



Women for Women International

2009 Annual Report



WOMEN *for* WOMEN
International



In 2009, Women For Women International:

- Served 85,458 women through our core program and microcredit.
- Distributed \$16.6 million in direct aid and microcredit loans.
- Facilitated the exchange of 104,787 letters between sponsors and their sisters.
- Revised our core rights awareness and life skills curriculum to deepen program impact and equip women with tools to rebuild their lives, families and communities.
- Implemented new country-specific income generation and employment strategies, including market-based vocational and business skills trainings and pilot projects linked to the consumer value-chain.
- Developed innovative public-private partnerships to help women access the knowledge and resources they need to lead long-term change.



From the Chair of the Board of Directors

As the Chair of Women for Women International's Board of Directors, I want to thank you for making it possible for Women for Women International to remain a lifeline to women in one of the most economically turbulent times in recent history. In 2009, as most charities saw a significant reduction in donations and grant revenue, your steadfast support allowed us to continue uniting our global community and fostering stability for women survivors of war as they rebuild their lives, families and communities.

Across the organization, we significantly reduced costs, further improved efficiencies, and at the same time managed to deepen the impact of our programs. The long-term wellness and sustainability of the women we serve is always our highest priority.

Your 2009 support helped us reach 85,458 women in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Sudan, benefiting an additional 461,473 family and community members. We distributed more than \$16.6 million in direct aid and loans and mobilized a global community of support more than 465,748 strong.

Programmatically, we revised our rights awareness and life skills curriculum to focus on three key areas: raising awareness, promoting change and enabling action. On the economic side, we enhanced our market-based vocational skills training, job placement services and business startup resources to help ensure that the women who graduate from our programs have the capacity to sustain themselves and their families going forward. Extensive improvements to our

Monitoring and Evaluation systems will ensure effective and efficient data collection relevant to women's economic status, decision-making abilities, physical and psychological wellness, and social networks.

Publicly, we were granted special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and we expanded our European presence through successful UK-based advocacy and outreach. We further engaged our corporate partners, and enjoyed tremendous exposure on television and in print.

Your support makes it possible for women in crisis to access the knowledge and resources that will help them lead change toward long-term peace and stability in their lives, families and communities. Women for Women International remains dedicated to helping the women we serve not just survive but thrive, advancing a global women's movement that will stimulate the action and leadership necessary to create and sustain peaceful and stable societies. Together, we are building a groundswell of grassroots women's leadership with the hope and the resources to bring about a better tomorrow.

On behalf of the staff, the Board, and the women whose lives you touch, I thank you.

Mary Menell Zients

Mary Menell Zients





A Letter From Our Founder

2009 was a year of unprecedented global change—a stunning confluence of economic, social and political circumstances that jarred most of the world in some way or another; and the need for women survivors of war to mobilize and build peace and stability from the backlines forward has never been more urgent or profound. Despite the economic challenges, Women for Women International supporters have been instrumental in building and sustaining a grassroots constituency within the Global Women's Movement that is amplifying women's voices and calling for change.

Thankfully, this unflagging support has also revealed new windows of opportunity amidst an uncertain and shifting landscape. Women for Women International has used the last year to evaluate the impact of our interventions on women's lives, families and communities; fortify organizational infrastructure; unite our global community; and formulate plans for strategic and sustainable growth. The lessons we have learned—from our supporters, our staff, and most importantly, the women we serve—have become relevant and universal truths that will guide the future of the organization.

Specifically, we believe that knowledge + resources = lasting change for women. When women understand their rights, and have the skills and opportunities to earn an income, they gain the ability to renegotiate their roles and status in their families and communities. Across all of our programs and outreach, we seek to help women access the tools they need to guide their own futures; to provide enough financial and programmatic support for them to create sustainable solutions for themselves, their families and communities; and to amplify women's voices at all levels of decision-making.

Women for Women International's global network is key to improving the lives of women survivors of war. In addition to grassroots leadership and outreach, public-private partnerships have become more important than ever before. Creative, innovative collaboration is the competitive edge that leaders in every sector are using to weather the storms, and the mutual benefit of such cooperation is undeniable. We are proud of what we have achieved with our partners to create jobs in Afghanistan and Bosnia and Herzegovina; to ensure access

to maternal healthcare and psychosocial support in the DRC, and to provide women with access to capital to start or grow small businesses in Nigeria and Kosovo.

When we work together—as mothers, sisters, fathers and brothers—to echo women's voices and invest in their efforts to build peace and stability, it not only creates lasting change in our own lives, families and communities, but helps advance the broader Global Women's Movement as well. In a world where men fight against each other, women and women's groups play an indispensable role as agents for change. Our investments in rights awareness, literacy, jobs and social networks help women fight for each other, replacing traditional weapons with new tools like education and training. United by a shared vision of peaceful, stable societies, we can bring about the change we wish to see.

