

A photograph of two women in a rural, possibly Afghan, setting. One woman is wearing a yellow headscarf and a brown sweater, with her back to the camera. The other woman is wearing a blue headscarf and a blue patterned sweater, embracing the first woman from behind. They are standing in front of a grey, textured wall. The overall mood is one of support and care.

Rebuilding Communities in Crises

2021 IMPACT SUMMARY

Program participants in Afghanistan.
Photo by Arizoo Sadaat.



**WOMEN FOR WOMEN
INTERNATIONAL**

Our Programs

Our greatest strength is our ability to meet women where they are, centering their voices and experiences.



Stronger Women Stronger Nations Program classroom in Birava, DRC. Photo by Ryan Carter.



Stronger Women, Stronger Nations provides training in human and women's rights, decision making, essential health practices, nutrition, stress management, conflict resolution, numeracy, business skills, bookkeeping, vocational skills, savings, and working together for advocacy or income generation.



Change Agents are graduates of our Stronger Women, Stronger Nations who are trained and mentored to work together to identify problems in their communities and create grassroots action plans to challenge them.



Men's Engagement engages men as allies in the pursuit of gender equality in tangible ways such as preventing gender-based violence, sharing decision-making power and household chores, sending girl children to school and supporting the women in their lives to start businesses.

Breaking the Isolation of War and Conflict

From **Afghanistan** to **Ethiopia** to **Nigeria**, women bear the brunt of war and conflict, and their specific needs are often overlooked. Women for Women International (WfWI) has spent 29 years investing in women who are forgotten – those facing the greatest inequalities in conflict-affected regions across the world.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, we have provided over **531,000 women** with the social and economic skills needed to rebuild their lives and communities.

Our vision is to create a world in which all women determine the course of their lives and reach their full potential.

Your Impact

Your belief in our mission helped generate this impact.



20,614

women served in 2021



95%

graduation rate globally*



178%

Increase in earnings**



82%

saved a portion of their earnings



94%

average increase in women's confidence in their ability to reach their goals



57%

became a member of other social groups

* The graduation rate excludes programs in Afghanistan which were paused in the summer of 2021.

**Average daily earnings went from: \$1.91 to \$5.32.

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Broadened support to small business women: Local affiliate Žene za Žene International offered training on governance, market access during COVID, ICT, and communications.

Kosovo

Advanced economic training: K-W4W's tailored program provided women with two months of intensive training, start-up capital for micro businesses, and supplies such as sewing machines.

Syria

Partnering with Women Now for Development to invest in opportunities for Syrian women and girls to rebuild their lives.

Afghanistan

Responded immediately: When the Taliban took control, we worked with a team of trauma counselors to offer psychosocial support to our staff and to train our staff to provide psychological first aid to women in the program.

Nigeria

Started a radio show: Led by Change Agents and graduates of our men's engagement program, we produced a radio show to educate and advocate for women's rights, reaching 4 million people so far.

South Sudan

Reached more women: From 350 at the start of the year to 1,400 by the end, we helped more women to start or scale up their businesses and make other positive changes.

Iraq

Expanded our work: We began offering our programs at a second camp in the Kurdistan Region, reaching 1,533 additional Syrian refugee women.

Myanmar

Partnering with the Center for Social Integrity to support Rohingya women and adolescent girls to provide training on literacy, numeracy and life skills.

Ethiopia

Partnering with Mums for Mums in Tigray (northern Ethiopia) to support survivors of sexual violence and war.

DRC

Increased women's land rights: We helped 133 women obtain titles to their own land and worked to prevent discrimination and gender-based violence in the community.

Rwanda

Strengthened GBV response: WfW-R supported eight local organizations to improve accountability and gender-based violence referrals through service providers, community leaders and government.

Local Power, Global Impact

Responding to Emerging Conflicts

Our Conflict Response Fund (CRF) allows us to adapt quickly to emerging conflicts, to meet the urgent and ongoing needs of women and girls.

In March 2022 we launched a CRF to support women survivors of the war in Ukraine.



In **Ethiopia**, through our partner Mums for Mums, we are providing up to 1,000 women and girl survivors of sexual violence with counseling and safe houses and up to 400 with vocational and business skills training. We are also training 110 community first-responders in medical and psychological first-aid.



In **Myanmar**, we have partnered with the Center for Social Integrity (CSI) to train both Rohingya Muslim and Hindu women and girls together for better understanding across communities. Our funds provided basic life and vocational skills to 75 adolescent girls and basic numeracy and literacy skills to 30 adult women.



