



WOMEN FOR WOMEN
INTERNATIONAL

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Cover: Chisimdi, Change Agent in Nigeria.
Credit: WfWI.

#SheDares



Program participants in Nigeria.
Credit: WfWI.

30 Years Investing in Women's Resilience

Thanks to you, in 2023, we celebrated 30 years of our mission supporting women survivors of war and conflict.

In the last three decades, Women for Women International's (WfWI) work has spanned 17 countries, reaching 579,287 women who dare to stand up for their rights — even in the most difficult and dangerous circumstances. And this year alone, together with our partners, we've reached over 39,600 women survivors of war – supporting them to rebuild their lives, families and communities.

Even as conflicts rage across the world, our shared commitment to women and the power of each woman we serve continue to give us strength and hope.

As we present our 2023 Annual Report, we invite you to read about some of these daring women around the world and the remarkable results we were able to achieve in the many countries we serve, including four new ones. We are forever grateful to have you by our side, making all this possible!

Thanks to You



579,287

Cumulative women and girls reached*



39,635

Women and girls reached in 2023**



79%

Increase in earnings in 2023***



36%

fewer women report household food insecurity at graduation compared to enrolment. This is particularly impressive in a year of rising hunger and food insecurity across each of our operating contexts.



149%

Women's score on a scale measuring confidence and ability to reach goals increased by 149% from the start of the program to graduation.



84%

of women report participating in household financial decisions by graduation, compared to just 40% at the beginning of the program.



69%

of women report saving a portion of their earnings by the time they graduate, compared to 17% at enrollment, a more than four-fold increase.

*SWSN program + microcredit + through partners from program inception through 2023.

** All SWSN program participants who were active in the program at any time during 2023, including sister organization and partners and non-SWSN targeted interventions offered by WfWI, sister organizations or partners.

*** This data point does not include Afghanistan.

#SheDares Will you?

Women's rights are under attack across the world, whether it's the right to speak up against injustice, choose what to wear, or decide what happens to our bodies.

But women dare to challenge oppression with acts of defiance even in the most difficult and dangerous circumstances. In 2023, WfWI launched a global movement called #SheDares to champion the women who dare. #SheDares aims to galvanize support for women survivors of war who stand up for their rights and bring change. It's a celebration of the bravery of all women: our friends, our families and ourselves.

And it's a rallying cry.

Courageous women in war-torn regions are leading a movement for change - to challenge the status quo and defy the rules at great personal risk - it's time for us to join them.

Get involved in
our campaign:



In Afghanistan, Amina dares to stand up for women's rights. Women have been virtually erased from public life over the past two years: banned from parks, gyms, restaurants, most jobs, and education. Opposing these restrictions is incredibly dangerous, but Amina dares to keep teaching in our training center. She braves the constant scrutiny of the de facto authorities, and she dares to spread the word that education should be the right of every woman and girl.



Despite years of violence at the hands of her partner, Chisimdi had the strength to raise and provide for her four children. After leaving the relationship behind, she regained her voice and courage. #SheDares to stand up against child trafficking, even boldly standing in front of the village chief to advocate for the rights of women.



When Russia invaded, Iryna had the courage to stay in Ukraine. In a bomb shelter, she met women who had been sexually abused by Russian soldiers. Iryna dedicated her charity, The Andreev Foundation, to supporting women survivors of sexual violence. Women who speak out about sexual assault often face shame and suspicion, especially in rural areas of Ukraine. Iryna dares to believe survivors, to speak out against sexual violence, and demand justice, despite the risk that the perpetrators will return.



*Elina Gebina, program graduate from South Sudan.
Credit: Charles Atiki Lomodong.*

30 Years of Impact

Three decades ago, one woman dared to turn a moment of outrage into a movement. Today, that movement has turned into a global community supporting over 579,287 women survivors of war and conflict around the world.

During the Bosnian War, in the early 1990s, an estimated 50,000 women were subjected to sexual violence, while countless others faced the loss of loved ones and homes. Appalled by what was happening in Bosnia, Iraq war survivor Zainab Salbi and Palestinian-American Amjad Atallah, who is now WfWI's Board Chair, knew they had to act. They founded the organization in 1993 with the belief that combining financial support with empathy and connection helps restore dignity and hope.

As conflicts spread across Kosovo, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, so did our work, reaching women in Rwanda, Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and many other countries.

We feel a sense of pride at how we've continuously evolved and improved our work, based on our rigorous evaluations, and from listening directly to the women we serve. Over just the last five years, we've more than doubled the number of countries we work in – from 8 to 17 – primarily through partners who are at the frontlines of working in acute conflict zones and who share our values and our approach.

By 2030, with your continued support, we aim to reach one million women worldwide.



