

ANNUAL REPORT
2023

Womanity

Evolving **TOGETHER**



LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

YANN BORGSTEDT
Founder, Womanity

As I reflect on the progress made by Womanity in 2023, it's evident that our journey towards advancing gender equality continues to be both dynamic and transformative. In a world facing polycrisis and shaped by shifting political, economical, cultural, and social landscapes, our commitment to keep evolving our approach remains steadfast, ensuring that our efforts resonate deeply with the communities we serve.

In Afghanistan, amidst ongoing uncertainty, we recognised the urgent need to continue supporting the education of girls. To address this, we expanded our initiatives to offer community-based education for primary school students alongside our vocational courses for young women and girls.

Similarly, in the Middle East, we diversified our efforts to include creating employment opportunities for women in media. By challenging gender stereotypes through non-traditional roles, we aim to foster a more inclusive narrative that empowers women both on and off the screen.

These are just a couple of examples that underscore our ongoing dedication to providing solutions tailored to the changing realities in the different geographies where we work.

Our philanthropic approach has evolved this year to embrace greater risk-taking.

At Womanity, we believe that real change requires philanthropists to listen to the communities they support, understand their needs, and facilitate community-driven solutions. This is why we work closely with our on-ground partners and remain open to their realities. We are committed to pushing boundaries and exploring innovative solutions whenever needed.

We strongly advocate that women and girls be at the heart of funding strategies, as their progress is fundamental to creating sustainable and inclusive communities. Numerous studies show that every dollar invested in women's empowerment delivers significant social and economic returns.

Growing evidence indicates that a focus on gender is essential for building more prosperous and just societies.

I am convinced that philanthropists can play a crucial role in supporting meaningful social change. However, to do so effectively, we need — now more than ever — to remain open and adaptable to new challenges.

As always, I invite you to join me in our vision for a more just and equal world. As we move forward, we aim to remain dynamic and receptive to feedback, both internal and external. By embracing change and continually reflecting on and refining our approach, we ensure that Womanity remains at the forefront of catalysing positive transformation in the pursuit of gender equity.



LETTER FROM THE CO-CEOS

LAURA SOMOGGI
& SHIVANI GUPTA

This year's theme of '**Evolving Together**' was a good prompt for us to pause and reflect on how our work has evolved during our second year of co-leading Womanity. Over time, we have better understood the dynamics of shared responsibilities, mutual learning, and collaborative decision-making. Our journey in developing a feminist leadership approach has been mostly rewarding and occasionally challenging.

We believe that transparency, inclusivity, and fostering spaces for honest conversations and collaboration are critical for Womanity to stay true to its values.

Operating in a fully remote organisation with 18 team members across 8 countries, can be challenging while trying to create a sense of belonging and culture. In 2023, we had an inspiring team retreat in India — our first in four years — where we worked, bonded, and had fun together. It was wonderful to finally meet in person rather than on screens, and for some of us, it was our very first time meeting face-to-face.

In this incredibly challenging field of advancing gender equity and equality, developing deeper relationships within our team and with all our partners makes a massive difference. Sharing our hopes, frustrations, difficulties, and achievements has helped us build a support network where we can rely on each other, and make significant progress towards our objectives.

At Womanity, we take pride not only in *what* we do but also in *how* we do it.

We strive to be close to our partners by investing time and energy to understand their realities and how best to support their work on the ground. We have listened to them, conducted landscape analyses, commissioned research projects, and independent evaluations across all our programmes, leading to significant evolution in our work.

For **Womanity Award**, we enabled partners to submit the reports in their own languages. In **Land for Women**, we developed open-source assets to provide easy access to legal provisions concerning land. For **Educate Girls**, we expanded our efforts to reach students in their own communities in rural Afghanistan.

We believe that being closer to our team and to our partners, while being aware of and addressing power dynamics both internally and externally, helps to build trust.

It also reinforces the feeling that we are on this journey together. Sharing the load as co-leaders and as a group committed to making the world a better place is energising. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey with us.





The Khateera team at the Beirut office filming Season 2 of the satire show 'Smatouha Minni' (You Heard It From Me).

Pictured: Behind the scenes with the 'Smatouha Minni' team during the shooting of Season 2.

WHEN WOMEN PROSPER, COMMUNITIES FLOURISH

A world where women are valued equally, and where anyone who identifies as a woman can live without fear of violence or discrimination, is a world where everyone can reach their full potential. It's a simple truth that when women thrive, the world becomes a better place for everyone.

Equality between women and men isn't just a matter of fairness — it's a foundational pillar for social progress.

When women have access to quality education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, entire communities benefit.

Despite significant progress, most countries still struggle with deep-rooted gender inequalities. Women face barriers at every turn — whether it's unequal pay, limited career opportunities, or the threat of gender-based violence. Many issues that impact women's agency to make their own choices to have the life they want are currently under-resourced and underfunded globally. These challenges are further compounded by restrictive laws and outdated and harmful societal norms.

This is where we come in. We identify critical intervention areas where we can make a meaningful impact.

Our work isn't just about addressing immediate needs — it's about laying the groundwork for a more just and equal future. We believe in the power of women to drive change, and we invest in their potential. Through our programmes, mostly in the Global South, we unlock barriers for women and girls, paving the way for them to take control of their lives and make meaningful contributions to their communities.

The path to a gender-equal world is one we walk together. Our partnerships with local organisations and grassroots movements in the underserved geographies we work in are at the heart of our success. By working closely with those who understand the unique challenges women face, we ensure our efforts are inclusive, impactful, and sustainable.

Not to mention that without gender equality, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) designed to create global equity will remain out of reach. Here's how we are supporting the SDGs:



HOW WE ADVANCE GENDER EQUALITY:

Create new pathways to end violence against women and girls

Empower women through access to, and ownership of, land

Incubate and support media platforms to shift gender stereotypes

Increase access to education — including STEM — for women and girls

WE INVEST IN AUDACIOUS, INNOVATIVE, AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO ACCELERATE GENDER EQUALITY

Since 2005, we have been at the forefront of pioneering efforts to advance gender equality across the world. By daring to invest in ground-breaking programmes in overlooked and underfunded geographies, we are driving progress towards a more gender equal and sustainable future.

