- **Meet commitments to food security:** Donors should follow through on their commitments to the L’Aquila Food Security Initiative, Feed the Future and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) by ensuring that solutions come from the ground up, efforts are coordinated and streamlined and the priorities of developing countries are fully financed.

- **Make a plan to boost long-term agricultural development:** Development partners should also put forward a comprehensive strategy that goes beyond existing food security commitments to achieve long-term, sustainable economic growth through agricultural development, with a special focus on women. In Africa, donors must commit to fully supporting the CAADP process. The L’Aquila Food Security Initiative marks a historic attempt to recast the central role of agriculture to reduce poverty and build long-term sustainable growth, but efforts must be redoubled to ensure that financing is adequate to achieve MDG1 – to halve hunger and poverty.



With its linkages to improved health, economic growth and community-building, educating one girl has a powerful multiplier effect across families, communities and countries.

Girls represent 54% of the 32 million children out of school in sub-Saharan Africa.³⁷ For many poor families, immediate chores at home or the need for additional income outweigh the long-term benefits of sending their daughters to school. As a result, girls are more likely than boys never to set foot in a school. Twelve million girls in sub-Saharan Africa will never enrol in school, compared with 7 million boys.³⁸ Many girls who do enter school either drop out, often during adolescence, or do not go on to higher levels once they graduate.

Compared with an uneducated girl, a girl with an education is more likely to wait longer to get married, have fewer children and invest in the health and education of her children. She is also better equipped to find a job, and often more empowered in her family and more active in her community and government.



Providing girls with one extra year of education beyond the average boosts their eventual wages by 10–20%; for boys, the returns are 5–15%⁴⁰

Two-thirds of the world's illiterate adults are women⁴¹

For every year of schooling a mother has received, infant mortality declines by 5–10%⁴²

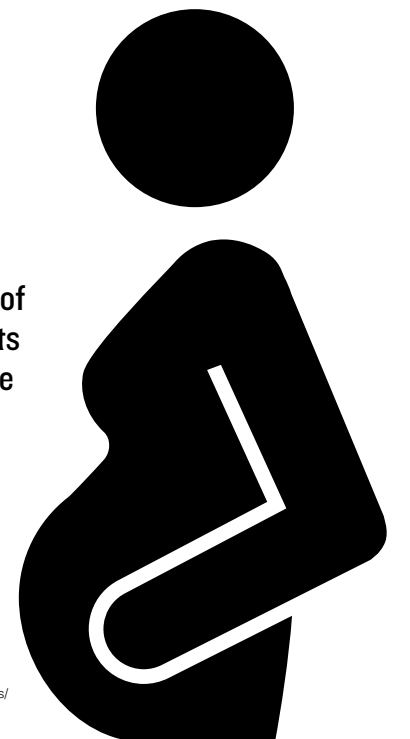
Girls spend 33–85% more time per day working at home and in unpaid market work than do boys of the same age⁴³

An educated future

When a girl in the developing world receives seven or more years of education, she marries four years later, and has 2.2 fewer children³⁹

43% of girls of appropriate age are in secondary school in the developing world⁴⁴

Schoolgirl pregnancies explain 5–10% of school dropouts in francophone Africa⁴⁵



37. UNESCO. 2010. "Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2010". Table 5, p. 346. 38. Ibid., p. 60. 39. United Nations Population Fund. "State of World Population". 1990. 40. Center for Global Development. R. Levine et al. "Girls Count: A Global Investment and Action Agenda". <http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/15154> 41. UNICEF. Millennium Development Goals. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women. <http://www.unicef.org/mdg/gender.html> 42. P. Shultz. "Mortality Decline in the Low-Income World: Causes and Consequences". The American Economic Review 83 (2): 337–42. 43. M.A. Hill and E.M King. "Women's Education in Developing Countries: Barriers, Benefits and Policies". The Johns Hopkins University Press. 1995.

44. UNICEF. "From Invisible to Indivisible: Promoting and Protecting the Right of the Girl Child to be Free from Violence". New York. http://www.ceipaz.org/images/contento/invisible%20to%20indivisible_promoting%20and%20protecting%20the%20right%20of%20the%20girl%20child.pdf 45. C. Lloyd and B. Mensch "Marriage and Childbirth as Factors in Dropping out from School: An analysis of DHS data from sub-Saharan Africa". Population Studies 62 (1): 1–13. 2008.

An educated future

An educated family in Uganda

When Grace Nangyonga was just eight years old, both her parents passed away. As the oldest of seven children, it suddenly became her job to take care of the family.

But even with all her new responsibilities, she refused to stop going to school. She knew how important an education was to the future of her family. “I did all sorts of small jobs,” she says – including selling chickens after class every day.