By the close of 2009, Women for Women International had helped 248,431 socially excluded women survivors of war move from victims to active citizens, benefiting another 1.3 million family and community members in the process. In 2010, we are expanding services to roughly 30,000 more women, and by extension benefiting more than 110,000 family and community members.

Women for Women International is committed to achieving even greater impact with the women and communities we serve, and within the broader Global Women's Movement. I couldn't be more grateful to our senior team, led by Andrée Simon, President/COO of Women for Women International and all the members of the staff in each of the countries where we work, and in the US and the UK. But Women for Women International would not be able to do what we do without the support of our generous grassroots and institutional donors. On behalf of all the women we serve, I want to take this opportunity to express our deepest thanks and rearticulate our commitment to excellence in the service we provide.

Warmest, Zainab Salbi





Our Mission and Vision

Mission

Women for Women International provides women survivors of war, civil strife, and other conflicts with the tools and resources to move from crisis and poverty to stability and self-sufficiency, thereby promoting viable civil societies.

Vision

Women for Women International envisions a world where no one is abused, poor, illiterate or marginalized; where members of communities have full and equal participation in the processes that ensure their health, well-being, and economic independence; and where everyone has the freedom to define the scope of their life and their future and to achieve their full potential.

Women for Women International believes that stronger women build stronger nations, and with access to information and resources, socially excluded women survivors of war can lead change towards peaceful and stable societies. When women understand their rights, and have the skills and opportunities to earn an income, they gain the ability to renegotiate their roles and status in their families and communities.

Through our programs and outreach, we seek to help women access the tools they need to guide their own futures; to provide enough financial and programmatic support for them to create sustainable solutions for themselves, their families and communities; and to amplify women's voices at all levels of decision-making.

We connect women from all over the world, and our collective investments in rights awareness, literacy, jobs and social networks will enable women survivors of war to negotiate permanent change in their lives and communities and build peace from the backlines forward.

Commitment to the Grassroots

Women for Women International is focused on serving grassroots populations and providing access to and control over resources and knowledge and promoting ownership of voice, leading to lasting change. The women we serve are socially excluded and marginalized from political, civic and economic participation. We are committed to mobilizing and reflecting their voices in all of our programming and all actions related to our organization.



Our Program

Working through country offices in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda and Sudan, as well as our microfinance institutions in Afghanistan and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Women for Women International served more than 50,000 socially excluded women survivors of war each month in 2009 offering an integrated program of sponsorship, rights awareness and life skills education, and market-based vocational and business skills training, including access to credit and savings.

Knowledge + Resources = Lasting Change

WfWI believes that knowledge + resources = lasting change for women. When women understand their rights and have the skills and opportunities to earn an income, they gain the ability to renegotiate their roles and status in their families and communities, catalyzing a ripple effect of inclusion and empowerment. Across all of our programs and outreach, we seek to help women access the tools they need to guide their own futures; to provide enough financial and programmatic support for them to create sustainable solutions for themselves, their families and communities; and to amplify women's voices at all levels of decision-making. This includes ensuring that members of our global community also have access to the knowledge and resources they need to lead change by raising additional awareness and resources for women survivors of war as they build peace in their families and communities from the backlines forward.

Knowledge: To reach their full potential, women must understand their rights and the laws that protect them. In 2009, Women for Women International revised its rights awareness and life skills curriculum designed to increase women's practical knowledge of their rights, promote behavior change, and enable action, equipping women with the knowledge and skills required to access the opportunities available to them. In Afghanistan, 94% of graduates report increased participation in family decision-making.

Resources: In 2009, Women for Women International implemented country-specific income generation strategies, with market-based business and skills training and outreach designed to increase women's job readiness, job linkages, and new, market-based opportunities. In Nigeria, graduates have formed over 500 cooperatives including a rice mill that employs 600 graduates.