By strategically investing in innovative initiatives and forging bold partnerships, we act as a catalyst for lasting impact in the fight for gender equality, sparking transformational change. Our approach goes beyond traditional charity; we seek out opportunities to leverage resources, knowledge, and influence to create ripple effects that extend far beyond individual programmes.

As a result, we have centred our work on preventing violence against women and girls, supporting grassroots organisations, championing girls' education, using media to challenge gender stereotypes, and improving women's access to land rights.

We believe in bold investments for brave outcomes.

That's why we take an entrepreneurial approach to investment, incubating, and funding pioneering models to explore new ideas. As these programmes take shape, we approach other funders to collaborate on co-funding, allowing us to successfully scale and replicate our initiatives.

The problems we're tackling are complex and multifaceted. Our approach is to address them through bold thinking, fostering meaningful partnerships, and building platforms that drive lasting social systemic change.



OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

ADVANCE

gender equality indicators for women and girls in underserved communities

INCREASE

and leverage funding to deepen impact

BUILD

capacities and resilience of partners advancing gender equality

CREATE

and disseminate content, evidence, and narratives to inspire and impact transformational change

FORGE

synergetic partnerships for effective and sustainable impact

SNAPSHOT OF OUR PROGRAMMES



EDUCATE GIRLS

AFGHANISTAN

Enabling access to educational opportunities for girls in Afghanistan through vocational training, including our Girls Can Code (GCC) initiative, which teaches computer literacy, web development, and coding. This programme not only enhances career prospects but also fosters confidence and demonstrates to students and families that girls can excel in the workforce and society. Additionally, our Community Based Education (CBE) initiative provides primary education to marginalised children in underserved areas with limited formal schooling options.

Since 2007, we have supported ~35,000 girls and young women, along with 6,000 boys, through educational projects, and have trained 1,100 teachers.



LAND FOR WOMEN

INDIA

A powerful programme to address systemic gender inequality and lack of economic empowerment of multiple marginalised women in rural India. Our Land for Women (LFW) programme has been developed in consultation with experts and on-ground partners. It enables rural women to access land rights and ownership, helping them become more independent, self-reliant, and financially secure.

Since 2022, 213,706 marginalised women have been made aware of their land rights. 35,069 of them have got land rights, and \$2.2m in government funds have been unlocked.



DISRUPTIVE MEDIA

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Supporting progressive media platforms by collaborating with pioneering content creators to foster fairer societies in the Middle East and North Africa. Our flagship initiatives include Radio Nisaa — a women-led community radio station in Palestine, and Khateera — a digital platform dedicated to challenge gender stereotypes through content such as its YouTube series ‘Smatouha Minni’ (You Heard It From Me).

Since 2009, we have incubated 2 impactful initiatives and supported 5 series on our partners' radio and digital media channels, amassing 41 million listens/ views and challenging gender stereotypes.



WOMANITY AWARD

BRAZIL, CAPE VERDE, INDIA, LEBANON, MEXICO, SOUTH AFRICA

Womanity Award focuses on the power of collaboration by catalysing transnational partnerships between organisations across different countries in the Global South. The organisations work together to adapt initiatives to address the root causes of violence against women. It's a funding and organisational development programme that supports innovative, evidence-based solutions to prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG).

Since 2014, 9 outstanding organisations have adapted programmes centred on critical areas for prevention of VAWG such as harmful gender norms, online and domestic violence.

HARNESSING THE POWER OF EDUCATION TO UNLOCK OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFGHAN GIRLS

Flexibility is key to operating in Afghanistan. To stay effective, we have developed a robust network of stakeholders who share crucial insights, ideas, and support. Since the Taliban returned to power in 2021, we've kept close contact with a wide range of experts and organisations, enabling us to navigate the shifting landscape in Afghanistan. Taliban's takeover has had a devastating impact on Afghan women and girls, decimating their rights. Girls are barred from secondary school and women are banned from most jobs.

Our focus on education remains steadfast. We believe that providing quality education to girls and boys fosters a culture of peace, equality, and dignity—fundamental pillars for Afghanistan's future.

This approach draws on our 16-year legacy of adapting and evolving, demonstrating the importance of balancing social change with respect for local customs and realities.

The Taliban's ban on post-secondary education for women in December 2022 posed significant challenges for our online coding and web development courses. However, through ongoing dialogue, we identified new opportunities, such as online classes in partnership with well-established local partners.

Additionally, we launched Community Based Education (CBE) classes in Bagrami, a district close to the capital city of Kabul. Under the CBE model, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, we provided primary education for children up to grade 6 (aged 11 years) and grade 9 (aged 14 years) in some cases. The project is a safe and effective way to support the education of Afghan girls while maintaining a presence on the ground. We ran 8 CBE classes, open to both girls and boys (typically enrolls 60–80% girls). The curriculum aligns with the national standard and allows for flexibility, such as incorporating modules on children's rights. CBE adapts class sizes based on local child populations and, over the years, has been established as an important alternative for education in areas without schools.

Organisations like Womanity supply teachers, educational materials, and classroom infrastructure, supporting continuity through regime changes and providing employment opportunities for women. This sustained engagement helps us to build trust with local communities, fostering potential for expanded activities benefitting women and girls.

NEARLY

30%

**OF GIRLS IN AFGHANISTAN
HAVE NEVER ENTERED
PRIMARY EDUCATION**

UNESCO



We also expanded our network, engaging with over 30 individuals from international organisations, UN agencies, local NGOs, journalists, and freelancers. This ever-growing network offers deep knowledge and first-hand experience, reinforcing our commitment to education and civil society. These connections also help us engage with local authorities to find safe ways to implement our programme, especially in the face of ongoing challenges.



By listening to, and learning from our network, we are better equipped to push for progress, even if it requires compromise. We know that educating Afghan girls not only improves their lives but also contributes to a more inclusive and resilient Afghanistan.

As we move forward, our guiding principle remains clear: together, we can make a lasting impact.

