



Empowering Women, Children & Youth

Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF)
Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes (FSMF)



2025

Annual Activity Report



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Creating the power of change - leaving no one behind - woman.ch



Summary

WWSF Annual Activity Report 2025

Presentation

Message from the Founder _____ P3

About us _____ P4

Our Programs and 2025 results

Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life _____ P5

WWSF International Day of Rural Women _____ P6

Portrait of the Laureates awarded in 2025 _____ P7 to P10

WWSF 19 Days Kit of Activism (1-19 November) _____ P11

WWSF World Day - 19 November _____ P12

Community Circles of Compassion _____ P13

Leadership Training Forums "The Woman's Table" & "The Youth Table" _____ P14

Acknowledgement of the Sponsors _____ P15

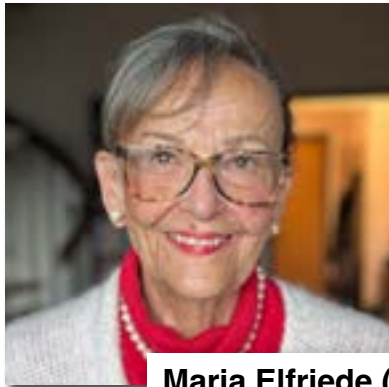
Support us _____ P16



Women's Word Summit Foundation (WWSF)
Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes (FSMF)

Geneva, Switzerland
www.woman.ch
[wwsf\(@\)wwsf.ch](mailto:wwsf(@)wwsf.ch)





Message from the Founder

Dear Friends, Prizewinners & Sponsors,

Maria Elfriede (Elly) PRADERVAND
Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF)
Geneva, Switzerland

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."

2025 was both a challenging and deeply creative year.

We finalized and launched two new initiatives, "The Woman's Table" and "The Youth Table" initiatives, to further support the inclusion of 75% of the world's population: women, children, and youth (6 billion of us) in co-designing new ideas for a new era for change. We had begun supporting the first registered members in launching their own Tables.

We also continued our annual campaigns, including The Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life, with 8 laureates awarded in 2025, marking a milestone of 500 prizewinners honored since the launch of the Prize in 1994, across more than 120 countries.

In addition, we pursued the Community Circles of Compassion initiative, to speed up global spiritual development, leading from our Hearts, serving Humanity.

We proposed also that our 2024 "Violence and abuse against Children and Youth Prevention Kit" is used in 2025, as it offers concrete ideas for civil society action, especially led by children and youth themselves and supported by world leaders, to help create a world fit for children and youth.

All these efforts aim to strengthen our shared responsibility and to ensure progress toward achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

After 35 years (1991–2025) of developing and managing projects and campaigns for a more just world, we express our heartfelt gratitude to our Board members and sponsors, and to our staff, consultants, interns, and volunteers, whose commitment makes our international programs, communications, and ideas for change possible.

Thank you for supporting our work, and never forget:

"The future belongs to those who can give it the most hope."



About us

Discover our initiatives and annual programs

"The future belongs to those who can give it the most Hope."

Founded in 1991, the Women's World Summit Foundation works to advance the rights of women and children. Its mission is to raise awareness among decision-makers (local authorities and governments), strengthen civil society engagement, and empower women, children, and young people to become active participants in co-decision-making processes.

Rooted in the Dakar Declaration "75 Percent", the Foundation's initiatives contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030), advancing a more inclusive world order and the common good for all. The Women's World Summit Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Geneva, Switzerland.

2025 Retrospective

8 laureates awarded in 2025. Reaching 500 laureates honored so far in more than 120 countries.

Continuation of our campaign with 2025 communication materials.

10+ registrations are currently in progress for our two new initiatives. 1 active Table in Nigeria.

Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life



The Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life (1994–2025) and the International Day of Rural Women (15 October, established in 1995) were both created to enhance visibility of rural women recognition and to improve life in rural communities.

