



Donor Direct Action
A FRONTLINE WOMEN'S FUND

— An Initiative of the Sisterhood is Global Institute —

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

1th ANNIVERSARY



www.donordirectaction.org

The Sisterhood Is Global Institute (SIGI) is a feminist think tank founded in 1984 by Robin Morgan and Simone de Beauvoir and women from 80 countries pledged to "visionary yet pragmatic action in support of women's rights, freedoms and power." Donor Direct Action, a SIGI initiative, strengthens frontline women's rights groups around the world by increasing their access to financial resources, political leaders, and public visibility with minimum bureaucracy and maximum impact. Since its inception in 2011, Donor Direct Action has regranted over US \$5.8 million to frontline women's organizations where resources are most needed and have the highest impact. Today Donor Direct Action supports 16 partners in 15 countries and operates two funds: the Efaa Dorkenoo Fund to End Female Genital Mutilation, which has 5 partners in 5 countries, and the Gloria Steinem Equality Fund to End Sex Trafficking, which has 12 partners in 11 countries.

I have witnessed first-hand the needs of women's rights organizations working on the front lines where so much is done with such limited resources. Donor Direct Action enables anyone anywhere to help these organizations and make a real difference in the lives of women and girls around the world.

Navi Pillay, Co-Convenor, Donor Direct Action

Nothing is more crucial than getting money to projects on the ground. Donor Direct Action knows how to get the funds where they are most needed and where they will make a real difference.

Gloria Steinem, Co-Convenor, Donor Direct Action

The Sisterhood Is Global Institute, the first global feminist think tank, proudly welcomes the Donor Direct Action initiative - the answer to what global feminism has been asking: minimum bureaucracy, maximum effectiveness, support, contact, empowerment.

Robin Morgan, President, The Sisterhood Is Global Institute

COVER IMAGE: A young woman speaks at a graduation ceremony of the Vocational Training program of the Galkayo Education Center for Peace and Development in Somalia.



Women and girls supported by Donor Direct Action's partners from Somalia, Lebanon, Peru and Palestine.

2021 has been a lesson in resilience. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to shed light on global inequality, we see a world that is in need of reimagining. Those who have been marginalized, oppressed, and excluded from participating in the existing power structures are demanding representation, building their own networks to replace what does not work, and envisioning a new world. A growing number of women, previously silenced due to their gender, race, class, and geopolitical status are using their voices to create change. In 2022, we look to the past for courage and to the future for hope.

This past year, while COVID-19 vaccines offered relief to some, limited access to vaccines as well as to government aid has increased socio-economic pressure globally. Food insecurity, unemployment, and mental unwellness continue to rise along with the growing pandemic of violence against women. Since the start of COVID-19, 1 in 2 women say that they or someone they know have experienced gender-based violence. Many survivors and allies have taken to social media to share their stories and find support.

In August 2021, as the Taliban seized Kabul, many Afghan women found themselves in grave danger, their autonomy stripped away with the change in power. Women formerly holding positions of power were forced to flee the country or go into hiding. Afghanistan is an alarming example of a global trend of patriarchal conservatism, and the human rights of women

and girls hangs in the balance. Still, we are resilient. Young Afghan girls are protesting for their right to equal education, at great risk, while exiled Afghan women leaders bravely speak out on the international stage.

In the midst of this eventful year, we at Donor Direct Action celebrated our 10th anniversary as a frontline women's fund. Looking back at all we and our partners have accomplished in 10 years, we can't help but feel a renewed urgency to our work. Around the world, women are taking to the streets and social media demanding systemic change. Frontline women's organizations, through collective action and direct community engagement, lead the charge in imagining a new world. Our commitment at Donor Direct Action to provide frontline women's rights organizations with the funds they need to continue their life-changing work is continuously strengthened by the inspiring courage and determination of our partners around the world.

As we enter 2022, we dare ourselves – and you - to be courageous in our support. This is a moment of great need, and women's leadership is our hope for the future. Thank you for your support. We hope you will continue to invest in the vanguard, our frontline partners who intrepidly envision a better world and are resolutely moving forward to create it.

