Participants of WfW Rwanda's Adolescent girls program in Rubona area, Rwanda. Photo credit: Kubwimana Louis

WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

From Crisis to **Collective Strength**

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Introduction

Despite the extraordinary challenges of the past year, Women for Women International (WfWI) remains steadfast in its mission to help women survivors of war and conflict rebuild their lives, families, and communities. 2025 was a year defined by uncertainty but also by the unwavering determination of the women we serve.

Even as conflict spread in places like Gaza and Sudan, even as aid was cut and barriers increased, women organized, led, and acted across every country in which we operate, in a testament to the power of resilience and community-driven change.

Throughout 2025, with your support and together with our partners, we reached more women and girls than ever. Women who, against all odds, came together in the face of crisis and conflict, helped one another, built businesses, and returned to learning.

Each milestone highlighted in this report reflects your belief in the strength and potential of women. Thank you for your continued support — both for our work and for the women at its heart. Together, we are building lasting change.

The **Power of Resilience**

2025 for me is about resilience and hope. Not as an aspiration, but as the daily reality of women living through conflict, sustained by a community that refused to look away.

This was a year marked by profound disruption. The contraction of foreign aid and deep geopolitical tumult reshaped the landscape in which we operate, forcing difficult choices across the sector. In response, Women for Women International remained focused and adaptive, prioritizing locally led partnerships, advocating for sustained and flexible funding, and ensuring that support continued to reach those who need it most. All because of our belief that meaningful change is driven by women themselves.

In Gaza, women-led groups continued to create spaces of safety, delivering assistance and psychosocial support under conditions that would halt most operations. In Sudan, as violence and displacement accelerated, local organizations mobilized with urgency to coordinate relief and ensure that support reached women.

Following years of conflict in Syria, our partner, Women Now for Development, adjusted to a new political context. Together, we provided psychosocial support to released prisoners of the former regime as well as flexible funding to women-led initiatives and human rights defenders.

What these efforts reveal is simple: proximity matters. And when women have the resources to lead in their own communities, impact is not only more immediate, but also more enduring.

Elsewhere, through the Change Agent Program, women shaped advocacy agendas and stepped into leadership roles within their communities. Our work with adolescent girls expanded this year in Nigeria, Afghanistan and South Sudan, underscoring the importance of investing early—not just in protection, but in voice, agency, and possibility.

If resilience defines how this work was carried forward, hope defines why it continues. It is the quiet determination of women rebuilding livelihoods, it is the courage to organize amid uncertainty, and it is the steady accumulation of small, transformative gains. What we often describe as a ripple effect is, in truth, a pattern of persistence — one woman, then another, then many more, each expanding the boundaries of what is possible.

We also strengthened our commitment to partnership, expanding our network of local organizations and continuing to align our governance with the realities of the regions we serve.

As we move forward, the need for this work has never been greater. But neither has the opportunity. By continuing to invest in women and girls, we are not only responding to today's challenges, but we are also contributing to stronger, more resilient communities for generations to come.

On behalf of the Board, I extend my deepest gratitude to our partners, supporters, and the extraordinary women and girls at the heart of this work. Your resilience fuels progress. Your leadership shapes the future.

With appreciation,

A Year of **Global Impact**

67,841

women and girls reached and served in 2025, through Stronger Women, Stronger Nations (SWSN) program and targeted interventions and services offered by WfWI, sister organizations, and partners.

675,544

women and girls reached and served cumulatively from program inception through the end of 2025.

54

local partners engaged.

