In Africa, resilience is frequently tried, and on a regular basis the region is exposed to serious political, economic and environmental adversities, challenging development progress and sustainability of programmatic interventions. Men, women, boys, and girls experience specific vulnerabilities to shocks and stresses that decrease their capacity to adapt to adversity and contribute to positive change. To enhance women’s resilience, there is need for a binary strategy that, on one hand, strengthens their individual resilience and capitalizes on community capital and resilience so that women and youth can claim their rights and participate in development planning; and on the other, strengthens the capacities of Government and Partners to enhance community resilience in affected countries. More knowledge is needed on successful ways to enhance women’s resilience in the region, targeted efforts on sharing and disseminating this knowledge, to better integrate a gender perspective in the resilience agenda and its implementation.

In light of this, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (UN Women) in partnership with Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), African Development Bank (AfDB), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and other partners will hold a regional Sharefair on Gender and Resilience with the theme of ‘Strengthening Resilience by Empowering Women’. The 2-day sharing and learning event will provide opportunity to further explore the role of women in building and strengthening resilience and promote dialogue and sharing of experiences on gender-responsive resilience-related programmes and policies in Africa to accelerate development and humanitarian response and the overall achievement of the SDGs. The event will also facilitate a long-term collaboration amongst regional stakeholders with the aim of identifying problems, using data and predictive methods, and mobilizing support and resources to incubate, accelerate, and scale effective solutions. The main expected outcome will be the creation of a strong regional network to amplify resilience solutions beyond the event, sustaining change in policy and practice within relevant macro-economic frameworks.
OBJECTIVES

**Strengthening Multi-stakeholder and Multi-sectoral Dialogue:** Provide a one-time platform for bringing together governments, development partners, civil society, academic and research institutions and private sector to discuss and consult on the key issues, opportunities and barriers in promoting gender equality within the gender and resilience agenda.

**Expanding the Evidence Base:** Gather, present and discuss existing, new and forthcoming research and knowledge regarding gender equality and resilience including evidence that women’s empowerment is a critical strategy to building resilience and the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

**Promoting Solution Oriented South-South Collaboration:** Showcasing and sharing good practices of gender-sensitive resilience-related policies, interventions and development models that can be adapted and scaled up. Within the international frameworks, explore the local specificity for a more effective national implementation.

**Uniting Women in building resilience:** Provide and create a durable network/platform to link women’s associations and groups from across the region and build women’s transformational leadership in resilience

**Joint Theory of Change:** The established multi-stakeholder platform will inform the development of a Theory of Change that, based on a solid body of evidence, will ensure the Sharefair comes up with a clear preposition on the key role of women in building resilience and then in accelerating implementation of SDGs

**Framework/roadmap for programmatic and policies actions to upscale gender-sensitive resilience solutions:** the platform will create an opportunity for actions to amplify resilience solutions and create sustainable change beyond the Sharefair within the SDGs implementation framework.

KEY THEMES

- Climate Smart Agriculture - Energy & Sustainable Livelihoods
- Disaster Risk Management, preparedness & effective response
- Conflict Prevention, resolution & peace building

For more information please visit: [https://www.empowerwomen.org/en/community/events-opportunities/2016/07/sharefair-2016](https://www.empowerwomen.org/en/community/events-opportunities/2016/07/sharefair-2016)

Or Contact
Flavia Ciribello
Programme Associate, Women’s Economic Empowerment
Tel: +254 20 762 26765
flavia.ciribello@unwomen.org