Press Release - 1 October 2022 presenting 4 Laureates receiving the annual

WWSF Prize for women's creativity in rural life

followed by a brief presentation of WWSF 4 annual campaign programs

Organizer: Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) PO Box 1504, 1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland <u>www.woman.ch</u> – wdpca@wwsf.ch Tel. +41 (0) 738 66 19 (476 Prizes awarded to-date 1994-2022, US\$ 1000 per prizewinner, honoring creativity, courage & compassion to help improve and advance life in rural communities and celebrate the **International Day of Rural Women - 15 October 2022.**

Empowered rural women can change the world & help realize the UN SDGs







Profiles of the 4 Prizewinners 2022

AFRICA



RENNER Victoria (51) Sierra Leone





As founder and director of the Association for Women and Children at Risk (AWCR), a charity in Sierra Leone, created in 2015, that thrives for a society where women and children live a

successful life free from fear, discrimination, intimidation, and poverty. Rural women are empowered with skills, information, sustainable livelihoods, opportunities to fulfill their potential and their capacity to make transformed choices with the aim to promote women's leadership.

Victoria has coordinated agricultural activities with rural women, including war widows, survivors of gender-based violence, Ebola survivors and natural disasters such as flood- and mudslides survivors. She has empowered more than 300 survivors at different levels/stages of their journey. In addition, Victoria has worked with disadvantaged girls in creating safe spaces with both in and out of school, training early school leavers with skills like tie dye/batik, beat work and other training in agriculture. Projects focus on developing rural communities, especially with girls forced into early marriage/teenage mothers and marginalized women.

In her desire of contributing to making conducive learning spaces, she is an astute advocate for water supply, sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools through the commemorations of Menstrual Hygiene Day which her organization observes annually.

Her contribution helps to reach the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030: # 1, # 2, # 3, # 4, # 5, and # 6





ASSOCIATION WOMEN LEADERS of the Littoral Cameroon

A movement of great solidarity " MUATO PROJECT"



The association is an organization under Cameroonian law that works for the multifaceted support of vulnerable women (victims of violence, out-of-school girls, girlmothers, and internally displaced women) in the Littoral region.

While women make up half of the population, they receive a very small share of public investment and are disadvantaged by a range of socio-cultural, regulatory and institutional factors. Thus, it is not surprising that there is a gender differentiation in poverty and economic prosperity, and that women in general, and rural women are the most affected.

Their project is about reducing rural poverty and promote social inclusion, greater gender equity and sustainable development. The Association works to:

- Popularize agricultural and modern breeding techniques (fish farming, rabbit and pig breeding, beekeeping, processing of tuber crops into flour) to increase the social well-being of populations in rural communes of BONALEA and DIBOMBARI
- Supervise and guarantee the monitoring and evaluation of these enterprises
- Strengthen the economic fabric of most rural communes (bring the female populations to a mechanized agropastoral standard, and reduce the drudgery of work)
- Train women and men and traditional authorities on family law with national texts for the protection of women and the family, ending gender-based violence and its harmful effects on women and children
- Facilitate the marketing of their products in the space and commercial networking of F2L algorithms
- Establish a small business incubator in the department.

Their contributions help reach the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal # 1, # 2, # 3, # 4, # 5, # 8, # 15





OTU ROBERT Rita (42) Nigeria

A visionary feminist for rural communities



Rita is an international award-winning agriculturalist, environmentalist and a feminist. Her roots run deep.

In the face of tragedy and difficulty she has consistently displayed inspiring resilience, strength, and courage. She grew up in a fifth-generation farming family where her dad was the exporter of cocoa, palm oil and palm kernel in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. This was where she realized her connection with agrobusiness and her rekindled interest in agriculture. She took her experience and knowledge gained at home and she headed for the University of Calabar Nigeria where she graduated with a B.A. in Agricultural Economics/Extension, which later lead to a permanent position with the National Association of Agricultural Students as the Vice President of the Faculty, where she focused her research on Economics and Agriculture.