Nigeria

17,366 women and girls served and reached in 2025

Palestine

4,392 women and girls served and reached in 2025

Ukraine

2,083 women and girls reached in 2025

Afghanistan

10,814 women and girls served and reached in 2025

Rwanda

1,566 women and girls served and reached in 2025

Burkina Faso & Mali

910 women and girls served in 2025

DRC

3,807 women and girls served and reached in 2025

Kosovo

513 women and girls served and reached in 2025

South Sudan

4,315 women and girls served and reached in 2025

Iraq

7,350 women and girls served and reached in 2025

Sudan

14,125 women and girls reached in 2025

CEO'S MESSAGE

A Steadfast Commitment to Women in Conflict

There are moments in this work that bring both urgency and clarity into sharp focus. For me, the honor of taking up the leadership of Women for Women International at the close of 2025 was such a moment. As the first African CEO of this organization, I am deeply aware of the strength of the community behind this mission and the scale of the challenges before us.

Across the globe, conflict is more widespread and prolonged and it's women and children who carry the heaviest burdens, as they so often do. At the same time, the international development sector is navigating significant shifts as funding landscapes grow more uncertain. Some in our sector are grappling with uncertainty. We are not. Together, we are resolved to remain true to our mission and stay the course.

The short time since I joined has strengthened my conviction about what we do and why it matters. At its core, our work is about connection — about ensuring women are not isolated in their experiences, but supported, resourced, and linked to one another in ways that unlock their power and possibility.

I am deeply grateful for your partnership with this work. Whatever the next year brings, I know we will continue to stand alongside women survivors of war and conflict — investing in their strength, their leadership, and their futures.

With gratitude,

Thelma Ekyior
International CEO
Women for Women International

Strength in Solidarity: Our Approach

Serving more women and girls requires both a strong in-country presence and strategic collaboration. From acute humanitarian crises to areas in post-conflict recovery, our approach combines direct support with investments in community-based organizations and partnerships.

Through our signature 12-month Stronger Women, Stronger Nations program, women gather in groups of 25 to learn a vocational skill, save money, understand their rights, improve their health, and bring change to their communities. Our Adolescent Girls program is designed to support vulnerable teen girls ages 15-17 with a curriculum that covers financial literacy, gender equality, health, and goal setting. Alongside these programs, we invest in community-wide change through our Change Agents and Men's Engagement initiatives.

In 2025, through our Conflict Response Fund, we worked alongside local partners to deliver support in the world's most dangerous environments. In places where conflict is less acute, partnerships allowed us to extend specific elements of our existing programs or pilot new approaches. We partnered with a range of local organizations, including women-led groups, to complement and strengthen our delivery.

SWSN participants weeding their farm in Rwanda. Photo credit: WfWI

Together, these efforts strengthened women's resilience, expanded economic opportunity, and created pathways for leadership, ensuring that impact is sustained and locally driven.

Building Economic
Resilience and Opportunity

In Nigeria, collaboration with local organizations allowed the Stronger Women, Stronger Nations program to expand into new regions, helping more women to build sustainable livelihoods. Innovation transformed menstrual health management into a pathway for income generation. Young women, trained at a dedicated production center, learned to manufacture and market reusable period pads, increasing access to affordable menstrual products while generating income for themselves and their families.

The Adolescent Girls Program in Nigeria supported girls who had been forced out of school to develop practical skills and confidence. Every participant transitioned into income-generating activities.

> *"The skills I learned make me feel secure, because I know that no matter what happens, I have the ability to work and earn for myself."*
>
> — Miracle Gyang Daniel is 17 years old and is from Katong Village in Vwang, Nigeria.

In South Sudan, collective action became a powerful tool for economic resilience. Women formed cooperatives, pooled resources, expanded agricultural production, and accessed new markets together. For example, one of the women's cooperatives was able to expand their storage capacity, boosting income and improving food security.

Our sister organization, Women for Women Rwanda, supported women to transition from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture. Through access to marshland and a partnership with private-sector buyers, women cultivated high-value crops, generated income through sales, and strengthened skills in production, negotiation, and quality standards. Specialized farming methods introduced through collaboration with Sunripe Farms Rwanda Ltd. improved both yield and crop quality, allowing women to compete in formal export markets.

Graduates from our sister organization, Women 4 Women (K-W4W) Kosovo, strengthened their resilience with community visibility. During a Graduate Networking and Empowerment Fair in Prishtina, nearly 50 women showcased and sold products, ranging from handmade crafts to traditional foods, gaining valuable experience in pricing and customer engagement.

