

**Women Can't
Wait,
Won't Wait!**



2019
ANNUAL
REPORT

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An invitation to brave space

By Micky ScottBey Jones

*Together we will create brave space
Because there is no such thing as “safe
space”*

*We exist in the real world
We all carry scars and we have all caused
wounds.*

*In this space
We seek to turn down the volume of the
outside world,
We amplify voices that fight to be heard
elsewhere,*

*We call each other to more truth and love
We have the right to start somewhere and
continue to grow.*

*We have the responsibility to examine what
we think we know.*

We will not be perfect.

This space will not be perfect.

It will not always be what we wish it to be

But

It will be our brave space together,

And

We will work on it side by side.

Gender Equality & Women's Rights Cannot wait for another 25 years!

Word from The Chairperson

My fellow courageous African sisters in the continent, the year 2019 presented us with a challenge that must not go uncontested. We stepped into a year that was significant to the struggles of women in Africa and across the globe in terms of gender equality and women's rights.

It is in this year that we began the thorough serious reflections on the impact of the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* of 1995 which will mark exactly 25 years in 2020. It is also the same year when we gear up to mark 25 years of the ICPD (*International Conference on Population & Development*). But this is not all, in this 2019, we began our reflection on the end of the *African Women's Decade* that will also officially lapse in 2020. This is not all, this year also curtain-raises the marking of the *United Nations Security Resolution 1352* which will be on its 20 year anniversary since its inception.

My dear sisters and partners from across the five sub-regions of Africa and the diaspora, you do realize that 2019 is indeed the year when we consolidated our gains, analyzed our strategies, started reflecting on where our journeys begun but most importantly, strategized on the end-game which is total gender equality and women's emancipation.



This year, it has been quiet revitalizing to sustainably reflect on *Beijing +25* and to do so, without ceasing to push for greater commitment to women's rights and justice in spaces where a dedicated approach to these rights seems to have waned. I have had the privilege to sit in several platforms across the continent as organized by FEMNET where we have gone back to the drawing board of 1995 when all women globally flooded the city of Beijing to bring out a global protest against discrimination, violence against women and many other forms of violation. As traversed conferences in Johannesburg, Nairobi, Lusaka and Addis Ababa as organized by FEMNET, we continued to seek for answers to the glaring gaps still



dodging our aspirations for total gender equality and women's emancipation.

In the unwavering spirit of *Beijing +25*, and as we continue to reflect on the twelve critical areas of concern that emanated from the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* of 1995, it is becoming increasingly clear to us that unfortunately the same battles that we were engaged in that provoked the Beijing convening are the very same battles we are fighting today.

It is concerning that women are still missing or lagging behind in areas of political representation, education, economic actualization, health and even in environmental consideration. We are still pushing for inclusivity, agitating for balance and shouting at the top of our voices for governments and law enforcement agencies to take seriously the rising cases of sexual violence and femicides. How is it that we as the women of Africa can be fighting for exactly the same things, against exactly the same aggressions and still see not much of a change in how women are treated and viewed in their communities? Why is it that year in, year out, we still converge to lament the very same atrocities committed against us because of our gender? Why are our governments and societies at large seemingly complacent towards ending all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls?

2019 has given us yet another opportunity to tighten our resolve and strategies even better in demanding that our



As we seek to grow our resource base we must continue to work at fracturing patriarchal systems that create unequal access to funding for women's rights organisations.

governments and policy implementers do not relent on ensuring that women's rights and gender equality are indeed a reality. We have several policies and instruments to invoke as we pursue this goal this year and the years to come. We have the great ***CEDAW, the Maputo Protocol, and the Beijing Declaration Platform for action, the ICPD, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs)*** and many other instruments at our disposal to strongly and courageously push our agenda.

Whatever the challenges or circumstances ahead of us, we surely cannot wait for another 25 years to realize gender equality and women's rights, we must act NOW!

Mrs. Emma Kaliya.

Board Chairperson, FEMNET



"We will Keep Fanning the Fire – We will Safeguard the Revolution!"

Word from The Executive Director



We started the year 2019 inspired by a poem by the "justice doula" Micky ScottBey Jones - **"Invitation to Brave**

Space". We reflected and committed to work side by side to create and nurture brave spaces. Yes, acknowledging our brave space may not always be what we wish it to be, we gave ourselves permission to the right to start somewhere and continue to grow.

Throughout 2019, it was inspiring, energizing and refreshing to see, behold and experience the rich and boundless determination of African women in all their diversities as they collectively and fiercely pushed boundaries for freedom from oppressive systems and structures. In our fight for women's human's rights, we learned a lot and asserted our inter sectional feminist movement building, we claimed spaces and created our own spaces, we courageously made bold demands for accountability to gender equality and women's rights, we refused to be silenced, excluded or be made invisible. We used our power of convening, our creative and innovative tools to influence policy and connect the global to local. The commitment and tenacious spirit of African women and girls in claiming their rights is unmatched.



As we wrap up 2019 and gear up for a new decade starting in 2020, we share with you some of our most significant moments, resulting impact and lessons learned. We are super grateful to our members, board members, partners and allies for your continued and assured support in our collective quest for justice and fight for women's rights and a feminist future. We will keep fanning the fire, we will keep the revolution, we will keep rising because gender equality! Women can't wait!

In Solidarity,

Memory Kachambwa,

Executive Director, FEMNET



Beijing +25
Africa Review



**GENERATION
EQUALITY**
REALIZING
WOMEN'S
RIGHTS FOR AN
EQUAL FUTURE

“When we went to Beijing”

Re-igniting the Fire 25 Years Later

Women worldwide continue to organize and demand for equality, justice and peace, with defiance and determination. Throughout 2019, FEMNET led in informing and coordinating the reflection and position of African women’s rights and civil society organizations on the 25 years review processes of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) (BDPfA). The [Africa Beijing+25 review processes](#) will feed into next year’s twenty five years anniversary of the [BDPfA](#) framework and its 12 Critical Areas of Concern, which was unanimously adopted during the pivotal global women’s conference held in Beijing, China in 1995.