[Read more](#)

19 Days Campaign Prevention of Violence & Abuse against Children and Youth



The World Day – 19 November (launched in 2000 in Geneva) and the 19 Days Annual Campaign Kit (1-19 Nov.) (launched in 2010) were created for civil society and NGOs to accelerate action to end violence and abuse against children and youth worldwide.

[Read more](#)

75% Campaign: Leadership Training Forums for Women and Youth



The new initiatives "The Woman's Table" and "The Youth Table" were created as part of the WWSF 75% Campaign to support the integration of women and young people into decision-making processes, based on the WWSF Dakar Workshop 75% Declaration (1994).

[Read more](#)

What is the WWSF Prize

for Women's Creativity in Rural Life 1994-2025

An award to honor women's creativity, courage and compassion.

The "Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life", created in 1994 by WWSF in Geneva, annually selects from nominations received of creative rural women leaders and actors, for WWSF to select prize candidates who help to advance and improve the quality of life in rural communities.

The prize award of US\$ 1000 per laureate represents our solidarity contribution for efforts and obstacles overcome, and is not meant to be a project fund, although in many cases the prize money is re-invested in the laureates' projects.

Each year on "International Day of Rural Women – 15 October", WWSF honors its annually selected laureates with the Prize, and receives messages and images from their local celebrations.



India



Italy



Kenya



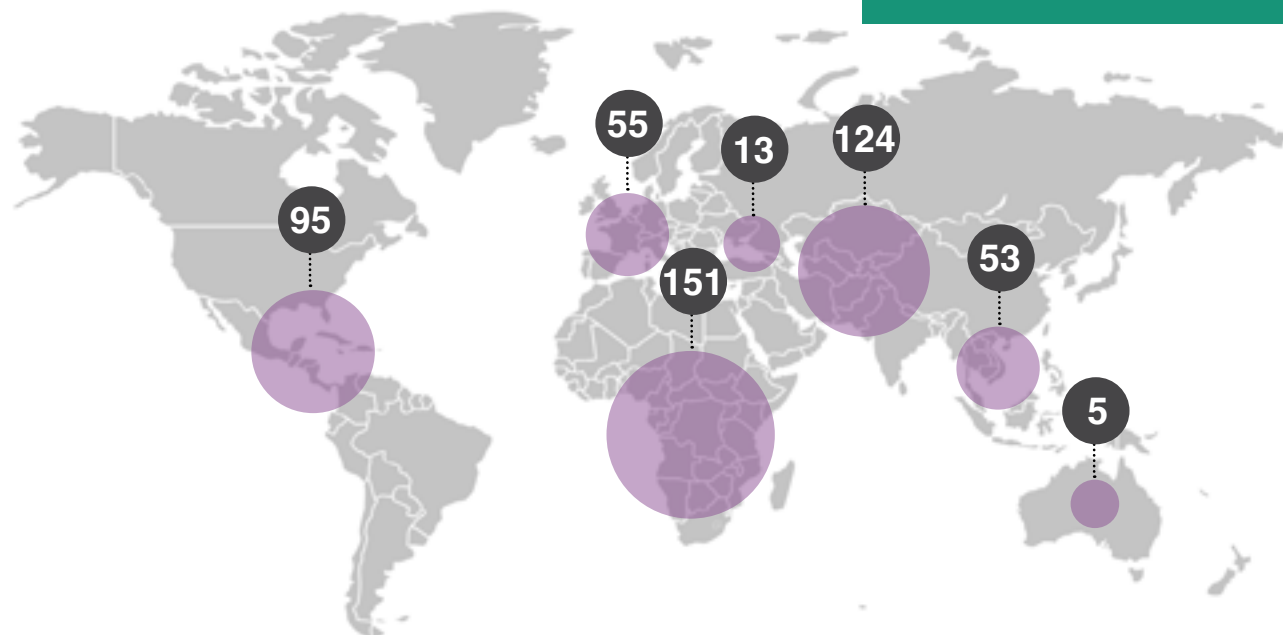
Peru



Award Ceremony in Geneva for SEWA, India

Examples of Prizewinners from around the world

Over 500 prizes have been awarded to date in more than 120 countries, across 30+ years of history.