Participants take part in a baking vocational training session in South Sudan. Photo credit: WfWI

Safe Spaces, Healing, and Psychosocial Support

Across conflict-affected communities, women and girls carry the emotional weight of violence, displacement, loss, and uncertainty. Safe spaces and community-led care helped women process trauma and support one another.

In Gaza, women came together amid a devastating humanitarian crisis to provide mutual support and distribute scarce resources. Through local partners, Women for Women International delivered food assistance and psychosocial support to women and families affected by displacement. Community kitchens and small livelihood initiatives provided both immediate relief and opportunities for women to regain agency and generate income.

> *"Life in displacement is a daily struggle. I no longer have the luxury to collapse. If I fall apart, my children will fall apart too. I must stay on my feet, even on the days when my heart feels too heavy to carry."*

— Tahreer Abu Suleiman, Gaza

Tahreer described psychosocial support sessions as one of the few moments of relief available to her family. Through play-based activities and counseling support, her children found brief moments of joy and stability amid crisis.

Elsewhere in Palestine, despite growing restrictions on women's movement in the West Bank, the first cohort of 350 women participated in our Stronger Women, Stronger Nations program, adapted to the context through partnerships with local health providers to deliver specialized and wellbeing sessions.

In eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, escalating violence displaced families and left many women without access to healthcare or protection services. Women for Women International supported local partners to respond to urgent humanitarian needs while also addressing gender-based violence.

For survivors like Nsimire, Women for Women International-supported safe spaces became essential entry points to care. After fleeing violence and struggling to access medical support, she connected with trained mentors, psychosocial services, and mobile healthcare.

> *"With my mentor by my side, I felt comfortable enough to share my experience."*

— Nsimire, DRC

In Kosovo, psychosocial wellbeing remained central to women's post-conflict recovery and resilience. More than 160 graduates participated in stress management sessions and individual counseling — often their first experience receiving psychological support. These safe spaces strengthened emotional resilience and reinforced the importance of supporting women both economically and emotionally.

Stronger Women, Stronger Nations session with participants in the West Bank, Palestine. Photo credit: Taha Abu Hussein.

Adolescent Girls
Reclaiming Their Futures

Across multiple countries, girls face interrupted education, displacement, harmful social norms, and shrinking opportunities. Yet in programs designed specifically for them, adolescent girls created spaces where they could regain confidence, build practical skills, and imagine new futures.

In Afghanistan, where women and girls continue to face severe restrictions on education, movement, and employment, Women for Women International offered an Adolescent Girls program designed around community-supported safe spaces for learning. Despite significant constraints, girls were able to continue building skills through carefully adapted programming rooted in local realities.

For Saba, participation in the program became a turning point after restrictions forced her to abandon her studies in midwifery.

> *"That session sparked something inside me. I suddenly realized: Why not me? Why can't I start a business of my own?"*

