



REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE
MINISTÉRIO DO GÉNERO, CRIANÇA E ACÇÃO SOCIAL

Indian Ocean Rim Association - Ministerial Conference on Women's Economic Empowerment

**Access to land and agro-processing: good practices in empowering rural
women and girls**

Mauritius, 29 August 2018



1. Outline

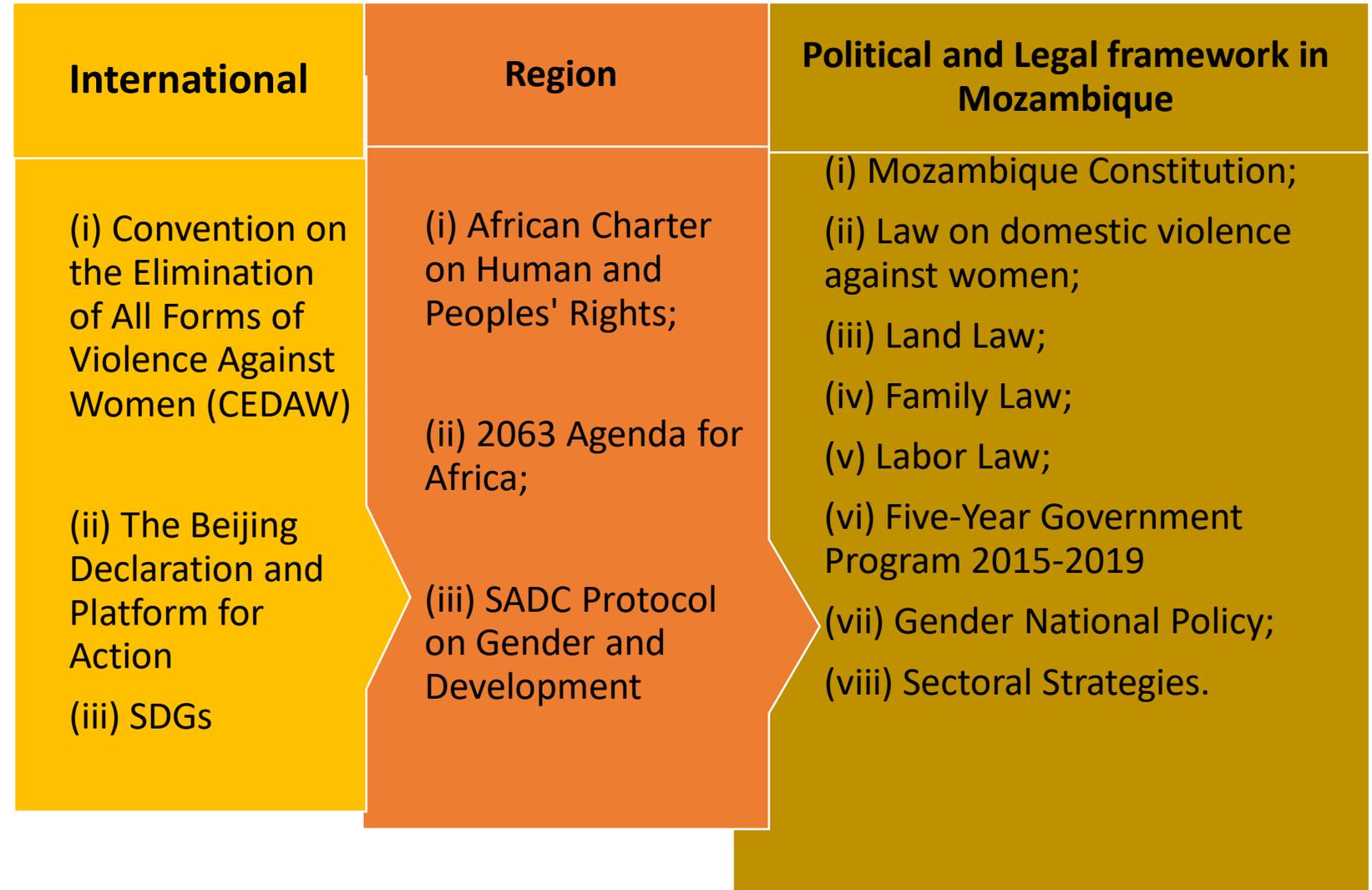
- (i) Presentation goal;
- (ii) Mozambique's Political and Legal Framework;
- (iii) Status of Rural Women and Girls in Mozambique;
- (iv) Good Practices for rural Women and Girls Economic Empowerment: The Women Empowerment and Skills Development Project (WESDP);
- (v) WESDP Goals;
- (vi) Project main Achievements;
- (vii) Challenges;
- (viii) The need for a National Programme on Women's Economic Empowerment (PRONAEM);
- (ix) Opportunities for PRONAEM Implementation;
- (x) Steps forward for Women Economic Empowerment.