After gaining her master's degree in the UK, she returned to Nigeria and founded **Beau Haven Farms**, a profit-making organization with the goal of helping to end hunger and poverty in Nigeria. Beau Haven Farms grow corn, cucumbers, cassava, pepper, plantain, cocoyam and vegetables. The goals of the farm are to:

- Educate consumers about how their food is grown
- Create innovative educational materials for teachers and students
- Provide mentoring opportunities, and
- **Provide** leadership opportunities for the Girls Farmers Club (GFC).

Her wish is to help build a social movement of more than 10 million Agro activists for Africa.

Under her leadership, "# SHE's Empowered through agriculture", a local initiative by the PEAS Foundation in 2013, Rita empowers and upgrades livelihoods of rural women and girls in her community. The project has enabled 50'000 women especially widows to build their financial, technical, and entrepreneurial skills and provided them with the self-confidence they need to start their own commercial cassava farms in the Akwa Ibom State.

As a farm girl, Rita understands the need to promote and create awareness of the agricultural industry to engage with future generations. Using her creativity and passion for agriculture, Rita celebrates Nigerian agriculture through unique photos of women farmers and hopes that by telling positive stories she will start important conversations around food and fiber production.

Rita's contribution helps reach the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal # 1, # 2, # 3, # 4, # 5, # 8, # 15



ASIA



PETER Christina (54) Pakistan

A precious energy for humanity



Christina started her NGO named AWARD (Association for Women's Awareness and Rural Development) with a dream of making women aware of their rights and changing the economic situation of poor rural women.

During the last 27 years, through her organization AWARD and under 5 thematic areas, she has been able to open 130 vocational training schools in 130 villages of Punjab and KPK to train 7'000 young school dropout girls. She also initiated a small micro credit program and a small business grants program for nearly 4'500 women and 1'300 young people to open small businesses, respectively.

Christina has also helped 2'000 rural children to get to schools and continue their education. Through several interventions, she has been able to sensitize 45'000 women and men on women's rights, on women protection laws and effects of early age marriages. Moreover, to alleviate the gender inequality from the society and community members, numerous human rights workshops were conducted in the rural areas with rural communities, especially with male members to bring vivid change in rigid mindsets.

Furthermore, she served thousands of affected, vulnerable and deserving people during the earthquake 2005, the flood 2010, and COVID-19 with food and non-food items and shelter. Under her leadership, all these programs have created a great impact in the lives of the communities especially for rural women.

AWARD also cares for the preservation of the environment and planted 722'656 trees in various districts of the province Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhaw, following the vision to stop deforestation, including 7 million fruit and non-fruit trees in the earthquake affected areas of the District Mansehra in 2005; 12'000 trees in flood affected areas of the District Muzzafargarh in 2021; and the rest of the trees were planted in the Districts of Faisalabad and Toba Tek Singh.

With AWARD, Christina is contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda, especially the targets # 1, # 2, # 3, # 4, # 5, # 10, # 13, # 15, # 16



WHY A PRIZE FOR WOMEN'S CREATIVITY IN RURAL LIFE



The WWSF Prize was launched in 1994 by the Women's World Summit Foundation to annually identify and award creative and courageous rural women leaders and groups that help to advance and improve the quality of life in rural communities around the world. It's been an interesting and rewarding program over almost 30 years. In some cases, the Prize has enhanced the status and visibility of the laureates and moved them into positions of decision-making at local and/or national level.

The award of 1000 US dollars per laureate represents our solidarity contribution for their 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.

To achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda 2030, rural women are key in delivering results with their courage, determination and compassion. They need our solidarity as they face increased challenges with a rapidly changing climate affecting their livelihoods, pandemic outbursts and ongoing conflicts and wars around the world.



WWSF extends gratitude to all who send us nominations of candidates arriving from many corners of the world, from which we select 5 to 10 prizewinners yearly. We also express gratitude to our sponsors, staff and friends who make our empowerment programs possible.

Brief presentation of the four WWSF annual campaigns *Creating the power for Change*

1) WHY AN ANNUAL CAMPAIGN: <u>17 DAYS</u> OF ACTIVISM FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN LEADERS & THEIR COMMUNITIES 1-17 OCTOBER

The annual **Campaign Kit** presents 17 themes for the empowerment of rural women leaders and their communities, published free of charge on our website <u>https://www.woman.ch/</u>

Your network is invited to use the Kit and its 17 themes to organize local and national events, discussions to increase local and national activities to speed up rural development, training in leadership, and holding leaders to account for the many promises made at numerous UN conferences and world events to focus on their conditions of continued poverty, inequality, lack of credit, tools, ICT training and visibility to improve the quality of life for them and their families.