— Saba, Afghanistan

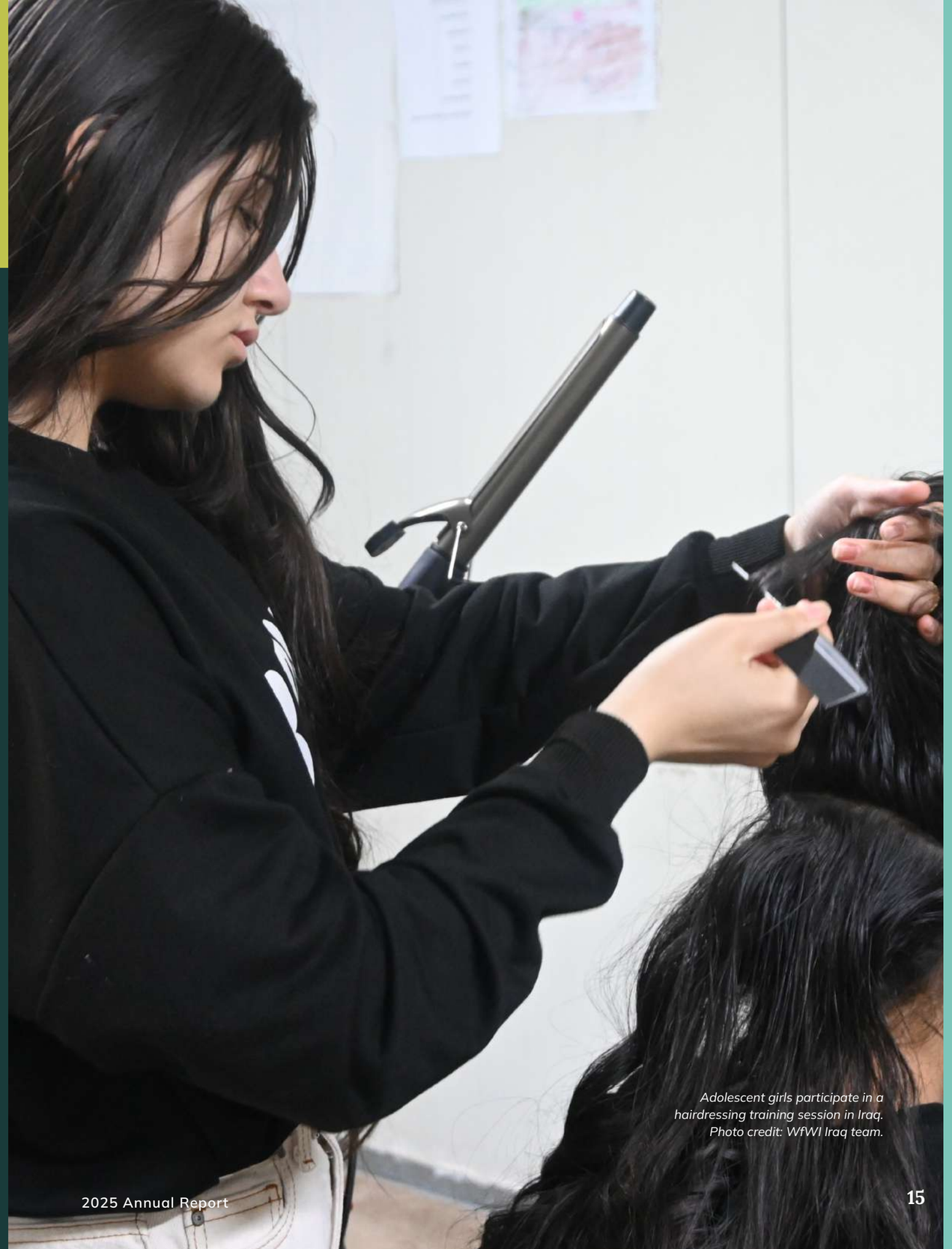
Inspired by a business training session, Saba launched a tailoring business with her sister, helping support their household and rebuild hope for the future.

In Iraq, the Adolescent Girls program created safe spaces where girls gained life skills and knowledge about health and rights while families were engaged to reinforce support systems around them.

> *"Since I left school, I've been afraid for my future. I feel like my dreams are slipping away. But the Women for Women program helped me a lot during this time. It gave me something to look forward to, something just for me."*

— Heva Shukri, 17, Iraq

In Nigeria and South Sudan, adolescent girls not only built vocational and financial skills, but also stepped into leadership roles within their communities — advocating for girls' rights in their communities, forming savings groups, and envisioning futures beyond the limitations imposed by crisis and inequality.



Adolescent girls participate in a hairdressing training session in Iraq. Photo credit: WfWI Iraq team.

Women Leading Communities and Driving Change

From local advocacy to national policy engagement, women shaped change within their communities.