As we reviewed progress and challenges of implementing the [BDPfA](#) in Africa, FEMNET together with our members and [partners including NGO CSW/Africa](#) and the Beijing+25 African Reference Group organized [webinars and shared regular updates](#) to inform and collectively strategize our engagement. Check out the updates “[Rekindling the Beijing fire of Revolution...African Women’s Herstory](#)” and “[The Africa Beijing +25 Review Journey](#)”. We also convened reflection and consultative meetings in [Accra- Ghana](#), [Nairobi-Kenya](#) and [Addis Ababa- Ethiopia](#) enriching each consultation with diverse representation, co-developed position statements with our priority messages and boldly disrupted spaces with our key demands.

The city of Addis Ababa also known as ‘Finfinne’ or natural spring trembled as African women and girls descended and claimed the space. We received over 500 requests to attend the Africa CSOs Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and mobilized and coordinated the registration of over 300 gender advocates, women’s rights activists

and feminists. Close to 70% of the people were in the space for the first time, including young women, veterans/elderly women, sex workers, LBTIQ, women from informal settlements, women with disabilities, media, representatives of trade unions, grassroots, faith groups, cultural and religious leaders, politicians and feminists. Gradually, we are committed to #LeaveNoOneBehind and use an intersectional approach in all that we do.

In ensuring we were as consultative as possible, the African Beijing+25 review process included contributions from WiLDAF-Togo who coordinated and consolidated the West Africa/ francophone reflections on Beijing+25; Women for a Change Cameroon (WfAC) who facilitated conversations amongst adolescent girls, GROOTs-Kenya who mobilized and consolidated voices of women in the grassroots and reflections from Humanity Inclusion for [Perspectives of Women with Disabilities on the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action +25: Africa Region](#).

Critically, FEMNET on behalf of African CSOs was part of the Beijing+25 technical drafting team charged with refining the [African governments political declaration](#), key messages and priority actions on the B+25 review. This was important in contributing our priorities as women’s rights and civil society organizations and bringing in the women’s human rights language in the [political declaration](#) which is the guide to Africa’s governments’ commitment to accelerate the implementation of the [BDPfA](#) commitments. Our resounding message is that of defiance, determination and audacity – women will not relent! ■

#Beijing25Africa



Our Strengthened Networks Equals Greater Impact!

Solidarity in women's rights is our mojo! We thrive on strengthening networks and building women's movements across Africa within the relentless spirit of Pan-African Feminism.

2019 presented us with the golden opportunity to scale up our core vision to strengthen networks and build even greater solidarity with African women's rights organizations.

In partnership with the European Union, FEMNET raised her voice to urge African governments to strengthen collective capacities that will ensure increased gender equality and women's rights in Africa during the official launch of the

project title **"A Strengthened Women's Network for Gender Impact"**. The project launched in August 2019 is funded by the European Union and will be implemented by 14 FEMNET member organizations in seven African countries.

In the next 4 years, as part of the EU Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) within this project, we envision a Strengthened Women's Network for Greater Impact, closely working with our members in Mali, Tunisia, Ethiopia, DRC, Rwanda, Mauritius and Kenya and collaborating with Oxfam. During the [inception meeting and colorful launch in August 2019](#), together with our



members and partners, we collectively reflected on emerging issues and trends in the women's movement in Africa and defined strategies of working together based on feminist principles. As the year ends, we have conducted a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis and mapped out approaches for strengthening the institutional and operational capacity of our members in policy advocacy, campaigning, networking and information sharing. This is critical in ensuring that FEMNET as a strengthened network is able to meaningfully influence and monitor the progress of implementing the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and other development frameworks in Africa. Our 14 members in this partnership in the 7 target countries

are:- Rwanda Women's Network; the Consultative Women Umbrella and Associations in the Great Lakes Region (COCAFEM/GL); Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS); Cercle des Dame Mourides (CDM); Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK); MUSONET - Mali; Réseau Ouest Africain des Jeunes Femmes Leaders (ROAJELF); Young Women's Leadership Institute (YWLI); Réseau Ouest Africain des Jeunes Femmes Leaders (ROAJELF); Association Tunisienne de Gouvernance et d'Egalité des Chances (ATGEC); Faith Word in Action (FWA); CONAFED; Center for Accelerated Women's Economic Empowerment (CAWEE) and Union of Ethiopian Women Charitable Associations (UEWCA). ■

#FeministSolidarity



AFRICAN FEMINIST MACROECONOMIC ACADEMY
The Audacity to Disrupt

The Audacity to Disrupt the Macroeconomic Realm

Our flagship created space the AFMA (African Feminist Macroeconomic Academy) 2019, is aiming even higher, unpacking the intricacies of macroeconomic policies and placing the voices and participation of women right in the middle of this discourse.

At FEMNET, we are convinced that only a feminist analysis on macroeconomics policies and processes can adequately question power dynamics and provide a nuanced approach and solution for Africa's future sustainable development. The [3rd African Feminist Macroeconomic Academy \(AFMA\)](#) held in Accra, Ghana in August 2019 focused on maximizing finance for development and critically analyzing development for whom? And questioning the orthodoxy of mainstream economics, which clearly does not work for the global south and for women in particular.

The meeting was an eye opener to most of the participants in understanding, reflecting and making sense of political economy analysis and financialization and how these concepts manifests in key sectors like health. The AFMA participants interrogated critical issues such as:

- The urgency to mainstream understanding of macroeconomics and financialisation into women's rights organizations and works

- Challenging global geopolitical and economic establishment is key in realizing women's rights.
- How pharmaceutical industries systematically ignore investment and research in poor people diseases, especially women, and prioritize lifestyle diseases of the rich where exploitation for profit thrives.
- How financial systems structurally dehumanizes people to become things so that they can be exploited
- The sad acknowledgement of fact that, disease and sickness are public but health care is private
- The alternative economies and the need to have more robust alternative feminist economies.

Through the use of interactive case studies, presentations, and group discussions, the academy drew linkages between the way finance works and what it means for the quality of life for women and girls in Africa in the midst of growing connections between global and local economies. The academy sought answers to the questions: where are the voices of African women in shaping these decisions and what can feminist principles teach us about analyzing the issues and creating spaces for new imaginings of just economic systems?

#Femonomics



ICPD 25 CONFERENCE MAP



Listen to the Roar of African Teenage Girls

A

promise is a debt..and when promise delays, we must aim to “accelerate the promise!”

FEMNET stood up to be counted in this years ICPD25 by confidently presenting the faces and voices of adolescent and teenage girls in this globally noted process. the theme for the 2019 International Conference

on Population and Development (ICPD) spoke volumes on the degree of commitment towards the access and provision for rights to all and in particular to Africa’s youthful population. By the clarion call “accelerate the promise” FEMNET grabbed the opportunity to loudly and substantively amplify the voices of adolescent and teenage girls



and make sure they are significantly and powerfully represented within the global ICPD Process.