Jessica Neuwirth
Founder and Director

IMPACT

MONEY RAISED FOR FRONT LINE PARTNERS

From our inception in 2011 to the end of 2021, Donor Direct Action has raised more than \$5.8 million for its partners around the world from more than 1850 donors in 58 countries. In 2021 we raised over \$1,635,000 to support the work of the frontline women's movement.

\$1,635,345
Raised
in 2021

1851
Donors
in 58
Countries

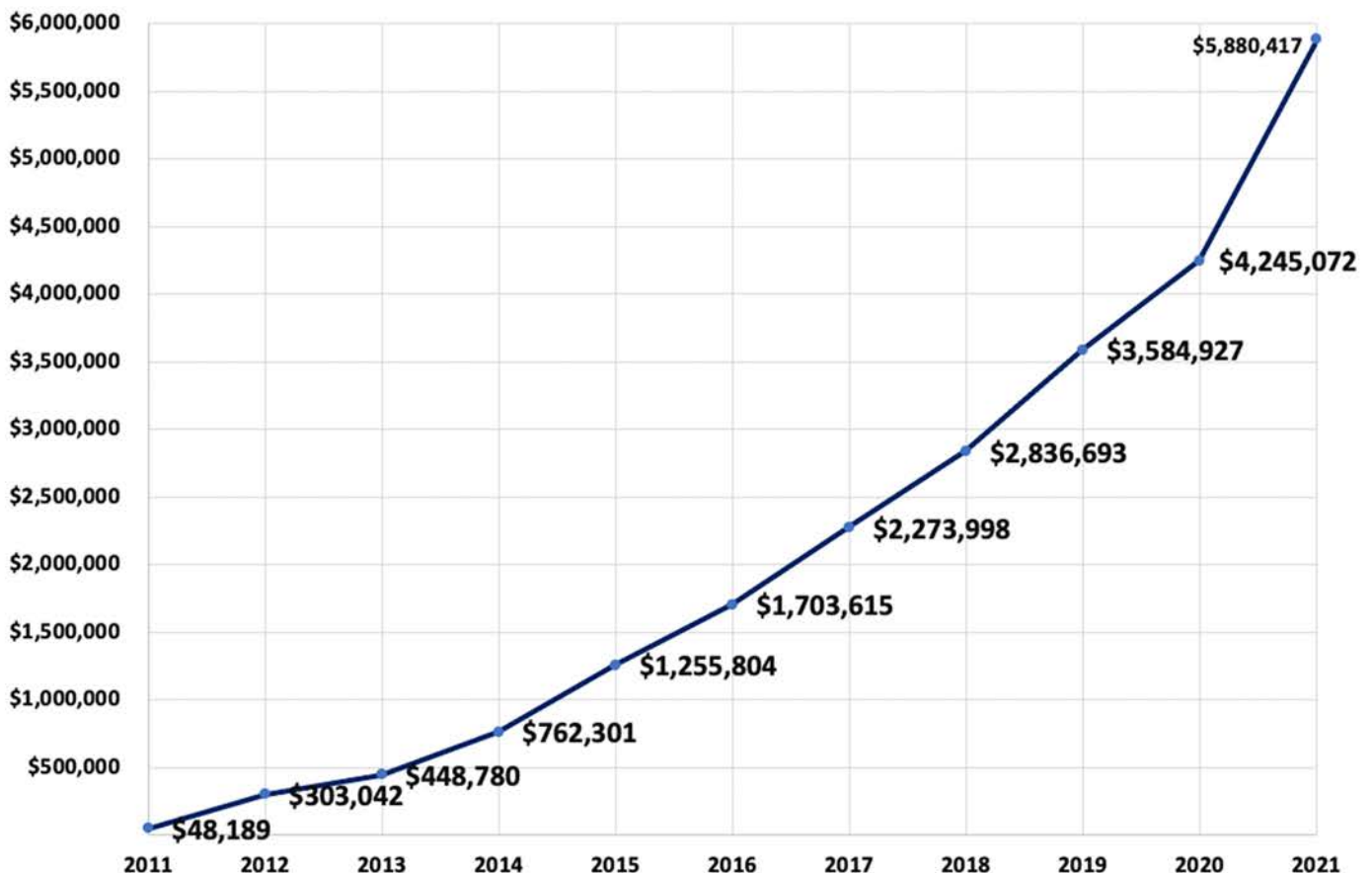
OUR COMMITMENT

Minimum Bureaucracy for Maximum Impact



90% of all donations made to support our partners' work is re-granted directly to them. Donor Direct Action retains 10% to help cover operating costs.

