

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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Intisar Al-Amyal has fought for women's rights for more than 20 years and is a representative of Iraqi Women's League, one of our partner organisations. In 2020, she was awarded the Per Anger Prize—the Swedish government's prize for human rights and democracy.

Photo: Anne-Sophie Le Mauff

The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation is one of the world’s leading women’s rights organisations. We work directly in areas affected by war and conflict to strengthen women’s influence and power.

We work closely together with 151 local partner organisations across 20 countries to end violence against women, reach lasting peace and close the gender gap once and for all. How? By supporting our partners’ programmes, fostering studies and research, and raising public awareness. All without attaching importance to religious, political, national or ethnic affiliation.

The future is equal. And together, we are change.

History

We have defended women’s rights since 1993, when reports of mass rapes in the wars in former Yugoslavia reached Sweden. The Swedish peace and women’s movements then organised a series of joint fundraising initiatives to support women in the Balkans.

Vision

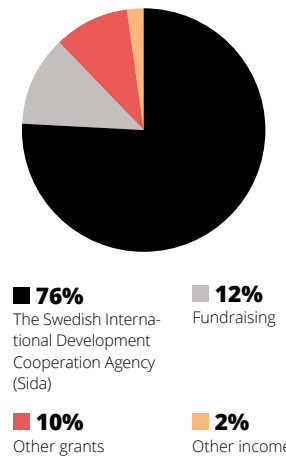
Kvinna till Kvinna’s vision is a world of sustainable and just peace built around gender equality, human rights and democracy. Our aim is to reach conflict resolution through civil, non-military means, whereby women have power over decisions and are included in all parts of society. In a peaceful and just society, women live free from threats, fear and exploitation, their human rights are respected, and they enjoy the same social, economic and political opportunities as men.

Focus areas

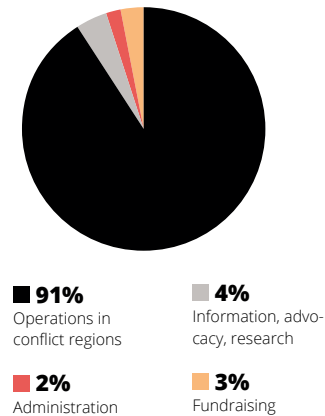
- **Ending violence against women**
We work to prevent and end gender-based violence. Until women can live their lives free from the threat of violence, equality and lasting peace remain out of reach for us all.
- **Strengthening women’s participation in peace processes**
When women take part in peace talks, peace agreements are more likely to be sustainable and address inequality. We call for equal participation of women in peace processes and for security policies to be based on the concept of human security.
- **Promoting women’s equal participation in society**
Across the world, women are underrepresented in decision-making, peace processes and the public debate. We advocate for women’s full, effective and equal participation in all parts of society.
- **Empowering women economically**
Women’s lack of economic empowerment is a major barrier to equality. That is why we strengthen women’s opportunities to get an education, enter the labour market, access financial resources and become financially independent.

Did you know that SEK 1,000 can provide two weeks’ worth of legal counselling and psychological support to 32 GBV survivors in Armenia? Your donation makes a difference!

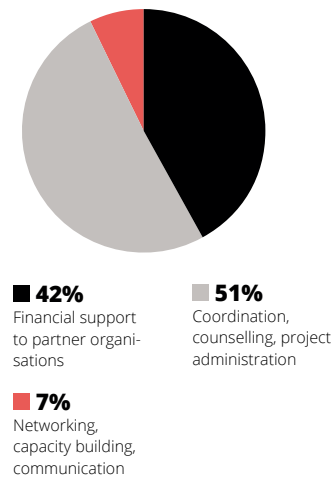
FUNDING SOURCES | SEK 202 M



FUNDING SPENT | SEK 192 M



OPERATIONS IN CONFLICT REGIONS | SEK 175 M



A BRIEF OVERVIEW



The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation is a member of the Swedish Fundraising Association (Giva Sverige), which works to ensure Sweden’s fundraising sector is transparent, accountable, ethical and professional. As a member, we annually demonstrate the impact of our operations.

These are the questions Giva Sverige asks us: our answers guide you to specific pages in this report that contain more information about our organisation, work and results.

What does Kvinna till Kvinna want to achieve?

You can find information about what we want to achieve, our vision and focus areas on page 4. Our goals are specified on pages 16–31, where we provide an account of our work around the world.

Why was Kvinna till Kvinna founded?

You’ll find the history of our organisation on page 4.

Where does Kvinna till Kvinna work?

We work in regions affected by war and conflict. On pages 6–7, a map shows which countries we operate in.

