



**International Co-operative
Alliance – Africa**
A Region of the International
Co-operative Alliance

EXPERT GROUP MEETING PRESENTATION

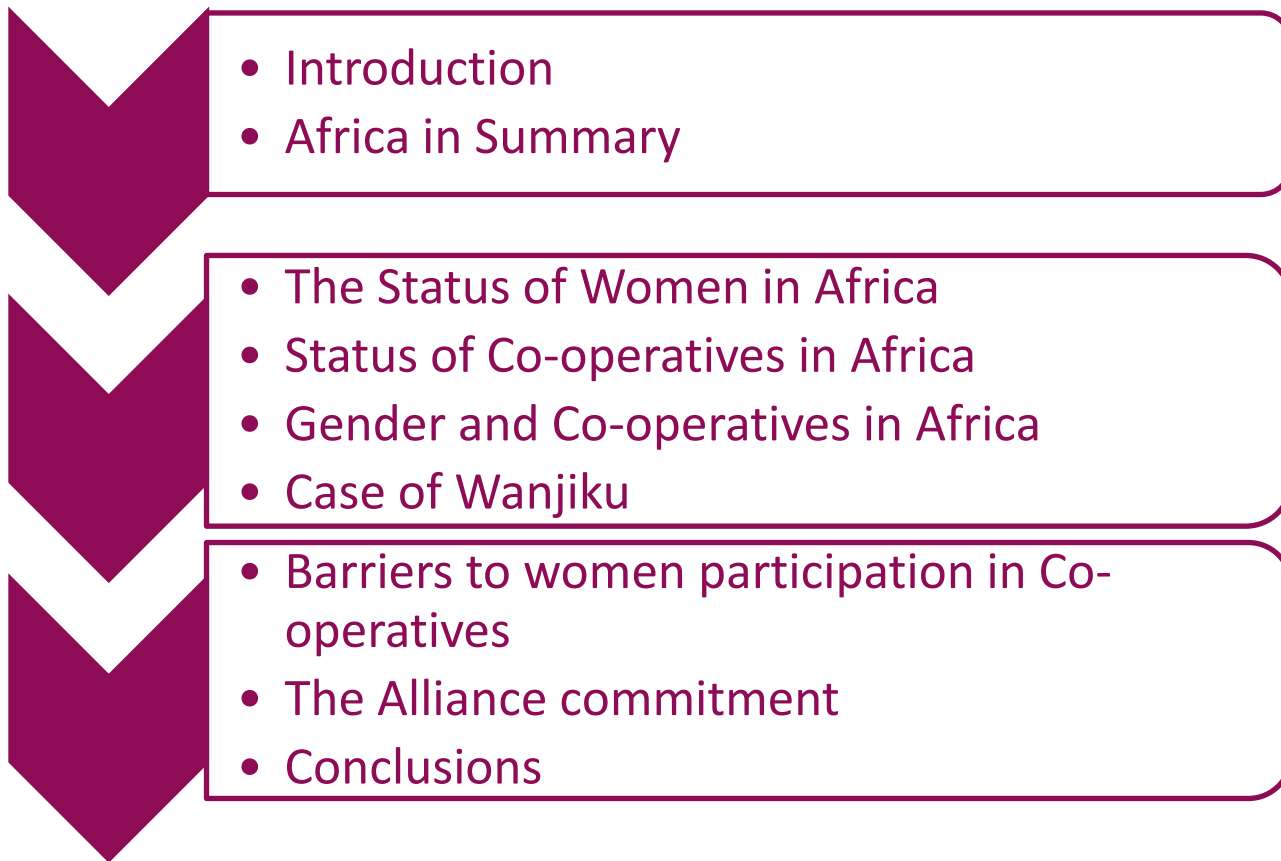
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The Alliance Africa

Sub-theme Title: **Cooperatives Empowering Women and the Family**

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Organization of the Presentation