Funds Raised for Partners



SUPPORTING THE EXTRAORDINARY RESILIENCE OF AFGHAN WOMEN

2021 was a tragic year for Afghan women. With the return of the Taliban, Afghan women were once again subjected to an onslaught of violent attacks and discriminatory policies that denied them access to secondary education and employment and severely restricted their mobility. All of this unfurled amidst the lingering pandemic and a devastating economic crisis that was already underway.

Donor Direct Action's Afghan partner responded to the crisis by providing food packages to Afghan families in need, especially women-headed households. Donor Direct Action worked to address the desperate need for resources by forming an Emergency Circle of Friends, a philanthropic initiative convened by Gloria Steinem. Within days the Emergency Circle raised over \$300,000 for frontline activists working to safeguard Afghan women's rights.

In addition to humanitarian assistance generated by Donor Direct Action, the Sisterhood Is Global Institute worked to ensure that the voices of Afghan women leaders were heard in the international dialogue on the crisis in Afghanistan. On September 20th, 2021, following the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, the Sisterhood is Global Institute in collaboration with the Roosevelt House Human Rights Program of Hunter College, and Women for Afghan Women, organized an online high-level forum between global women leaders and Afghan women leaders to discuss the situation of women in Afghanistan. The forum was chaired by Minister Margot Wallström and included among the attendees: former UN High Commissioners for Human Rights Navi Pillay and Mary Robinson,



Women in Afghanistan join a march days after the takeover of the country by Taliban forces.

Gloria Steinem, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Leymah Gbowee, former South Korean Foreign Minister Kyung-wha Kang, Christiane Amanpour, Jennifer Lawrence, and many more women leaders. For security reasons, the names of some Afghan attendees were withheld, although some of these brave women signed the public statement that came out of the meeting demanding that governments and humanitarian organizations prioritize women's rights in Afghanistan. **A short video was also created** to amplify the voices of these Afghan women.

This private forum sparked the creation of the Women's Forum on Afghanistan, an ongoing effort to bring Afghan women leaders together with global decision-makers at the United Nations and in governments around the world, supported by the Sisterhood Is Global Institute and chaired by Margot Wallström. The Women's Forum is governed by a Steering Committee largely comprised of Afghan women leaders.

SCALING UP THE FIGHT AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN SOMALIA



A graduation ceremony of a vocational training program organized by GECPD

In 2021 the UN Secretary General's office released two separate reports that highlighted an 80% increase in sexual violence in Somalia. The continuing conflict in Somalia and the resultant increase in access to small arms and growing numbers of internally displaced people have all culminated in making girls and women extremely vulnerable to sexual violence in the country. Sexual violence against women and girls is perpetrated by members of the extremist militant group Al Shabaab, other clan militia and even the government security forces. Added to this, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) continues to be widely practiced in Somalia where 98% of girls and women are cut. The justice system's utter failure to protect victims or follow up on cases has led victims to lose faith and stop reporting cases to the police in the first place.

Amidst these difficult circumstances Donor Direct Action's long-standing partner and grantee of our Efua Dorkenoo Fund to End FGM, the Galkayo Education Center for Peace and Development has worked for over 20 years to educate four communities in Puntland through formal and non-formal education, vocational training, community awareness building programs, direct services and policy advocacy. From its inception GECPD has integrated a

gender perspective into all of its programs, continually sensitizing the community about gender-based violence and FGM.

In 2021, following two decades of success with its programming, GECPD grew exponentially to cover an additional 5 regions in Puntland and Galmudug states and opened 3 new field offices. GECPD now works in 12 districts, compared to 4 districts in previous years. This growth has also brought GECPD greater access to ministries, legislators and policy-makers and an increased ability to influence larger change towards gender equality in Somalia.