“Initially, our programmes in Afghanistan included supporting public education up to grade 12 and providing vocational training in coding and web development. We have always operated with a deep understanding of the local realities, promoting changes without disrupting the social fabric. Despite the long drawn-out conflict and increasing insecurity, we remained committed to educating girls and young women.

We adapted by addressing parental concerns, overcoming roadblocks through dialogue with officials and communities, and adapting our initiatives to meet the evolving needs of our beneficiaries.

Following the Taliban's return to power, we had to further evolve our programme and reinvent our delivery methods to continue fulfilling our mission. Now, despite the bans on girls' education, we operate discreet online courses for young women and provide community-based primary education approved by the government. Our dedicated team continues to push for positive change, believing firmly in the power of girls' education to bring hope and prosperity.”



— **Mohammad Zia Noori**, Programme Director, Womanity

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

234 Primary school children supported across 8 community-based education classes in rural Afghanistan; 67% were girls

6 Online classes conducted in computer literacy, coding, and web development

137 Out of 186 students completed the training successfully

66% Students maintained an attendance rate of 70% or higher

51% Students achieved an end-of-course mark of 70% or higher

81% Students reported satisfaction with the courses

82% Students said the courses positively impacted their future plans

CRAFTING NEW NARRATIVES WITH DISRUPTIVE MEDIA

Women have often been portrayed in the media as weak, submissive, lacking agency, and in traditional roles. Our Disruptive Media programme is working to change this narrative and challenge these stereotypes by partnering with progressive platforms and content creators in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) to promote women in media as well as produce content that depicts women as strong, empowered, and capable. By promoting these more accurate and empowering representations, we aim to shift mindsets and challenge gender-biased behaviours across the region.

2023 saw us make significant strides in challenging gender stereotypes in the MENA region by supporting diverse projects, from Radio Nisaa in Palestine's West Bank to the digital platform Khateera with its hit show 'Smatouha Minni' Season 2. To tap into Saudi Arabia's growing media landscape, we facilitated two workshops to equip women scriptwriters with the skills to pitch their work to streaming services like Netflix and Shahid. Our collaboration with Break The Room (BTR) led to six Saudi women writers participating in an online 'Writer's Room' development process. The outcome? Half the writers secured pitch opportunities with major streaming networks, with one of them gaining a producing partnership, in collaboration with another writer.

Our media projects underscore our goal of amplifying women's perspectives and advancing gender equality through impactful narratives.

The themes they explored ranged across a wide spectrum, reflecting diverse and inclusive storytelling. By unpacking complex issues such as workplace dynamics, deportation, immigration, and the experiences of minority ethnic groups, we demonstrated our evolving approach to addressing the multifaceted challenges women face in Saudi Arabia.

In parallel, we refined our strategy by conducting a comprehensive landscape analysis of media, gender, and MENA. This process informed our approach, leading to a strategic shift that emphasises core funding for emerging initiatives, content production support, and training for women media professionals.

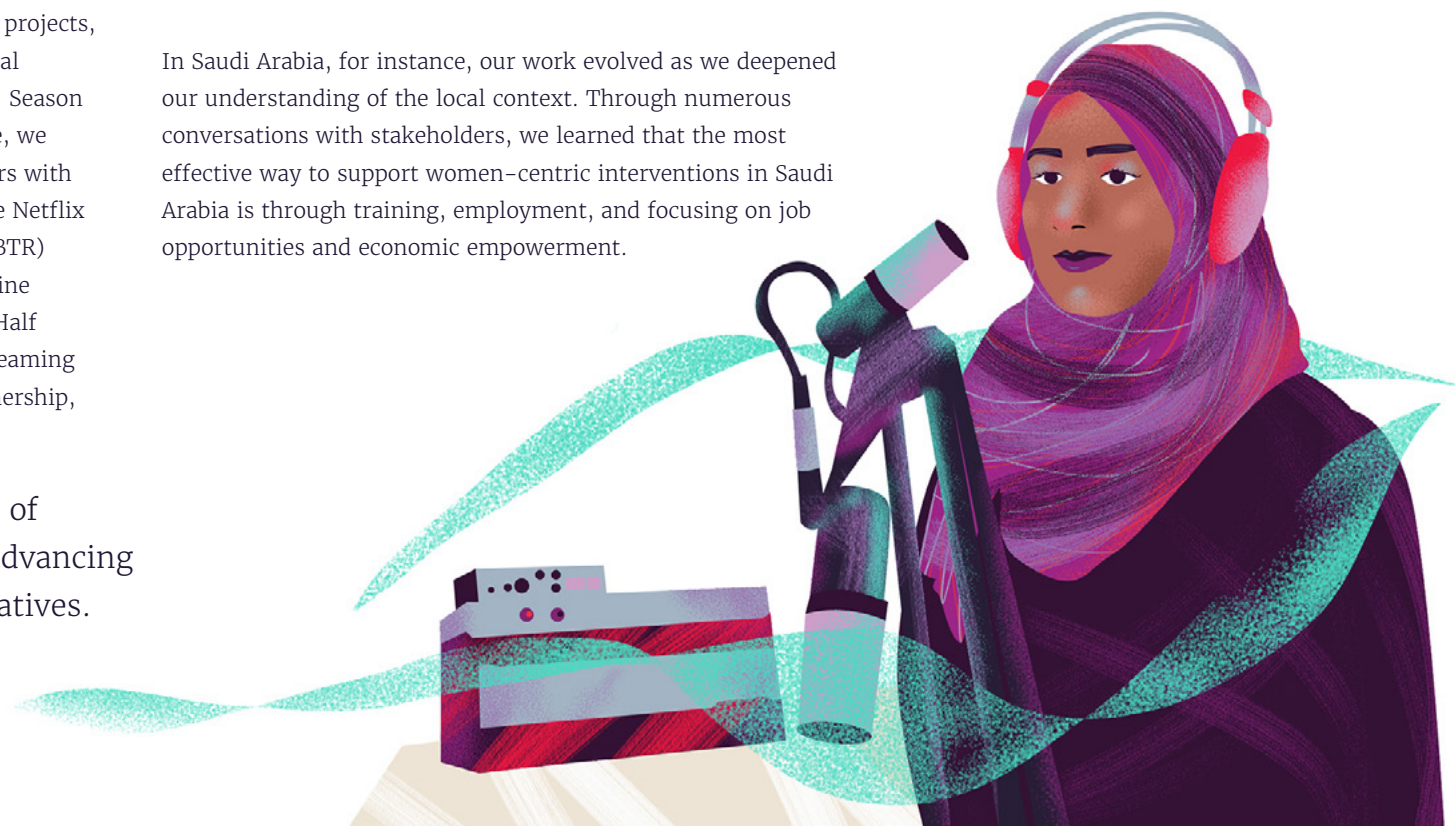
In Saudi Arabia, for instance, our work evolved as we deepened our understanding of the local context. Through numerous conversations with stakeholders, we learned that the most effective way to support women-centric interventions in Saudi Arabia is through training, employment, and focusing on job opportunities and economic empowerment.