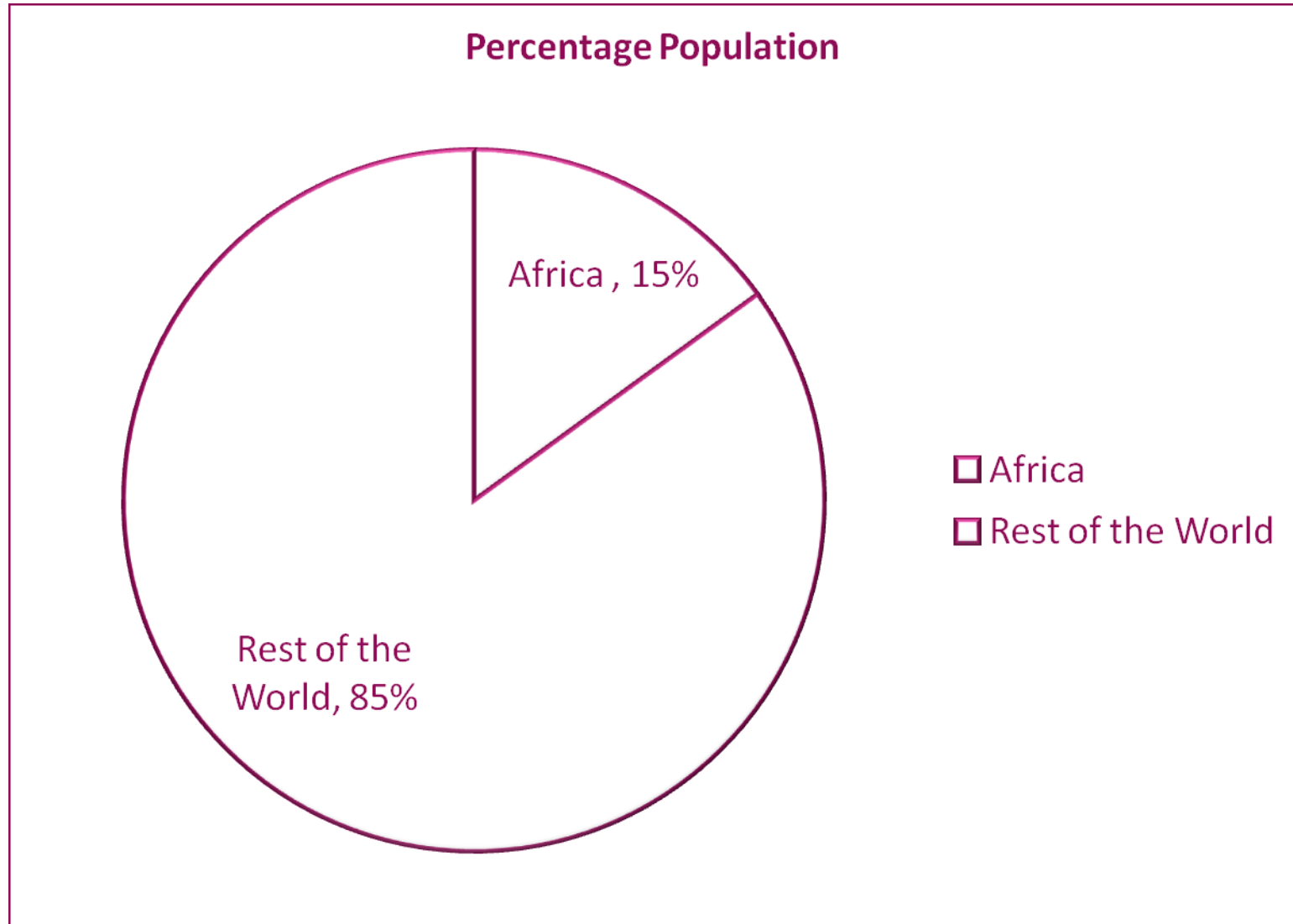
The Alliance and The Alliance Africa

Alliance is an independent, non-governmental organization established in 1895 to unite, represent and serve co-operatives worldwide. The Alliance provides a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and coordinated action for and about co-operatives

The Alliance has members from over 100 countries, representing close to one billion individuals worldwide

The Alliance Africa is one of the regional offices of the Alliance which serves, unites and represents its members in Africa through policy and political dialogue, capacity building and research with the ultimate aim of promoting and strengthening the co-operative movement in Africa. Total current membership in Africa is 35 members across 21 countries.

