

Commission on the Status of Women
Russian Federation
Women and sustainability

Climate change has created a slow downward spiral for many woman in terms of their health and availability of resources. It has caused food sources to become more unpredictable, and with the majority of women in developing nations working in the agricultural sector, meaning that previously disadvantaged women can also be at risk for income loss, resource shortage, and increased health issues. Climate change has also greatly affected water sources by either increasing the amounts of floods and droughts, which significantly affects women in developing nation who generally are the ones to fetch the water. Some woman have to travel far distances to receive water that is commonly contaminated. The carrying of contaminated water can lead to various health issues, all of which will directly affect the agricultural sector as well.¹ Global warming has also caused an increase in stronger natural disasters like hurricane Mathew for example, which left 14,530 people displaced, and 1,885 houses flooded in Haiti.²

In addition to climate change and how it has such a large effect on sustainability, the empowerment of women is also very pertinent to this topic. Russia is ranked sixty seventh out of 177 countries in terms of gender empowerment, meaning it is classified as high human development.³ Regarding the agricultural sector and women working in this sector, it states in article 35 of the Russian constitution that, everyone has the right to have property, meaning woman can have more control over the land.

To promote women empowerment Russia suggests the use of documentary films to share the idea, “Her story is unstoppable.” It provides stories of hope and transformation that will allow the youth to envision a future where gender equality is the norm. The program will also train partners to use media for social change and to spark conversation about women empowerment and education. In regards to the aspect of food security with in this topic, Russia would like to see the promotion of practical education regarding food production and accessibility. The education will be focused on training farmer organizations to enhance their business management skills, receive greater input purchasing power and marketing leverage, and learn how to increase their crop and resource management skills. Knowledge will be spread with the help of NGOs working to find new ways to share information and improve farmer’s techniques that will help smaller farmers through information and communications technologies. With these educational practices in place the spread of knowledge will allow for more advancements to be made, causing there to be more sustainability. Now to combat the issues with climate change and water, Russia proposes Field Level Operations Watch (FLOW). FLOW is used to broadcast immediate evaluations about the success levels of water and sanitation processes. The Watch also uses watch for people to train community members to build and maintain systems. They will also train local mechanics to travel a regular route and provide regular fixings of water systems for a small payment from community water committees. With the implementation of this system many women would not have to risk their lives going to fetch water.

¹ http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/factsheet.html#food

² <https://weather.com/news/news/hurricane-matthew-haiti-latest-news>

³ <http://www.rrojasdatabank.info/hdr20072008tab29.pdf>

Commission on the Status of Women
Russian Federation
Gender Based violence

It is estimated that one in three women are victims of physical or sexual assault, with the majority of the assaults being conducted by an intimate partner.⁴ These proportions are growing causing gender based violence to reach epidemic proportions that have been met with various frameworks meant to combat the issue. Regardless of what has been done to try and prevent such heinous acts, this acts still prevail. In the a part of eastern Congo, North Kivu, United Nation officials estimated that there are about 25,000 cases of sexual violence against women and children each year.⁵ One of the most crucial factors of this issue is that women who have been physically or sexually assaulted are afraid to speak up about what has happened to them. This aspect is seen in a press release on Syrian refugee women in Iraq who stated, “We just kept silent,” when they were assaulted.⁶

Russia is concerned with this particular issue, making various efforts to contest it. In Russia’s criminal code there is violence against women covered, saying that it is in fact an offense. Efforts are even made to identify victims and to help them. Another way Russia has helped to limit these acts is by creating and distributing brochures promoting behavioral change aimed at preventing violence against women, to communities. The Federation has also worked to train health workers trying to help those affected by gender based violence. Even in Russia’s constitution it states, “No one shall be subject to torture, violence or other severe or humiliating treatment or punishment,” in article 21.⁷ This article in the constitution illustrates that Russia’s policy is very much against gender based violence and wishes to rid it.