WWSF World Day

International Day of Rural Women - 15 October

The International Day of Rural Women – 15 October was celebrated through a Zoom event honoring the 8 laureates of the 2025 Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life. The event was animated by testimonies from the laureates, who are making significant contributions to sustainable development and women's empowerment through initiatives in agriculture, renewable energy, and community development.

In partnership with civil society organizations during the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, WWSF created the International Day of Rural Women - 15th October. In 2007, the Day was declared an official UN Day by the UN General Assembly. WWSF took the lead in mobilizing governments around the world and fundraised for the development of the 15 October campaign program.

Organizing the International Day of Rural Women in rural communities is an opportunity to raise public awareness and remind governments about the important role rural women play in development, household food security, preserving traditional knowledge, biodiversity, peace-building, and more, and to prioritize actions that support them.



15 October 1999 - International Day of Rural Women Celebration by Association Vivogbe, Benin





AMAKA UGWU Juliana (45)
Nigeria

Pioneering Sustainable Farming Solutions
This project supports the following SDGs

"I want to make a positive impact in the area of pest management... I have a vision to minimize chemical pesticide use by developing environmentally friendly approaches."

Professor Juliana Amaka Ugwu, a member of the Nigerian Women in Agricultural Research for Development (NiWARD), is committed to promoting sustainable agriculture in Nigeria by reducing chemical pesticide use. She combines scientific innovation with community engagement to improve farming practices. Through her initiatives, Juliana has trained over 200 rural women in poultry farming, snail farming, and small-scale agribusiness. She also provides food-processing machines to widows, boosting food security and household income. Her workshops integrate STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education, digital literacy, and work-life balance, empowering women and youth in underserved communities to build new skills. As a Research Professor of Forest Entomology at the Federal College of Forestry, Ibadan, Juliana focuses on developing affordable, plant-based biopesticides using botanical extracts. These eco-friendly solutions enhance crop yields while reducing reliance on harmful chemicals.



HARP ITURRIBARRIA Maria Lorena (62)
Mexico

Empowering Communities for a Healthier Future
This project supports the following SDGs

"I aim to empower communities with sustainable solar cooking, improving health and fostering lasting change."

Maria Lorena Harp Iturribarria has introduced solar cooking to rural families through Solar Household Energy (SHE). By reducing reliance on gas and firewood, her efforts have lowered energy costs, decreased indoor pollution, and protected women and children from health risks linked to open-fire cooking, identified by the United Nations and the World Health Organization as a leading global health hazard. Through local demonstrations and hands-on training, Lorena empowered communities to adopt solar cookers as clean, cost-effective alternatives. These cookers are used to prepare meals, heat bath water, roast seeds, dye wool, and even make organic beauty products, expanding their utility. Lorena built a network of partners and educators to ensure long-term impact, and she designed improved cooker models, including smaller versions for children, making sustainable living a family-centered practice. By using solar cooking herself, she set a powerful example. Her perseverance has made solar cooking widely accepted and accessible at the grassroots level.



MUKANSANGA Eugenie (53)
Rwanda

Reducing Gender-Based Violence with Clean Water Access
This project supports the following SDGs

"I aim to create lasting change by empowering women through clean water access, reducing violence, and fostering community growth."

Since its launch, the Bright Future initiative led by Eugenie Mukansanga has provided 250 households in Agateko Cell, Rwanda, with direct access to clean water through a nearby tap point. This has reduced the time women and girls spend collecting water and lowered the risk of gender-based violence during travel. Reports of assaults have dropped, and 30 vulnerable households now receive free water and soap. Over 250 individuals, primarily rural women, have been trained in gender rights, hygiene, and small business skills. Family conflicts have decreased as couples engage in gender balance workshops, sharing responsibilities more equitably. Bright Future is a community-driven project addressing gender-based violence through clean water access, public awareness, and support services. Despite challenges like limited funding and cultural skepticism, Eugenie successfully forged partnerships with WASAC (Rwanda's national water utility), local leaders, and health workers. Her work is transforming social norms, fostering inclusion, and improving the community's well-being.