In **Syria**, from 2020-2021, we funded Women Now for Development to provide 398 Syrian women and adolescent girls in war-torn areas with educational and health resources as well as vocational skills. We also funded spaces to foster social networks to alleviate the isolation of displacement.

Innovations In Spite of COVID-19

The pandemic has provided both challenges and opportunities for us to deliver our programs in new ways.

In Rwanda, women graduates undertook additional economic empowerment training throughout 2021 with an interactive automated instructor.

Following a successful pilot in Rwanda, country offices in Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have included an innovative intervention to digitize Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) through an app available both online and offline, which simplified record keeping and goal tracking while improving data collection and transparency.

While contexts around COVID-19 are often changing, our program activities have pivoted as needed so women can continue their journey of transformation. In the face of this tumultuous pandemic, we are taking precautions, while exploring innovations that allow us to remain committed to supporting women in the middle of crisis.



Women participants at our training center in Luberizi, DRC. Photo by Sightedesign.



Afghan women walking in the street in Afghanistan.

Solidarity With Our Afghan Sisters

When Taliban forces took control of Kabul in August 2021, WfWI committed to finding practical, safe solutions so that we could continue to operate and make a positive difference for the people of Afghanistan. We supported the evacuation of 66 people, which included members of our staff and their families.

We provided psychosocial support for over 300 women across Kabul, Nangahar, Parwan and Panjshir provinces. We also planned to transfer cash to our program participants and provide them with mobile phones which we then used to continue training.

We adapted our work, procuring kitchen garden and poultry kits to address widespread food insecurity and providing women with a potential income.

We called on the international community to support the unique needs of Afghan women and, after months of discussions, we persuaded the de facto government to allow us to restart our programs in early 2022. We hope to increase services for those who are displaced and those who need us most now, as we hold true to the idea that women can and should help shape the future of Afghanistan.

Advocating for Change

We called on policymakers to focus explicitly on the needs of forgotten women and asked the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding sectors to apply a gender focus to all their work.

We led research in **Afghanistan and Nigeria** studying the impact of COVID-19 on gender equality, peace, and security, and our data published in 2021 provided a unique view of lived realities of women affected by the intersection of COVID-19 and conflict.

We supported community-led advocacy to prevent and end violence against women in Plateau State.

“My husband deprived me of everything and violated me many times. I never defended myself. When WfWI staff knocked at my door, I decided to participate. The program opened my eyes to the world. I got legal help and started a business at home. I even taught my children about savings.”

Hivi, program participant in Iraq. (not pictured)



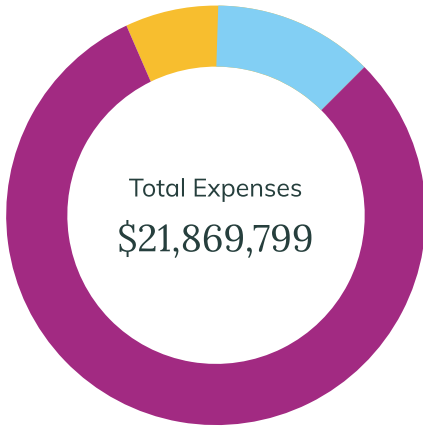
Illustration by @droring1.

“My heart broke for the country I was leaving behind. I couldn't stop crying. I used to have a plan for my life. I studied law at the University of Kabul. Now, I don't know what my future holds.”

Latifa Faqirzada, Former Advocacy Coordinator, WfWI Afghanistan



Program participant in Iraq.



2021 Financials

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|-----|
| PROGRAM | \$16,409,349 | 75% |
| MANAGEMENT/GENERAL | \$1,379,535 | 6% |
| FUNDRAISING | \$4,080,915 | 19% |

\$28,007,663

Total Assets

\$3,719,526

Total Liabilities

\$24,288,137

Total Net Assets

The personal nature of our mission - often realized through sponsorship and individual donations - means our fundraising ratio is high. We take this seriously and work with external auditors to ensure our financial practices and costs are ethical and in the best interest of the women we serve.

“We’ve been supporting Women for Women International’s empowerment programme since 2013 in multiple countries, not only because promoting women’s agency, wellbeing and livelihoods in some of the most difficult places on earth is right, but mostly because it works. Driven by our shared commitment to social impact, we’re also testing new approaches, such as how to better engage men to foster gender equality.”

Pascale de la Frégonnière,
Strategic Advisor, Cartier Philanthropy



Scan to learn
more about your
impact in 2021



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