



Bimonthly WISE hopes to provide a series of articles about a female logistician and the growth of her career. This article is about Jane Tikhwi, one of WISE co-founders and member of the advisory board.

My Professional Calling

A Profile of Jane Tikhwi

Qualifications: **Bachelor of Commerce, Accounts
Diploma in Supply-Chain Management**
Employer: **World Vision International**
Position: **Regional Supply-Chain Coordinator,
Africa**
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At an early age I made the decision to accomplish something meaningful with my life. Humanitarian work for me began at the age of 14. While studying at St. Brigid's Girls High School, as a member of the *Legio Maria Club*, on Saturdays I went with the Sisters to assist sick mothers, elderly people, and the disabled. Through this experience, even at this tender age it became very evident to me that women and children were the most vulnerable in our societies. I committed myself to making a difference in the lives of women in Africa.

Having graduated as a commerce student, I automatically became an accountant. However, I felt this was not my true professional calling. I resigned from my position four months later, very frustrated but with good work experience. Within 18 days I was working as a Supply Officer in public sector. That marked the beginning of a long and winding logistics career through Somalia, South Sudan, North Sudan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Liberia and many other extremely challenging environments. Seventeen years later, I have a wealth of experience in every aspect of logistics through tough assignments and rigorous on-the-job-training.

As a woman, it has not been easy making a career in what is perceived as a man's job. My role requires a combination of discipline, good ethics, strong principles, patience, and survival instincts. But I had strong personal examples set by my policeman father and my nurse mother. When raising me and my five brothers we were taught to have compassion for the less fortunate and a commitment to helping those suffering.

I have been blessed with the opportunity of working for an organisation that is not only sensitive to the plight of women, but also invests a lot in empowering women. This support makes it easier for me as an individual to contribute my time and experience in developing and helping women. As the Regional Supply-Chain Coordinator for Africa, I am vested with the responsibility of creating supply-chain awareness, assisting in the identification of staff, training, capacity building, and providing support during global and regional emergencies.

My dream is to see equal opportunities for women as leaders in logistics & supply-chain management not only in the organisations that we work in, but also in the communities that we work with and endeavour to empower.