

WWSF HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES: 1991-2023



The Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) Programs and accomplishments) are carried out by a Swiss Foundation and an international, humanitarian, secular, not for-profit NGO with UN consultative status (ECOSOC, UNFPA and DPI). It serves with its annual initiatives, campaigns, prize awards and world days the advancement of women's and children's rights and the UN SDG Agenda 2030.

✓ **Why was WWSF created?** Recognizing that women, children and youth (girls and boys under the age of 18 and youth 19-25) represent the world's largest constituency (75 %) who continue to have little to say in shaping the economic and political space in which they live. It is imperative that their thoughts and visions, skills, concrete and effective participation in sustainable development, and their deep aspiration for a more just and peaceful world be considered to help catalyze the necessary political will for the transformation of systems and structures into pathways of equality, human rights, and peace.

✓ **What is the aim of WWSF** to serve the implementation of women and children's rights (CEDAW and CRC); the realization of the Beijing Platform of Action and the agreed conclusions of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the Resolution 1325, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda 2030.

✓ **What are its programs:**

1. **Empowering especially rural women and their community leaders worldwide, one of the most marginalized groups on the planet, to become leading development actors in their countries, and make them aware of their basic human right to development, education, safe water, health, gender equality and more. 60-70 percent of the world's poor are rural women.**
2. **Empowering civil society in the work to prevent violence against children and youth via its annual campaign 1-19 November**
3. **Developing a Swiss national movement for better prevention of violence and abuse against women and youth by mobilizing an international coalition of civil society actors working together with governments and the media, educating men, women and children on gender-based violence prevention measures, protection skills and the right to dignity, equality, development and peace.(Put on hold end 2022 until further notice).**
4. **Re-introducing the WWSF 75% Campaign – women, children and youth represent 75% of the world population, rise and claim a seat at the Decision-making Tables.**

Preparing annual Leadership Training Forums out of International Geneva and mobilizing organizations and groups to create national 75% hubs to inform their populations and elected leaders that 75% of the world population can no longer be ignored in co-designing a more just and peaceful world.

✓ **In 1991**, (8 March Intl. Women's Day) the Foundation was created in Geneva with its principal objective being the empowerment of women and children via annual campaign Calls to Action, World Days, Prize awards and Round Tables to help create a global community that cares, shares and upholds human rights for all. During the first three years, international and national fact-finding conferences were held in Africa, India and Europe.

✓ **In 1992, building a Board of Directors and a secretariat to organize action.**

✓ **In 1993, Fact-finding conferences in India, Africa and Europe**
WWSF awarded 10 prizewinners with an Open Letter to Rural Women of the world on 15 October 2013 – Dear Sisters living in rural communities

✓ **In 1994**, WWSF launched its **annual Prize for women's creativity in rural life**, honoring rural women leaders and groups for their courage and compassion in helping to end poverty, marginalization and violence in rural communities. 486 prizes (US\$ 1000 per prizewinner) awarded so far in over 140 countries (1994-2023).

✓ **In 1995**, Attended and co-launched **at the Beijing 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, the International Day of Rural Women on 15 October**, which was subsequently declared by the UN General Assembly an official UN Day in 2007. At this conference WWSF organized several side events to show our work for women and especially rural women and organized a **WWSF Prize Event to honor 4 Laureates in Beijing, which was a big success with the presence of the Queen of Belgium, many Dignitaries and Ambassadors attending the 4th World Conference in Beijing, and with a large Media coverage, including CNN and China TV channels that shared the laureates and speakers at the award ceremony where the 4 prizewinners present from China and India shared their work in rural communities.**

✓ **In 1996 – 1997**, Double Edition: WWSF continued its Prize for Women's creativity in rural life and honored in 1996 **30** Laureates with a Geneva Summit for the Empowerment of women and children in Rural Life. Published its poster and Open Letter on the International Day of Rural Women-15 October.

✓ **1998, continued the annual Prize program and other WWSF events**

✓ **1999, continuation of our regular annual programs, including the Prize for rural women leaders and the 15 October Day of Rural Women.**

✓ **In 2000, created the annual World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse on 19 November, in synergy with the Universal Children's Day - 20 November.**

✓ In 2002, WWSF awarded 32 prizewinners with the Prize and launched its “Walk Your Talk campaign, addressing the UN Special Session on Children in New York, May 2002

✓ In 2003, created Training sessions for Circles of compassion and launched the World Day 2 November.

✓ In 1993, Fact-finding conferences in India, Africa and Europe

✓ In 2007, the UN adopted at its General Assembly the International Day of Rural Women – 15 October, created during the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. WWSF invited all Heads of State to ensure that this Day will advance visibility and support for the millions of rural women leaders and workers who feed their families and communities.

✓ In 2009, launched the Swiss White Ribbon campaign to mobilize for the elimination violence against women and youth in Switzerland by 2030. Our websites empower men, women and youth to pledge “not to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and youth.”

✓ In 2010, created the international, annual digital campaign “19 Days of Activism for Prevention of violence & abuse against children/youth 1-19 November”. An updated Prevention Kit with ideas for action to speed up ending violence against children and youth, and annual Innovation Awards honoring selected organizations are included in the campaign

✓ In 2012, WWSF honored again 10 Prizewinners with its annual Award, promoted the 15 October – International Day of Rural Women.

✓ In 2013, WWSF awarded 10 prizewinners with an Open Letter to Rural Women of the world on 15 October 2013 – Dear Sisters living in rural communities

✓ In 2014, WWSF awarded 8 Prizewinners that year and followed its annual additional programs for the empowerment of women, children and youth.

