

FIM AFRICA WOMEN IN MOTORCYCLING (WIM) COMMISSION REPORT 2025



1. Oceania Women’s Cup Participation 2025

FIM Africa successfully fielded a five member women’s motocross team for the 2025 FIM Oceania WMX event in Australia, thanks to the coordination efforts of Julie, Jacqui & Nikki Heygate (Team Manager).

The team included:

- Leah Heygate (Team Captain, Zambia)**
- Zoe Botha (South Africa)**
- Atete Benzinge (Kenya)**
- Zoe Lee (Namibia)**
- Sharifah Kateete (Uganda)**



A preparatory training weekend with coach Andre Dearden in South Africa helped build team rapport and sharpen essential racing skills. The team travelled to Melbourne via Doha, engaged in cultural sightseeing, and conducted a limited pre-race bike setup session due to poor weather. Despite minimal preparation and unfamiliar equipment, the team performed admirably in a well-organised international event that included heats featuring up to 38 female racers.

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The African riders displayed determination and team spirit, receiving commendation for their resilience and representation.

Selection Criteria for the 2027 FIM Oceania WMX Cup

Mandatory Requirements:

- 1. Financial Contribution:** Each rider or FMN must contribute approximately USD 5,000 to cover licence fees, flights, accommodation, entry fees, and bike hire.
- 2. Training Camps:** Riders must attend two compulsory training camps:
 - First:** Immediately after MXOAN 2026 (for selection and team captaincy).
 - Second:** In South Africa (Dec 2026 / Jan 2027) for final preparation.
- 3. FMN Nomination:** All riders must be nominated and supported by their FMN, though final selection rests with FIM Africa.
- 4. Competition Experience:** Riders must have competed in at least one FIM Africa MXOAN (2025 or 2026) event.
- 5. National Participation:** Riders must be actively competing in their FMN's national motocross championships during 2025–2026, with verified licences and race results.
- 6. Minimum Age:** Riders must be at least 16 years old by 1st January 2027.

Recommended Development Activities:

- Compete in at least one South African National MX event between 2025–2026 for added experience and evaluation.
- Remain active on team communication platforms (Zoom, WhatsApp) for updates and coordination.
- Maintain positive social media engagement that aligns with FIM Africa's values and code of conduct.

Administrative and Conduct Requirements:

- Comply with FIM Africa’s ethical code, on and off the track.
- Sign a participation agreement confirming adherence to all conditions of representation.
- Apply for Australian visas by the end of 2026 (noting visa issuance is beyond FIM Africa’s control).

Selection Timeline:

| Activity | Deadline |
|--|---------------------|
| FMN Nominations | 15 April 2026 |
| Shortlisted Riders Announced | 15 May 2026 |
| First Training Camp (MXOAN 2026) | August 2026 |
| Final Team Selection | 1 September 2026 |
| Second Training Camp (Preparation for Oceania WMX) | Dec 2026 / Jan 2027 |

Overall: The team’s efforts were inspiring, and their presence made FIM Africa proud on the global stage.

2. TRAINING THE TRAINER (TTT) PROGRAMS – 2025



2.1 Zimbabwe – August 2025

1. Training the Trainer (TTT) Program – Zimbabwe, 30th July – 3rd August 2025

The Stage 3 Train the Trainers (TTT) program was successfully conducted in Zimbabwe with the following participants:

K. Mutaramu

B. Rocher

S. Fraser

M. Chidunza

D. Chitopa

Z. Botha



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Key Highlights:

The trainees demonstrated strong enthusiasm for acquiring new skills. Although only five trainees attended the classroom sessions, it was a solid representation of Zimbabwe's future in motorcycling training.

Among those present were three of Zimbabwe's top trainers, who have continued their training activities since the last TTT program in 2019. Their newly gained knowledge will further strengthen training structures and enhance rider performance.

Mr. Rocher and Mr. Fraser, who hold leadership positions at Donnybrook Motorsport Facility, will extend the program's impact across various motorsport disciplines in Zimbabwe.

Trainer Andre also recommended that Ms. Zoe Botha, who initially assisted with media, become actively involved in the program. Given her wide exposure to races across Africa, she represents excellent potential as an ambassador for women in the program.

The program successfully covered 16 core aspects of training, complemented by practical sessions. All trainees participated in the three mandatory rider sessions, achieving a positive overall training yield.

Challenges: Limited contact time with young riders during the week due to boarding school schedules, which affects training consistency.



Future Goals:

Train local trainers up to Level 2 accreditation and beyond, targeting 2–3 certified trainers per country.

Zimbabwe already has three strong trainers, positioning the country well to support local riders without reliance on external coaches.