Africa in Summary



Africa in Summary Contd...

Very high or high human development

Seychelles
Algeria
Mauritius
Libya
Tunisia

Medium human development

Ghana
Cabo Verde
Egypt
Morocco
Botswana
Namibia
South Africa
Zambia
Sao Tome and Principe
Gabon
Republic of the Congo
Equatorial Guinea

Low human development

Mauritania	Kenya	Djibouti	Nigeria	Liberia	Democratic Republic of Congo
Swaziland	Tanzania	South Sudan	Togo	Guinea-Bissau	Chad
Lesotho	Comoros	Ethiopia	Benin	Mali	Central African Republic
Zimbabwe	Rwanda	Burundi	Senegal	Sierra Leone	Cameroon
Malawi	Uganda	Eritrea	Côte d'Ivoire	Guinea	
Mozambique	Sudan		Gambia	Burkina Faso	
Madagascar				Niger	
Angola					

The Status of Women in Africa

- Women make up slightly more than 50% of Africa's population
- African women achieve only 87 percent of the human development outcomes of men
- African women hold 66 percent of the all jobs in the non-agricultural informal sector and only make 70 cents for each dollar made by men
- Only between 7 and 30 percent of all private firms have a female manager
- Gender gap costs sub-Saharan Africa \$US95 billion a year

The Status of Women in Africa



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The Alliance Africa

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The Status of Co-operatives in Africa

- Co-operatives are ever-present on the African continent and represent a significant part of the private sector in most African countries
- Co-operatives are based on values of self-help, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity
- Co-operatives help to put women on the path to empowerment; not only financial empowerment, but also socio-political and cultural empowerment
- co-operatives go beyond economic empowerment, they have helped to break down traditional and cultural barriers that prevent women from purchasing and owning assets such as land, vehicles, boats

The Status of Women in Co-operative Contd



The Status of Women in Co-operative Contd



Case: Wanjiku, in Kirinyaga district in rural Kenya

- Widowed at 16 years and left to raise 2 sons on her own
- was a peasant farmer who grew vegetables for mostly home consumption, and relied on her late husband to provide for her and her sons
- After years of struggle Wanjiku decided to join a small self-help group popularly known as a *chama* in Kenya
- With other women, they started weekly savings that were distributed on a rotational basis enabling the women to meet their basic requirements of food and clothing

Case: Wanjiku, in Kirinyaga district in rural Kenya

- today Wanjiku proudly testifies that the *chama* has enabled her to take her sons to the university.
- The other women too have attained solidarity that has enabled them to come up with plans for meeting their housing and funeral expenses, with hopes of doing much more together

Barriers to Women's Participation in Co-operatives

- Lack of co-operative education and training
- Challenges of land ownership
- Lack of affordable credit
- Consequences of climate change
- Limited on-farm value addition
- Illiteracy
- Bad image of co-operatives portrayed by the mass media

Recommendations and the Alliance Africa Commitment

- Carry out in-depth research to identify women's needs and design programmes, courses and policies that respond to these needs.
- Education institutions to have gender integration in all courses offered so that awareness about the critical need for gender parity is achieved.
- Governments will go beyond policy making and ensure enforcement of gender parity rules in order to support women's participation in leadership.
- Men as duty bearers to actively support women to aspire for leadership positions, financial inclusion and gender equality.
- All duty bearers to support the bonding, bridging and linkages necessary that allow women to network, find markets and engage in lucrative trade and industry

Conclusions

- equal chances for women are part of the solution to achieve global, sustainable growth
- Women Joining forces in small-scale co-operatives can provide them with the economic, social and political leverage they need
- Co-operatives also provide the setting for collective problem-solving and the articulation of strategic and basic needs relating to women
- We should embrace change for the better of our world.
- Call upon liked minded partners to work together to achieve gender equity.

THANK YOU