African girls, from Tunisia, Mali, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Ghana, Kenya,

Cameroon and Uganda, gathered in Nairobi in November 2019 for the [25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development \(#ICPD25\)](#), and [boldly presented their authentic voices to the world](#) - through a letter, [Call of African Teenage Girls](#).

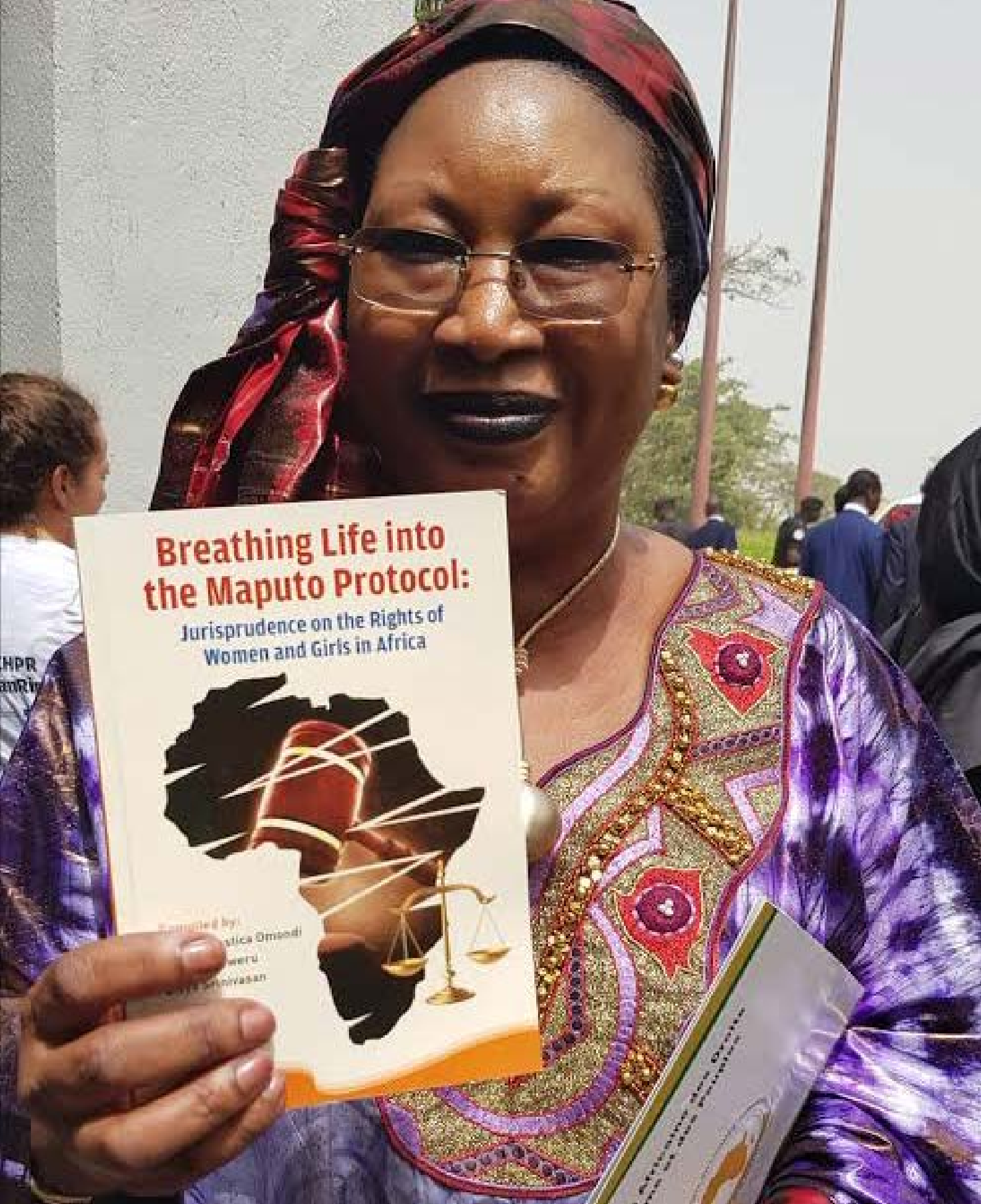
“We met as representatives of African girls in all our diversities - as girls with disability, girls living in rural areas, girls living in slums, teenage mothers, girls who have dropped out of school. We gathered [to review the status of African girls in the last 25 years](#) since the adoption of the ICPD program of action in Cairo. We came here to deliberate and have a collective voice as African girls. We are appreciating the opportunity to gather and meet with other girls from across the continent and share ideas and strategies. We have learned a lot about our shared life experiences, and are now strengthening our collective engagement as the girls and young women of Africa. We set out on our journeys, some as long as fifteen hours, to attend the Nairobi summit - ICPD25. We came expecting to travel back home with great news that the faces of African girls have been seen, their voices heard and their demands implemented.” ■

#ByGirlsForGirls

“

We need to listen attentively, act and commit to the teenage girls! Listening without committing is a COMMITMENT FRAUD”

- Memory Kachambwa, Executive Director, FEMNET



SOLIDARITY FOR
AFRICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS

A force for freedom



MOUVEMENT DE SOLIDARITÉ
POUR LES DROITS
DES FEMMES AFRICAINES

Une force pour la liberté

The Maputo Protocol Must be Fully Implemented

Human rights defenders and African women's rights organisations continue to provide updates and recommendations on the state of human rights in Africa. For FEMNET, all year round we invoke and advocate for the full implementation of the #Maputo-Protocol.

Our members attended this year's April and October Ordinary Sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). We continued to demand for accountability on African women's and girls' rights and call for full implementation of the Maputo Protocol. With 11 countries to go, FEMNET continues to be relentless in pushing for the universal ratification of the Maputo Protocol by 2020. In order to make this a reality, FEMNET in partnership with the Solidarity of African Women's Rights, (SOWAR), The African Union Gender and Development Directorate held two High level advocacy missions to Sudan and Madagascar and held discussions with the chair of the Botswana Women's Parliamentary Caucus. Collective efforts will be intensified in the coming year, we will continue urging members States that have not ratified to do the right thing - ratify and those that have ratified



to implement. We will also continue to strengthen and create awareness on the role of the African Human Rights System. The 65th Ordinary Session in October 2019 in Banjul, The Gambia saw the end of term for Commissioner Soyata Maiga and Commissioner Lucy Asuagbor, both champions for women and girls rights. The Commission elected its new Bureau which shall serve for two years. The Bureau is lead by Honourable Commissioner Dr Solomon Ayele Dersso as Chairperson and Honourable Commissioner Rémy Ngoy Lumbu as Vice Chairperson.