IT WILL TAKE

~115

**YEARS TO CLOSE THE
GENDER GAP IN THE
MIDDLE EAST AND
NORTH AFRICA**

World Economic Forum



As a result, we have started a partnership with ‘Jobs for Humanity’ to assist over 500 Saudi women in securing jobs in media, communications, and other non-traditional sectors. We are committed to adapting our strategies to foster gender equality through tangible career pathways. We also evolved our programme to include podcasts, recognising it as one of the fastest-growing media channels in the region.

Our focus on fostering a diverse range of voices and narratives remains central, with initiatives in the Middle East, North Africa, and beyond, even as we navigate challenges from the ongoing Israel-Gaza conflict.

“2023 marked a year of remarkable growth and transformation for Khateera. With Womanity’s unwavering support, we have not only expanded our flagship series but also deepened our commitment to amplifying the voices and experiences of Arab women. This evolution underscores our shared dedication to changing dominant narratives as told by Arab women themselves.”



— Rana Askoul, Co-CEO, Khateera



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

13M Cumulative views across episodes and platforms of ‘Smatouha Minni’

15 Journalists trained by Radio Nisaa for their incubator project

510,000 Listeners tuned into Radio Nisaa for their inspirational content

6 Script writers trained by Break the Room in Saudi Arabia

LAND AS A PATHWAY TO PROGRESS FOR WOMEN IN RURAL INDIA

LESS THAN

10%

OF INDIAN WOMEN
MAY OWN LAND

Economic & Political Weekly

Women undertake 80% of India's farm work as unpaid labourers on farms owned by their parents, husbands or in-laws, never owning the land they work on, or even their own homes.

When women have access to land, they can earn nearly four times more money.

Our Land for Women programme is a powerful initiative aimed at accelerating gender equality and the economic empowerment of women in India by facilitating their access to land entitlements.

Over the course of the year, we noticed shifting and evolving roles and relationships between women and land. Overall, our work — implemented in partnership with on-ground NGOs, experts, and practitioners — has been instrumental in creating pathways for rural women in India to access land rights and ownership, fostering a more inclusive and equitable ecosystem. Here's an overview of our key achievements:

Expanded Community Engagement

Our NGO partners deepened connections with rural communities, reaching out to both women and men. They focused on developing land literacy, training local land champions, and fostering collaboration with government officials to secure land rights for women.

Enhanced Support to Women

Our approach included nuanced sessions addressing the unique needs and challenges women face regarding land rights. These sessions covered various topics, such as family dynamics, community roles, and legal processes. In collaboration with our partners, we provided guidance on navigating these complexities, ensuring women felt supported throughout their journey.

Strengthening the Ecosystem

We worked to foster a more robust ecosystem for women's land rights by enhancing the capacity of nonprofit practitioners and increasing access to funding opportunities for women's land rights and gender as a whole. Additionally, we facilitated collaborative learning visits and developed open-source assets for easy access to legal provisions concerning land.

Women Leaders as Community Resources

Grassroots women leaders received continuous mentoring aimed at gradually transferring responsibility for women's land rights work from NGO staff to the community. These women have evolved into local experts bridging the gap between communities and government officials, offering guidance on land matters and entitlements. They now serve as community leaders and advocates for women's access to land ownership, capable of sustaining work beyond our support.



Shifting Perceptions

Our efforts led to a subtle but significant shift in how women and their families view land rights. Increased land ownership has formalised women's decision-making authority, expanded their presence in village meetings, and empowered them to assert their rights, particularly widows and single mothers. As primary household managers and stewards of the land, women now address critical issues overlooked by male community members, leading to improved confidence, social standing, and increased income, benefitting their families and the broader community.

Women as Climate Champions

As families and communities acknowledged women's expertise in forestry and biodiversity, women emerged as key leaders, mobilising support and collaborating with NGOs and government officials. This shift empowered women to contribute to forest management and community-led initiatives, strengthening their role in local ecosystems.

Broadening the Land Rights Discussion

We engaged in narrative transformation through digital media and grassroots storytelling to raise awareness and amplify women's voices. In partnership with India Development Review (IDR), we launched 'A Land of Her Own' initiative to expand the conversation on women's land rights. We also co-curated a few sessions at the **India Land and Development Conference** (ILDC), highlighting our commitment to amplifying voices most affected by land rights issues.

2023 also saw our NGO partners and the larger ecosystem evolving in terms of their understanding of land rights. This year was particularly significant for us, marked by major achievements and valuable learnings that gave us the confidence to expand our reach.

Through our continued efforts, we aim to build on this progress and unlock social and economic mobility for even more women in the years to come.



“At Prakriti, we have worked with rural women for a long time and have observed their special bond with land at a personal and family level. However, the evolving socio-economic situation has affected this relationship. Womanity has given us the opportunity to understand the reasons behind these changes and has encouraged us to make efforts to create an environment that respects women's land rights and advocates for existing policies and laws. They have also helped us evolve our work with women, enabling us to expand our efforts in empowering women to assert their rights and promote gender equality in rural communities.”