In Iraq, Women for Women International supported 24 women-led and women's rights organizations across 14 governorates to advance Women, Peace and Security (WPS) priorities. These organizations designed and implemented their own action plans focused on preventing gender-based violence, increasing women's political participation, and strengthening women's influence in decision-making processes.

At the same time, Change Agents programs equipped women leaders with advocacy and leadership skills to navigate power structures and champion women's rights in increasingly restrictive environments.

In South Sudan, Change Agents contributed to greater awareness of gender-based violence and advanced women's participation in community leadership. One former graduate, Ajania Amude, assumed the role of Acting Senior Inspector within the Department of Gender, Child and Social Welfare — demonstrating the long-term impact of investing in women's leadership.

Engaging men also remained essential to creating lasting change. In both Iraq and South Sudan, the Men's Engagement program mobilized male allies and community leaders to challenge harmful norms, promote non-violent relationships, and support gender equality through dialogue.

> *"Change takes time, but every time a man tells me that he has changed how he treats women for the better, I know we are making progress."*
>
> — Stephen, Men's Engagement Program graduate, South Sudan

In Nigeria, women who completed the program mentored and trained others through Graduate Support Networks, strengthening solidarity and expanding impact far beyond direct participants. Meanwhile in Afghanistan, support for 10 local women-led organizations ensured that assistance remained locally driven and responsive. Through flexible funding, these organizations delivered healthcare at border crossings, emergency relief following natural disasters, mental health support, and livelihood training for women across the country.

Participants take part in a tailoring vocational training session as part of Stronger Women, Stronger Nations program. Photo credit: WfWI Iraq team.

Conflict Response Fund: Action in a Crisis

In times of war and conflict, women and girls face disproportionate risks—displacement, sexual violence and forced marriage.

In 2025, our Conflict Response Fund (CRF) was a critical mechanism for delivering rapid, flexible, and locally led support in some of the world's most complex and fast-changing conflicts and crises. By working through trusted local partners, the CRF ensures that women and communities are not only supported in moments of crisis but also positioned to recover and rebuild.

Myanmar

Following two devastating earthquakes in the Mandalay region, millions of people were displaced, with many losing access to safe drinking water.

With our support, a local partner installed a reverse osmosis water filtration system in one of the most affected communities. The system is now maintained and owned locally, providing clean water for approximately 2,000 people and transforming an immediate emergency response into a sustainable community asset.

Syria

Following years of conflict in Syria, women adjusted to a new political context. Together with our long-term partner, Women Now for Development, we provided psychosocial support to released prisoners of the former regime as well as flexible funding to women-led initiatives and human rights defenders.

The organization re-established its presence in Eastern Ghouta and provided psychosocial support to activists experiencing trauma and burnout and research support to advance gender-sensitive approaches to justice and accountability.

Sudan

In Sudan, where violence and conflict have driven widespread displacement, our CRF partners focused on life-saving services and longer-term support. One partner deployed a mobile clinic in North Darfur, providing reproductive and maternal healthcare, psychosocial support, and family planning services.

Another partner supported displaced women and girls in Al-Gadaref through trauma-informed psychosocial support and survivor-centered documentation of experiences of violence.

Burkina Faso & Mali

Four partners across Burkina Faso and Mali piloted the Stronger Women, Stronger Nations (SWSN) program in highly fragile, conflict-affected settings.

With WfWI's support, these four local organizations adapted and delivered the curriculum over six months, serving more than 900 women. Despite the challenges, most women completed the program and gave positive feedback.

This pilot demonstrated the potential of extending proven models through local partners, even in some of the most difficult and dangerous places.

Bangladesh

In 2025, in Cox's Bazar, our partner worked with Rohingya women and girls to expand access to education and skills development within a refugee camp setting.

The program combines literacy, numeracy, and vocational training with life skills, in addition to supporting community teachers. This approach addresses both immediate learning needs and the broader education ecosystem within the camp.

Ukraine

In Ukraine, our response was implemented through our Bosnia and Herzegovina-based Sister Organization, Žene za Žene International, working with local partners.