#FollowTheProtocol



Women @ Work!

FEMNET as part of the Women@ Work campaign continues to strengthen leadership capacities of women working in flower farms in Kenya. In partnership with Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA) and Hivos, we co-convened a reflection workshop geared towards deepening gender-responsive workplace policies and practices. From the peer learnings and experience sharings, the human resource managers from Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda committed to use their power

and influence to ensure women working in their farms are well represented in leadership roles in farm level committees.

"We are currently partnering with FEMNET under the Women@Work campaign to revise our institutional policies and ensure that they are gender responsive and that they do not discriminate and violate workers rights." - Florence Obonyo, Sustainability and Social Officer at Florensis Kenya Limited. ■

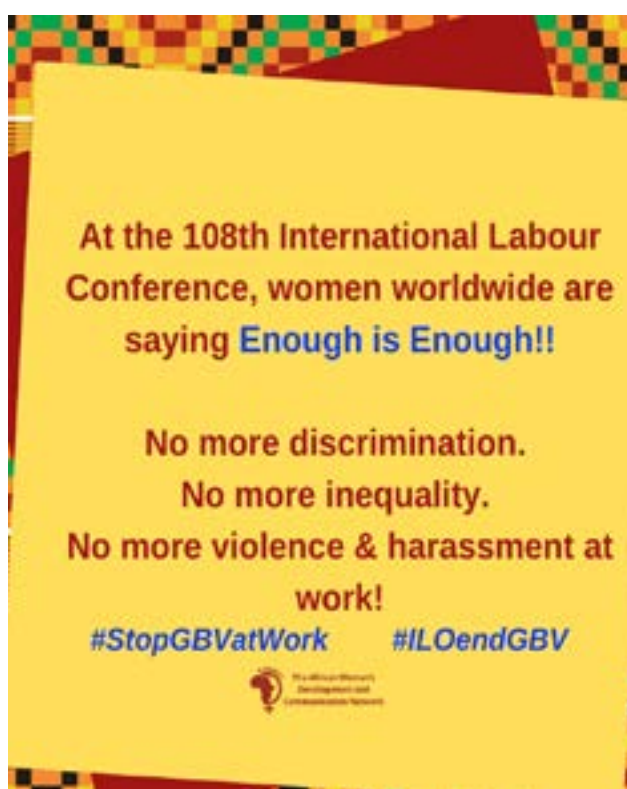
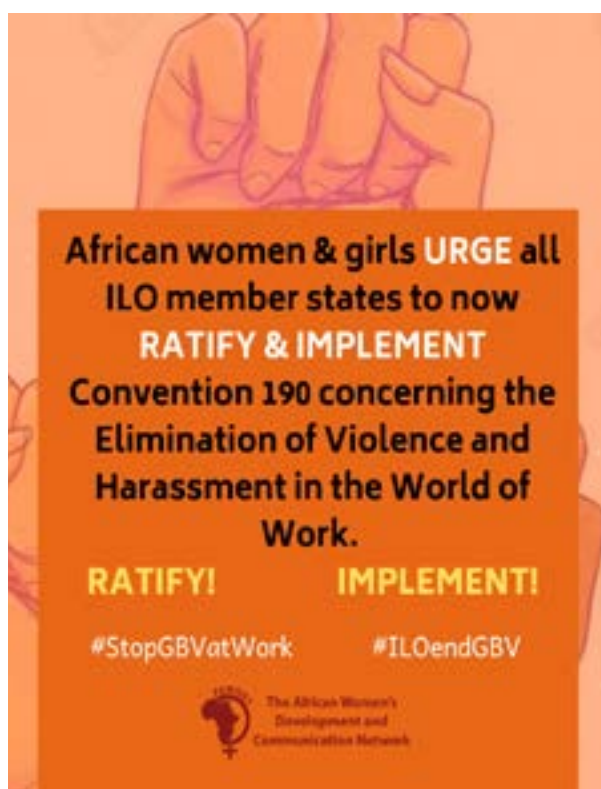
#WomenAtWorkCampaign

#RatifyILO190 for a World of Work Free from Violence and Harassment

Without a doubt the [#MeToo](#) movement sparked a global wave on the rampant violence and harassment of women and girls due to unequal gender-based power relations. [Statistically](#), 35% of women (i.e. 818 million women globally) over the age of 15 have experienced sexual or physical violence at home, in their communities or in the workplace. Violence and harassment in the world of work constitutes a grave human rights violation. It affects the ability to exercise other fundamental labour rights, is incompatible with the decent work agenda and is a threat to dignity, security, health and the well-being of workers. Between May and June 2019, FEMNET joined women's rights

organizations and partners in calling for the adoption of the [ILO Convention 190 and Recommendation to End Violence and Harassment in the world of work](#). The unanimous adoption of ILO convention 190 in June 2019 was historic in the ILO centenary celebrations. We will continue to heighten our advocacy to hold ILO member states accountable to ratifying the convention and fully implementing it to address the global menace of violence and harassment in the workplace. Read the key recommendations [The world is watching! TIME to End Violence & Harassment in the Workplace!](#)

#RatifyILOc190

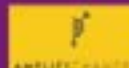




MEN 2 MEN

Engaging Men in promoting Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) for Women and Girls

#SRHRDialogues



Men Involvement in Gender Equality is a NO Brainer!



The Men to Men Strategy acknowledged and adopted as a tool for engaging religious and cultural leaders in promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for women and girls in Africa. A regional convening targeting 9 countries including Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Guinea, Liberia, Tunisia and Tanzania brought together over 100 men and women from diverse backgrounds working in promoting SRHR in the target countries. The exchange took place in December 2019 and was also used to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence. The exchange and learning was done in Homabay County in Kenya.