2023 Global Highlights

Since 1993, we reached more than 579,000 marginalized women affected by war and conflict. Together with you, our supporters, we invest in women in 17 conflict-affected countries around the world to help rebuild their lives from the ground up.

2023 Global Highlights

Afghanistan

Despite ongoing restrictions imposed on women in Afghanistan, 1,750 women were enrolled and 1,854 graduated from the Stronger Women, Stronger Nations (SWSN) Program in 2023. New enrollees will receive cash assistance in 2024 for business and household needs. As part of the SWSN program, we started offering psychosocial support, including psychological first aid training, to address mental health challenges.

Ethiopia

Partnering with Mums for Mums in Tigray, we assisted survivors of sexual violence with business startup capital, following basic training in business planning. In Amhara region, we granted funds to Agar Ethiopia Charitable Society to support survivors with startup capital, enhancing their economic self-sufficiency.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, our sister organization, Žene za Žene International, focuses on enhancing rural women's social and economic opportunities through the Rural Women's Network. They reached 1,027 women members across 19 small business associations. The work included trainings in information and communication technologies skills, strengthening the capacity of the Network so it can function as an autonomous organization, advocacy trainings and implementation of advocacy action plans.

Iraq

In 2023, in Iraq, we piloted a new Change Agent training approach to engage women in advocacy, including women who haven't yet graduated from SWSN. Additionally, for the first time in Mosul, we conducted an MEP with 200 men piloting a newly updated curriculum and with 25 couples participating in dialogue sessions for healthier communication and engaging men as allies.

Burkina Faso

Collaborating with local partners, Association Munyu des Femmes, Association pour la Promotion Féminine de Gao and the Association d'Appui et d'Eveil Pugsada, we are providing women with business support, food supplies, psychosocial aid, and training to address violence. Our efforts aim to assist women economically and enhance community resilience amidst ongoing challenges.

Kosovo

In Kosovo, our sister organization, Kosova – Women 4 Women (K-W4W) completed a successful three-year project, reaching over 450 women with the SWSN program, securing follow-on funding for three more years. They engaged 726 graduates in networking opportunities and trained 49 Change Agents advocating for improvements in women's healthcare, clean water, and public transportation.

DRC

In 2023, we initiated a pilot program in response to local women's requests, supporting them to establish individual or small group businesses with cash grants in DRC. Results show promising engagement and motivation, with signs of business success. Additionally, we've been piloting the new Men's Engagement Program (MEP) curriculum in the community of Kaniola, South Kivu, with 164 men positive behavioral changes.

Mali

Together with our local partners, Femmes et Développement, Association Malienne pour le Suivi et l'Orientation des Pratiques Traditionnelles, and Yam Gitibolo Tumo, we are providing food and dignity kits vocational training, and education on preventing violence and reinforcing referral systems to better support women survivors of violence.

Myanmar

Our local partner provided basic literacy, numeracy, and vocational training to 90 adolescent girls in Myanmar and Bangladesh, with additional vocational training for 30 refugee women. Joint classes for women and men were held to shift gender norms. We provided emergency relief funds after Cyclone Mochato help with repairs and setting up temporary facilities, ensuring continued education for 60 girls in Rakhine State.

Rwanda

In a first of its kind, Women for Women Rwanda enrolled 75 at-risk teenage girls who are not in school in a 10-month pilot program, focusing on life skills and economic empowerment. The initiative addresses challenges like limited education access and early marriages. The Women's Opportunity Center, a hub for women's entrepreneurship, celebrated its 10th anniversary and was recognized by The Head of FIFA, Gianni Infantino.

Nigeria

In 2023, WfWI Nigeria expanded to Cross River State, Nigeria, graduating its first cohort of 265 women from our SWSN program, with 900 more enrolled. Our curriculum was licensed to RISD, benefiting 600 women. Additionally, 148 women underwent training in our new Change Agent pilot.

South Sudan

In South Sudan, 150 couples engaged for the first time in a joint vocational training in agriculture, aiming to evaluate its impact on women's economic and social outcomes compared to women-only training. The program includes gender-sensitive education, equitable management of resources, and how an agricultural family business operates. In effort to address climate change, a group of Change Agents planted trees on World Environment Day.

Palestine

In the West Bank, we collaborated with six women's rights organizations, supporting women facing violence, food insecurity, and unemployment with vocational training; counselling services, community sessions and a toll-free helpline; and funding for the only women's shelter. Since October 7, 2023, amidst increased violence and restrictions, we provided urgent aid through partners in the West Bank and Gaza, offering hot meals, winter essentials, hygiene kits, and trauma-informed counseling hotlines.

Sudan

In response to the civil war in Sudan, we collaborated with Zenab Women for Development and Sudanese Organization for Research and Development to provide women and girls with dignity kits, psychological counseling, and emergency supplies. We expanded efforts to support the Sudan Family Planning Association with setting up mobile clinics for medical and psychosocial assistance to women survivors.