In 2021 GECPD strengthened the capacity of 805 service providers, social workers, teachers and other responders in the community to better assist victims of gender-based violence and educate their communities about violence against women. GECPD also worked with eight healthcare facilities in assisting 298 survivors of violence in 2021. Another strategy adopted by GECPD is entrepreneurial training for women. In 2021 GECPD trained 516 women in small businesses like tailoring, beauty parlour and catering. GECPD believes education and economic empowerment of women and girls are the most effective ways to establish a gender equal Somali society.



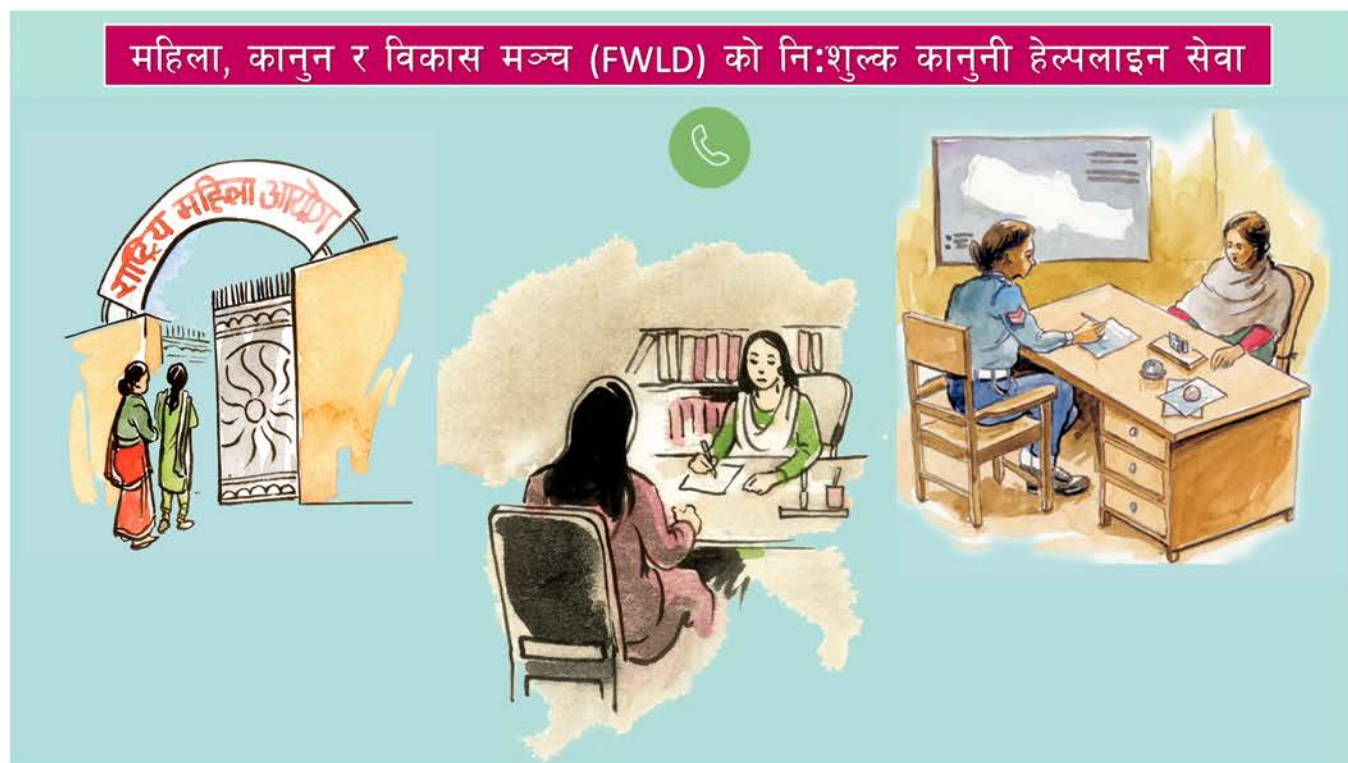
Girls participate in a beauticians vocational training course organized by GECPD

ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR WOMEN DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN IN NEPAL

Forum for Women, Law, and Development (FWLD) was gravely impacted by the explosion of COVID-19 cases in Nepal in 2021. FWLD had launched a pro bono legal helpline service in April 2020 to provide legal consultations to women who were victims of gender-based violence and had no access to legal information during the COVID-19 lock-down. Legal assistance was provided through telephone and email. As of December 2021, FWLD staff had provided legal counselling advice in 1,000 cases.