This was the year, to hold the Beijing+20 commemoration event at the UN in Geneva, responsible for the ECE region of the UN, Elly Pradervand, WWSF Founder and CEO, was elected for the organization of 17 Round Tables, addressing relevant themes of the 12 critical areas of concern and review the status quo. Over 700 women from the ECE region (56 countries) attended and gave valuable feedback to the UN and Governments to speed up implementation of the promises made at the Beijing conference after 20 years.

✓ In 2015, WWSF launched its international, annual digital campaign “17 Days of Activism for the Empowerment of rural women and their communities 1-17 October”. An Empowerment Kit with action ideas to increase local community participation for the advancement of rural women’s rights, development and peacebuilding is available online: www.woman.ch.

✓ In 2016, revised its three annual campaigns to include the relevant post-2015 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda 2030 and revised the WWSF Prize criteria for

the annual nomination process of candidates to be selected for the Prize for women's creativity in rural life by also including participation in the realization of the SDGs by 2030.

✓ **In 2017**, created an additional prize, the "RURAL WOMEN MOVEMENTS AWARD" (US\$ 10'000) to give visibility to many transformative and powerful rural women networks, movements and groups that empower rural women to become self-reliant and engaged in achieving the end of rural poverty and discrimination while also supporting the realization of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. Award winners are published on our website.

✓ **In 2018**, 25th anniversary of the annual Prize for women's creativity in rural life with 10 additional laureates. Attended UN Commission on the Status of Women, NY, where the empowerment of rural women was on the agenda.

✓ **In 2019**, we selected again 10 prize winners for the annual Prize for women's creativity in rural life, commemorated the 10th anniversary of the Swiss White Ribbon Campaign (14 February), launched the Youth Engage-Ambassador training program with a declaration produced by Swiss youth. We again revised and published our three campaigns on Internet to empower civil society to take increased action to achieve the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

✓ **In 2020**, we selected and awarded again 10 Prizewinners from around the world, prepared our annual poster for the commemoration of the Intl. Day of rural Women - 15 October, which is the day where the Prize Laureates are honored in their communities and hopefully receive some media coverage to increase their visibility and contributions to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals - Agenda 1030.

✓ **In 2021**, WWSF re-launched its 1993 campaign "**75 %: women, children + youth representing 75% of the world population - 6 billion of us - who have little to say in co-designing the world in which we live, claiming a seat at The Table.**

The campaign is busy creating an international network of 75% Partnerships for the preparation of regular annual 75% Leadership Training Forums for women and youth in International Geneva to turn the world around for the common Good for All and end destructive elements in our climate -and human relations.

WWSF awarded again 10 laureates with its annual Prize for women's creativity in rural life (472 prizewinners to-date 1993-2021). WWSF also published its annual Kit updates on the themes of

1) 17 Days for the empowerment of rural women leaders and their communities (1-17 Oct.) and printed an annual Poster for the 15 October Rural Women's Day.

2) Updated its annual Kit "19 Days for prevention of violence against children and youth 1-19 November, and its poster World Day for prevention of child abuse 19 November, including a Training program on-line "How to organize community Circles of Compassion to end violence and abuse against children and youth".

✓ **In 2022**, WWSF organized its first **75% Campaign ZOOM Conference**, introducing to its network and other global campaign partners the **75% Campaign Concept Note** and how to promote and participate to launch the Campaign in as many countries as possible. Registration have arrived from around the world, and we can count on over 30 organizations

that decided to participate in their countries. WWSF continues its follow up with its other campaign responsibilities and published three of its Calls to Action - focusing on our established programs, Rural women Kit, 2) 19 Days Kit and 3) White Ribbon campaign Kit in Switzerland. Due to the pandemic, we received much less nominations for our annual Award for the creativity of rural women leaders and their communities. **Only 4 prizewinners were selected and awarded with the usual award money of US\$ 1000 per prizewinner, bringing the number up of 476.** In 2022, we put the **Swiss Campaign for the elimination of violence against women and youth on hold** until a new committee is voted in with a strategy for the future.

✓ **In 2023**, WWSF convened its second 75% Zoom conference to promote the campaign with instructions on how to participate and create national Hubs to lobby the UN and elected world leaders to include women, children and youth (75% of the world population) to give them a voice at the decision-making Tables – and agree to co-design a new era with the 6 billion of the world population to include their voices at all major Decision-making Tables.

- WWSF published its **annual 19 Days Campaign Kit with 19 themes updates for the prevention of violence against children and youth 1-19 November**, including an annual poster for the **World Day 19 November**, together with information on how to create Community Circles of compassion.
- WWSF awarded 10 Rural Women leaders and groups with its **annual Prize for women's creativity in rural life (US\$ 1000.00 per prizewinners)**, which included this year, for the first time, 5 prizewinners from Tamilnadu, India, selected and awarded via our **first WWSF Partnership Prize program with the Jai Jagat Movement and the CESI Center for Experiencing Socio Cultural Interaction in Tamilnadu**, who organized a prize ceremony for their selected five candidates and transmitted the WWSF prize congratulations financial contribution.

✓ **Plans for 2024:** Thank you for your kind donations to continue our humble contributions to creating a more peaceful and just world.

Swiss Bank account NO. **IBAN:** CH1900 7880 0005070 1412 (BCGE BANK in Geneva)

Address: Women's World Summit Foundation - POBox 1504 - 1211 Geneva 1 - Switzerland -

Tel: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 - wdpc@wwsf.ch