Each FMN is encouraged to adapt accreditation processes to their specific federation needs, ensuring trainers are both competent and officially cleared to safeguard rider development and safety.

Summary: The TTT program highlighted the strong potential of local trainers in Zimbabwe to achieve accreditation and contribute to sustainable motorsport development within their federation.

2.2 Senegal – October 2025

2. Training the Trainer (TTT) Program – Senegal, 14th – 22nd October 2025



The Senegal Train the Trainers (TTT) program was successfully conducted with the following participants:

Imbrahima Gueye

E.H. Niang

Youssoupha Sow

Oria Emma

M. Kouamida

Mouhamed Niang

Alexis Massabo

Daouda Ngom



Cheikh Diop

Babacar Seye

Sissoko Aboubaca

Sangone Thioune

Thiam Cheik

S. Aminata

Moussa Arzouni

S. Mbacke Mar

Classroom Training:

The Senegal TTT program revealed a clear need for more technical training within West Africa. Participants included the Ivory Coast motorsport president and three of their riders, along with Senegal's two fastest senior riders, six aspiring trainers, a Clerk of the Course, and federation leadership led by Mr. Daouda Ngom.

Mr. Alexis Massabo acted as translator, and his prior racing experience ensured technical accuracy and comprehension. Despite translation extending session times, overall understanding remained high.

Days 2 and 3 progressed rapidly through visual learning tools and practical sessions at a nearby track, increasing engagement and retention.

Trainer Development:

Eleven trainers completed the MX-B test, covering:

Nutrition and hydration

Rider safety protocols

Anti-Doping / WADA basic

All fifteen additional modules were well received. Trainers displayed a strong thirst for knowledge, frequently seeking clarification and connecting theory to local realities. Despite the language barrier, training yield was high and engagement exceptional.

Facilities Assessment:

Coach Andre conducted a track inspection and safety assessment, focusing on:

Strengths:

Good layout and organization

Highly equipped ambulances and medical readiness

Enthusiastic and engaged officials

Strong community involvement

Challenges:

Lack of permanent infrastructure (start gates, clubhouse, jury room, amenities)

Track surface includes shale rock, affecting traction and safety

Low junior participation

Sunday's race day showcased excellent safety protocols and enthusiastic participation. The senior track, located on the historic Dakar Rally beach, provided an inspiring venue.

A debrief at the federation office in Dakar concluded the program, attended by key dignitaries.

Future Goals:

- 1. Establishment of a Permanent Junior Track:** Land has been secured for this initiative, and Coach Andre will assist with its design.
- 2. Ongoing Mentorship and Follow-Up:** A communication group has been created to facilitate continuous engagement.
- 3. Federation Accreditation Support:** Development of trainer accreditation templates is recommended to formalize certification.

Summary: Senegal's racing community demonstrates exceptional passion and commitment. While facilities and equipment need improvement, their dedication and collaborative spirit are commendable. Mr. Daouda Ngom's leadership continues to guide Senegal's steady progress, supported by motivated trainers eager to grow. The program offered valuable insights into West African motorsport dynamics and marked a significant milestone in FIM Africa's development outreach.



2.3 Conclusion / Next Steps – TTT Programs

Across all TTT programs conducted within FMNs in 2024/2025, Trainer Andre Dearden acknowledges the potential of local trainers and recognizes that FIM Africa can achieve its original objective of enabling FMNs to rely on their own local trainers rather than external professionals.

Recommendations:

FIM Africa and participating Federations should revisit Level 2 training to further strengthen the capacity of local trainers.

Each Federation, in collaboration with Trainer Andre and the FIM Africa Training Team, should develop a standardized accreditation framework to officially recognize qualified trainers and ensure uniform quality and safety standards across the continent.

This structured approach will empower federations to sustain training programs independently, enhance rider safety, and foster long-term growth in African motorcycling.

3. MXoAN – Zimbabwe, 15th – 17th August 2025



The Motocross of African Nations (MXoAN) was held at Donnybrook Park, Harare, Zimbabwe, attracting 135 competitors from 8 countries: Kenya, Zimbabwe, Namibia, South Africa, Madagascar, Zambia, Uganda, Botswana.

Female Participation:

15 female competitors, representing 11% of overall entries.

Female officials in key roles:

Jamie Kerwin (Event Secretary)

Lisa Upton (Jury Secretary)

Shelley Verwey (Assistant Event Secretary)

Jacquie (Botswana Team Manager)

Notable Results:

WMX Champion: Caitlin Parks (Zambia)

2nd Place: Zoe Botha (South Africa)

3rd Place: Zoe Waldschmidt (Namibia)

Junior Class Winners:

Hellena Birungi (Uganda, 50cc)

Jamairah Makumbi (Uganda, 65cc)

Challenges:

- 11% female rider ratio emphasizes need to encourage participation.
- Ladies Junior Challenge Cup not eligible as a championship per SSR 3.2.

