



Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa
Programme des Relations Islamo-Chrétiennes en Afrique



PROGRAMME FOR CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM RELATIONS IN AFRICA (PROCURA)

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, 8TH MARCH 2022

'CHANGING CLIMATES: EQUALITY TODAY FOR A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW.

International Women's Day (8th March) is a day for people around the world to join voices and call for equal rights, women's rights, which are all human rights. It is also a day to commemorate the contributions of women in all spheres of life and celebrate their diversity.

This year 2022 International Women's Day is celebrated under the theme ***"changing climates: equality today for a sustainable tomorrow."*** This calls for a recognition of the role of women in addressing climate change and other environmental challenges. PROCMURA's theme for this year's celebration is ***"Religion and Climate change: the voices and actions of religious women."***

The COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating effects on everyone around the world, not to mention how it has affected the livelihood of Children, Girls and Women both at a social and economic level. Apart from the COVID-19 Pandemic, the ecological crisis continues to be a major threat to human life and even more to women. It is true to say that climate change affects everyone. However, those that are more vulnerable like women and girls suffer even more due to the difficult operating environment which brings with it economic and social shock waves. Women and girls face greater health and safety risks as a result of poor sanitation and lack of water which compromises their day-to-day domestic work. And yet more often than not women's contribution across different sections tends to be overlooked. Human activities over time have become unfavourable to the ecosystem leading to high temperatures and various forms of disasters. The clarion call to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees requires the efforts of everyone, including women.

According to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO); women in sub-Saharan Africa have relatively high overall labour-force participation rates and the highest average agricultural labour-force participation rates in the world. A huge majority of African women are engaged in agriculture and therefore affected by climate change, and have also contributed towards climate change prevention/mitigation.

At PROCMURA, our focus this year is more on the African religious woman (the woman of faith). We celebrate women of faith, who have practically contributed toward the quest to drop global warming by using religious teachings to educate other women in local areas on the religious ethical responsibility towards the environment. This has resulted in the formation of inter-religious women farmers groups, where farming methods that are friendly to the environment have been employed. We are also celebrating the girl child and women who have been empowered by PROCMURA and have maximized their potentials by making their voices heard and their actions and contributions to be seen in various areas of life.

PROCMURA and Women Empowerment

Gender equality and women empowerment are at the heart of PROCMURA's work of promoting peaceful co-existence between Christians and Muslims. To achieve this, PROCMURA has mainstreamed gender issues in Christian-Muslim relations and issues particular to women in its programming. More so, economic empowerment programs for women and the girl child have been our focus during this COVID-19 era.

Gender equality is considered a development goal in its own right. Gender equality has often been viewed as a "woman's issue." In reality, gender equality has as much to do with men as it does with women. True gender equality must be a partnership between all people, with boys and men playing an important role in its realization.

PROCMURA Celebrates:

All the Women and Girls across our Constituencies in Africa who have benefited from our women and girl child empowerment programs and are outstanding in their exceptional contributions at various levels. Our quest is to empower them with more opportunities, knowledge and skills to maximise their potential and build a sustainable future.

The PROCMURA Women, Youth Ambassadors Men and Boys Across the globe for their contributions to conflict prevention and peacebuilding, climate change prevention, Mutual religious tolerance, fighting teenage pregnancies, promoting freedom of religion among others.

All stakeholders; Christian and Muslim religious leaders, traditional leaders, Churches, Mosques, community faith-based organisations government, media and education authorities for providing us with the platform to empower the women and the girl child.

All organisations and agencies across the world that continue to advocate for women's rights and gender equity and for raising their voices to advocate against practices that prevent women and the girl child from maximizing their full potential.

Women's achievement and contributions to global development and call for more political, and religious will for gender equality. We look forward to having more women in leadership positions and at the decision-making tables.

We would like to build a society that promotes and enhances women economic, social and political development.

Climate change is a threat to our existence. For PROCMURA, women are part of the conversation and action. "Religion and Climate change: the voices and actions of religious women."



**“Let us walk
the talk”
Happy
women’s
day!**

**Ms. Joy Wandabwa, Team
leader Finance and Adminis-
tration, PROCMURA (Kenya)**

REFLECTIONS FROM SOME PROCMURA WOMEN



Religion has a lot to contribute to climate change prevention, especially in Africa where religion influences all aspects of life, shapes views and instils values and attitudes towards the environment.

Religious people are stewards of the environment. They have a calling to take care of God's creation. This is an assignment that is given to them by God. Psalm 24:1: says "The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it".

We have an ethical responsibility towards the environment.

Rev. Dr. Salli Effungani, Programme Officer, PROCMURA (Cameroon)

As women, we are endowed with the natural gift of caregiving, and the environment is not an exception. We know how to tender, nurture and give life.

Women have come up with farming methods such as planting trees at the borders of the farms instead of felling trees, weeds are put together to decompose and used as manure. This has reduced the use of fertilizers and bush fires, thereby preventing Climate change.

Rev. Winnie Metto, project officer youth Issues PROCMURA (Kenya)



I celebrate the achievement of women in Ghana. Women are active in various works of life. I recognize efforts to bring about gender equality in the country. I salute the government for recognizing women's contribution to development. I appreciate some religious bodies for providing spaces for women to express their religiosity.

Gender objectives have gained recognition and public policy momentum. In 1979, the government adopted an affirmative action policy to increase women's participation in government to 40%. I am looking forward to the full implementation of this policy and also to having a good representation of women in high religious decision-making committees.

Dr. Margaret Makafui, Anglophone West Africa PROCMURA Regional coordinator. (Ghana)

As a woman and a reverend Minister from Rwanda, I am celebrating this year's international woman's day with a lot of joy and hope for a better future for the girl child (the woman of tomorrow). I am not indifferent to the challenges of COVID 19 pandemic, but amid these challenges, I have seen women overcoming beyond expectation.

In Rwanda as a country, we have made significant strides in promoting gender equality and women empowerment, with a good representation of women in the parliament. I am looking forward to better strategies that will address structural and cultural barriers to women's economic empowerment at grassroots levels.

Rev. Rose-Marie IBYISHAKAC, PROCMURA 2nd Vice-Chairperson (Rwanda)



Happy women's day to all women. Happy women's day to the women in Sierra Leone. We have come a long way. We celebrate women in ministry who are proclaiming the word of God. We celebrate women working with the Sierra Leone Council of churches. We celebrate women in the Sierra Leone PROCMURA Area Committee.

Rev. Christiana Sutton-Koroma, Chairperson/Executive committee

We appreciate women for their mentorship services to the girl child through the PROCMURA women and girl child empowerment program, where we addressed the challenges of teenage pregnancies, Gender-based violence, and school dropout due to lack of sanitary towels among rural and disadvantaged girls. We are proud of the outcome of this program and celebrate your contributions as a woman.

Rev. Bernaderth Masaquoi, Area Adviser, Sierra Leone





The General Adviser of PROCMURA; Rev. Dr. Adrake Komi, joins the Women at the central office to celebrate the International Women's Day, 8th March 2022



Thank you PROCMURA for empowering me. Today I am a PROCMURA peace ambassador. I am a girl child, an empowered girl of today, and a strong and confident woman of tomorrow. **Ms. Aisha Ibrahim, student, Garrisa University, Kenya**