2. Presentation Goal

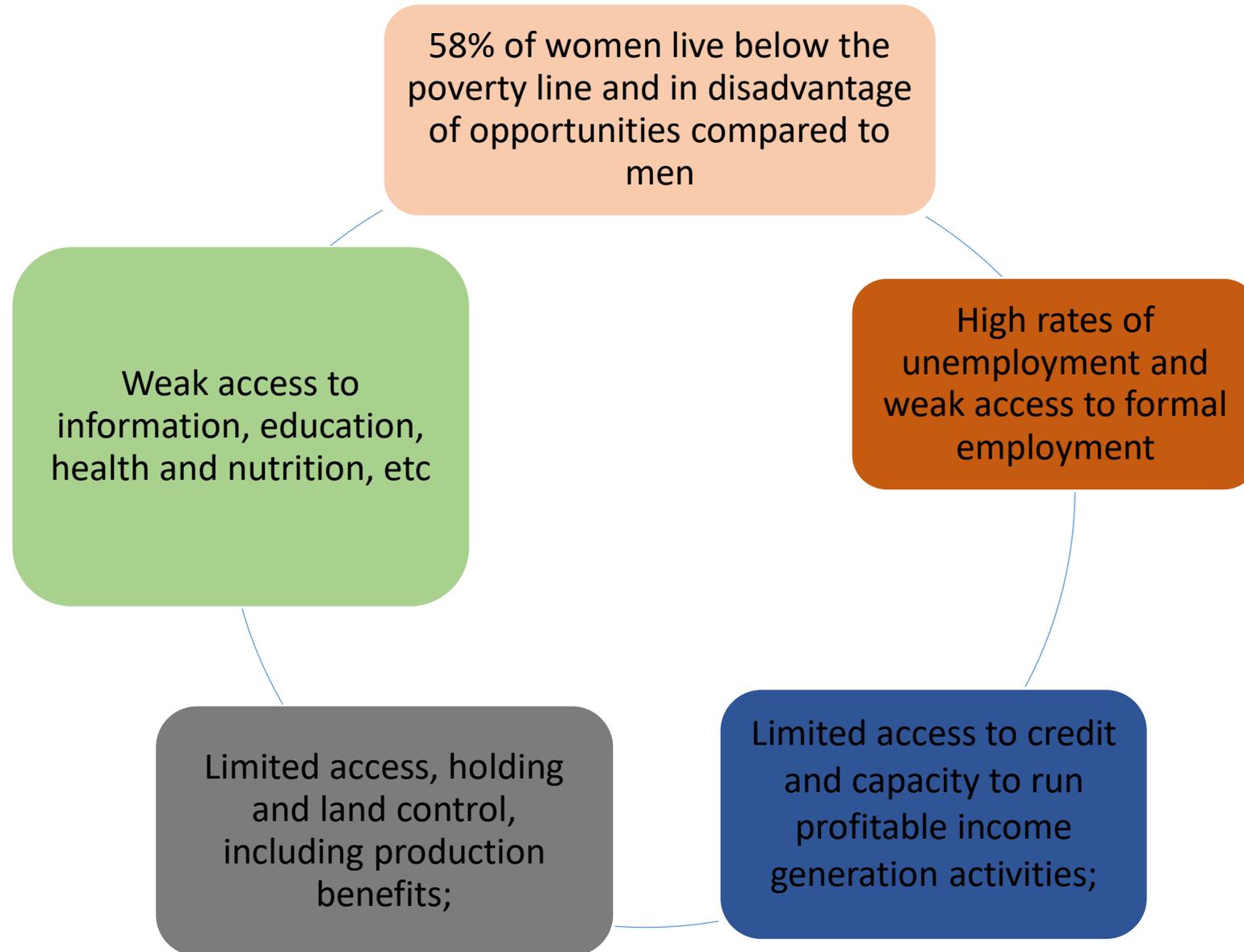
Present progress and challenges in empowering rural women and girls through expanding the access to secure land and agro-processing for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

3. Mozambique Political and Legal Framework

Mozambique has a favorable institutional, political and legal environment, in line with the main international and regional tools for promoting rural women and girls economic empowerment.