— **Suvarna Damle**, Executive Director, Prakriti

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

213,706

Women made aware of their land rights

35,069

Women received land access / control / ownership

USD \$2.2M

Government funds unlocked via government schemes for women

CREATING STRONGER COMMUNITIES BY PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

1 in 3 women will endure physical or sexual violence during their lifetime. While the causes of such violence are complex and multifaceted, some of the strongest and most persistent factors are harmful social norms that perpetuate gender inequality.

The Womanity Award catalyses cross-country collaborations in the Global South to raise awareness, mobilise communities, and change social norms to end violence against women and girls (VAWG).

2023 saw the programme focus on the 4th edition of the Womanity Award, with an emphasis on preventing domestic violence through the 'Fla Sim Pa Mudjer' project in Cape Verde. The project is being implemented by Associação Cabo-Verdiana de Luta Contra a Violência Baseada no Género (ACLCVBG) from Cape Verde in partnership with Themis Gender Justice and Human Rights from Brazil. During the year, the partners successfully adapted Themis' Popular Legal Promoters (PLPs) Training and Community Care Model.

The project was aimed at upskilling women leaders capable of influencing positive change in community attitudes and norms that perpetuate VAWG.

This adaptation unfolded in two stages:

- Legal empowerment training for 34 women leaders as Women Multipliers of Citizenship (WMCs) to equip them with skills to prevent and respond to VAWG.
- Implementation of a Community Care Model, where WMCs executed action plans developed during training. This involved engaging in awareness campaigns with several actors (i.e. justice system, schools, and police), dialogues with men and diverse women, and support for women experiencing violence.

Adapting the project from Brazil to Cape Verde came with its fair share of challenges, as partners navigated differing views on feminism, racism, and the legal framework in their respective countries. They have been engaging in continuous analysis and dialogue to ensure the project resonates with the community in Cape Verde.

Throughout the year, the 'Fla Sim Pa Mudjer' project gained recognition and support from key stakeholders, underscoring its potential to combat VAWG in Cape Verde. This recognition highlighted the efficacy of community-driven solutions and prompted lessons on the need for a feminist approach to community action and deeper understanding of the GBV (Gender-Based Violence) Law among justice actors and WMCs.

4 OUT OF **10**

**WOMEN IN WEST AFRICA
ARE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE**

UN Women Africa



Additionally, we supported partners in their organisational development and capacity building, amplifying partner voices, and promoting self-care to combat burnout among partners team members.

To bridge the knowledge gap and lack of empirical evidence on effective technical assistance to support successful adaptation and scaling of VAWG initiatives, we commissioned the Center on Gender Equity and Health (GEH), UC San Diego, to conduct a qualitative study to evaluate the Womanity Award partnership model, in 2022. This research culminated in 2023 with a study on effective approaches to scaling VAWG prevention innovations. The insights gained will guide our future efforts, ensuring continuous improvement and impact in the field. They will also be shared externally with practitioners, researchers, and donors across various platforms.

Titled “**Effective Approaches to Adapt and Scale Prevention of VAWG Innovations**,” the study also aimed to contribute to discussions on decolonising development, feminist funding principles, and empowering women's rights organisations by devolving donor power.

In 2023, we also saw results of the seed funding provided to two pairs of Womanity Award 4 finalists:

1. CARE in Rwanda and Kenya, and Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) in Kenya
2. Scripture Union West Africa (SUWA) in Nigeria and United Mission to Nepal (UMN)

CARE and CREAW used the seed funding to successfully adapt the Indashyikirwa couples' model from Rwanda to Meru, Kenya, under the name ‘Imarisha Mahusiano’ (Strengthening Intimate Relationships). This model aims to reduce intimate partner violence (IPV) and address related attitudes and behaviours, extending its focus to include violence against children.

Meanwhile, SUWA and UMN developed a ‘Transforming Masculinity’ (TM) manual, adapted from SUWA’s materials to fit the Nepalese context. Throughout 2023, UMN utilised this manual to mobilise community groups in Nepal, challenging gender norms and practices. They also collaborated on researching the role of the Hindu religion and culture in perpetuating gender discriminatory norms.

These initiatives demonstrate how the Womanity Award has evolved, fostering community-led changes and deepening its impact on preventing violence against women and girls through innovative adaptations and collaborations.

“From the seed of an idea at Women Deliver to a completed research study on partnership models and power dynamics in scaling VAWG prevention models, our partnership with Womanity has been a profound learning journey. We learned that power imbalances exist in every partnership and manifest uniquely in each interaction. True horizontal partnerships require ongoing reflection and humility. This journey has taught us to appreciate diverse points of view and ways of knowing, and to apply patience, empathy, and sometimes bravery to forge more equitable partnerships.”



— **Rebecka Lundgren**, Co-Director, Center on Gender Equity and Health, University of California, San Diego

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

34

Women leaders trained to spearhead change in social norms, attitudes, and practices that result in VAWG at a community level

25

Service providers supported to respond to VAWG through implementation of the law and multisectoral coordination

109

Vulnerable and diverse women empowered with information on VAWG and guided to support services through safe spaces for sharing of experiences and learnings

95

School children (aged 10–12) sensitised about their role in promoting peaceful coexistence and non-violent behaviour at school, home, and in the community



As part of the Women Multipliers of Citizenship training, trainees visited various institutions that play a vital role in ending violence against women, including police stations and hospitals. These visits aimed to familiarise them with the structures, operations, and key contacts needed to support their community work in preventing and addressing gender-based violence.

Pictured: Visit to the Achada Santo António Police Station, Cape Verde.

ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE THROUGH DIALOGUE

In 2023, we actively participated in conferences and panel discussions, authored articles, and increased conversations around gender equality to elevate visibility and support for this crucial cause. By leveraging media and strategic narrative-building, we aimed to mobilise systemic support for gender equality. Our contributions to leading publications and key discussions promoted dialogue and education on the challenges faced by women and girls globally. Through these efforts, we strive to shift societal norms and build a network of supporters who share our vision of an equal world.

CONFERENCES & WEBINARS



17 - 20 JULY, 2023

Women Deliver Conference, Rwanda

At the world's largest conference on gender equality, we engaged in dialogues on progressive philanthropy and heard first-hand from feminist movements about their requirements from funders. We also participated in a field visit to see *Bandebereho*, a project led by Equimundo and RWAMREC, focused on engaging fathers and couples in breaking the cycles of violence in the country.



