

AFRICAN CONTINENT

**Development of the AFRICAN
crisis and causes under the
Imperialist World System**

COUNTRIES/POPULATION

WORLD's Second largest continent

1.2 billion people

54 countries

5 Regions: West, South, North, East, Central

Leading countries: Algeria (23 8740 Sq. KM)

Congo (23, 244 Sq.KM)

Countries Represented in WWC II

- **South Africa**
 - **Namibia**
 - **Congo**
 - **Mali**
 - **Uganda**
 - **Burkina Faso**
- 1. Eritrea**
 - 2. Egypt**
 - 3. Kenya**
 - 4. Ghana**
 - 5. Morocco**
 - 6. Tunisia**

IMPORTANCE TO THE AFRICAN PEOPLE

Common activities: singing/dancing, ART
Agriculture/Farming IN HARMONY with
Nature

World Imperialism ENFORCES cheap
labour & exploitation of environment

COLONISATION / LIBERATION STRUGGLES

All of Africa COLONISED by Europe

PEOPLE waged liberation struggles to free themselves and regain their land

PEOPLE CONTINUE to fight EVEN under MOST EXTREME circumstances of exploitation

Neo-Colonialism continues
to influence & undermine
political ,social and
economic EMPOWERMENT
of countries around the
world

POVERTY caused by NEO-
COLONIAL economic
system of cooperation

- ▶ Neo-colonial System thru National Ruling Elite, Global/National Bourgeoisie **DIVIDES WOMEN & UNDERMINES POOR WOMEN**
- ▶ Neo-colonial exploitation thru' wars/military attacks against women & **UNDERMINE** women's dignity and their **POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**
- ▶ Women continue to organise themselves to fight for their liberation

SITUATION OF WOMEN

- Unemployment RISING
- Lack of access to Education
- Reduced to cheap Labour
- Alcoholism, prostitution, dangerous health conditions (HIV/AIDS - >34 million cases in Africa), drug addiction, weapons & drug trafficking, homelessness; other dehumanizing situations
- Climate Change - Environmental problems

AFRICA WOMEN IN RURAL AREAS

- Unemployment leads to criminality in countryside
- Landlessness leads to dependence on big farmers – more exploitation & oppression
- Low political/class consciousness because of control of ruling elite in collaboration with global capitalists under an imperialist system that results in wars/military rule/actions

Domestic Responsibilities

Time spent on housework & taking care of children: fetch water, collect firewood, cook, clean, wash, feed

During festivals, prepare meals for family & community

Caring for the young, sick and aged

Patriarchal Family Structure

Man as head of household

Resources with male family members & decisions on resource distribution by men

Women's access to family resources based on their position as mothers & wives

Children bear father's family name

BUT

Generally, there is discussion & consensus within family on major decisions; women also take part

Farming

Women farm on small land gets low yields for own sustenance

Dependent on big farms for small income (farm workers)

Climate Change: farming becomes difficult

Income for Family

Earn Income to support family -

Formal Sector: Cleaner, Nurse,
Laborer, Teacher, etc.

Informal Sector: Caterer, Tailor,
Hawker, Retailer, Petty Trader, etc.

Health & Reproduction

High Maternal/Infant Mortality Rate

Pre- & Post Natal Care - lack of medication, clinics & hospitals not well-equipped

Privatisation of Health Services deprive the poor from proper health care

High rate STDS, HIV/AIDS

Lack of Information on prevention & treatment of illnesses & diseases

Lack of information & access to contraception

Socio-cultural Discrimination

Women as source of problems, stigmatized as 'witches' & even killed

Women's work not seen as work & unpaid

Women's lack of control over our bodies: contraception, HIV/AIDS prevention

Domestication of women as wives & mothers

ECONOMIC CRISIS/HOW IT AFFECTS?

Africa still underdeveloped

Industrial production affected; only few big industries: auto, steel, mining, agricultural by big companies

Employ & exploit local & foreign workers (farms/mining/ industries) under bad working conditions

Africa needs development

Poverty

Unemployment (men & women)

Irregular/Low Income e.g. farm produce

*Lack of Capital, Information, Know-how
e.g. to start own business*

*Lack of government support e.g. social welfare
minimal*

*Lack of infrastructure e.g. irregular power
support, no irrigation system*

Petty Trade – low profit margin

Lack of Education

High school drop-out rate:

Teenage Pregnancy (14, 15 years old) &
Young Mothers

Parents/Teachers preference for boys in
education

Girls & Young Women's role:
domestic/marriage

Lack of Economic Autonomy

Dependence on husband/partners

Childcare responsibilities

Lack of employment opportunities

Lack of resources/ control over
resources

WOMEN (& MEN) MIGRATION

Migration within Africa is high - not only to Europe & USA, nowadays also to Asia & Latin America

Families & Communities see migration as positive & a necessity

Lack of information & proper channels for safe, secure migration leads to human rights abuses e.g. human trafficking

Migration out of Africa is a drain of African resources (brain & human power)

BUT

Migration also brings the needed foreign exchange that keep families & communities surviving

Stopping migration is not the solution

Ensuring migrants from Africa can travel , live & work safely with human rights & dignity is the solution

WHAT DO WE WANT?

WE WANT:

Fair trade & aid

Full & just employment

Social securities, basic needs/public services : education, health, housing, clean water, electricity (not privatised)

Food security - food for local consumption (not just export)

Protection of local agriculture & industries

The Way FORWARD: Recommendations by WWC

Our Contribution : World women unite
at grassroots level

take full responsibility of African
struggles WITH support FROM all
continents

**WOMEN OF AFRICA TAKE
INITIATIVES TO DEVELOP AFRICA**

**AFRICA!! AFRICA!! AFRICA
UNITE AGAINST EXPLOITERS!!!!!!**

**PAMPHLETS, POSTERS,
FLAGS/BROCHURES
CALLING ON AFRICAN
WOMEN - A WAKE UP CALL**

TASK FOR ALL AFRICAN DELEGATES

Write & Publish a booklet (approx. 10 pages or more) about the situation of AFRICA and AFRICAN WOMEN that we as AFRICAN DELEGATES agree so that we can share our views, ideas & positions (in French/English)

Draft will be circulated & finalised at the African meeting