

Hedda Femundensen's address for the Keep Running TV show

There are two Sustainable Development Goals – that are making a big contribution to the fight against poverty and inequality.

I am talking about Goal 5 - To achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls and Goal 8 – To achieve employment and decent work for all.



This is Felicidade. She was 16 when this photo was taken in her hometown in Mozambique in southern Africa.

Felicidade worried about what she would do when she left school. Mozambique, like many other countries, has a high rate of youth unemployment.

To make a bit of money, she had been baking and selling cookies. But she had never thought of turning it into a business.

Then she took part in an entrepreneurship course at school organized by UNIDO. She learnt how to develop business ideas, about markets, and about supply and demand.

On graduating from the course, she set up a small business making and selling food.

Education and skills training are key to unlocking opportunities for all young people. This is especially important for girls who, in many countries, face unfair challenges excluding them from decent jobs and equal pay.



This is Khoulood Jarraya who lives in Tunisia in North Africa. When she was a student at university, she was already working for the family business too. Her dream was to build up the business and to run it when her father retired. But she knew she had to strengthen her IT and business skills.

Thanks to UNIDO's e-learning online course, she got the training she needed. She took over the management of the company's sales and started to increase production. Today, it's the only Tunisian company producing playground swings and slides, park benches and other equipment made from steel.



This is Huda Janahi from Bahrain in the Middle East. Twenty years ago, Huda Janahi began her business with start-up capital of less than three thousand dollars. When she first tried to register her company, she was told that women were not allowed to operate in the cargo industry.

Janahi refused to accept no for an answer. She turned to UNIDO for help. After graduating from our entrepreneurship development training, she applied again for registration, and was accepted.

With hard work and determination, she turned her small company into a two million dollar enterprise. She is now one of the most powerful businesswomen in the Arab world.

These are examples of how we are helping to achieve Goals 5 and 8.

When women and men are more equal, economies grow faster and more people are lifted out of poverty.

All of us should have the chance to seize the opportunities life offers. One of these opportunities is to work, to make a living, to have a decent and fulfilling job.

Guided by the Global Goals, it is up to all of us, governments, businesses and the general public to work together to build a better future for everyone.