Efforts focused on both direct support and longer-term systems change, including the establishment of crisis hotlines and delivery of reproductive health services and psychosocial support to women affected by war. The teams also facilitated international learning exchanges connecting Ukrainian women leaders with counterparts in the Balkans.

Trainer facilitates a Stronger Women, Stronger Nations' session with participants in the West Bank, Palestine. Photo credit: Taha Abu Hussein.

Advocacy in a **Changing Landscape**

In 2025, our global policy and advocacy work centered on defending and renewing commitments to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda amid mounting backlash, shrinking civic space, and severe global aid cuts.

In recognition of these challenges, as we marked the 25th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in October, we shifted our engagement to prioritize both traditional UN forums and regional spaces across Africa, the Middle East, and Europe, centering feminist movements and women's rights organizations from conflict-affected contexts.

We strengthened regional influence by contributing evidence-based advocacy on climate, conflict, and gender justice in Africa, deepening coordination with the African Union. We continued to resource civil society movements implementing localized WPS priorities through our support to the Nisaa wa Al-Salam (NISAAM) program by supporting 24 women's rights organizations, including through a regional convening in Amman for collective learning and action.

In parallel, we responded to global aid cuts in the US and UK making the case for sustained, flexible funding for women's rights organizations and survivor-centered services, and reinforcing women's leadership as essential to durable peace, accountability, and resilience in crisis settings.

SWSN participants in Yei County, South Sudan, pose for a photo during their graduation ceremony. Photo credit: WfWI.

She Inspires Me Dinner, Munich. From right to left: Zeina Kanawati, Angela Nelissen, Preeti Malkani, Sophie-Alexandra Princess of Bavaria, Aram Shakerm, and Bianca Lang-Bognar. Photo credit: Sebastian Mayer.

In collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, WfWI, led by the CEO, Thelma Ekiyor, commemorated the 16 Days of Activism 2025 in Abuja, Nigeria. Photo credit: WfWI

Partners & Champions:

Global Community of Support

In 2025, our work was made possible by a powerful community of corporate partners, ambassadors, champions, and supporters who stood alongside women affected by conflict.

Together, these partnerships went far beyond funding, bringing visibility, expertise, and collective action to advance our mission. Over the year, ambassadors and champions helped amplify women's voices and expand our reach to new audiences. Global moments of engagement also brought this community together.

From the **SheInspiresMe** Car Boot Sale in London

To the **SheInspiresMe** Gala in Munich

These events combined storytelling, solidarity, and action in support of women in conflict-affected contexts. During Women's History Month alone, 19 events around the world helped mobilize support while introducing our work to new audiences.

We are deeply grateful to every partner, supporter, and advocate who contributed to this collective impact. Below, we recognize some of the individuals and organizations whose commitment makes this work possible.

BEQUESTS

Barbara Barr
Alice E. Beals
Amelia Buran
Gerda Carmichael
Seetoo Chadwick Holton
Nadia Christensen
Jan R. Cohen
Nicola Cowley
Clara Dilsaver
Estate of Richard John England
Karin Friedman
Geraldine Geischer
Karen Gusler
William J. Jung
Brenda MacDougall Estate Trust
Edith MacGuire Trust
Rita Maran
Margery L. Mayer
Annette Miller
Naomi Montgomery
Lois Moran
Kathleen A. Palmer
Elisabeth de Picciotto
Roberta Quiat
Irene Saxman
Genevieve A. Schechter
Lorraine A. Smith
Anne Swatfigure
LuAnne Thompson
Lela Wagner
Mary Walek
Lois West
Dana White
Diane Z
Janet Zobel

