

Biennium 2017-2019:

	EDUCATION	WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT	ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	HEALTH	SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT
ONE THEME "WE STAND UP FOR WOMEN" & FIVE PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	<p><i>Lack of education limits prospects, decreases family income, reduces health, puts women and girls at risk of trafficking and exploitation, and limits the economic advancement of entire countries.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education enables women to pursue knowledge • Education enables women to be independent • Education teaches women their rights • Educated women learn the socio-emotional and life skills necessary to navigate and adapt to a changing world • Educated women contribute to their communities and the world • Educated women make decisions about their own lives 	<p><i>Women's economic empowerment is fundamental to women's ability to move out and stay out of poverty. it is also fundamental to women's ability to enjoy all other human rights</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowered women fulfil their potential to become leaders • Empowered women participate in decision-making and development • Empowered women access economic power and obtain gender equality in professions • Empowered women attain sustainable employment opportunities • Empowered women access vocational training to reach out to employment • Empowered women get out of gendered division / stereotypes • Empowered women to be enrolled in non-discriminatory (migration, ethnic minorities, disabled, etc.) education and training 	<p><i>Violence against women is a plague that can be fought through education</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation • Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation • Protecting women and girls from sexual harassment is fundamental as they face not only the threat of violence in the streets on their way to and from school, but also inside their educational institutions • Education to help rebuild confidence of victims 	<p><i>Equality for women in regard to health, nutrition and education is the first step in ensuring that they realize their full potential and become equal partners in development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educated and empowered women can guarantee the exercise of their reproductive rights and must be able to manage their reproductive roles • Educated and empowered women are likely to be aware of the means of reducing some of the causes of child mortality such as malnutrition, water-borne diseases, and have access to primary healthcare. • Education decreases a girl's or woman's risk for contracting HIV or transmitting HIV to her baby. 	<p><i>Women continue play an integral role in addressing the complex environmental challenges our world faces, but data suggests that women's contributions are still undervalued.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building safe and inclusive learning environments for young girls and women • Educated women can rethink the entire gendered division in the management and control of natural resources, especially the role of rural women in producing food and collecting water • As empowered activists, women can make an immediate and results-driven difference to the preservation of our natural heritage (the most important value shared by all people)
WHAT CAN SOROPTIMISTS DO? HANDS ON ACTIONS!	<p>We stand up for Women by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • building schools or classrooms • rehabilitating schools / furniture • providing girls scholarships • supporting mentoring programmes • supporting computer courses • providing vocational training • supporting language courses • training teachers • targeting boys and men to be a part of discussions about cultural and societal practices • supporting an awareness campaign on gender equality in education (including campaigning against traditional values that keep girls out of school) • advocating with the local/national government on gender-sensitive teaching materials 	<p>We stand up for Women by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting the development of female-run small businesses by providing small financial (microcredit) loans • opening our network for the professional reintegration of women • mentoring: Share / exchange of skills and knowledge and professional guidance • providing scholarships for women to pursue professional development to support career advancement • teaching foreign women the language of the host country • help foreign women understand their 'new' rights and obligations • guiding women in the maze of employment • advocating with the local/national government on equal opportunities for women in the labour market • advocating with the local/national government on legislation concerning parental leave and other workplace-related issues to eliminate discrimination against women 	<p>We stand up for Women by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helping women understand their rights • helping women to build back their lives and regain confidence • providing legal counselling for women who have been victims of violence • providing services for women in shelters or safe houses (job skills, help with housing, education for them and their children) • advocating with the local/national government on the better provision of services for women and children who have been victims of violence • advocating with the private sector on the elimination of workplace harassment • running or supporting an awareness campaign to sensitize the public about violence against women and children 	<p>We stand up for Women by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing materials to a hospital or clinic • supporting drilling projects to provide clean water • supporting nurse/midwife training • facilitating access to health services • provided information on family planning and facilitated access to contraception • providing testing and access to screening for cancer, HIV/AIDS, etc. • running or supporting an awareness campaign on sexual and reproductive health and rights • campaigning for equal access to health care 	<p>We stand up for Women by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helping improve water/sanitation infrastructure • supporting the implementation of sustainable farming initiatives • helping with training and/or the introduction of tools for efficient waste management, recycling and limiting pollution • encouraging the use of energy-efficient practices • advocating with the local/national government on the increased participation of women in sustainable development • joining SI President's Appeal "Women for water partnership and leadership"