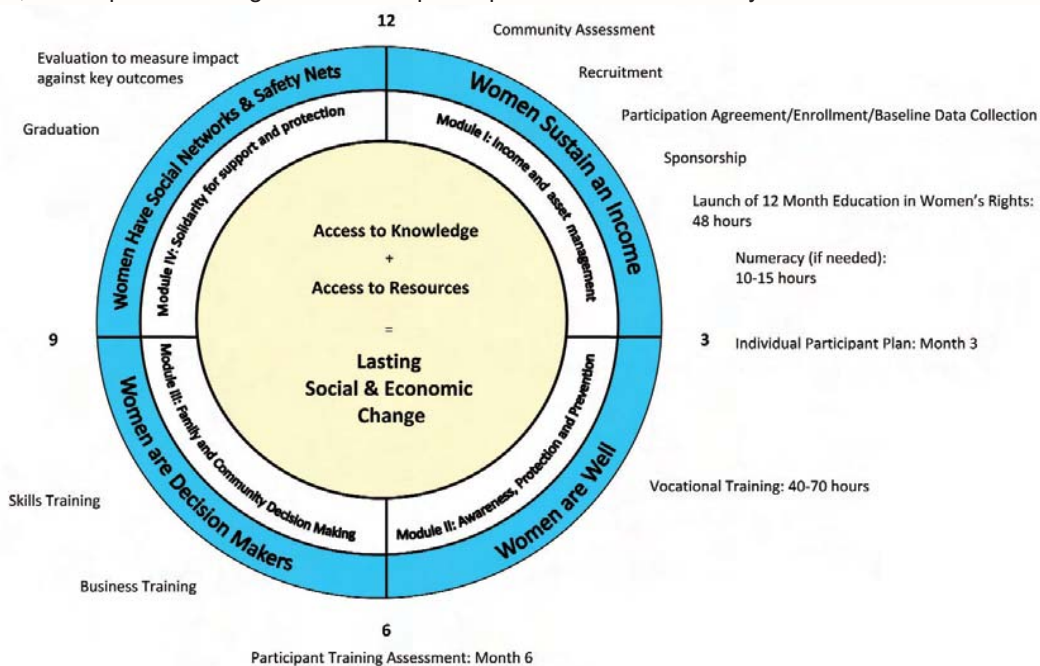
Innovative partnerships are also critical to women's long-term success. Businesses have become more engaged with our work and we have developed partnerships with Bloomberg Philanthropies, Goldman Sachs, and kate spade new york. Governments have also recognized the importance of engaging women in meeting national economic, social and political goals, and have donated land and technical assistance for women entrepreneurs.



Our Program

Lasting Change: Change occurs when women are well, sustain an income, are decision-makers, and have strong social networks and safety-nets. In 2009 we developed, piloted and integrated new tools to monitor and evaluate progress toward these key outcomes, including Individual Participant Plans, Participant Training

Assessments and Program Evaluations. Based on a 2009 evaluation of our longest-running programs, 61% of participants from Bosnia, Kosovo and Nigeria believe women have the ability to make changes in society – a nearly 200% increase in the number of participants who felt that way at enrollment.





Afghanistan

PROGRAM INCEPTION	2002
2009 number of women served	5,577
Cumulative number of women served (through 2009)	19,712
2009 microfinance portfolio	\$1,915,776
2009 number of microfinance clients	13,814
Cumulative number of microfinance clients (through 2009)	58,972
2009 repayment rate	99.5%
Total number of full-time employees (2009)	203

2009 PROGRAM IMPACT:

Percent reporting change in income	85%
Percent reporting change in health status	89%
Percent reporting change in knowledge and awareness of rights	88%
Percent reporting change in active community involvement	26%

USE OF SPONSORSHIP FUNDS:*

Number of Graduates (2009)	4,299
Food	40%
Clothes	35%
Housing	23%
Medicine	4%
Income Generation	12%
School/School Fees	20%
Other	4%

PARTNERSHIP:

Opportunities Tailor-Made for Women in Afghanistan

In 2009, Women for Women International partnered with SAFI Apparel to create jobs for women in a newly built garment manufacturing facility in Kabul. The partnership seeks to offer long-term employment opportunities for women by linking vocational training with viable market opportunities. Through the SAFI partnership, selected women who complete the garment production training program are offered full time employment. SAFI Apparel hopes to employ up to 4,000 workers over the next seven years. Currently, 120 women are employed at the SAFI garment facility.

"I am very happy in Women for Women International... Before I joined this program I didn't have any information about women's rights and now that I am a participant of this program I have learned many useful lessons about women rights that women can work and help each other."

* Because women often use their sponsorship funds to address a combination of needs, these categories add up to more than 100%.



Bosnia And Herzegovina

PROGRAM INCEPTION	1994
2009 number of women served	3,979
Cumulative number of women served (through 2009)	25,592
2009 microfinance portfolio	\$9,625,651
2009 number of microfinance clients	9,013
Cumulative number of microfinance clients (through 2009)	26,687
2009 repayment rate	96.3%
Total number of full-time employees (2009)	124

2009 PROGRAM IMPACT:

Percent reporting change in income	33%
Percent reporting change in health status	12%
Percent reporting change in knowledge and awareness of rights	64%
Percent reporting change in active community involvement	15%

USE OF SPONSORSHIP FUNDS:*

Number of Graduates (2009)	2,924
Food	14%
Clothes	8%
Housing	43%
Medicine	7%
Income Generation	6%
School/School Fees	5%
Other	23%

PARTNERSHIP:

Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Working “Hand in Hand”

kate spade new york and Women for Women International launched a two-year exclusive partnership in 2009 called Hand in Hand, designed to expand job opportunities for women in Bosnia and Herzegovina and other countries where WfWI works. In 2009, 250 women in Bosnia and Herzegovina were employed by the kate spade Hand in Hand partnership, knitting colorful scarves, mittens, hats, and dog sweaters for kate spade’s holiday line. The Hand in Hand partnership has now expanded, launching year-round production in Kosovo and Rwanda as well.