Russia believes that the starting point of preventing gender based violence is the implementation of women clinics. These clinics women and children only and provide a rigorous preliminary diagnostic check-up when they walk into the clinic. After the original check-up is completed the individuals will receive a plan that is based upon the results of the check-up. Within these clinics there will also be a specific women refugee area, for women escaping from their abusers. In this area there will only be women workers, and patients will receive a wristband with their name, that monitors dietary needs, psychological needs, and educational needs. The clinics will also provide the women with the education to work in the clinic to pay-it-forward or to go out in the world and work wherever they feel inclined to go. With these Women’s Clinics spread out throughout nations more women will have the chance to get the help they need to escape the physical or sexual assault their intimate partner acted on them. In addition to clinics, Russia would like to propose the distribution of pamphlets promoting the respect of women, the effects of gender based violence, and how the average civilian can help to prevent gender based violence. With both of these ideas in place, gender based violence will take a turn towards the prevention of it all together.

⁴ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>

⁵ <http://www.unocha.org/what-we-do/advocacy/thematic-campaigns/sgbv/sgbv-framework>

⁶ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2014/4/press-release-we-just-keep-silent>

⁷ <http://www.constitution.ru/en/10003000-03.htm>

Commission on the Status of Women
Russian Federation
Women in Education and Employment

The lack of equal education and employment between men and women has been an ongoing issue in the international community, leading many females and their families to poverty. Poverty and disempowerment generally work in conjunction with one another, creating a particularly negative environment for women to live in. The employment and education of women has promising effects on the economy, children, and organizational effectiveness of corporations. It is proven that girl's education, along with an increase in the female labor force, directly correlates with economic growth.⁸ As more women are educated and employed, and equality has a larger presence, poverty rates will drop, generating more money for mothers to build a more sound foundation for their children and generations to come.⁹

The Russian Federation supports the equality of everyone, as seen throughout the Russian constitution, specifically in chapter two regarding the right and freedoms. Going into specifics, the Russian Constitution states in article 43, "everyone shall have the right to education," and in article 37, "Everyone shall have the right...for labor remuneration without any discrimination whatsoever and not lower than minimum wages and salaries established by the federal law, as well as the right to protection against unemployment."¹⁰ Both of those articles demonstrate Russia's policy on the matter of equality in education and employment, being pro equality for all. Russia's policy, while there is quite a few flaws, has been enforced relatively well, which is why 46.9% of the employed population in Russia is women. Russia even provides a three year paid maternity leave for child care. While everything appears great on the surface, Russian women still see much discrimination, as the existing mechanisms of liquidation of discrimination seem to be more advisory rather than obligatory.¹¹

In order to combat the discriminate towards women's education and employment Russia proposes the implementation and distribution of solar spell portable libraries to women in rural areas. The portable libraries contain a predetermined library of information that is access through the use of intranet connectivity, and is charged solely on solar energy. The information provided is tailored to the needs of that country, educating the women on possible local jobs they can be employed in after their education, or anything else the country would like add to the curriculum. Solar Spell will not only provide girls with immediate access to education wherever they may be, but it will also allowed them to have a greater chance of being employed. In addition to Solar Spell Russia would also like to propose the implementation of Transfers for Girls Education. In this idea, school programs would be partnered with Transfers for Girls Education, which would provide low-income families with small transfers on the condition that the families children would have to attend school daily, and their status in school would be reported to stakeholders. The training of teachers is also included in this program, by utilizing various methods tailored to each grade level. With the implementation of both these ideas, women around the world will have the chance to receive a high quality education, and higher chances of obtaining a job than ever before.

⁸ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures>

⁹ <http://www.prb.org/Publications/Reports/2003/EmpoweringWomenDevelopingSocietyFemaleEducationintheMiddleEastandNorthAfrica.aspx>

¹⁰ <http://www.constitution.ru/en/10003000-03.htm>

¹¹ <http://www.undp.ru/index.php?iso=ru&lid=1&cmd=news&id=529>