Poland

With the war continuing in Ukraine, women and children continue to seek refuge in Poland. Collaborating with Bereginia Women's Association and HumanDoc Foundation, we offer safe spaces, economic aid, trauma counseling, medical and legal support, and Polish language and vocational training, fostering empowerment and community resilience among displaced Ukrainian women.

Syria

In response to a devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria in February 2023, we aided our partner organization, Women Now for Development, by providing dignity kits to 561 households in Aleppo. Despite the trauma, Syrian women resumed training and graduated from our SWSN tailored program in July, the first time our curriculum has been licensed to a partner organization.

Ukraine

In collaboration with DOM48.24 and the Andreev Family Foundation, we assist internally displaced women, providing vocational training and offering psychological support, trauma counseling, and medical and legal aid. Vocational training for IDPs and safe spaces facilitates rehabilitation and community connection, strengthening women's resilience.



Program participant during skills training in Iraq.
Credit: WfWI.

Our DNA: Investing in Women

In 2023, 30,484 women participated in our SWSN program, fostering connections, improving their financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and health and increasing awareness on their rights. 344 women graduated from our Change Agents program. Furthermore, we expanded into four new countries, showcasing our commitment to global positive change and more.



Smashing the Patriarchy: Our Men's Engagement Program

To end gender inequalities, it's not enough to work with women alone. That's why, for decades, we've been supporting men to be allies and to champion women's rights. Men's Engagement Program (MEP). In 2023, a total of 1,915 men engaged in promoting women's rights in our Men's Engagement Program. We also expanded our MEP in new communities in Iraq and DRC.

Couple participant in South Sudan.
Credit: WfWI.



Stronger Women, Stronger Nations, and Its Transformative Impact

A group of Nigerian graduates from the Stronger Women, Stronger Nations Program invited 200 other women from their community to participate in an informal version of the program led by themselves. Impressing the WfWI-Nigeria team with their passion and initiative, these graduates received support and guidance from our team, leading to impressive results for the additional women and showcasing the program's impactful value.

Program participants in Nigeria.
Credit: WfWI.



Innovations to Help Adolescent Girls Realize Their Power

Understanding the many challenges faced by teenage girls, who are often forced into early adulthood, our Rwanda team piloted a program for 16-17 year olds who have dropped out of school. The program was developed in close coordination with our WfWI global team and will be rolled out (with country-specific adjustments) to other countries in 2024, offering vital life skills, vocational and business skills, and resources to girls through our adapted SWSN curriculum.

Program participants in Rwanda.
Credit: WfWI.



Advocating for Women Impacted by Climate, Conflict, and Gender Inequality

Amidst rising climate crises and conflicts globally, women and girls bear disproportionate impacts, underscoring the need for their voices in crafting sustainable solutions. At COP28 in Dubai, we collaborated with Goals House, spotlighting women survivors' perspectives. Our report, informed by 1,000 women across 14 countries, highlights the multifaceted challenges they face.

Change Agents in Nigeria.
Credit: WfWI.



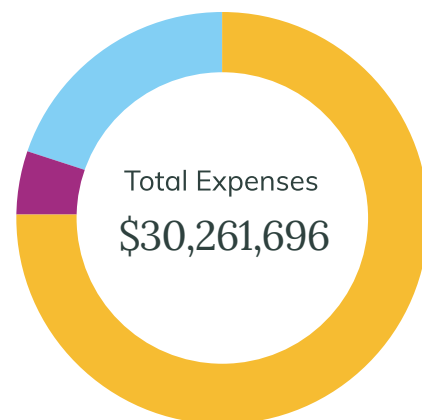
Adapting to Respond to New Crises

In 2023, we responded to conflicts in Sudan, Burkina Faso, Mali and Palestine. Based on local context, our support varied such as providing emergency aid, psychosocial support, trauma-informed counseling, food vouchers, dignity kits, life skills and vocational training. We do this by providing grants to local Women's Rights Organizations (WROs) and partnering with them to meet the urgent needs of women in an active conflict, no matter what side of the conflict.

Our partners in action in Mali.
Credit: AMSOPT.

Our 2023 Financials

PROGRAM	\$22,557,410	75%
MANAGEMENT	\$1,578,962	5%
FUNDRAISING & COMMUNICATIONS	\$6,125,324	20%



\$19,328,822

Total Assets

\$3,627,945

Total Liabilities

\$15,700,877

Net Assets

Our fundraising model has engaged more than 250,000 supporters, enabling us to reach more than 579,000 participants since our founding. Data shows our programs have a lasting impact. The personal nature of our mission - 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. The financial numbers presented here are the organization's consolidated budget, inclusive of WfWI US, UK, and Germany.

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Scan to read
more details of
the impact of your
generosity in 2023.



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