INDIVIDUALS

Faria Abedin
Amy Peck Abraham
Evelyne Aikman and Adam Forste
Sobia Akhtar
Patricia Allen
Jose Anaya
Beth and Steven Bangert
Fadwa Barzinji
Valerie and Mark Bechteler
Henry Beck III Trust
Carolyn Bibb and Susan Yandel
George and Leslie Biddle
Katherine Bishop
Katherine Borsecnik
Marilyn Brodie
Paula Brown
Sharon Buckley
Naomi and Harvey Cohen
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Margaret Dear
Brenda Diaz
Evelyn and Earl Dolven
Ann Marie Etergino
Christine and Todd Fisher
Sandra Foundas
Diane Froot
Jeremi Gorman
Shana and Hugh Griffiths
Jean Guyton
Deborah Halliday
Deborah Harmon and Robert Seder
Garth Hickle
Larry Hickle
Mary Howard
Grace Hsiao
Hans and Suse Jahns
Kay and Terry Johnson
Bayan Jondy and Ahmad Nassar
Marilee Jones
Eason Jordan
Ayesha Kazmi
Janie and Richard Kobes
Anne Kolker
Peter Landon
France Leclerc
Nancy Lee
Lynn Maccuish
Mona Malik and Mirza Baig
Donna and Bob Maresca
Linda McBlane
Jane McGary
Erin Miles
Holly Millar
Kathryn Money
Alicia Moorehead
Kathleen Mullins
Catherine and Stephen Nelson
Nonna Noto
Margaret O'Brien
Leslie Oelsner
Lois Pettinger
Arleen and Aaron Priest
Nida Qadir
Naureen Rahman
Marilyn Read
Monique Regard
Patricia and Daniel Roarty
Mary Romney
Bruce and Bonnie Senst
Karyn Smith
Sharon Stanley
Delaney Steele and Shawn Stoval
Christina Tanner
Karen Townsend
Francis Trainer, Jr.
Susan Viniar
Anita Wien
Sargent and Diana Wood
Mary and Jeffrey Zients
Sara Zion

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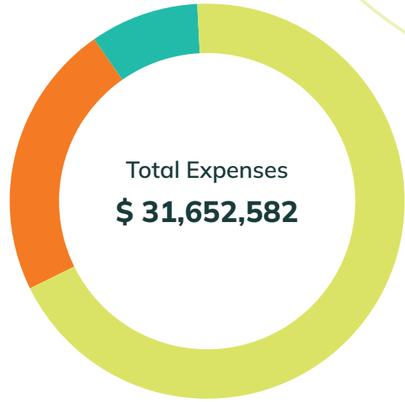
Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception
The Spohler Foundation
Stone Family Foundation
Sweet Justice Foundation
Thrivent Charitable Impact and Investing
Ting Tsung and Wei Fong Chao Foundation
Tranquillion
Troper Wojcicki Philanthropies
UK Integrated Security Fund - NISAAM: Advancing a localised WPS agenda through flexible grant opportunities to women-led WROs and CSOs
UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women
Whittier Trust Company
Wilstar Impact Investing

A SWSN participant is planting vegetables in a greenhouse in Rwanda.
Photo credit: Kubwimana Louis

Our 2025 **Financials**

PROGRAMS	$22,875,657	72%
MANAGEMENT	$1,897,384	6%
FUNDRAISING & COMMUNICATIONS	$6,879,541	22%



Our fundraising model continues to mobilize a global community of more than 250,000 supporters, helping us reach over 675,544 women since our founding. Evidence shows that the impact of our programs extends well beyond participation, supporting lasting change in women's lives. The personal nature of our approach — rooted in sponsorship and individual giving — requires meaningful investment in building and sustaining these relationships. We are committed to stewarding these resources responsibly, working with independent auditors to ensure our financial practices remain transparent, ethical, and aligned with the best interests of the women we serve. The figures presented here reflect our consolidated budget across Women for Women International's operations in the U.S., U.K., and Germany.

Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Net Assets
$21,307,022	$4,265,506	$17,041,516

Supported with funds raised by players of Postcode Lottery, awarded by Postcode Justice Trust in support of women survivors of war.

WOMEN FOR WOMEN
INTERNATIONAL

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womenforwomen.org

Women for Women International · Helping women survivors of war and conflict rebuild their lives