RODRIGUES Nelly (64)
India

A Vision for Rural Progress
This project supports the following SDGs

"Transforming rural life by empowering women to lead, build self-reliance, and drive community development."

Through years of community-based action, Nelly Rodrigues has transformed rural life in Goa, India, empowering thousands of women to move beyond traditional housewife roles and actively contribute to the social, economic, and political development of their communities. Her initiatives have led to the creation of self-help groups, vocational training, healthcare sessions, and career guidance for girls, boosting women's self-reliance and participation in local decision-making. With a background in education and activism, Nelly has partnered with government agencies, NGOs, and associations to address grassroots challenges. As president of a prominent community club in Goa, she launched local facilities like a computer center, library, senior citizen hub, and more, strengthening rural infrastructure and services. Now serving as President of the Association of Local Government of India, Nelly continues to encourage rural women to take on leadership roles. Her focus on confidence-building and skills development has made women and girls agents of change.



KOUTANGNI Adideme (44)

Togo

Solar Power Transforming Rural Healthcare

This project supports the following SDGs

Over 100,000 people in rural Togo now benefit from improved healthcare access thanks to the solar electrification of 14 health centers led by Adideme Koutangni. Since 2023, she has directed Solafrica's Solar Health program, installing photovoltaic systems in remote clinics and training communities in their upkeep. This model not only enhances care, particularly for women and children, but also ensures long-term sustainability through local ownership. Adideme leads inclusive implementation by organizing field visits, selecting beneficiaries, overseeing installations, and training women as community health workers. Her engagement with traditional leaders and health collectives builds trust and secures community support in a field where women's leadership is rare. As founder of the Kekeli-Miig Association, she furthers women's autonomy by offering free vocational training and supporting income-generating initiatives. The group also provides school supplies to disadvantaged children, reinforcing its community commitment. Adideme's persistence and strategic thinking help her navigate logistical hurdles, resource constraints, and cross-sector collaboration.



AKUT MAJAK Nqueny (23)

Uganda

Changing the Narrative for Rural and Refugee Girls

This project supports the following SDGs

"My initiative aim to empower rural girls with skills, confidence, and support to lead and thrive in their communities."

Since 2023, the "Learn Lead Thrive" project has directly supported over 100 rural girls and reached 265 more in Kampala and the Kiryandongo refugee settlement in Uganda. The initiative provides hygiene kits, connects girls to vocational training centers, and teaches practical skills like carpentry, welding, computer literacy, cooking, soap making, and weaving. It also offers mentorship and mental health support, helping girls stay in school and build confidence. So far, it has led to the creation of seven small businesses and encouraged ten girls to take on leadership roles in their communities. As a South Sudanese refugee and student at Makerere University, Nqueny Akut Majak brings lived experience to her advocacy for girls' education and inclusion. Her project, part of the Young Alumni Engagement, Umurage Growth initiative, focuses on accessible, practical solutions for underserved youth. She received a DAFI scholarship (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) and has since supported 15 fellow students in securing similar scholarships.



CHEPTOO Regina (24)

Kenya

Strength in Soil and Solidarity

This project supports the following SDGs

Regina has transformed the lives of over 2,000 beneficiaries in West Pokot County, Kenya, through integrated programs focused on health, economic empowerment, and environmental sustainability. Her financial literacy and skills training workshops have empowered more than 150 survivors of gender-based violence to start businesses, adopt regenerative agriculture, and gain financial independence. Her organization, Jenga Jamii, champions women's economic cooperatives, climate education, and sustainable farming tailored to pastoralist women and youth in underserved rural areas. These efforts address immediate vulnerabilities while building long-term resilience against climate and socio-economic challenges, benefiting hundreds of households and their communities. Engaged in community service from a young age, Regina founded Jenga Jamii to empower marginalized women and girls through health education, economic inclusion, and climate resilience. She leads initiatives targeting at-risk teenage girls and unemployed rural women, driven by her own experience in a community where female genital mutilation and silencing of women persist, fueling her commitment to dignity, education, and autonomy.