“This organization Women for Women International will take and mark one year as very important in my life. I consider that I am braver and have bigger self-confidence. I am also feeling healthier for now.”

* Because women often use their sponsorship funds to address a combination of needs, these categories add up to more than 100%.

ALAMAYA
KUGAWANYA



The Democratic Republic of the Congo

PROGRAM INCEPTION	2004
2009 number of women served	9,324
Cumulative number of women served (through 2009)	31,223
Total number of full-time employees (2009)	105

2009 PROGRAM IMPACT:

Percent reporting change in income	83%
Percent reporting change in health status	83%
Percent reporting change in knowledge and awareness of rights	79%
Percent reporting change in active community involvement	82%

USE OF SPONSORSHIP FUNDS:*

Number of Graduates (2009)	6,918
Food	85%
Clothes	73%
Housing	12%
Medicine	74%
Income Generation	75%
School/School Fees	75%
Other	37%

* Because women often use their sponsorship funds to address a combination of needs, these categories add up to more than 100%.

PARTNERSHIP:

Combating Gender-Based Violence in DRC with Education and Opportunities

In 2009, Women for Women International joined with the International Rescue Committee to launch a three-year, \$2 million partnership aimed at supporting and empowering women survivors of gender-based violence in eastern DRC. The innovative project will enable 6,300 women and girls to improve their socio-economic status through market-based skills training and increase their access to quality care through referrals for psychological, health, legal and financial services. Participants will also receive rights-awareness education and ongoing business development services to ensure the project creates sustainable, lasting change in women's lives.

"When my husband chased me, he told me that I'll become a street woman but when I was admitted in the Women for Women program, my life began to improve.... I paid the school fees for my two studying children and had my house built and I no longer get wet when it rains.... My children will go on studying and that man will be confused. I was illiterate but now I know to read and write my name."



Iraq

PROGRAM INCEPTION	2003
2009 number of women served	773
Cumulative number of women served (through 2009)	4,987
Total number of full-time employees (2009)	19

2009 PROGRAM IMPACT:	
Percent reporting change in income	74%
Percent reporting change in health status	92%
Percent reporting change in knowledge and awareness of rights	95%
Percent reporting change in active community involvement	80%

USE OF SPONSORSHIP FUNDS:*	
Number of Graduates (2009)	203
Food	4%
Clothes	9%
Housing	72%
Medicine	2%
Income Generation	13%
School/School Fees	4%
Other	0%

* Because women often use their sponsorship funds to address a combination of needs, these categories add up to more than 100%.

PARTNERSHIP:
Women Rekindle their Hopes for Iraq’s Future
 Women for Women International began collaboration with Prosperity Candle in Iraq in 2009. The WfWI and Prosperity Candle partnership employs a unique business model, providing women entrepreneurs in Iraq with a candle-making kit that is a “business in a box.” Once women learn how to make candles in their homes, they can easily scale the business to create viable income generation opportunities. Through this partnership, WfWI-Iraq trains program participants in candle-making as a vocational skill, and Prosperity Candle provides supplies and an international export market. In 2009, 50 women received candle-making kits and produced nearly 2,000 candles that are currently being sold in the US.

“I want to thank you for your help and support, thanks because you are listening to me and feel my pain.”



Kosovo

PROGRAM INCEPTION

	1999
2009 number of women served	4,744
Cumulative number of women served (through 2009)	24,544
Total number of full-time employees (2009)	31

2009 PROGRAM IMPACT:

Percent reporting change in income	26%
Percent reporting change in health status	22%
Percent reporting change in knowledge and awareness of rights	87%
Percent reporting change in active community involvement	0%

USE OF SPONSORSHIP FUNDS:*

Number of Graduates (2009)	4,051
Food	64%
Clothes	33%
Housing	3%
Medicine	6%
Income Generation	2%
School/School Fees	8%
Other	5%

* Because women often use their sponsorship funds to address a combination of needs, these categories add up to more than 100%.

PARTNERSHIP:

Women who Build Create a Buzz in Kosovo

In Kosovo, Women for Women International has partnered with a large multinational manufacturing company since 2007 to help women survivors of war literally rebuild their communities. Guided by its commitment to social responsibility, the company initiated the partnership by providing support for market-based carpentry training for WfWI program participants. In 2009, they provided a grant to support sponsorship and beekeeping business start-up for some recent program graduates. During the next year, WfWI program graduates who are trained as carpenters will build and sell bee boxes to women trained in beekeeping through this partnership. This partnership helps create market linkages and opportunities among WfWI program graduates with the potential of providing long-term employment opportunities for socially-excluded women.

