



UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)

Good practice

In the United Republic of Tanzania, UNIDO has trained 530 women in new product development, textile surface design, including tie-dye batik techniques, and management of small businesses. The purpose of the integrated programme, designed by UNIDO, is to strengthen and expand the industrial sector by providing adequate training to entrepreneurs and managers to increase productivity and improve the quality of their products. The programme later helped a group of trainees to form a business association. The Artisan Development Agency of Tanzania (ADAT) that now offers, among other services, dynamic training programmes and prepares women to become entrepreneurs in the textile industry. Here the women learn different techniques of textile making, including tie dye, new product development, textile surface design, pattern drafting, tailoring and garment making, marketing and management of small producing textiles and related products. In a ripple effect, now those trained are in turn training others in the arts and practices.

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Programme objectives

In the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), UNIDO considers the integration of women in industrial development a means of empowering women economically, which has positive implications for education, health and childcare. UNIDO's Medium Term Programme Framework for the period 2002-2005 places emphasis on addressing gender inequality through the promotion of women entrepreneurship programmes.

In order to promote the social, technical and economic integration of women in the industrial development process, UNIDO technical cooperation activities include specific programmes for Women Entrepreneurship Development (WED). These programmes take an integrated approach by means of appropriate support at the policy, institutional and sector level. The programmes aim to create an enabling environment (through policies and networking), to strengthen the quality and availability of support institutions (through capacity-building and formation of business associations), and to enhance the business skills of women entrepreneurs through training-of-trainers and enterprise level training in business management and production techniques. Mainstreaming is achieved through UNIDO's integrated programme approach which combines WED programmes with other UNIDO services to provide a package of focused support to developing country industrial objectives.

Operational activities

The majority of UNIDO's WED programmes are being implemented in Africa with an emphasis on selected agro-industrial subsectors such as food and textile. For example, the WED programme in Tanzania trains women in the areas of processing technologies for local food products, hygiene and quality control and business management. A group of qualified trainers in the areas of business management, marketing and finance, processing technologies and quality control have been made available through the organization of training of trainers' workshops. Similar programmes have been formulated and/or implemented in Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda and Uganda as well as in Morocco (food-processing), Burkina Faso (textile) and Senegal (fish-processing). Specific business development services for WED have been supported for women entrepreneurs in the Central American Region, with particular emphasis on the food-processing sector. In Asia, support services to trainers and women entrepreneurs in food industries have been piloted in the Northern and Central regions of Vietnam. Also in Nepal and Iran, training programmes adapted to the specific needs of women entrepreneurs in food-processing have been formulated.

One example of the impact of UNIDO's WED programmes is a Moroccan project which had the goal of improving the capacity of women entrepreneurs in the northern part of the country. In order to reinforce women's business and production skills, the project first built institutional capacity (both private and public), working with institutions which offer technical support to women entrepreneurs. The strategy first sensitized women about the services of the project and how these services could make a difference in their production and incomes, then proceeded to train them in both business management and production techniques. Three groups of women running productive economic activities

were identified: olive oil production; traditional weaving/textiles; and industrial processing of figs, prunes as well as medicinal and aromatic plants. The project offered the possibility to advance to a more technologically developed production, gave training on new methods at a pilot training unit with improved but locally available equipment. There were two levels of training: (a) training of trainers, to set up a network of skilled people from public and private institutions who will be able to follow up on the women they train; and (b) direct training to the women. A third level of training is now being developed including an integrated approach to the organization of women around a specific economic activity, such as association formation, and the administration of cooperatives. The project became operational as of April 2001 and will run until the end of 2003. ■