Through its legal consultations with survivors, FWLD noticed not only an increase in the incidents of gender-based violence during COVID but also the reluctance of law enforcement to properly file and prosecute these cases under the pretext of curtailing the spread of COVID in jails.

In one case of an 11-year old girl who had been raped, the police refused to charge the accused with rape. Instead they registered the case as sexual assault of a minor (which has a lesser sentence) and released the perpetrator on bail as they did not want to put him in prison. In another incident authorities refused to acknowledge a gang-rape incident. Instead they registered the case as a single rape case accusing only one perpetrator and not bringing charges against the other perpetrators involved, again in an attempt to reduce admission to prison. Noting such trends, FWLD strengthened its advocacy for victims of gender-based violence by organizing dialogues at the federal and provincial levels. These events highlighted the challenges that survivors face in accessing justice in the context of COVID-19 and possible solutions that could be implemented to tackle the escalating number of cases.



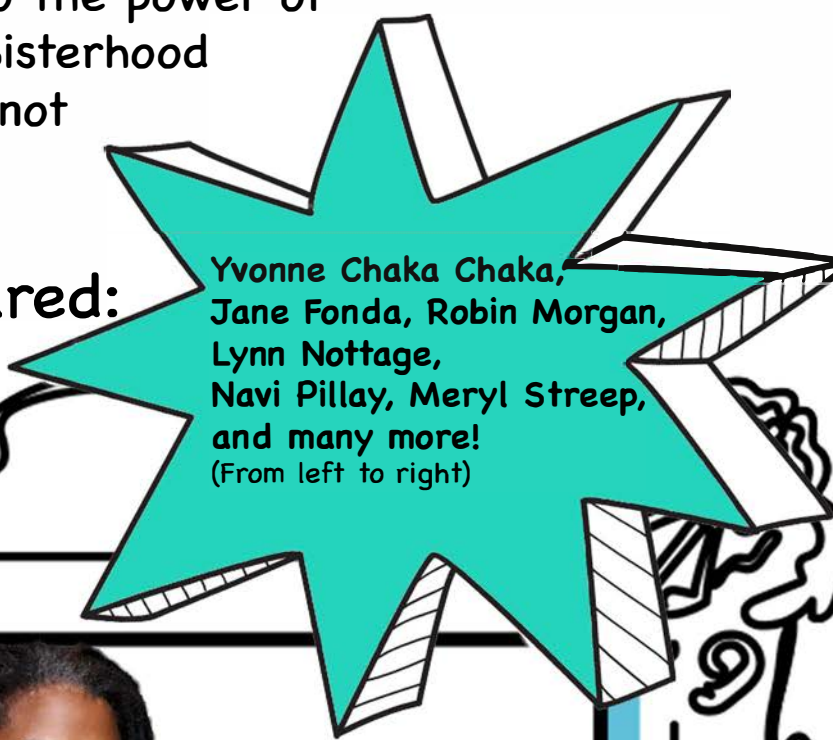
To continue reaching victims of gender-based violence through the lock-down in 2021, FWLD expanded their outreach and communications to include production of over 20 educational videos and infographics. The videos highlight information about free legal aid services, legal protections against domestic violence, defining discriminatory treatment and the legal repercussions of discrimination.



Donor Direct Action Turns 10!

Despite a year of isolation due to COVID-19 we came together in 2021 to provide support, aid and community. Donor Direct Action's 10th Anniversary celebration online was a touching testament to the power of Sisterhood and proof that Sisterhood Is Global even when we cannot be together in person.

The online gala featured:



Yvonne Chaka Chaka,
Jane Fonda, Robin Morgan,
Lynn Nottage,
Navi Pillay, Meryl Streep,
and many more!
(From left to right)



SISTERHOOD IS WEARABLE



Promoting the Sisterhood Is Global T-shirt campaign are:

Kyung wha Kang
Christine Lahti
Mayim Bialik
Gloria Steinem
Alyssa Milano
Margot Wallström
(From left to right)

Jameela Jamil
Delina Cleo
Robin Wright
Pramila Patten
(From left to right)



