



Women for Women International Research and Learning Agenda: Measuring Program Impact on Women's Social and Economic Empowerment in Three Countries

[Women for Women International](#) (WfWI) works with the most marginalized women in conflict-affected countries to help them move from poverty and isolation to self-sufficiency and empowerment. Through our combined economic and social empowerment program, we aim to provide participants with a combination of knowledge, skills, and resources to increase their self-confidence and capacity to create sustainable change in their lives and those of their families and communities. We have worked with over 479,000 women across eight conflict-affected countries since 1993.

After more than 20 years of on-the-ground experience implementing our program, WfWI is investing in rigorous research and evaluation to learn about our impact, improve programming based on results, guide key programmatic and organizational decisions, advocate for evidence-based policy and practice, and influence decision-makers. WfWI has three ongoing randomized controlled trials (RCTs) looking at different types of social and economic empowerment impacts from our program across our programs in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Nigeria.

RCT Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the WfWI Intervention to Prevent and Reduce Intimate Partner Violence Among Married Women in Afghanistan

WfWI is conducting an RCT in the Kabul and Nangarhar districts in Afghanistan to investigate the effects of WfWI's year-long empowerment program on women's experiences of intimate partner violence, mental health, gender equitable attitudes including acceptability of violence against women, and women's income and savings. The RCT is taking place from 2016 to 2018 and includes 1461 participants, divided into the treatment group and control group. This research project is being conducted as part of the DFID What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls Programme and is led by Dr. Andrew Gibbs, Dr. Rachel Jewkes, and Dr. Julienne Corboz of the South African Medical Research Council. Results are anticipated in late 2019.

Impact Evaluation of WfWI Holistic Women's Empowerment Program on Women's Agency, Decision-Making, and Economic Empowerment in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo

WfWI is conducting an RCT in South Kivu, DRC to study the causal impact of WfWI's empowerment program on women's agency and decision-making, mental health, cognition, and household welfare. Two thousand participants are included in the evaluation, with half randomly selected to participate in the program and the half selected to be in the control group. In addition, half of the women in the treatment arm have been randomized to benefit from men's engagement programming. The principal investigators are Dr. Manuela Angelucci, University of Texas, and Dr. Rachel Heath, University of Washington. The research project is taking place from 2017 to 2020; results are anticipated in late 2020.

Impact Evaluation of Mentorship for Female Micro-entrepreneurs: Bridging the Gap in Conflict-Affected Areas of Nigeria

WfWI is conducting an RCT to better understand the impact of programmatic additions to the year-long empowerment program in Plateau state and Bauchi state, Nigeria. The primary research question of the study is whether 6 months of follow-up mentoring visits after training program graduation significantly affect economic outcomes for women micro-entrepreneurs' employment activities. This study is also examining how being part of a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) provides better support for sustained profitability, scale, and access to capital for female micro-entrepreneurs. This evaluation includes 1,000 participants. The principal investigators are Dr. Jenny Aker and Megan Rounseville of Tufts University. The research project is taking place from 2018 to 2020; results are anticipated in late 2020.

For more information, please contact WfWI at research@womenforwomen.org.