1 - 3 NOVEMBER, 2023

India Land & Development Conference, India

We co-curated multiple sessions with our partners to amplify grassroots voices and integrate women into the broader land discourse. The aim was to bridge the representation gap, ensuring that the voices of women directly impacted by land issues are central to land development discussions.



MEET THE SPEAKERS

Webinar #2: The IPV ADAPT+ Framework - How to Adapt Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Programs

LIVE



Lisa Mossberg
SILAK



Dr. Vandana Sharma
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Equality Insights Lab



Dr. Jennifer Scott
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School, Equality Insights Lab



Laura Somoggi
The Womanity Foundation

22 NOVEMBER, 2023

The IPV ADAPT+ Framework: How to Adapt Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Programs

We joined The World Bank, Equimundo, and Raising Voices to discuss best practices and challenges in adapting programmes to prevent violence against women and girls.

MAKING HEADLINES TO SHIFT PERSPECTIVES

WE PARTNERED WITH IDR TO HELP CHANGE THE NARRATIVE ABOUT WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS IN INDIA



Women's land rights: What funders must consider by Shivani Gupta & Linzi Sarkar (Womanity)



Isolated by tradition: Helping Bhunjia women speak about their needs by Lata Netam (Lok Astha Sewa Sansthan)



Strengthening women's access to land rights by Shivani Gupta & Linzi Sarkar (Womanity)



Keeping dignity at the centre of women's land rights by Derrek Xavier & Shrishti Gupta (IDR)



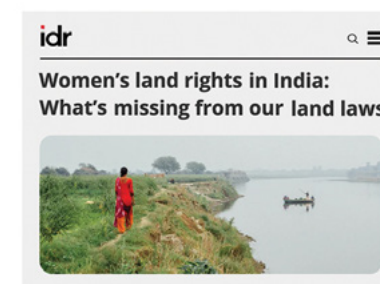
Involving men in women's land rights by Halima Ansari (IDR)



A young woman in Gujarat helps her community save their forest by Anita Motibhai Baria (Saat Kundiya Mahadev Khedut Vikas Mandal)



A play for land: Women in Assam present their stories by Pronab Doley (Ayang Trust) & Pronamika Pegu Doley (Lekope Majuli Women Farmer Producer Company)



Women's land rights in India: What's missing from our land laws? by Centre for Social Justice

ARTICLES FEATURING PROJECTS LED BY OUR PARTNERS



The dangerous feminists behind a Lebanese media outlet by Diana Hodali | Deutsche Welle (DW)



Arab women's group 'Khateera' dares to defy, one narrative at a time by Salim A. Essaid | Al-Monitor



Lebanon's 'dangerous' Khateera feminists by Diana Hodali | Qantara.de



Official Opening of the Course for the Legal Empowerment of Women chaired by the Minister of Justice | Government of Cape Verde



ICIEG highlights "meritorious" work of Sol Network in the fight against GBV in Cabo Verde | Balai



Cape Verdean Association for the Fight against GBV shares with Sol Network, the objectives of training 35 female leaders to work in the communities | RTC



Registration is open to train women community leaders – A Nação – Jornal Independente | A NAÇÃO

PODCASTS FEATURING WOMANITY



Decolonising philanthropy with Shivani Gupta & Laura Somoggi | Interview for the 'Be & Think in the House of Trust' podcast by Servane Mouazan, exploring the mindset shift required to decolonise wealth and philanthropy to drive meaningful change.

BREAKING NEW GROUND

COURSES



WLR 101

The WLR 101 (Women's Land Rights) course, in partnership with WGWLO (Working Group for Women and Land Ownership), saw significant changes this year, with increased demand as past participants (from the 2022 cohort) became course advocates. We revamped the curriculum based on feedback, with a focus on offline sessions.

Over 10 weeks, 36 nonprofit practitioners from 11 states actively participated, enhancing their knowledge of integrating women's land rights into their work.



SECURING WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS THROUGH FOREST RIGHTS ACT

We launched targeted capacity building for NGO practitioners focusing on the Forest Rights Act (FRA) in the Himalayan region (Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Kashmir). A 3-day residential training held in Dehradun, in collaboration with the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), addressed challenges in the FRA claim process, documentation, digital infrastructure, and government structures.

25 participants from 11 organisations received comprehensive training, followed by six months of mentoring to improve their confidence in independent FRA work and enable them to train others in neighbouring areas.

EVOLVING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

1 THE JOURNEY FROM 'WOMEN LAND RIGHTS' TO 'LAND FOR WOMEN'

We initially launched the programme as 'Women Land Rights,' focusing on the economic benefits of land ownership for women. However, ongoing engagements with women and grassroots organisations highlighted the importance of identity, security, dignity, and social status in their connection to land. Recognising the need for a holistic approach, we evolved 'Women Land Rights' into 'Land for Women,' placing greater emphasis on the profound and multifaceted relationship women have with land, beyond just legal rights.

2 EXPLORING NEW FORMATS AND CHAMPIONING HOMEGROWN PRODUCTIONS

We recognised the need to reconnect with experts and practitioners in the Middle East and North Africa to reassess our positioning for the Disruptive Media programme. These conversations were extremely insightful, validating our decision to shift from direct production to supporting grassroots productions to attract local talent. They also encouraged us to launch new formats like podcasts in 2024, which are rapidly growing in popularity in the MENA region, with 67% of adults in Saudi Arabia and 59% in Egypt listening for over an hour weekly.

3 ADAPTING OUR EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS IN AFGHANISTAN

We expanded our programme to educate young women and girls in Afghanistan by supporting community-based education classes. This adaptation allowed us to navigate the restrictions imposed by the Taliban and find alternative ways to continue educating girls, responding directly to the needs on the ground.

4 EVOLVING TO RESPOND TO PARTNERS' NEEDS FOR WOMANITY AWARD

We are mindful of power imbalances when working with our on-ground partners. This year, we adapted our communications and reporting to better meet their needs. Although Womanity's official language is English, in 2023, we began having calls and accepting reports in our partners' first language — Portuguese — to make it easier and more convenient for them. We also take care of all necessary translations.