WHY <u>AN ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DAY</u> OF RURAL WOMEN - <u>15 OCTOBER</u>

Co-created in **1995** at the Beijing 4th World Women's Conference by WWSF and 2 other NGOs, has as its purpose to empower Rural Women's groups around the world to claim their right to sustainable development, equality peace and a safe environment. In 2007, the UN General Assembly declared the Day an official annual UN Day.





WWSF choses to award its annual **Prize for women's creativity in rural life on 15 October.** Send the poster to your network and friends to create visibility of our sisters struggling in rural communities for a better future, recognizing their contributions and love for humanity.

2) WHY A 19 DAYS CAMPAIGN FOR PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE & ABUSE AGAINST CHILDREN & YOUTH 1-19 NOVEMBER

WWSF decided after the launch of the World Day 19 November to publish an annual Prevention Kit to empower our network, families, youth and religious leaders to use the 19 themes and ideas for action presented in the Kit to organize action for better prevention measures of abuse and violence against children and youth. Every year we publish an updated 19 Days Kit and promote the creation of a world fit for children and youth – the time is NOW for that achievement.



The UN SDG target # 16.2 reminds all of us of our duty

"End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children »

Research shows that abuse and maltreatment can lead to life-long physical and mental health problems, lower educational achievement and can even affect a child's brain development. Victims of violence are more likely to become future perpetrators, feeding a cycle that consumes lives.

"In addition, there are large economic effects. Countries that do not address issues of violence against children end up losing significant amounts of money. Physical, psychological, and soxual violence against children can cost governments up to US\$ 7 tri

psychological, and sexual violence against children can cost governments up to US\$ 7 trillion a year".



Violence against children - Facts & figures 2021 (source: UN SDG Target #16.2)

- Violence against children affects more than 1 billion children around the world and costs societies up to US\$ 7 trillion a year
- 50% of the world's children experience violence every year
- Every 5 minutes, somewhere in the world, a child is killed by violence
- 1 in 10 children is sexually abused before the age of 18
- 9 in 10 children live in countries where corporal punishment is not fully prohibited, leaving 732 million children without legal protection
- 1 in 3 internet users worldwide is a child and 800 million of them use social media. Any child can become a victim of online violence
- Child online sexual abuse reports to NCMEC* has grown from 1 million in 2014 to 45 million in 2018
- 246 million children worldwide affected by school-related violence each year
- 1 in 3 students has been bullied by their peers at school in the last month, and at least 1 in 10 children have experienced cyberbullying *(NCME: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (USA)

Cover Page of the 19 Days Campaign Kit, available on our website http://www.woman.ch/



Days of activism for prevention of abuse and violence against children/youth Jours d'activisme pour la prévention des abus/violence envers enfants/jeunes Días de activismo para la prevencíon del abuso/violencia contra los niños/jóven Tage Aktivismus Prävention von Missbrauch/Gewalt gegen Kinder/Jugendliche 1-19 November





WHY <u>A WORLD DAY FOR PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE & ABUSE</u> AGAINST CHILDREN & YOUTH - 19 NOVEMBER

Launched in 2000 in Intl. Geneva (at Temple de Fusterie), WWSF promotes the Day to help advance implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and draw attention to the alarming abuse & violence children & youth face around the world. WWSF created an international network to promote the Day for local and national events, education for better prevention and holding governments accountable to their obligation to protect children and youth from dangerous forms of violence around the world.





Commemorate the Day and share it with your networks, colleagues, family and friends. The children are waiting for better protection and prevention of abuse and violence. You will find the Poster on our website with a letter on how to make use of it in your community and country. WWSF also proposes <u>online</u> the creation of Community Circles of Compassion.