FEMNET has been working to promote SRHR for women and girls in Africa through advocacy. Through the SOAWR coalition, FEMNET has been advocating

Using the Men to Men Strategy, FEMNET was able to share the ideas of mobilization, capacity building and retention of men in social change programmes.

for the ratification and implementation of the Maputo Protocol or lifting of reservations to the article 14 (C) on access to free and safe abortion to women and girls. In May 2019, FEMNET together with multi stakeholders in the region joined hands to engage with the Abortion De-crim

Champions meeting that was organized by Ipas Africa Alliance. Further, FEMNET participated in the regional stakeholder forum to engage on Accelerating Men's HIV Service Delivery and Uptake in Eastern and Southern Africa. During this period, FEMNET made the following contributions to the advocacy work as follows:

The De-Crim Campaign on Abortion:

FEMNET supported a member from Forum Mullier in Mozambique to participate in the meeting that was engaging with the champions for the decrim campaign. During the meeting, FEMNET was able to share some of the advocacy tips and ideas to support the campaign. At the end of the meeting, FEMNET was tasked with the task of developing an advocacy plan for the team that will be used in the championing the Decrim campaign. This tool will be useful in ensuring that all the decrim campaign activities are well planned and are resulting into tangible evidence. It was noted that the campaign as currently being implemented did not have clear targets hence it was not possible to gauge the milestones achieved so far.

The campaign opened up the space and religious and cultural leaders were at

the fore in championing for the rights of women and girls to have access to free and safe abortion away from the traditional moralist stand on the subject.

The forum was able to share roles and responsibilities with participants for advocacy and different organizations were assigned roles that they will take up in the implementation of the campaign in the coming years.

FEMNET was able to share strategies of engaging men and boys in social change programmes across Africa. Using the Men to Men Strategy, FEMNET was able to share the ideas of mobilization, capacity building and retention of men in social change programmes. FEMNET took part in 2 key activities which included a panel discussion on what works for men and a panel on the research gaps and contradictions in engaging men and boys in HIV Prevention.

Men to Men as a concept was identified as one of the leading social change programmes that can be adopted to accelerate the men's uptake men's HIV service Delivery in Africa. ■

#SRHRDialogues

The campaign opened up the space and religious and cultural leaders were at the fore in championing for the rights of women and girls to have access to free and safe abortion away from the traditional moralist stand on the subject.





Feminists Want System Change!

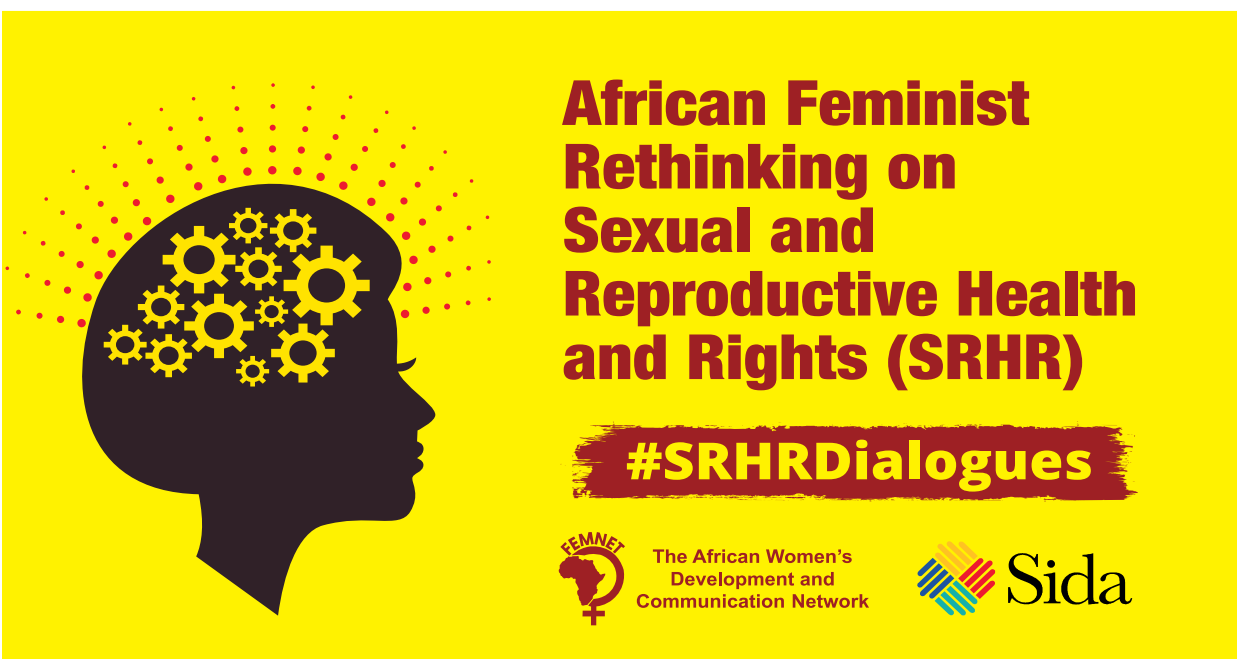
At the 2019 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, FEMNET alongside hundreds of women's rights activists and social justice actors from across the globe took to the streets of New York chanting "rise up, fist up, for system change" and "we are the feminists fighting

for justice and liberation" and "the people united will never be defeated" to [demand greater government accountability and commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). ■

#FeministsWantSystemChange

“The world is lagging behind in many dimensions and there is an urgency to accelerate progress towards our collective aspirations for a better, just, peaceful and sustainable world” said Ms. Kachambwa. “Inequalities are intensifying and are being exacerbated by regressive austerity measures such as severe public expenditure cuts and retrogressive tax reforms that have negative impacts on disadvantaged and marginalized individuals and groups such as the women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, people with HIV/AIDS, indigenous people, ethnic minorities, migrants, refugees, and the unemployed. The list on the gaps of inequalities is endless!”

- *Memory Kachambwa FEMNET Executive Director*
addressing the HLPF 20130 in this [Press Release](#).



The Personal is Political: Rethinking SRHR from an African Feminist Perspective

FEMNET led a reflection and rethinking SRHR in the quest to reground SRHR programming in African feminists principles. The training session approached participants as individuals first and as representative of organisations from almost 10 countries.

"I didn't know much about Feminism and its relation to SRHR, going back home, I will comfortably engage my radio audience to discuss feminism and SRHR in its spectrum" - Mamadou - Liberia.

"I just wanted to tell you, we have learned a lot in these 3 days, indeed this training has opened us and changed how we think, even though we were not formal participants of the meeting but we benefited a lot" - Meeting interpreters.