OUR DONORS

We are deeply grateful to all our incredible donors whose support empowers us to create meaningful change and pave the way to a more equal future for women and girls everywhere.

The generous contributions from individual donors, the organisations listed here, and anonymous donors are instrumental in helping us shape a more inclusive and promising tomorrow.

“Partnering with Womanity has expanded our perspective on collaborating effectively with other funders. It has also enhanced our understanding of the strategies needed to sustainably improve women's positions in society and their quality of life, as well as the lives of their families, in the long term.”



— **Valerie von der Malsburg**, Programme Manager,
Social Investors Partners (representing an anonymous donor)

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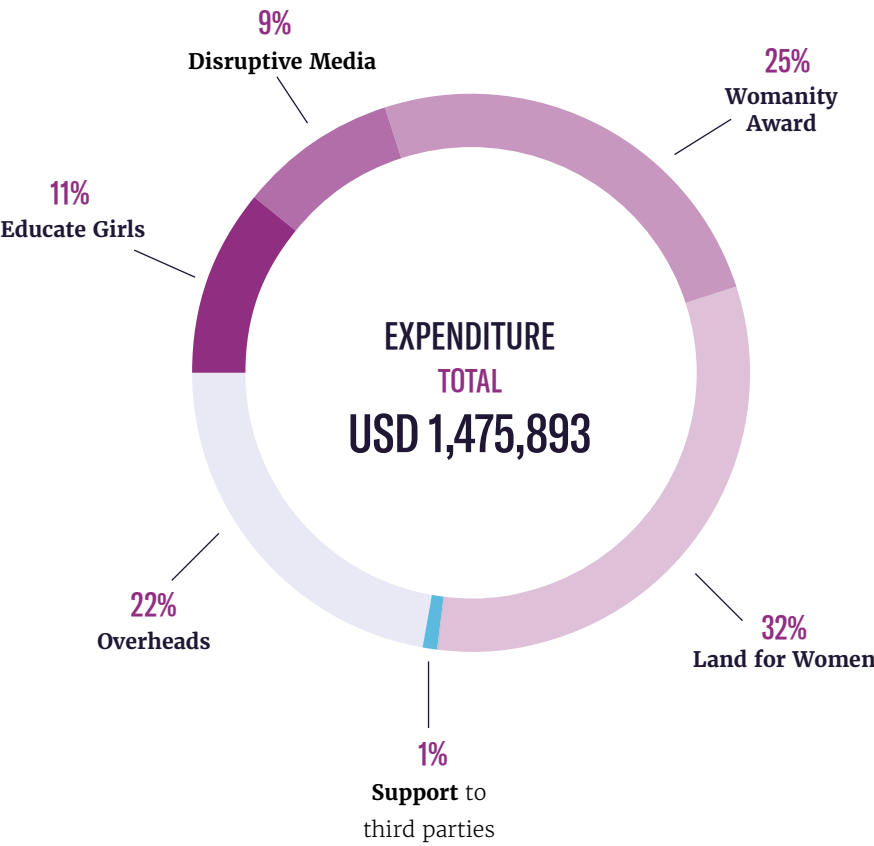
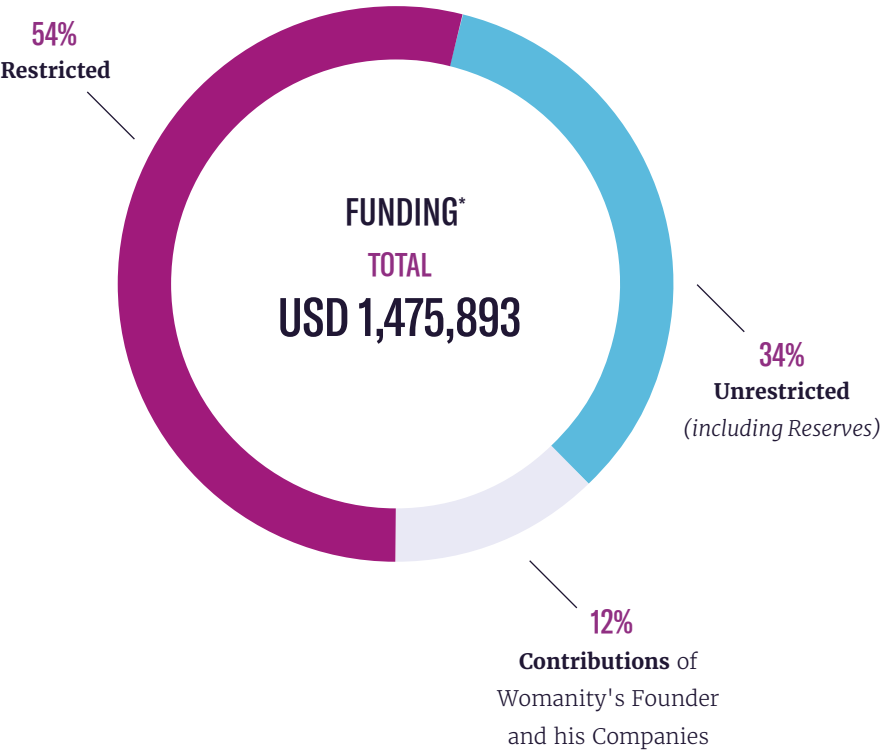


Women leaders from Ekal Nari Shakti Sangathan (Single Women's Association) who help single women (widowed, divorced, abandoned, separated, never married) in getting their land rights, pictured along with our NGO partner Astha Sansthan's project team.

Pictured: In front of Astha Sansthan's office in Udaipur, India.

FUNDING & EXPENDITURE

If you wish to receive a copy of the audited accounts, please contact Aurelia Ovan at aurelia@womanity.org.