It takes compassion to end violence against children & youth

SDG Target 16.2 needs our contributions ! www.woman.ch - wdpca@wwsf.ch

3) WHY A <u>SWISS CAMPAIGN</u> WHITE RIBBON-YOUTH ENGAGE

For the elimination of violence against women and youth - Horizon 2030



The **Swiss White Ribbon campaign** prepared a "**365 Days Toolkit with 16 themes**" to inform and educate the public and especially the youth to mobilize their peers and friends to make a pledge "not to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and youth in our country.

1 in 5 women experience physical, psychological or sexual violence in her relationships and 2 women are killed every month by their partners in Switzerland.

Even in our beautiful country, which has recently been selected as having the highest living standard in the world, we struggle to make Switzerland a country free of violence and abuse against children and youth.

So, what do we propose:

- get informed about the different forms of violence
- use our 365 Days Toolkit & learn about the 16 themes for better prevention
- make a moral pledge "not to commit, condone or remain silent about violence"
- take part in training programs to learn how to speak about the problem and volunteer
- become a White Ribbon member, volunteer or sponsor
- mobilize your family, friends, colleagues, business leaders and teachers
- wear a white Ribbon pin and draw attention to the change we want to create

State governments must exercise their due diligence obligation and protect women and youth, human rights defenders, activists and women's organizations who are regularly harassed, intimidated and subjected to violence for defending their rights and promoting equality. The level and frequency of violence against them should raise alarm bells everywhere. It is, and should be, a public policy and a human rights priority. WWSF created a website in German and French, our main national languages, and we suggest that you contact and follow us on social media and join the campaign as soon as possible, if you have not yet done so.

<u>Contact</u>: Swiss White Ribbon, use our website: <u>www.ruban-blanc.ch</u> Address: Ruben Blanc CH, C.P.1504, 1211 Genève 1, Switzerland - Tel: +41 (0) 738 66 19 Contact(at)ruban-blanc.ch – contact(at)weisse-schleife.ch 4) WHY THE 75% CAMPAIGN Women, children & youth, representing 75 % of the world population, rise & claim a seat at The Table <u>6 billion strong can no longer be ignored.</u>

Read the concept note https://www.woman.ch/concept-note-vision-mission-and-objective/

Join the campaign & support our upcoming Leadership Training for women & youth in International Geneva



75% of the world population is the world's largest constituency with little, or no say in most decision-making processes shaping the economic, social and political environment we live in. We are expecting from world leaders to change course so that our children and grandchildren will not inherit the unstable and fragile world we live in today. Women who give birth to all humanity deserve to co-design with men a new era for sustainable development, equality and peace. Exclusion and discrimination must end, and "women and youth in co-leadership must become the norm".

Upon registration, you will receive our regular WWSF Newsletters and social media alerts, sharing developments of the 75% campaign, including information about future steps in preparation.

When women, children & youth rise & unite to create a more just world, it will be a force such as the world has never known.



Contact us: **Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF)** PO Box 1504, 1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland – <u>www.woman.ch</u> <u>secretariat@wwsf.ch</u> - Tel. +41 (0)22 738 66 19 – UN ECOSOC status

CHF IBAN: CH1900788000050701412 - USA IBAN: CH8900788000050701413 – PayPal wwsf

Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes (FSMF) Creating the power for change! Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

About Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF)

Mission & objectives of annual campaigns briefly described below and on our website: www.woman.ch

The Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) is a not-for-profit, international, humanitarian, lay, and non-governmental organization with UN consultative status (ECOSOC, UNFAP and DPI). Since 1991, WWSF serves with its annual campaigns, action kits, prize awards & Round Tables for the advancement of women and children's rights, and advocates for a world where 75% of the world population has a seat at the Table.

Via its international network and annual Calls for action, WWSF contributes to the empowerment, capacity building, and education for better prevention measures to eliminate violence against women, children, and youth, and ending rural poverty, and moving civil society actors into greater partnerships with governments to increase activism and ensure that the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 is realized.

WWSF activities are coordinated by a secretariat based in International Geneva that deals with program development, management, fundraising, communications and relationships with members, donors, NGOs, staff, the media, and the United Nations. The secretariat also manages relations with Board Directors, Advisory members, Prizewinners, and active campaign coalition member organizations and networks, as well as with Swiss White Ribbon Campaign actors, who pledge the elimination of violence against women and youth by 2030.

WWSF convenes 4 annual campaigns, 2 prize awards, and 2 World Days, described briefly below.