Conclusion – MXoAN Female Participation

Female riders showed great skill and determination, highlighting their potential and the need for continued support to grow women's participation in African motocross.



The FIM Future Leaders Programme

I, along with four other remarkable ladies from our CONU—**Catherine Ozeros (Morocco)**, **Judy Luyo (Kenya)**, **Lala Rasajison (Madagascar)**, and **Fiona Tsiranana (Madagascar)**—had the privilege of participating in the FIM Future Leaders Programme. This experience allowed us to connect with representatives from FMNs worldwide and engage with some of the most experienced facilitators. It broadened our perspectives, enhanced our leadership skills, and strengthened our ability to drive meaningful change within our FMNs.

As our facilitator, Nadia Bonjour, said, “Seeds have been planted, and we are empowered to harvest them one step at a time.”



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WOMEN IN MOTORCYCLING REPORT – FMCI 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the activities carried out by the Women in Motorcycling (WIM) under the Fédération de Motocyclisme de Côte d’Ivoire (FMCI) during the year 2025, in line with FIM Africa’s vision to strengthen female participation and leadership across all motorcycling disciplines in Africa.

2. OBJECTIVES

- Promote the active participation of women in FMCI competitions and activities;
- Encourage the training and mentoring of female officials and marshals;
- Strengthen the visibility of women’s motorcycling sports;
- Create a national network of passionate and involved women in motorcycling.

3. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2025

3.1 Female Participation in Competitions

3 female riders took part in the 2025 National Motorcycling Championship in the Ladies category;

2 new license holders were registered in the “Amateur Ladies” category.

3.2 Involvement of Female Officials

2 female officials served during the national championships;

Two female FMCI representatives participated in a training program held from 14th to 20th October in Dakar.

3.3 Promotion and Awareness

Awareness messages under the theme “Women and Motorcycling” were shared at all motorcycling events throughout the 2025 season.

4. CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

- Low number of licensed female riders compared to men;
- Lack of suitable equipment for beginner female riders;
- Limited financial resources to support women’s initiatives;
- Need for more technical guidance and coaching for female riders.

5. OUTLOOK FOR 2026

- Creation of a National Women's Motocross Team;
- Development of a WIM-FMCI mentorship program;
- Organization of a regional women's training camp with support from FIM Africa;
- Participation of an Ivorian women's delegation in sub-regional competitions.

6. CONCLUSION

The actions carried out in 2025 reflect the growing determination of women to take their rightful place in Ivorian and African motorcycling. FMCI reaffirms its commitment to greater inclusion, training, and recognition of women in all areas of motorcycling.

7. ANNEXES: PHOTO GALLERY

Female riders in competition



Women officials at national events



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Participation of women in the Dakar training program



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SENEGAL BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN IN MOTORCYCLING

In Senegal, the Fédération Sénégalaise des Automobiles et Motocyclisme (FSAM) continues to make steady progress in promoting women's participation both in competition and in leadership roles.

Female Participation in Competition

Currently, Senegal has two female riders actively competing in the National Motocross Championship — one in the MX65cc category and another in MX85cc. Their growing presence is inspiring a new generation of young girls to join the sport.

Additionally, the FSAM has supported the inclusion of three girls in the Motocross Championship across MX125cc, MX85cc, and Minime (MX65cc) categories. All these girls were trained through the FSAM Motocross Academy, established three years ago.

Unfortunately, the academy's operations were temporarily paused due to the loss of its training site, previously located within the French military base in Dakar, which was closed following the army's departure. The FSAM is currently seeking a new training ground in Dakar to resume the program. The motorcycles and protective equipment remain available for use once training restarts.

Female Leadership and Administration

Senegal's progress also extends to the administrative side. Two women hold influential positions within the FSAM:

Awa Dione – Secretary General

Célia Cissé – Head of Communications and Partnerships

Both are actively involved in race management, officiating at national championships, and coordinating event organization. Their leadership reinforces the importance of women in decision-making and operational roles within the sport.

Additionally, two women oversee the administration and communication departments, including partnership development and strategic planning for the growth of the discipline nationwide.

Emerging Interest in Other Disciplines

Beyond motocross, women in Senegal have begun expressing interest in rally and circuit racing (Superbike), although participation at the championship level has not yet begun. FSAM is working to create pathways for women to enter and compete in these disciplines.