BARAL Jaysara (49)

Nepal

Bees, Biodiversity, and Empowerment

This project supports the following SDGs

"I believe when women work with nature, they don't just grow food, they grow strength, purpose, and community."

Through her work in beekeeping and sustainable agriculture, Jaysara has strengthened biodiversity, food security, and women's empowerment in her Nepali community. Her leadership has helped rural women gain practical skills and earn income through honey production and organic farming. As a partner in BlinkNow's sustainability program, which promotes eco-conscious practices in education, agriculture, and community development, Jaysara mentors women and works with schools to deliver hands-on learning in composting, kitchen gardening, and sustainable living. Her efforts encourage families and youth to adopt environmentally responsible habits, supporting long-term resilience. Despite challenges like limited funding and operational demands, Jaysara remains committed to advancing financial independence and leadership among the women she supports. She transforms traditional roles through inclusive, nature-based approaches to rural development. Her innovation lies in linking beekeeping with education, biodiversity, and organic farming, creating a model that is both socially empowering and ecologically sustainable, building stronger, more self-reliant rural communities.

WWSF Kit 19 Days of Activism 1-19 Nov.

for prevention of violence and abuse against children & youth

A world fit for children & youth must become a priority

In 2025, WWSF proposed that the 2024 Prevention Kit continue to be used, as it provides concrete ideas for civil society action, especially initiatives led by children and youth themselves, supported by world leaders, to help create a world fit for children and youth.

With a child dying every five minutes as a result of violence, it is vital to mobilize not only governments, but also youth, faith-based actors, and all concerned citizens.

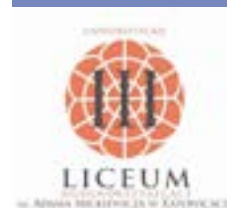
We invite civil society organizations and NGOs to organize awareness-raising activities in their communities using our communication materials and the UN CRC. The 19 Days Kit of Activism includes 19 themes with practical ideas for action, encouraging youth engagement, interfaith collaboration, and meaningful local initiatives to protect and empower children and youth.

A selected example 19 Days Campaign 2025: Preventing Cyberbullying and Digital Violence

“Adam Mickiewicz 3rd Upper Secondary School” in Katowice, Poland, focused its activities on the prevention of cyberbullying and digital violence.

The initiative highlighted that violence against children is not limited to physical acts but also includes harmful behaviours in digital spaces. Through prevention sessions and educational lectures held at the school, students explored the legal, psychological, and social dimensions of online violence. A key speaker was Vice Minister of Digitalization, Michał Gramatyka, who addressed the growing impact of digital violence and the importance of awareness and prevention.

The campaign concluded on 19 November, the International Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse, marked nationwide by the illumination of public buildings in red, a symbol of collective opposition to violence against children.



19 Days Campaign: sensibilisation on online violence with Vice Minister of Digitalization, Michał Gramatyka, Poland



19 November: illumination of public buildings in red to support the end of violence against children.

WWSF World Day - 19 Nov.

for prevention of violence and abuse against children & youth

The World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse - 19 November, was launched by WWSF in 2000, in Geneva, to raise awareness and support for local and national initiatives that contribute to achieving a world fit for children. In 2025, we continued to support the Day through our prevention campaign and communication tools (see poster below).

In 2010, WWSF launched the 19 Days Kit: 19 Days of Activism for the Prevention of Violence Against Children and Youth, an annual campaign running from 1 to 19 November. The Kit provides a practical resource to organize prevention events and to hold leaders accountable for protecting children and youth.