1) 75% Actors 4 Good International (launched in 2021 - 75% A4GI) with yearly Forums in Intl. Geneva



s femmes, enfants & jeunes représentent 75% de la population et revendiquent le droit à la parc s mujeres, niños & jóvenes representan el 75% de la población y reclaman un puesto en la l Frauen, Kinder & Jugendliche machen 75% der Bevölkerung aus & haben Anspruch auf einen Plat: am Verhandlungstisch 8 March

We are expecting from world leaders to change course so that our children and grandchildren will not inherit the unstable and fragile world we live in. Women who give birth to all humanity deserve a seat at the Table to organize for a more equitable world community by including 75% in co-designing, together with men, the space in which we can live without fear and pain. WWSF invites "Actors 4 Good international" to share their work, inspire the world and create an unstoppable movement for the inclusion of women's leadership at all decision-making tables.

2) 17 Days of activism for the empowerment of rural women and their communities (1-17 October)



WWSF seeks to mobilize via its 17 Days of activism Kit (17 themes) women leaders in rural areas and communities. This annual empowerment campaign is designed to increase local and national activities and to stimulate rural women's claim for the basic right to development while connecting their local campaigns with the relevant SDG targets for 2030. WWSF awards an annual Prize (US\$ 1000 per prizewinner) to creative rural women leaders and grassroots groups, giving credit where it's due. Prizewinners are published at www.woman.ch (472 Laureates awarded to date). A Rural Women Movements Prize was launched in 2017 and honored SEWA (India) with a first award in International Geneva (US\$ 10'000). WWSF co-created at the Beijing Conference (1995) the International Day of Rural Women-15 October, declared an official UN Day in 2007.

19 Days of activism for prevention of violence against children and youth (1-19 November)

Days of Activism Prevention abuse and violence against Children/Youth Jours d'activisme Prévention abus/violence envers Enfants/Jeunes Días Activismo Prevención del Abuso/violencia contra los Niños/Jóvenes age Aktivismus Prävention von Missbrauch/Gewalt gegen Kinder/Jugendlich

ξ 包 1-19 November wwsf. WWSF seeks to identify and mobilize via its 19 Days Prevention Kit (19 themes) organizations and grassroots groups working for implementation

<u>@Elly Pradervand</u>

<u>@@womensworldsummitfoundation</u>

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wwsf

Vorld population

of the rights of the child and mobilize coalition members to organize annual events for better abuse prevention. The campaign is designed to increase local and national civil society activities and encourages implementation of the relevant UN Sustainable Development Goal # 16.2. WWSF also awards active coalition member organizations with an annual Innovation award for creative prevention programs (60 awards to-date).

365 Days of activism for the elimination of violence against women and youth in CH (all year around)



@WWSFoundation

@youth_engage

Jours d'activisme (16 thèmes) pour l'élimination de la violence envers femmes/jeunes - CH AktionsTage (16 Themen) für die Abschaffung von Gewalt an Frauen & Jugendliche - CH giorni di attivismo (16 temi) per l'eliminazione della violenza contro le donne i giovani - CH days of activism (16 themes) for the elimination of violence against women and youth - CH

@WWSF GENEVA

@Youth Engage



Campagne anuelle/Jahres Kampagne/Campagna annuale/Year long Campaign

WWSF convenes since 2009 the Swiss White Ribbon Campaign, which aims to eliminate violence against women & youth by 2030. Its Toolkit "365 Days of Activism (including 16 themes, seeks to mobilize men, women and youth to sign on online: "I pledge not to commit, excuse, or remain silent about violence against women & youth". The Swiss Youth Engage-White Ribbon program offers workshop trainings to become representatives &/or ambassadors & take their pledge to schools, universities, businesses, etc. www.ruban-blanc.ch (revised in 2021)

Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) / Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes (FSMF) - PO Box 1504 - CH-1211 Geneva 1 - Switzerland Tel. +41 (0)22 738 66 19 - www.woman.ch - wdpca@wwsf.ch - www.ruban-blanc.ch **IBAN** CH1900 7880 00050 701412 - CCP N° 12-100651-8 - (Granted UN ECOSCO consultative status in 1995 and UNFPA status in 1998)