JOIN THE MOVEMENT
GET YOUR T-SHIRT
www.represent.com/sisterhood

STANDING UP FOR MIGRANT WOMEN WORKERS IN LEBANON



Migrant workers at a rally calling for the dismantling of kafala organized by KAFA (Enough), March 2021

Lebanon, alongside Jordan and most Arab-Gulf states, has a long history of importing foreign labor in a slavery-like practice called *kafala* – a sponsorship program that allows private citizens and businesses almost complete control over workers’ employment and immigration status without any government oversight or regulation. Donor Direct Action’s Lebanese partner KAFA has been on the frontlines fighting for the rights of migrant women workers in Lebanon. For years now KAFA has called for the dismantling of the *kafala* system highlighting the grave discrimination and abuse that migrant workers endure because of it. In its programs KAFA supports migrant domestic workers in Lebanon – women who routinely experience inhuman working conditions, long working hours with no days off, isolation, sexual abuse, violence, and loss of pay. Workers are often unable to leave because they have no money and their documents have been seized by the sponsor.

It is estimated that there are about 250,000 migrant domestic workers in Lebanon. The country’s economic crisis which began in 2019, coupled with the COVID-19 lock down, drastically worsened the situation for hundreds of thousands of domestic workers who have not been paid for months on end. According to KAFA, Lebanon’s bureaucratic judicial process and the long-drawn out legal battles that on average take 5-years for a case to be heard are all deterrents that keep workers from bringing cases to court. With no options to leave and the ongoing psychological trauma, some workers resort to suicide.

Through its programs KAFA runs a shelter for women migrant workers and provides a range of legal, psycho-social and healthcare services. Through its support centers, in 2021 KAFA provided social services in 5056 cases and legal services in 4356 cases.

INCEST AND FORCED PREGNANCY: THE DENIAL OF JUSTICE TO WOMEN IN GUATEMALA

On December 3, 2021, ASOGEN, Donor Direct Action's partner in Guatemala organized a Tribunal of Conscience to remember the case of KM, a 17-year old girl with physical and intellectual disabilities who had been raped by her uncle in 2013. KM became pregnant as a result of the rape which was detected by her mother at 14 weeks. Despite the pregnancy being high-risk, the children's court denied her mother's request for termination of the pregnancy on grounds that KM's life was not in danger. KM was forced to give birth. She could not walk and convulsed when she was pregnant at 8 months. A Cesarean section was performed and she was sterilized after her mother was pressured to sign a consent form without any explanation. Following the procedure KM went into a coma, lost her sight, had momentary memory loss and loss of the use of her legs. A year later, in 2014, after the delivery and when it no longer had any meaning, KM was given a hearing to request a therapeutic abortion. ASOGEN had fought KM's case in court but she was denied justice.



Participants speak at the Tribunal of Conscience organized by ASOGEN, December 3, 2021, Guatemala

The perpetrator went unpunished and KM received no reparations. In December 2021, ASOGEN organized a Tribunal of Conscience - a symbolic tool adopted by the Guatemalan women's movement as a way to preserve historic memory of a violation, raise awareness and build public pressure. Structured like a court case, these tribunals may not have legal authority but they influence public opinion. The tribunal exposed the judges and prosecutors who had participated in KM's case leaving her defenseless and without redress.

EDUCATING THE PERUVIAN YOUNGER GENERATION ON SEXUAL RIGHTS

Manuela Ramos is Peru's leading feminist organization that has worked to promote women's rights in Peru for over four decades. In 2021, Manuela Ramos used its support from Donor Direct Action for the implementation of a Comprehensive Sexuality Education program, which included information about prevention of violence against children and adolescents and eradication of gender stereotypes. Through this program almost 500 teachers from 15 educational institutions in three regions of the country - Lima, Ayacucho and Ucayali – were trained to incorporate comprehensive sexuality education into their work. Additionally, through this program almost 2,000 adolescents and 200



Girls wear masks that promote "A gender-based approach to violence prevention" at an event organized by Manuela Ramos, November 2021

mothers and fathers committed to promote comprehensive sexuality education in their communities.

EFUA DORKENOO FUND TO END FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

In 2017, Donor Direct Action launched the **Efua Dorkenoo Fund to End Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** to address the fact that grassroots activism – key to ending FGM – is disproportionately underfunded. The fund is dedicated to the memory of the late Efua Dorkenoo - a Ghanaian-British women's rights activist who pioneered the global movement to end FGM.