In 2016, the UN adopted the Sustainable Development Goal Target 16.2. The Day was established to strengthen and accelerate efforts to prevent violence against children and youth worldwide.

UN Sustainable Development Goal Target 16.2

“End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against children.”

WWSF is committed to advancing this goal worldwide through programs that raise awareness, support local and national initiatives, and empower children, youth, and communities to better prevent violence.



Community Circle of Compassion

An initiative to help increase our capital of compassion

Let's empower the world compassionately!

In 2025, WWSF continued its Circle of Compassion initiative, welcoming 7 new member organizations from around the world.

In too many places today, children and youth continue to face increasing levels of violence and abuse, drifting into unacceptable forms of harm. The "Creating Community Circles of Compassion" initiative was developed to strengthen our collective capacity for compassion and to foster a world that is safe and nurturing for all children, in line with UN Sustainable Development Goal Target 16.2.

Through this initiative, WWSF encourages civil society organizations, NGOs, schools and faith-based organizations globally to join the movement. By participating, organizations contribute to a growing network dedicated to protecting children, supporting youth, and building resilient communities grounded in empathy, understanding, and shared responsibility.

What is a Circle of Compassion?

"When people gather in circles, the illusion of separation dissolves. We remember that we are not alone." Inspired by Beverly Engel's Women Circling the Earth.

Circles offer an alternative to hierarchical systems, fostering mutual respect, emotional safety, and co-leadership. They provide simple yet powerful tools for:

- Listening without judgment
- Fostering empathy, understanding, and cooperation
- Finding creative solutions to shared problems



"Circle of Compassion" of "Gender and Protection of Victims of Armed Conflicts, DR Congo" Association, participating in the international Day of the African Child



"Circle of Compassion" of "Youth in Action for Peace and Integrated Development" Association, DR Congo

Leadership Training Forums

"The Woman's Table" & "The Youth Table" initiatives

Turning ideas into action for the common good for all

In the last quarter of 2025, WWSF launched two new initiatives as part of the 75% Campaign, building on our original message: "75% of the world population, women, children, and youth (6 billion), need to be included in co-designing new ideas for a new era for change."

By the end of 2025, WWSF recorded over 10 registrations, with the Table creation process currently ongoing, including an active Table in the Democratic Republic of Congo addressing the challenges faced by rural women.

Through these initiatives, WWSF aims to strengthen civil society participation, increase women's and youth leadership trainings, and collaboration by creating inclusive spaces where members can share ideas, develop critical thinking skills, and take action. Participants are invited to create projects that address local needs and innovative solutions, contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Agenda 2030. WWSF is committed to supporting projects that emerge from these initiatives, helping ideas generated by women, children, and youth grow into sustainable partnerships.



The creation of the "Rural Women's Centre" CODEFER ONGC Association - DR Congo

This initiative focuses on the economic empowerment of rural women in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - Agenda 2030.

Through "The Woman's Table" initiative, WWSF supports the CODEFER ONGD project by ensuring the follow-up of discussions and actions led by working groups.

First meeting "The Woman's Table" CODEFER ONGC, RDC



Acknowledgement of selected Sponsors

Thanks to the many generous sponsors and friends who have supported us from the very beginning, WWSF has been able to continue and expand its programs in support of the rights of women and children. There are many more generous sponsors and we express gratitude from the heart to all of them.

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Interested in supporting us?



Women's Word Summit Foundation (WWSF)
Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes (FSMF)
PO Box 1504, 1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland

Banque Cantonale de Genève
Quai de l'Île 17 - CP 2251
1211 Geneva 2
SWIFT : BCGECHGGXXX
IBAN : CH19 0078 8000 0507 0141 2





In gratitude, WWSF expresses thanks
to all who have participated and supported our initiatives since 1991,
and we hope they will continue in the future.

Honoring and helping to increase the leadership of women and youth
is a valuable contribution to creating a world for the common Good for All.