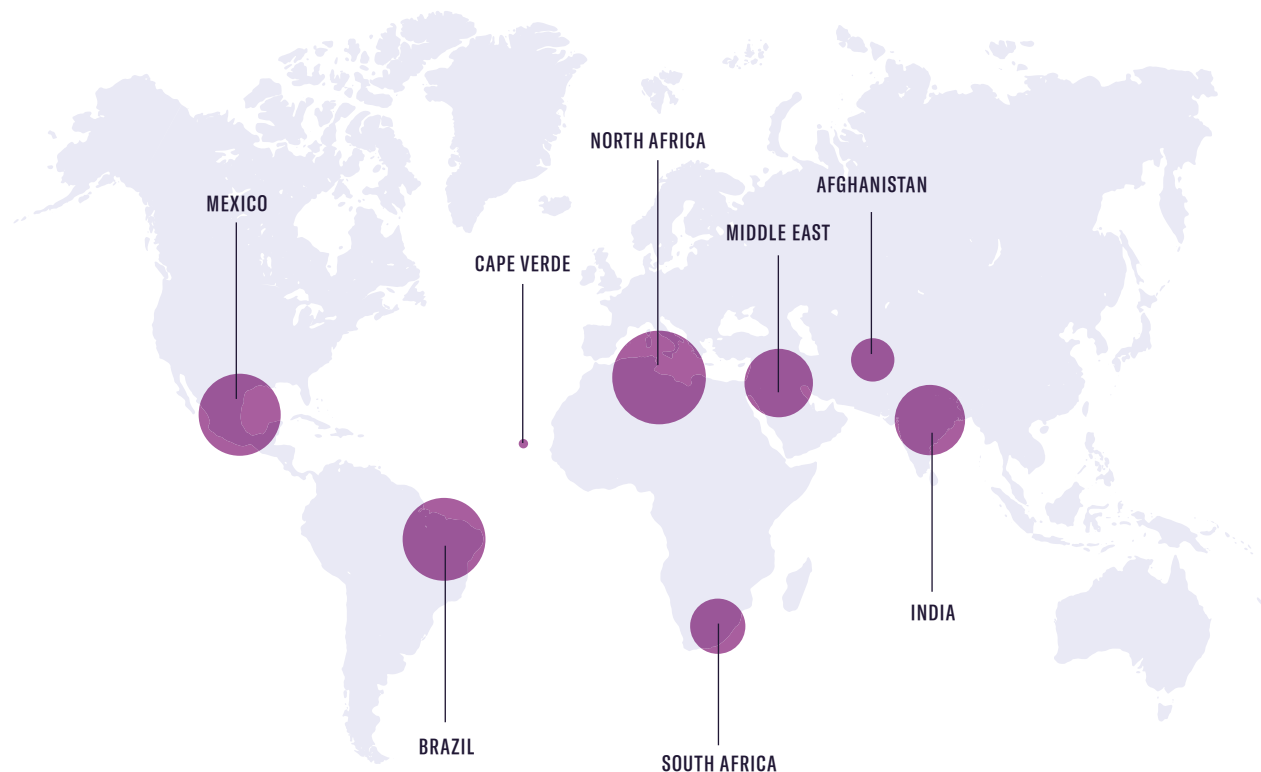
* This includes all the funding received in 2023 or multi-year funding which has partly been allocated to 2023.

ABOUT US

We are a Swiss-based organisation with a highly skilled global team dedicated to investing in and creating solutions for gender-based issues. Be it developing and implementing our own innovative programmes or supporting social changemakers and movements, we are committed to challenging the status quo and driving meaningful change to advance the rights of women worldwide.

Our vision for a gender-equal and just world has driven us to focus on preventing violence against women and girls, supporting grassroots organisations, championing girls' education, harnessing media for gender equality and promoting women's access to land rights. These are critical challenges faced by many in communities mostly in the Global South. We work extensively to strengthen on-ground partners and catalyse change.

→ www.womanity.org



Our programmes cultivate and enhance impactful collaborations.

Since 2005, with our years of experience in promoting gender equity and equality, we have developed a deep understanding of the unique social challenges in various countries and a strong global network of experts and local partnerships to address them.

Over the years, we have worked with philanthropists and investors to direct over \$18 million into programmes across Afghanistan, Brazil, Cape Verde, India, Mexico, South Africa, and the Middle East and North Africa. Our strategic support has enabled these programmes to significantly impact more than 31 million people — most of them women and girls.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Our success is wholly due to the incredible generosity and support of our partners, donors, and collaborators. Your contributions — be it in the form of financial donations, valuable time, invaluable advice, or impactful collaborations — are what fuel our mission.

We are deeply grateful for your belief in, and continued commitment to, a better future for women and girls everywhere. Thank you.

DONATE ONLINE

womanity.org/donation-page

SWISS BANK PAYMENT

The Womanity Foundation — Crédit Suisse, 1211 Geneva 70

Account: 337265-61 — **Swift code:** CRESCHZZ80A

IBAN CHF: CH93 0483 5033 7265 6100 0

IBAN EUR: CH32 0483 5033 7265 6200 1

IBAN USD: CH59 0483 5033 7265 6200 0

IBAN GBP: CH05 0483 5033 7265 6200 2

For any other currency, please use the Swiss Francs reference.

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The Womanity Foundation — Barclays Bank Plc 1

Churchill Place, London, E14 5HP

Account: 03425002

Sort code: 20-31-52

IBAN: GB38 BUKB 2031 5203 4250 02

Swift code: BUKBGB22XXX

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EUROPEAN UNION

Womanity is a beneficiary of the Transnational Giving Europe Network. You can make a donation from your country and benefit from your local tax advantages in a safe and secure environment.

To make a donation, visit <https://donate.transnationalgiving.eu/landing/womanity> or contact the TGE partner in your country of tax residence at <https://www.transnationalgiving.eu/category/partner>.

Womanity's administrative costs are mostly covered by our Founder. This ensures that the majority of your contribution goes directly to our programmes. Donations received are critical to our success and directed to the areas of greatest need. They allow us the flexibility to respond to opportunities and needs, helping us reach our objectives in each of our programmes.

All donations to Womanity are tax deductible in Switzerland, the USA, and most European country members of the Transnational Giving Europe Network, as per applicable laws and regulations.

If you would like to explore how you can get involved in our work or wish to receive a copy of the audited accounts, please contact Aurelia Ovan at aurelia@womanity.org.



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