Next Steps

- To strengthen the foundation for women in motorcycling, FSAM aims to:
- Resume the Motocross Academy by securing a permanent training ground;
- Provide continuous training and mentorship opportunities for female riders and officials;
- Enhance promotion and visibility for the current female competitors to attract more girls to the sport.



Madagascar MX Feminine 2025 Season

Women's Motocross Madagascar – Season Summary Report

Women's motocross in Madagascar is still in an emerging stage, with a significantly lower number of female riders compared to the male categories. Currently, the majority of active female participants are children and teenagers. After completing high school, many young women either stop competing or leave the country to pursue higher education abroad.

However, a positive dynamic is starting to take shape among the younger categories. This season, Madagascar welcomed at least three new young girls in the 50cc category, which is an encouraging sign for the long-term development of female participation in the sport. Our ambition is to support these young riders in their skills development so that they may progressively reach elite national and international categories.

During the past season, all 9 registered female riders took part in every event on the calendar (approximately 9 races), demonstrating strong commitment and consistency.

It is also worth noting that former female MX riders are not necessarily leaving motorsport altogether: a significant portion of them move to Enduro, where they continue to ride actively.

2025's Season Championship Feminine

1) 2 pilotes Féminines en 50 CC

- KIM Makboul 50cc
- Croft Gracie 50cc

2) 2 Pilotes Féminines en 65 CC

- Ramanantsoa louna 65cc
- Makboul Rihanna 65cc

3) 4 Pilotes Féminines en 85 CC

- Rajaonarisendra Miahly Tsiorifitia 85cc
- ARANAUD Kaya 85cc
- Lo Tsy Heng Ciara 85cc
- ROUSSANALY Alyssa 85cc

4) 01 Pilote Féminine en senior

- PIERRE Jemima

PHOTOS



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ZAMBIA WIM REPORT 2025

Zambia has had a quite year in the Ladies classes. The two Off Road events that have been held have had a fair number of ladies so classes had sufficient numbers, this is also due to the dedicated support from Noleen Parsons a keen off-road motorcyclist herself who encourages the younger ladies in her community to participate.



Noleen Parsons

Motocross has had very few ladies at the events that have been held, although minimum numbers have been reached at most.

Zambia was fortunate to have one of our Lady riders chosen to Join the Team that went to Australia in March to represent FIM Africa at the FIM Oceania Womens Cup. That was a truly memorable event highlighting the potential of our African ladies despite there being relatively few throughout the continent.



Team FIM Africa



Heat 3 Ladies After race Podium MXoAN 2025

Caitlin Parkes maintained recent Zambian tradition in holding on to the top lady rider slot at the MXoAN in Zimbabwe.

ZMSA has trained 5 new lady officials during the year, the boost in numbers is a great asset to the events in general.

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UGANDA WIM REPORT

Uganda has successfully held seven rounds of the National Motocross Championship so far in 2025, with 4 rounds of Enduro rounds. In line with the new Sports Law, there is increased focus on regional expansion, as seen in recent events hosted in Mityana (MX 3) and Lira District (MX 4), the latter attracting over 10,000 spectators.

The Women in Motorcycling (WIM) class was introduced on a trial basis during MX 3 and MX 4. It includes 7 female riders, some previously competing in mixed gender classes like MX125, MX2, and Vets. While the competitors and spectators are excited about the women's category, concerns remain about reduced competitiveness when preparing for international events.

Off the track, Uganda continues to see growth in the number of female race officials and commentators, marking broader representation in the sport.

A notable milestone was the attendance and support of Hon. Betty Among, Uganda's Minister of Gender, who offered the nine girls who represented Uganda at the MXoAN and pledged further financial support for female riders.

At the MXoAN, Team Uganda was represented by 9 girls:

Swansi Sambo WMX

Jamairah Makumbi Mx 65

Norah Joy Akao Mx 65

Faith Rose Deedan Mx 65

Birungi Hellena 50cc (2024 Junior Ladies Champion)

Abigail Katende Mx 50cc

Abigail Muwanguzi Mx 50cc

Ronieta Sebuguzi

On a sad note, a young rider Thecla Mary Nalwanga succumbed to injuries sustained during a training in 20st July 2025

We currently have a total of 19 female competitors.

PHOTOS



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SOUTH AFRICA WIM REPORT

South Africa has hosted a number of national races this year (one cancelled due to flooding), with a strong turnout of 10–12 female riders per event—a significant improvement. A number of these participants are new, showing encouraging signs of grassroots growth.

- To lower entry barriers, a Ladies Support Class was introduced for women without racing licenses or championship commitments. Though participation is still picking up, it provides a low-pressure entry point into racing.