“Even though the war had brought us many human losses and material losses, our people of Kosova have made it and are challenging this high economic crisis. The program of Women for Women enables many women to take part and learn things about their daily life....I am currently learning about ‘Business Administration’ which I dreamed for so many years....This learning will maybe enable me or other women to find a job and support our children.”



Nigeria

PROGRAM INCEPTION

	2000
2009 number of women served	4,914
Cumulative number of women served (through 2009)	27,467
Total number of full-time employees (2009)	39

2009 PROGRAM IMPACT:

Percent reporting change in income	86%
Percent reporting change in health status	86%
Percent reporting change in knowledge and awareness of rights	87%
Percent reporting change in active community involvement	80%

USE OF SPONSORSHIP FUNDS:*

Number of Graduates (2009)	3,697
Food	25%
Clothes	7%
Housing	5%
Medicine	7%
Income Generation	74%
School/School Fees	28%
Other	9%

* Because women often use their sponsorship funds to address a combination of needs, these categories add up to more than 100%.

PARTNERSHIP:

Promoting Women's Health Awareness and Decision-Making in Nigeria

In 2009, WfWI-Nigeria collaborated with local health care provider Annunciation Hospital to sponsor a community HIV/AIDS health training for over 1,000 community women. Training provided in-depth information on HIV/AIDS transmission, treatment, management, and prevention to reach not only program participants but their families, friends, and community leaders. Over 800 attendees took advantage of the free testing offered at the end of the training. WfWI-Nigeria also collaborated with Annunciation Hospital to support counseling and treatment services to women that tested positive.

"Women for Women came to me like a dream....

The goodness of Women for Women is reflected into my family, and by the fertilizer you sent to me for my farming, which was my greatest surprise in my lifetime."



Rwanda

PROGRAM INCEPTION

2009 number of women served	1997	7,144
Cumulative number of women served (through 2009)		31,738
Total number of full-time employees (2009)		83

2009 PROGRAM IMPACT:

Percent reporting change in income	90%
Percent reporting change in health status	88%
Percent reporting change in knowledge and awareness of rights	88%
Percent reporting change in active community involvement	79%

USE OF SPONSORSHIP FUNDS:*

Number of Graduates (2009)	5,636
Food	33%
Clothes	28%
Housing	23%
Medicine	22%
Income Generation	64%
School/School Fees	22%
Other	34%

* Because women often use their sponsorship funds to address a combination of needs, these categories add up to more than 100%.

PARTNERSHIP:

Women Cultivate the Seeds of Long-Term Peace in Rwanda, Organically

In 2009, Women for Women International worked with GAKO Organic Farming Training Center in Kigali, Rwanda to provide training for program participants in sustainable organic agriculture. GAKO offers women theoretical and hands-on training and extension services in organic farming techniques, and integrated farming techniques that combine crop growth with animal husbandry. After receiving this training, participants go on to work on the CIFI farm, Women for Women International's Commercial Integrated Farming Initiative. In 2008, 913 women received training at the GAKO Organic Farming Training Center, and in 2009, 883 women received training.

"You improved my life from deep poverty and now I am doing well, and my children have enough of what they need for school; they have uniforms, books, pens and shoes, they have no problem.... This is all because of you."



Sudan

PROGRAM INCEPTION	2006
2009 number of women served	2,599
Cumulative number of women served (through 2009)	4,290
Total number of full-time employees (2009)	54

2009 PROGRAM IMPACT:

Percent reporting change in income	92%
Percent reporting change in health status	92%
Percent reporting change in knowledge and awareness of rights	92%
Percent reporting change in active community involvement	70%

USE OF SPONSORSHIP FUNDS:*

Number of Graduates (2009)	1,070
Food	35%
Clothes	23%
Housing	19%
Medicine	34%
Income Generation	34%
School/School Fees	36%
Other	1%

* Because women often use their sponsorship funds to address a combination of needs, these categories add up to more than 100%.

PARTNERSHIP:

Women in Sudan Farm to Feed their Families and their Futures

Women for Women International partnered with Lundin for Africa in 2008 to launch a three-year organic commercial farming initiative for 3,000 socially-excluded women in Southern Sudan. In 2009, the project successfully trained 2,000 women in sustainable farming practices and solidified local market linkages through which program graduates can sell their produce. This year's participants reported greater food security from enhanced crop production, improved water security from new irrigation systems, and increased income from weekly vegetable sales. Many of the women are now reinvesting their profits into growing small businesses and supporting their families, creating a ripple effect that will improve the health, education and overall well-being of entire communities.