The Gambia



In 2021, with the support of Donor Direct Action, GAMCOTRAP implemented a mentorship program for 5-15 year-old children in conjunction with the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE). The program educated children about FGM, child marriage and other harmful practices that affect girls, and empowered them to raise awareness within their communities. 60 girls and 40 boys were trained in the first cohort. The project also raised awareness amongst teachers, school authorities, parents and guardians, as well as the MoBSE.

Kenya



On International Women's Day, TNI organized an event at the Sakutiek primary school where Maasai women encouraged one another to abandon the harmful practice of FGM.

GRANTEES OF THE FUND TO END FGM

**AMAZONIAN INITIATIVE MOVEMENT (AIM),
SIERRA LEONE**
**GALKAYO EDUCATION CENTER FOR PEACE AND
DEVELOPMENT (GECPD), SOMALIA**
GAMCOTRAP, THE GAMBIA
TASARU NTOMONOK INITIATIVE (TNI), KENYA
VOIX DE FEMMES, BURKINA FASO

Sierra Leone

On December 20, 2021, 21-year old Maseray Sei died of complications a day after undergoing FGM in Bonthe District of Sierra Leone. Maseray was the mother of 2 children. Succumbing to immense peer pressure, Maseray had agreed to undergo FGM. According to the autopsy Maseray suffered "acute hemorrhage shock, profuse bleeding, clitoridectomy and bitten tongue." AIM immediately went to Bonthe district to work with the community and seek justice for the family. AIM educated the chiefs of Maseray's village and other FGM practicing communities in the district. They also conducted awareness training sessions for community members, educated circumcisers and introduced the communities to alternative rites of passage for girls.

Somalia

On February 6, 2021 GECPD organized a panel discussion to raise awareness about the harmful health consequences of FGM. With 98% of women and girls subjected to FGM, Somalia has one of the highest prevalence rates of FGM in the world. On June 13, 2021, 13-year old Fartun Hassan Ahmed bled to death after undergoing FGM in Somalia. With 25 years of experience in the field, GECPD continues to be a key frontline advocate against the harmful traditional practice in Somalia.

GLORIA STEINEM EQUALITY FUND TO END SEX TRAFFICKING

In 2018, Donor Direct Action, in partnership with The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) and SPACE International, launched the **Gloria Steinem Equality Fund to End Sex Trafficking**. This fund was created to address the stark lack of support for frontline women's groups that are working to end the commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls around the world. In 2021 this Fund supported 12 grantees.

SOLWODI, Germany



A young human trafficking survivor in a SOLWODI shelter house who is now able to go to school and get an education.

In 2021, SOLWODI supported 2096 women, a 9% increase from the previous year. SOLWODI provides psycho-social counselling through 19 counselling centers and operates 7 shelters for women who have been victims of human trafficking and violence. In 2021, SOLWODI assisted 194 women from Nigeria who were mostly victims of sex trafficking. SOLWODI also assisted victims of trafficking from Romania, Bulgaria and other Eastern European countries. 96 Afghan women and 24 Ukrainian women sought help in their counseling centers in 2021, and SOLWODI expects these figures to increase considerably in 2022.

SOLWODI is a member of the Alliance for the Nordic Model in Germany, an alliance of more than 45 civil-society organizations and individuals who advocate for the Equality Model in Germany.

GRANTEES OF THE TRAFFICKING FUND

AMADH, ARGENTINA
APNE AAP, INDIA
ASOCIACIÓN LA SUR, SPAIN
ASSOCIAZIONE IROKO ONLUS, ITALY
EMBRACE DIGNITY, SOUTH AFRICA
KAFA, LEBANON
MAITI NEPAL
MARTA CENTRE, LATVIA
NATIONAL SOLIDARITY AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, SOUTH KOREA
RESISTENZA FEMMINISTA, ITALY
SOLWODI, GERMANY
STIGAMOT, SWEDEN

AMADH, Argentina



On April 19, 2021, the leadership of AMADH met with the Head of the Gender Cabinet of the Ministry of Development, the Undersecretary of Entrepreneurship and the Undersecretary of Financing to design joint strategies that will enable women survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking to achieve sustainable economic autonomy.