4. Status of Rural Women and Girls in Mozambique



5. Good Practices for Rural Women and Girls Economic Empowerment: The Women Empowerment and Skills Development Project (WESDP)

Women Emporment and Skills Development Project Description

- (i) Implementing agency: Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Action in 8 districts of Manica and Sofala Provinces (phase I- 2008 to 2012; phase II- 2015 to 2018), benefiting directly 4.500 women;
- (i) Funding: African Development Bank (89,4%); Government (10,1%) and beneficiaries (0,5%);
- (i) WESDP appears has a pioneering initiative with an integrated approach to the economic empowerment of rural women in the country.
- (i) In addition to issues related to agriculture, agro-processing and agro-business, the project also focuses on awareness-raising and counselling on gender, economic rights, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) prevention and nutrition issues.

5.1. WESDP main goals

Phase 2

To reduce poverty while promote inclusive growth, which will be achieved through women empowerment, income and agricultural production increase, through improving of their ability in agro-processing and market access;

5.2. Project main achievements

- (i) Created 350 groups of women;
- (ii) Trained 2,000 women in developing business plans having some, benefited from the District Development Fund (FDD);
- (iii) Legalized 187 associations, of which 87 (47%) were eligible to benefit from equipment to run their own business;
- (iv) Trained 25 trainers in nutrition, food processing and hygiene;
- (v) Trained 1.792 (147 men e 1645 women) people in nutrition, food processing and hygiene;
- (vi) Trained 1.118 beneficiaries in advanced business management;
- (vii) Trained 2.049 women in basic business management;
- (viii) Created 116 savings and credit groups (ASCAS)- (50 of women and 66 mixed groups);
- (ix) The project contributed to transform poor rural women into entrepreneurial and active women;
- (x) Contribute to improve women skills on bussiness, food conservation and preparation techniques, which resulted in improvement of food security, family income and nutrition.

5.3. Main Challenges

- (i) Lack of specific conditions (eg. water and electricity) in the locals where the associations operate, brought obstacles for the establishment of small factories for products processing;
- (ii) Lack of alternative forms of funding locally to support the women business activities;
- (iii) Women low level of education, which interfered to select the beneficiaries since it would influence in their ability to understand or not, the training and management practices;
- (iv) Identifying activities without negative impacts on health and environment, and whose resources are, locally available while at the same time will improve the lives of women;
- (v) Insufficiency financial resources to tackle problems, in accordance with the needs of each local;

6. The need for a National Programme on Women's Economic Empowerment (PRONAEM)

- (i) WESDP and other initiative results, are encouraging and confirm that despite the challenges, there are opportunities in Mozambique for implementation and success of rural women and girls economic empowerment programs;
- (ii) The achieved results inspired the MGCAS to design an integrated and structural program, the National Program for Economic Empowerment of Women (PRONAEM), in order to maximize the already achieved results;
- (iii) The still existing challenges for rural women and girls economic empowerment led the government to create and identify conditions and resources (especially financial and political environment) for PRONAEM implementation;

7. Opportunities for PRONAEM Implementation

- (i) State interest and capacity to implement women and girls economic empowerment initiatives, as demonstrated in previous and ongoing programs;
- (ii) Interest and capacity of Mozambican International Agencies for Technical and Financial Cooperation to support women economic empowerment in Mozambique;
- (iii) Availability of sufficient arable area (for women in agricultural activity);
- (iv) Interest and capacity of various actors, such as civil society, cooperation agencies, private sector, to support social, legal and economic rural women empowerment;
- (v) Predisposition and goodwill of rural women and their families to improve their economic and social condition.

8. Steps forward for Women Economic Empowerment

- (i) Implementation of integrated and holistic initiatives focused on rural women and girls;
- (ii) Continue to implement actions to tackle factors that perpetuate discrimination and inequality of opportunities between men and women, specifically of rural women;
- (iii) To promote greater control of rural women over land, including their capacity to take decision over production;
- (iv) Create mechanisms to strengthen an active women participation in economic activities that go beyond the simple act of "being present / participating", but this participation and initiatives have to bring changes in women's income and contribute for positive changes in their lives;
- (v) Promote rural women's access to credit by implementing financing measures appropriated to their needs and capacity;
- (vi) Promote women's access to key decision-making spaces, especially at the local level, to better defend their own rights and have access to a range of information and opportunities that play an important role in boosting their economic empowerment.



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