"I would like to learn despite my age. Our culture would not allow girls and women to be free and expressing their rights. Girls are more exploited and denied education... Women for Women International has improved our lives emotionally, financially and economically. Thanks...for changing old women in Sudan."



ONE WOMAN CAN CHANGE ANYTHING...

Women who participate in our programs use their newly-acquired rights awareness, economic resources and vocational skills to become active citizens who can help establish lasting peace and stability within their communities. By assuming leadership positions within their communities, starting businesses, training other women and serving as role models, women open a window of opportunity presented by the end of conflict to re-negotiate the roles and status of women in their country.

In the conflict-affected countries where we work, women play a huge role in re-knitting social networks and stimulating local economies. Women for Women International's model of women-led change leverages women's economic empowerment for the benefit of entire families and communities, with new markets and linkages and unprecedented access to the full range of innovation shaping today's global community.

The Next Step: Taking Back The Land

Women's agricultural empowerment is the next frontier for the Global Women's Movement. Women produce 90% of the staple food crops, such as rice and maize—the crops that feed the world and account for 70% of the world's farmers. When women produce the majority of the world's

food but own less than 2% of the land, it becomes an issue of both economic and gender justice.

WfWI is teaching women sustainable farming techniques that maximize profit and increase nutritional value while supporting environmental preservation and community agricultural and economic development. Women learn to cultivate a combination of crops based on market demand, yielding produce for household consumption and higher profits while simultaneously mastering techniques that enhance the ecological balance of natural ecosystems.

In Rwanda and Sudan, WfWI has secured long-term land leases that enable women to learn new skills, control the land they farm and access the highest returns on their labor.

In 2009, WfWI began piloting new farming and animal husbandry initiatives in additional countries, such as poultry-raising in Nigeria, large-scale organic farming and poultry programs in Afghanistan and organic farming in Eastern DRC. As a result of WfWI-Afghanistan's agricultural pilot program, 90% of participants reported an increased income and 50 graduates have been referred to the Provincial Reconstruction Team and provincial agricultural department in Parwan to work as poultry trainers.



...MANY WOMEN CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING. ®

Julienne, Woman of the World...

Julienne is a 53-year-old mother of seven. She and her husband have lived in Bukavu, DRC with their two daughters and five sons since violence and insecurity forced them from their farming village outside of Walungu. Unable to find work in Bukavu, her husband was forced to continue farming in his home village and travel between Walungu and Bukavu. This placed an enormous burden on Julienne. Times were hard and money was scarce. Julienne lived in fear for her husband's life, as travel was extremely unsafe. She operated a small business selling onions, palm oil and peanuts at the Mulungulungu, Panzi market with a capital of only \$5. She was able to maintain at least one meal per day, but the strain was great as she attempted to put all her children through school.

In February 2006, Julienne enrolled in the Women for Women International-DRC program where she received training in small business development. After her graduation she started a soap-making business. Eventually, Julienne secured the patronage of the Saint Etienne School which she now supplies twice a month with her soaps.

Julienne also works for Women for Women International-DRC as a vocational skills trainer in soap-making, inspir-

ing other women to invest in themselves and their futures. Every month Julienne is able to put \$50 into savings after covering all of her family's needs. This has helped her purchase equipment to expand and improve her business. Julienne's health has improved, she is more self confident and she is well-respected by her family and community.

In 2009, Julienne was selected to enroll in Goldman Sachs's *10,000 Women Initiative*, which provides women entrepreneurs in developing countries with advanced business training to grow their businesses and jumpstart their local economies. As a result of this and her other achievements, Julienne received WfWI's 2009 Woman of the World Award, which is presented to extraordinary women who have used their voices to help women suffering from war; women who have taken the investment that has been made in them and paid it forward to empower others.





Our Global Community...

Lasting change requires change from both the top down and the bottom up, led by women and men who use their voices to energize the public, engage all populations, and foster cooperation among all community members. As a grassroots constituency in the Global Women's Movement, we embrace traditional and non-traditional strategies for transformation, and celebrate diversity and inclusion as necessary agents for change.

Our growing global community provides access to the highest levels of leadership and policymaking, supports the creation of public-private partnerships, and provides a forum for emerging grassroots networks. Through our collective efforts we are creating the space for women to speak out and be heard. By engaging locally, we help women contribute to the dialogue globally.

2009 OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Built strong relationships at the US Department of State, USAID and Congress and submitted testimony on key issues (DRC, gender violence, Afghanistan)
- Plenary panelist at the Clinton Global Initiative
- Featured in Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's book *Half the Sky* and October 1 "The Oprah Winfrey Show" about the book.
- Media appearances: New York Times, Today Show, PBS, BBC, Washington Post, Elle Magazine

- Granted Special Consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Lisa Shannon...

