

Equality for Growth News Letter- October to December 2018

1. Voices for Visibility Programme

Between 2011 and 2014, Equality for Growth (EfG) implemented the highly successful programme entitled “Voices for Visibility” with the purpose of enabling market women traders in Ilala District to recognize themselves as rights holders and leaders who are able to engage in decision-making and advocate for access to resources and basic services that are rightfully theirs but currently absent or lacking within the largely ignored informal market sector. The programme contributed to improving governance, accountability, and citizen engagement by successfully mobilizing women in 25 markets into organized women’s associations, increasing women leadership in market positions, establishing VICOBA savings groups and training women on leadership, advocacy, law and policy reforms, business education and human rights, as well as providing legal rights to market traders. EfG is now scaling up the program to Mbeya Region.

2. The day Dr.Mlambo-Ngcuka visited MchikichiniMarket

In August 2018, the UN Women Executive Director, Dr Mphumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka visited Tanzania to strengthen partnerships with actors, including the Government, CSOs, media and other UN agencies. She visited Mchikichini Market in Ilala, where she interacted with women market traders who benefitted from EfG’s “Give Payment not Abuse” (*MpeRiziki Si Matusi*). The purpose of her visit was to determine whether the 3-year programme had led to any positive changes in markets.

Some testimonials indicated that the programme had managed to create an environment free from sexual, verbal, physical and political violence, where all traders now respect each other and exercise their full economic rights. Dr Mlambo-Ngcuka pledged UN Women’s continued commitment in supporting creation of safe work spaces for women and girls. She encouraged women to vie for leadership positions following opportunities created through programmes such as *MpeRiziki Si Matusi*, which led to the scale-up of the project to Shinyanga Region.



3. Vendor Study Conducted

EfG commissioned a consultant to conduct vendor study in Mbeya, focusing on the predicaments faced by women urban vendors in Mbeya City Council. It sought to look at sector-wide structural hindrances and zoom in on specific factors affecting women in the urban vendor value chains and examine the business dynamics in those value chains to understand the struggles women urban vendors encounter towards earning a living. The report is currently being finalized.



4. Launch of Gender Based Violence Project at new markets in Temeke District

In 2019, with the support from the Kingdom of Netherlands, EfG launched a GBV campaign at new markets of Mbagala Rangi Tatu and Kampochea, aimed at creating a better working environment for women traders through responding to GBV and promoting women's rights.

Deputy Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Ms. Lianne Houben, delivering her speech during campaign launch