Resistenza Femminista, Italy



Through 2021 Resistenza Femminista in Italy organized several public speaking discussions to raise awareness about the Equality Model and the abolitionist perspective, highlighting the voices of survivors and activists.

THANK YOU

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has supported Donor Direct Action and the Sisterhood Is Global Institute during the past year including:

Feride Acar	Sophie Hahn	Ethan & Dana Orlinsky
AG Foundation	Noeleen Heyzer	Panorama Global
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Christiane Amanpour	Jana Foundation	Catherine Petercsak
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Abigail Disney	Thomas Mango	Gloria Steinem
Alexandra Ducocq	Jane Manning	Meryl Streep
Anna Ekstedt	Susan Markham	Sheila Sullivan
Christopher Ferguson	Jane Maxwell	Swedish Intl Development Agency
Mary Fleischli	Sandra McQuillen	Sweet Justice Foundation
Jane Fonda	Hanny Megally	Ann Syauta
Ford Foundation	Mickey Meji	Melissa Syring
Talia Frenkel	Carol Michaels	Julie Taymor
Kenneth Franzblau	Giulia Migliori	Tuna Traffic
Jacqueline Gamache	Rob Milburn & Amy Morton	Ruth Turner Fund
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Agnes Gund	Gloria Neuwirth	Jennifer Warburg
Jason Hackmann	Michael Neuwirth	Jonathan Willens
	Lynn Nottage	Alejandro Xalabarder
	NoVo Foundation	Paul Zivney

FINANCIALS*

ASSETS	2021	2020
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$287,900	\$195,620
Pledges receivable	\$150,000	\$450,000
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$54,551	\$31,093
Investments	\$1,743,638	\$1,193,964
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,236,089	\$1,870,677
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accrued expenses	\$28,089	\$32,487
Deferred revenue	\$1,555	\$35,475
Grants payable	-	\$154,500
Total Liabilities	\$29,644	\$222,462
NET ASSETS		
Net assets without donor restrictions	\$1,622,584	\$1,026,884
Net assets with donor restrictions	\$583,861	\$621,331
Total Net Assets	\$2,206,445	\$1,648,215
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$2,236,089	\$1,870,677
Change in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions:		
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Contributions and grants:		
Foundations	\$183,361	\$70,500
Individuals	\$48,460	\$12,821
Governmental	\$124,388	\$19,240
Corporations	-	-
Donated services	\$96,000	\$80,000
Special events, (net)	\$74,496	\$9,511
Service fees	-	\$13,200
Interest income	\$12,011	\$17,712
Realized gain (loss)	-	-
Unrealized loss (gain)	(\$12,337)	\$17,372
Public Support and Revenue Before Releases from Restrictions	\$526,379	\$240,356
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$1,698,628	\$989,423
Total Public Support and Revenue	\$2,225,007	\$1,229,779
EXPENSES		
Program services	\$1,486,764	\$1,073,044
Management and general	\$118,230	\$108,193
Fundraising and development	\$24,312	\$38,004
Total Expenses	\$1,629,306	\$1,219,241
Change in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	\$570,497	\$10,538
NET ASSETS, Beginning of Year	\$1,648,215	\$1,863,225
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$2,206,445	\$1,648,215

* Copies of the complete audited reports may be obtained from Donor Direct Action or from the State of New York, Department of Law, Office of Charities Registration

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El Salvador

Organizacion de Mujeres Salvadorenas
por la Paz (ORMUSA)

Global

SPACE International

Guatemala

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Y Oportunidades (ASOGEN)

Kenya

Tasaru Ntomonok Initiative (TNI)

Latvia

MARTA Resource Centre for Women

Lebanon

KAFA (Enough) Violence & Exploitation

Libya

Libyan Women's Platform for Peace

Nepal

Forum for Women, Law and
Development (FWLD)

Palestine

Women's Centre for Legal Aid and
Counselling (WCLAC)

Peru

Manuela Ramos

Somalia

Galkayo Education Center for Peace
and Development (GECPD)

South Africa

Embrace Dignity

Syria

Syrian Women's Forum for Peace (SWFP)

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