In 2005, Lisa Shannon's life changed. She was watching an episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" on which Women for Women International Founder and CEO Zainab Salbi was explaining the crisis facing women in the DRC. "I learned about Congo, widely called the worst place on earth to be a woman....Awakened to the atrocities—millions dead, women being raped and tortured, children starving and dying in shocking numbers—I had to do something."

Moved by DRC survivors' stories, Lisa took action, sponsoring two women in the DRC and starting a program called Run for Congo Women (RFCW). Lisa began running alone, raising nearly \$28,000 on her first run. RFCW has since expanded to runs and walks throughout the United States and participants have raised more than \$600,000—enough money to sponsor 1,444 women in the DRC.

Lisa currently lives in her hometown of Portland, Oregon and she no longer runs alone. Run for Congo Women is growing into a global movement, energizing people in to take action on behalf of women survivors of



...Mobilizing the Grassroots through Education and Outreach

war. In 2010, in a tremendous show of selflessness and solidarity, some of the very women that Lisa and RFCW have helped sponsor in DRC are participating in their own Run for Congo Women. Lisa shares these women's stories alongside her own in *A Thousand Sisters* (Seal Press).

"Her powerful story is an inspiration to all of those who think their voice is too small to change lives."

~ Lisa Ling, journalist

Vestine...

"I'm telling you that the step I've taken, I'll never go back. I am going ahead." –Vestine, WfWI-Rwanda graduate
A genocide survivor and mother of three, Vestine and her children were thrown out of their house when her husband died. Destitute and homeless, she had nowhere to turn. Then she found Women for Women International. Through our rights-awareness classes, Vestine learned that she and her children were entitled to live in



Photo courtesy of Jenny Matthews

her late husband's house. Her Women for Women International trainer told her: "You need to fight this." So, Vestine prepared her case, found witnesses, stood up for her family in court, and won! Today, Vestine runs a small business in Kigali using skills she learned through Women for Women International programs. She has emerged stronger and more determined.

Senada...

At age 17, Senada, a Bosnian woman, was married and dropped out of high school. After 27 years of marriage, her husband left her for another woman. Having not completed formal education and without marketable skills, she came to Women for Women International's program in Zenica, Bosnia. Senada now co-manages the Women for Women International greenhouse in Zenica, where women grow peppers and tomatoes for sale, and recently finished her high school degree. To Senada, working in the greenhouse is, in her words, "like therapy."





All That You Have Done

Women for Women International expresses our heartfelt gratitude to the individual sponsors and supporters, institutional donors, board members and advisors, interns, volunteers and staff who make our work possible.

OUR PLEDGE TO YOU

Women for Women International deeply appreciates the generosity of its donors. Indeed, it is a privilege and an honor to be chosen as the recipient of these philanthropic contributions. We recognize that each donor has many choices when deciding how and where to give. Please know that we value and appreciate your support of Women for Women International. We will not take your support for granted and we will work diligently to ensure that we fulfill our promises to the women we serve and to the donors who make our work possible.

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to our volunteers who provided nearly 4,500 hours of service in 2009. Your contributions are crucial to our achievements.

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Thank you to all our supporters who have helped to drive awareness about the challenges the women in our programs face by raising your voices and opening your networks. You are part of a movement that is bigger than all of us.

Women for Women International's global network is key to improving the lives of women survivors of war. Strategies for change are often initiated, planned and executed from the top echelons of society, far removed from the individuals, families and communities that are most directly affected. WfWI has demonstrated that change can also be effectively generated from the bottom up. Through our Sponsorship Program, a woman and her sister begin a global conversation that helps to raise awareness of the status of women survivors of war. This conversation helps build bridges of mutual respect and understanding, and it inspires us to echo the voices of our sisters and lead change in our own lives, families and communities.



Participants and Sponsors

In 2009, sponsors and their sisters exchanged 104,787 letters.

Number of Active Participants:

68,728 core program, 19,788 microcredit clients

Number of Participants Served

1993.....	34
1995.....	395
1997.....	740
1999.....	653
2001.....	3500
2003.....	3,213
2005.....	30,202
2007.....	48,908
2009.....	68,728

Direct Aid and Microcredit Loans Distributed:
\$16,606,947

	Direct Aid	Microcredit Loans
1993.....	\$11,515	\$0
1995.....	94,903	0
1997.....	177,697	50,330
1999.....	156,730	340,686
2001.....	692,215	756,979
2003.....	1,471,909	1,402,738
2005.....	2,234,032	5,888,794
2007.....	3,838,746	14,633,856
2009.....	4,372,814	12,234,132

Total Number of Sponsors.....	40,286
% of Sponsors in US	91.64
% of Sponsors, International	8.36
% of Sponsors, 3 or more years	31.81
% of Sponsors with 2 or more sisters	9.01