"For the first time in my life, I went back to my room and looked at my vagina it was so empowering," said one of the participants. Sesilia from Young Alive noted, *"Our organizations often rely on the numbers to justify our work, we have not been analyzing our augments from the women's human rights point of view. We will do so now."*

Those are some of the quotes from African Feminist Rethinking SRHR from meeting participants and service providers, it was indeed a breath of fresh air.

This audacious re-thinking convening was pegged on the following objectives:

- Creating a space for collective reflection and assessment of trends, gain and treats on SRHR in Africa

- Assessing actors and spaces blocking or influencing SRHR in the continent.
- Critical reflection of the existing narrative from African Feminist lens.
- Participatory media engagement on CSO/Media relations; strengthening SRHR Media Networks and processes for visibility.
- Strengthening SRHR Media engagement and media networks for greater collaboration.
- Joint reframing of SRHR narrative by and for Africa

At the end of a revitalising vibrant deliberations, participants expressed a re-awakening in approaching SRHR issues from a feminist bodily autonomy perspective. Some of the feedback from the participants are as follows:-

- *Feminists now have a chance to empower other girls and women on feminism. In the past there was no way because no one talked about feminism.*
- *These 3 days will have allowed me to learn quite a lot of things. I'm feeling that I've become sure and confident of myself and I think I can entrust the same message to girls of my community and country on sex and the vagina. Yesterday, for the first time I checked my vagina. I learned a lot of things. It has been a great pleasure for me to meet people and get to know them from different places. Thank you.*
- *Today I have come to learn and understand feminism. When I go back to my country I will go back to produce programmes on the radio and have listeners calling in to discuss such issues. It will not just be feminism, but*

now that I have been given ideas I will do so much. Thank you FEMNET. I have gained so much.

- *Thanks for this opportunity that FEMNET gave me. I really liked a lot the way the issue of relating to each other how organisations and members of FEMNET can be stronger on the rights of the feminists. I would be grateful if we had the opportunity of sharing with those who are hearing impaired. This kind of message we use verbal language and they use sign language and, in many cases, they have no opportunity for such a workshop of this quality.*
- *There is safety in numbers. We need to widen our horizons. We need content and that content is what we can subject to this narrative that is here. We have work to do, if we haven't done it before. To be a very effective feminist you have to have broad content. Before you needed to read a lot but now the information is available. Of course, feminism is transformation to move people from the negative world they are in to positivity.*
- *FEMNET is all inclusive. It's not only for a few selected people. Information from the workshop was good for further advocacy by participants in their individual projects. Communication from FEMNET needed to be enhanced to new members on platforms like WhatsApp Groups. The team needs to keep growing, there is safety in numbers and there is more work beyond this programme. Information is available for all on internet and everyone needs to teach and move people from the negative perception to positive. ■*

#SRHRDialogues



Closing the GAP: Gender Action Plan on Climate Justice

The twenty five session of the UN Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP25) [adopted the 5 years Gender Action Plan](#) (GAP). Given the stakes, for example Africa is ranked the lowest in having a gender balance in COP delegation, FEMNET felt the need to engage in the process and work closely with [Gender and Women Constituency](#) to influence the adoption of the GAP which addresses Africa's specific needs in addressing the climate crisis. At COP25, FEMNET played a crucial role in influencing both the Gender and Women Constituency,

which is largely comprised of global north organizations and the COP delegates to ensure they agree and adopt an ambitious and progressive GAP incorporating an African feminist perspective. Even though the overall COP outcome was disappointing for the lack of commitment, GAP aligns with what FEMNET and Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) were pushing for - greater focus on implementation and scaling up gender-just climate solutions. ■

#COP25

Unity of Purpose & Power of Diversity!

At the [Women Deliver 2019 conference](#), FEMNET hosted a Pan African Gender Advocates Community of Practice, which provided a space for African women attending the conference to meet together in a safe semi-structured networking space. Theme for the session was “Pan African Gender Advocates SAFE SPACE: Unity of Purpose & Power of Diversity”. FEMNET and Women Deliver co-facilitated a roundtable discussion with 25 journalists from Lebanon, BBC-breaking news, Tanzania, Senegal, Rwanda, Ghana, Uganda and Kenya.

This resulted in building partnership with the journalists attending the Women Deliver 2019 conference and increased post-conference coverage. The journalists were equipped with requisite skills and knowledge to re-think storytelling and media coverage with a new frame of reference, new story ideas and breaking the barriers of addressing issues separately and in isolation. The journalists were challenged to take a holistic approach of looking at issues with linkages to other salient issues. This would enable journalists to open the doors to report a range of interconnected and possibly unexpected stories about girls and women. During this Conference, FEMNET representatives also attended an all [EM2030](#) regional and national partners session on using the [SDG Gender Index](#), gained knowledge, became “Ambassadors” and co-facilitated a training session to 80 journalists on the



use of gender data for story-telling. The cross –sector partnership connects data and evidence with advocacy and action on gender equality. The team works to ensure that girls and women’s movements advocates and decision makers have the data they need, when they need it and in a form they can use to guide their pursuit of gender equality commitments in the SDGs. [The EM2030 SDG gender index](#) is the most comprehensive tool available to explore the status of gender equality across 129 countries (covering 95% of the world’s girls and women), 14 of the 17 SDGs and 51 targets linked to issues of gender inherent in the SDGs. It provided a snapshot of where the world stands, right now, linked to the vision of gender equality set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ■

#WD2019



We Pushed, We Compelled, We Urged... and the Struggle Continues!

As the Communications and Information Network for Africa's women and girls, we have and will continue to push duty bearers, policy makers and governments to deliver on their commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment. In 2019, we amplified our voices and spoke truth to power through critical press statements and releases urging for equal rights and dignity for Africa's women and girls.

The media as a critical partner became our specific and deliberate focus; we built and strengthened media rapport and enhanced journalists' capacities in reporting Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights (SRHR). In July and November, we convened journalists from the print, electronic & digital media and unveiled our **FEMNET SRHR Media Training Manual** in Kigali, Rwanda (May) and in

Lusaka, Zambia (November). It is need a huge achievement that since these media capacity building forums, we are marking extensive media coverage on SRHR and expect much more in the coming years.