But when it came time to start secondary school, tuition fees became too expensive. She could no longer go to the classroom and still feed her family. Grace thought she'd finally have to drop out.

Then she discovered the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), a non-profit organisation that works to help make sure that girls all across Africa can go to school. FAWE agreed to help pay her tuition fees for as long as she needed.

Today, thanks to FAWE's help, Grace holds a degree in information science and owns her own company. She's paying the way for all of her brothers and sisters to go to school. And she hopes her story inspires other young girls just like her.

“I am so proud of who I am today. I want to be an example for girls in my country and beyond.”

– Story adapted from FAWE



Recommendations for world leaders

Educating Africa's next generation

Although African countries have significantly increased the number of children enrolled in primary school over the past decade, progress improving primary school quality and completion, as well as access to secondary school and higher levels, has been much slower. In 2010 and beyond, development partners should collaborate towards the following goals:

- **Prioritise quality, completion and secondary school:** Improving the quality of education will require increased efforts to recruit and retain trained teachers; scale up access to inputs such as textbooks and classrooms; and monitor and evaluate learning outcomes through classroom-based assessments, as well as national and regional testing. To incentivise primary school completion and increase enrolment in secondary school, developing countries and donors should take a fresh look at the barriers to secondary school, including fees, opportunity costs, distance to school and socio-cultural barriers, especially for girls, and ensure that these are addressed in national education plans as the demand for secondary education grows.

- **Increased, effective resources:** Progress on improving primary school enrolment, quality and completion relies on increased resources and reform and replenishment of the Education for All-Fast Track Initiative.

A partnership for Africa's future

Good governance and economic growth will help Africa put itself on a medium to long-term pathway out of poverty, but improving livelihoods in the immediate term will also require increased, results-oriented resources for development from both African countries and donors.

Recommendations for world leaders

Resources for development

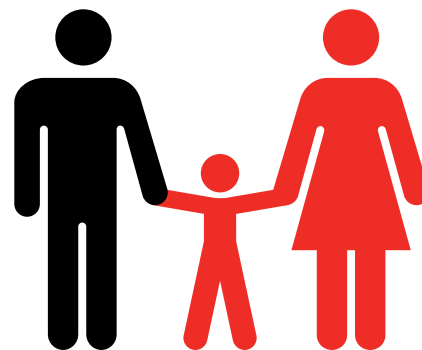
Investments in health, education and food security have yielded impressive results in the past decade, which should be sustained and accelerated to meet the MDG targets by 2015. In 2010 and beyond, development partners collaborate towards the following goals:

- Raise domestic resources for development:** Developing countries should commit and be held accountable to using domestic resources towards poverty reduction. This includes meeting the targets set in Abuja and Maputo, where African countries committed to allocating 15% and 10% of their national budgets on health and agriculture respectively.
- Increase development assistance for proven, effective programmes:** Donors with development assistance commitments beyond 2010 (such as the EU states' target commitment to reach 0.7% ODA/GNI by 2015 or earlier) should reiterate their commitments and clarify how much is dedicated for sub-Saharan Africa. Countries that do not have targets beyond 2010 should set ones that are ambitious and include a target for sub-Saharan Africa. These investments should be directed towards proven, sustainable and effective mechanisms, many of which are facing financing challenges in 2010 such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, the GAVI.
- Make accountable commitments:** In line with ONE's "TRACK Principles" for enhanced accountability, all donor commitments should be **T**ransparent, **R**esults-oriented, clear about the degree of **A**dditionality and **C**onditionality and audited by an independent mechanism to ensure that promises are being **K**ept.

- Improve the quality of development assistance:** To ensure that their development assistance delivers maximum results, donors should commit to accelerating efforts to make their aid more effective. Development partners should commit to accelerating efforts to follow through on the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action by developing action plans and setting clear targets and timetables to improve transparency and predictability, use national systems and untie their aid.
- Ensure that gender is mainstreamed and prioritised in development policy:** Increased resources should support programmes that invest in the potential of women and girls and address the impact of gender roles and dynamics on development. Development partners should work to ensure that gender is taken into consideration at all stages of policy-making and implementation, and throughout multilateral and bilateral development programmes. With adequate resources and political support from development partners, the new UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women – known as UN Women – could also help to elevate the role of women in global development and mainstream gender into the formulation of global policies and decision-making.

ONE is a campaign and advocacy organisation with more than 2 million members committed to the fight against extreme poverty and preventable disease, particularly in Africa.

For more information, visit:
www.ONE.org



A child's probability of survival is increased by 20% when household income is controlled by the mother rather than the father