Where Our Sponsors Are From

2009 SPONSORS BY COUNTRY

American Samoa	1	Jordan	18
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Austria	12	Lebanon	3
Bahamas	1	Luxembourg	3
Bahrain	2	Macau	1
Barbados	2	Malaysia	4
Belgium	5	Malta	1
Bermuda	28	Mexico	16
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	Montenegro	2
Brazil	26	Netherlands	57
Bulgaria	1	New Zealand	34
Cambodia	1	Norway	27
Canada	2,280	Oman	2
Cayman Islands	3	Pakistan	1
China	15	Philippines	2
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Cyprus	3	Romania	3
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Israel	12	United Kingdom	282
Italy	15	United States	36,917
Japan	15	Virgin Islands (British)	1
		TOTAL	40,286

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Arizona	714	North Dakota	32
Arkansas	113	Ohio	753
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Colorado	1,244	Oregon	1,153
Connecticut	618	Pennsylvania	1,226
Delaware	79	Puerto Rico	16
District of Columbia	365	Rhode Island	140
Florida	1,505	South Carolina	232
Georgia	705	South Dakota	52
Hawaii	207	Tennessee	327
Idaho	184	Texas	1,835
Illinois	1,680	Utah	235
Indiana	433	Vermont	142
Iowa	211	Virgin Islands	27
Kansas	221	Virginia	1,116
Kentucky	191	Washington	1,608
Louisiana	156	West Virginia	53
Maine	237	Wisconsin	643
Maryland	911	Wyoming	64
Massachusetts	1,157	Expatriates and military	109
Michigan	860	TOTAL	36,917
Minnesota	725		
Mississippi	54		
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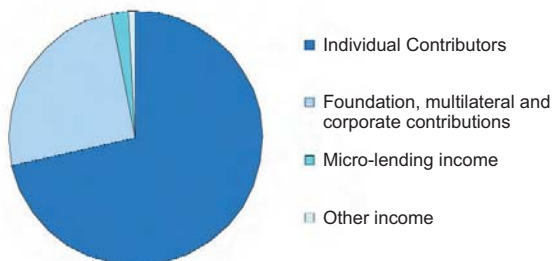
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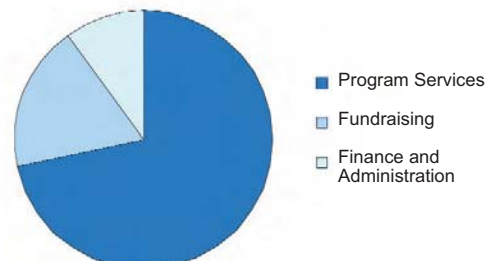
WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL AND AFFILIATES Consolidated Statement of Activities For the Year Ending December 31, 2009

	Women for Women <u>International (US)</u>	Women For Women <u>International (UK)</u>	Women for Women International Afghanistan <u>Micro-Finance</u>	Eliminating Entries	Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT					
Individual contributions	18,707,607	1,593,154	-	-	\$ 20,300,761
Foundation, multilateral & corporate contributions	6,687,535	20,225	575,828	-	7,283,588
Donated services	881,947	-	-	-	881,947
Micro-lending income	-	-	596,465	-	596,465
Government grants	412,163	-	-	-	412,163
Other income	191,552	66,103	2,089	(10,216)	246,528
Net foreign currency transaction gains (losses)	190,098	20,325	(33,160)	-	207,107
Intercompany grant revenue	<u>621,114</u>	<u>21,438</u>	-	<u>(642,552)</u>	-
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	<u>27,692,016</u>	<u>1,718,245</u>	<u>1,171,066</u>	<u>(652,768)</u>	<u>29,928,559</u>
EXPENSES					
Program Services and related programs	15,981,520	841,953	-	(642,552)	16,180,921
Micro-credit lending	23,998	-	1,058,911	-	1,082,909
Media, communications and outreach	<u>421,122</u>	-	-	-	<u>421,122</u>
	16,426,640	841,953	1,058,911	(642,552)	17,684,952
Supporting Services					
Fundraising	4,042,589	485,044	-	-	4,527,633
Finance and administration	<u>2,102,298</u>	<u>288,350</u>	<u>104,277</u>	-	<u>2,494,925</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>22,571,527</u>	<u>1,615,347</u>	<u>1,163,188</u>	<u>(642,552)</u>	<u>24,707,510</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS					
Foreign Currency Translation Gains (Losses)	(71,035)	42,291	(3,105)	5,443	(26,406)
Net Assets, beginning of year	8,619,948	781,651	164,847	(164,874)	9,401,599
<u>Net Assets end of year</u>	<u>\$13,669,402</u>	<u>\$926,840</u>	<u>\$169,620</u>	<u>(\$169,620)</u>	<u>\$14,596,242</u>

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Expenses





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