- [FEMNET Urges more commitment to the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (July 2019)
- [FEMNET and the EU urge for greater commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa](#) (August 2019)
- [Gender Equality is not a favor, it is a right!](#) (August 2018)
- [Women will not relent until the Beijing Commitments are fully achieved](#) (November 2019). ■

#SRHRDialogues



Growth of FEMNET's Digital Family & Footprint

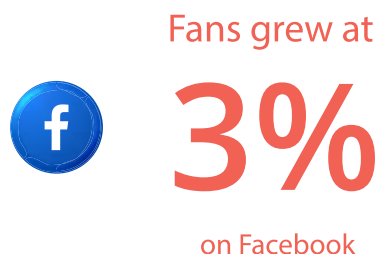
Our digital footprints in 2019 expanded tremendously under our flagship hashtags of activism to end violence against women and girls of Africa. Yes, we are indeed pulling punches on the digital spaces and intend to do even more. This year we largely expounded on our trending hash-tags: [#SRHRDialogues](#), [#Beijing25Africa](#),

[#AFMA2019](#), [#WomenAtWorkCampaign](#), [#Femonomics](#), [#FeministSolidarity](#), [#ByGirlsForGirls](#), [#COP25](#), [#WD2019](#), [#FeministWantSystemChange](#), [RatifyILOc190](#), [#FollowTheProtocol](#), [#Beijing25Africa](#), and in this way, increased our digital footprints into sizable digital growth with our members and followers. ■



Our highest potential reach on twitter was

2.89 Million 



The Potential impact on Twitter was

12 Million 

OUR 2019 FEMNET FAMILY



A vibrant membership is core to FEMNET's work. In 2019, FEMNET members engaged at national, regional and global levels, as highlighted in this 2019 Annual Report. In all these spaces, FEMNET welcomed in the family 83 new members both individual members and organizational members. Amongst our new members are woman Deputy

Governor, women lawyers, organizations that work with young and adolescent girls, men allies in the fight against GBV, FGM and child marriage.

We also increased our membership footprint in 43 countries especially in countries where we had no member such as Angola, whilst increasing membership in Mozambique and Guinea Conakry. ■

The FEMNET family continues to grow! New faces at the Secretariat!

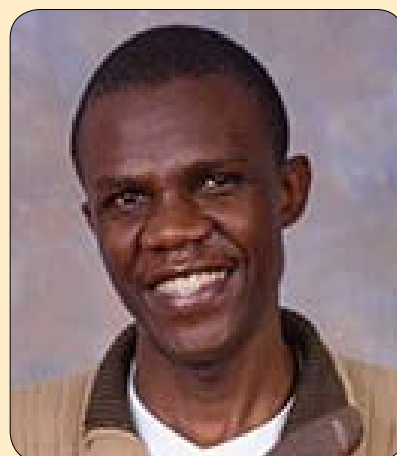
In 2019, the following team members joined the FEMNET Secretariat family:



Lilian Ndinda
Human Resource Officer



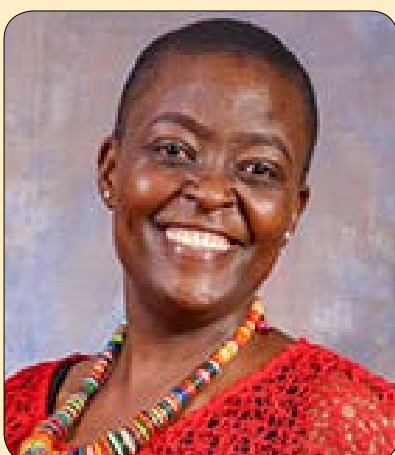
Dorothy Otieno
Project Co-ordinator, Women's Leadership



George Seko
Project Accountant



Maureen Olyaro
Regional Projects Manager



Racheal Ouko
Membership Liaison Officer



Adeline Malemba
Grants and Compliance Coordinator



Mwanahamisi Singano
Programmes Manager



Yvonne Ndirangu
Digital Media Strategist



Esther Nyawira
Project Lead - Young Women & Adolescents

Financial Statements

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018

| ASSETS | 2019 | 2019 | 2018 | 2018 |
|--|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | Kshs | USD | Kshs | USD |
| Property and equipment-net of accumulated depreciation | 24,708,050 | 243,813 | 17,540,887 | 172,970 |
| Current Assets | | | | |
| Cash and Bank Balances | 465,384,587 | 4,592,309 | 312,591,878 | 3,082,456 |
| Accounts Receivable | 10,972,241 | 108,272 | 8,109,836 | 79,971 |
| Total Current Assets | 476,356,828 | 4,700,581 | 320,701,714 | 3,162,427 |
| Current Liabilities | | | | |
| Accounts Payable | 16,861,023 | 166,381 | 4,531,663 | 44,687 |
| Deferred income | 447,158,389 | 4,412,457 | 304,785,209 | 3,005,474 |
| Total current Liabilities | 464,019,412 | 4,578,838 | 309,316,872 | 3,050,161 |
| Net Current Assets | 12,337,416 | 121,743 | 11,384,842 | 112,266 |
| Net Assests | 37,045,466 | 365,556 | 28,925,729 | 285,236 |
| Represented by: | | | | |
| General Reserves | 36,415,125 | 359,336 | 28,295,388 | 279,020 |
| Foreign Currency Reserve as Restated | 630,341 | 6,220 | 630,341 | 6,216 |
| Total Funds | 37,045,466 | 365,556 | 28,925,729 | 285,236 |

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018

| | 2019 KShs | 2019 USD | 2018 KShs | 2018 USD |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| INCOME | | | | |
| Grant received | 353,870,998 | 3,492,183 | 166,132,195 | 1,638,223 |
| Other income | 2,480,968 | 24,467 | 3,989,370 | 39,339 |
| Total Income | 356,351,966 | 3,516,650 | 170,121,565 | 1,677,562 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | |
| Programme expenses | 305,826,414 | 3,017,833 | 140,628,019 | 1,386,727 |
| Establishment expenses | 6,068,475 | 59,882 | 4,616,169 | 45,520 |
| Administration expenses | 36,337,340 | 358,568 | 20,523,699 | 202,385 |
| Total expenses | 348,232,229 | 3,436,283 | 165,767,887 | 1,634,632 |
| Balance for the Year | 8,119,737 | 80,367 | 4,353,678 | 42,930 |

The Statement of Financial Position for FEMNET closed the year 2019 with a net assets balance of KES 37,045,466 (US\$ 365,556).