Additionally, Free Practice Days before national events serve as key learning opportunities. Seasoned riders such as Natasha Rugani and Leah Heygate have offered mentorship, sharing observations and guidance with newer participants. These sessions, organized intentionally by women for women, are further supported through an active Ladies Racing WhatsApp Group, which enhances communication, encouragement, and coordination.



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KENYA WIM REPORT

International Female Ride Day (IFRD) 2025

Under the global theme #IFRDHerPower, women riders from Kenya and Rwanda came together to celebrate strength, unity, and empowerment in motorcycling.

In Kenya, the Women Bikers Association (WBA-K) in collaboration with Inked Sisterhood (ISH) organized a team-building ride to Naivasha, attracting over 50 participants on various bikes — from small CC to big adventure machines.

The event included a safety briefing, scenic ride, team-building activities, and networking sessions that fostered connection and solidarity among new and seasoned riders alike.

In Rwanda, 60 women participated in IFRD celebrations that combined awareness campaigns and basic safety training, emphasizing inclusion and confidence-building among female riders.

Both events reflected the FIM's values of empowerment, leadership, and equal opportunity, creating lasting bonds and inspiring more women to take up motorcycling.

Enduro Female Participation 2025 (Kenya)

Women's participation in Enduro continues to grow steadily across events, showing strong engagement and competitiveness.

Event 1: 94 riders in total — 16 female riders

Event 2: 82 riders in total — 13 female riders

Event 3: 102 riders in total — 20 female riders

This represents an average female participation rate of approximately 20%, a commendable figure that highlights ongoing progress in encouraging women to compete in off-road and endurance disciplines.

PICTORIALS



Rift Valley View Point



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Teambuilding activities at Paco



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Meal time



Wrist bands



FRD 2025 - RWANDA



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Challenges

1. Limited Female Participation and Representation

Despite progress, few women are competing or taking up leadership roles within FMNs. Some FMNs lack active Women in Motorcycling (WIM) commissions or designated focal persons. Cultural perceptions and gender stereotypes continue to discourage women from joining motorsport.

2. Funding Constraints

Women's programs often depend on external funding (FIM Africa or sponsors) rather than FMN budgets. Limited financial resources restrict the ability to run consistent training, mentorship, or race participation programs. Accessing sponsorships specifically for female riders or initiatives remains a challenge.

3. Low Level of Competition

The level of competition within Women's Motocross (WMX) categories, both Junior and Senior, remains low. This limits the development and competitiveness of female riders, reducing their chances of performing strongly at regional and global levels. Strengthening local competitions and creating more frequent race opportunities for women is essential to bridge this gap.

4. Uneven Development Across Regions

Some countries are very active, while others show little or no female participation.

5. Limited Visibility and Media Coverage

Few platforms highlight female riders' achievements or promote upcoming women's events. The lack of dedicated marketing or PR support reduces motivation and recognition for women participants.

6. Administrative & Structural Challenges

Some FMNs still have inactive WIM commissions and this hinders updates and monitoring of progress. Tracking outcomes

2026 Next Steps

1. Early Preparation for WMX in Australia
 - Begin preparations for the FIM Oceania WMX Cup in time as per the new criteria.
2. Partner with FMN's that are willing to follow up with stage 2 of the TTT programme and come up with an accreditation system
2. Encourage FMN to prioritise WMX trainings to help the competitors to raise the competitive bar
3. Track Female Participation
 - Implement the Women Participation Checklist in collaboration with FMNs to monitor and track the number of female officials and competitors.
4. Encourage FMN's to continue sharing WIM related content to enhance Visibility and Awareness
 - Improve social media coverage and highlight achievements of female riders and officials.
5. Empower Women Through Online Programs with the help of FMN's
 - Facilitate webinars and online empowerment programs for female competitors and officials.
6. Strengthen Representation
 - Encourage FMN's to appoint active women within FMNs as WIM representatives to provide leadership and support to the women in their FMN's
7. Encourage FMN's to award outstanding Women and Competitors.

Conclusion

The FIM Africa WIM Commission made significant strides in 2024/2025, highlighted by successful continental and international competition participation, the continued development of local trainers, and increased female representation across various motorcycling disciplines. Challenges remain, particularly at the competitive and participation levels and funding, but progress in training programs, national events, and leadership initiatives provides a strong foundation for 2026. The Commission remains committed to fostering a more inclusive, competitive, and visible environment for women in African motorcycling. Offer recognition, awards, or other incentives to motivate continued participation and excellence.

Compiled by Noella Blick - FIMA WIM Chair

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