FEMNET recorded Income of KES 356,351,966 (US\$3,516,650) during the 2019 financial year. The organisation continued to have very strong expense ratios with programme expenses representing 87% of the total expenses.

The expenditure and related items as presented, represents operations in implementing FEMNET's 2019 strategy in line with its mission. Operations during the year took into account most important and relevant opportunities that evolved during the reporting period. The network made invaluable efforts in assessing and exchanging ideas and experiences on systems, policies, good practices, programmes quality and strategies with 25 WROs, out of which 9 organisations got sub-grants in 2019. The 2019 operations include US\$ 684, 274 disbursed to partners as sub-grants and/or coalition members, with more WROs expected to be funded in 2020.

We have been able to implement our activities in sustainable way and we aim to drive sustainability agenda to all our stakeholders to always consider the ecological, economic and social impacts of our work.

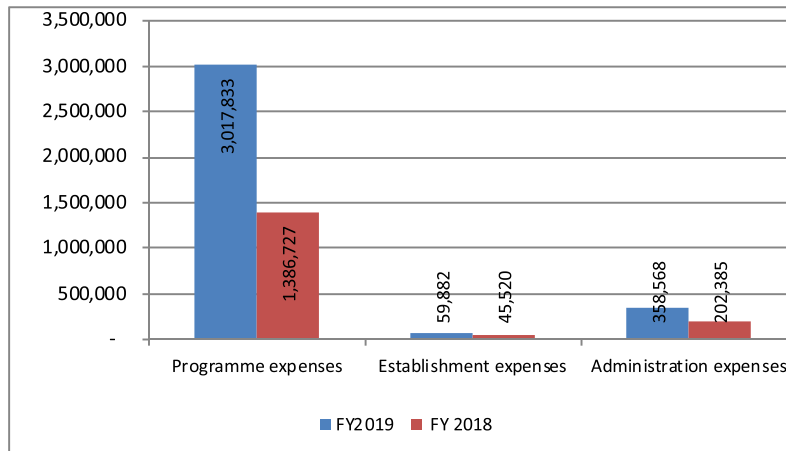
The assets include a 2 acre land in the outskirts of Nairobi presented at cost (2012), with directors' valuation as at 31st December, 2018, standing at KES 28 million (US\$ 276,100) up from purchase price of KES 10million (US\$97,276).

* The figures have been translated at rate of USD 1 = KSh 101.34; Euro 1= 113.37 (2018: USD 1 = KSh 101.41; Euro 1 =1 15.28)

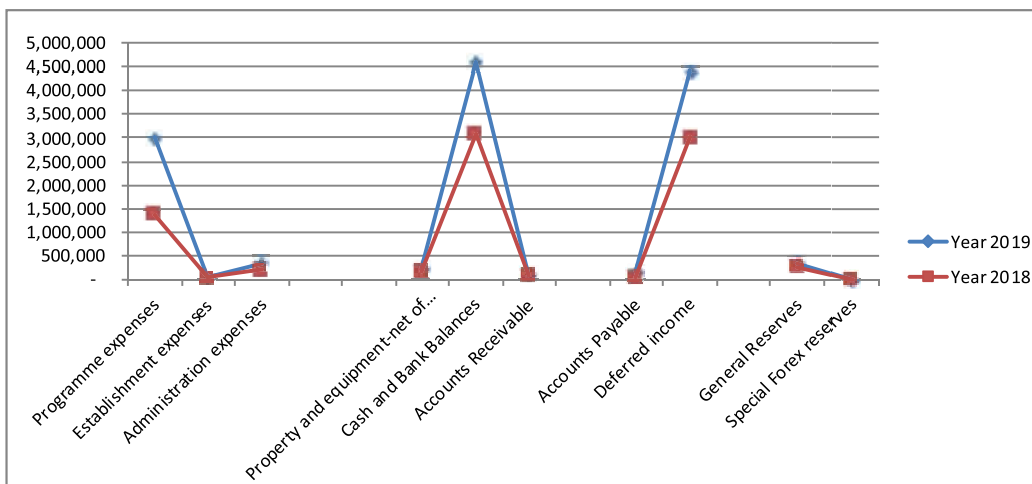
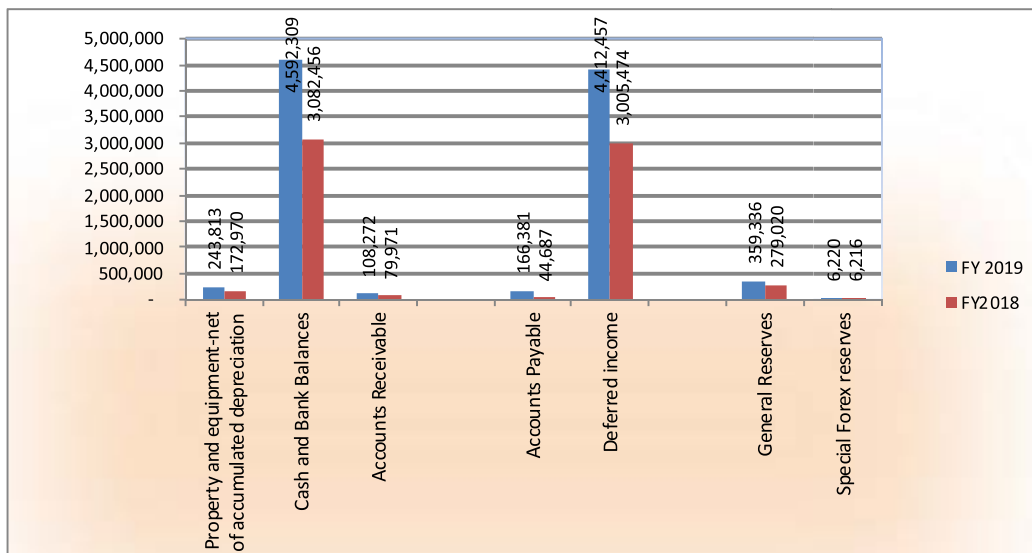
The published financial reports are extracts from audited Financial Statements and Reports. FEMNET's financial statements have been independently audited by Audit firm of CroweErastus, CPA. and received an unqualified audit opinion as to their fair presentation in conformity with International Standards on Auditing (ISA).



EXPENDITURES FOR 2019 AND 2018-COMPARATIVES FIGURES IN US\$



STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018









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Communication Network

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