What does Kvinna till Kvinna do?

Our methodology and collaboration with women’s rights organisations are described on pages 8–9. Our partner organisations are presented on pages 16–31, per region.

What capacity and knowledge do you possess to achieve your goals?

We provide an overview of our organisation on page 8, where you’ll also find info about our offices and employees. You can read more about our capacity throughout the report, including our Board (page 36) and our development work (pages 10–13).

What are your strategies to achieve your goals?

Our strategies, which we explain throughout the report, vary depending on our goals and the location we work in. Our overarching strategy for the coming years and our principal method of change are explained on pages 8–9.

How is your work funded?

Kvinna till Kvinna is able to support women in conflict-affected regions through grants and private donations

(see page 8). An overview of all our funding is provided on page 4. Our private and corporate fundraising activities are described on pages 32–35.

How do you inform the general public about your work?

We inform the public about women’s rights and our work through various communication channels (including print and social media). Our volunteers are an invaluable part of our communication and fundraising work as well (see pages 32–35). On top of this, we engage in advocacy work, which you can read about on pages 14–15 and 32–35.

How do you measure whether your organisation is making progress?

The way we plan and follow up on our work is described in the model on page 9. You can find examples on a more general level on pages 10–13.

What have you achieved so far and which long-term results are you hoping to achieve?

The model on page 9 shows how our work leads to both societal and personal change for women. Our results and long-term goals for each region are described in the regional sections: the MENA region on pages 16–19; Africa on pages 20–23; Europe on pages 24–27; and the South Caucasus on pages 28–31. The results of our advocacy and communication efforts are described on pages 32–35.

How do you know your activities will be effective and how does your organisation work with learning?

We closely monitor and evaluate our operations at our method & development unit and our programme offices to be able to adapt our work. One example from this year is how we adapted our work to the covid-19 pandemic. We also arrange yearly workshops to share lessons learnt across regions and within the entire organisation. You can learn more about development and training on pages 10–13.

OUR WORK AROUND THE WORLD

Kvinna till Kvinna operates in the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa), Africa, Europe and the South Caucasus.



- Europe**
- Albania
 - Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Kosovo
 - Montenegro
 - North Macedonia
 - Serbia



- Africa**
- Liberia
 - Rwanda
 - The Democratic Republic of the Congo



- The MENA region**
- Iraq
 - Israel
 - Jordan
 - Lebanon
 - Palestine
 - Syria
 - Tunisia



- The South Caucasus**
- Armenia
 - Azerbaijan
 - Georgia and the Abkhaz context

For security reasons, we can neither mention all the countries we operate in nor provide a complete list of partner organisations we support.

AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR

2020 was set to be an extraordinary year for women's rights. We were planning on celebrating the Beijing Conference's 25th anniversary and two decades of the UN Security Council's landmark Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. But all events we had scheduled suddenly had to be scrapped: just like the rest of the world, our year was dominated by covid-19.

As the virus spread like wildfire, we were not just worried about the physical symptoms it caused. Because a few weeks into the pandemic, we saw that covid-19 would have other, more insidious consequences for women and girls. Consequences that risk continuing to wreak havoc for women's rights for a long time to come.

All the countries we work in saw a spike in domestic and sexual violence—likely a result of lockdowns trapping women in the same quarters as their abusers. Authoritarian-leaning regimes used the containment measures they implemented as an opportunity to further their own agenda and clamp down on civil society.

Economically too, covid-19 has had dire consequences for women (as well as vulnerable groups like migrants and refugees), who often juggle unpaid household work with jobs in the informal sector that pay abysmal wages.

Add to that specific crises in certain regions—like the war over Nagorny-Karabakh in the South Caucasus or the explosion in Beirut this summer—and we can be sure that the work for women's rights and gender equality in times of crisis will need to continue.

Despite the chaos the world was plunged in, however, the women's movement achieved stellar results this year.

Our partner organisations kept up their efforts even as they faced curfews and lockdowns themselves. They ran 24/7 GBV hotlines, provided humanitarian aid and covid-19 relief, and digitalised their advocacy campaigns with surprising creativity.

Their voices were also the backbone for our new publication, 'A Right Not A Gift', which explores what the Women, Peace and Security agenda and Resolution 1325 have meant for women as champions of peace—and which obstacles still remain. In recent months, we presented the report at no less than 16 different digital seminars, roundtables and workshops. So, in the end, 2020 did turn out to be an extraordinary year after all—because of the flexibility, resilience and bravery of women human rights defenders across the world.

Petra Tötterman Andorff | Secretary-General

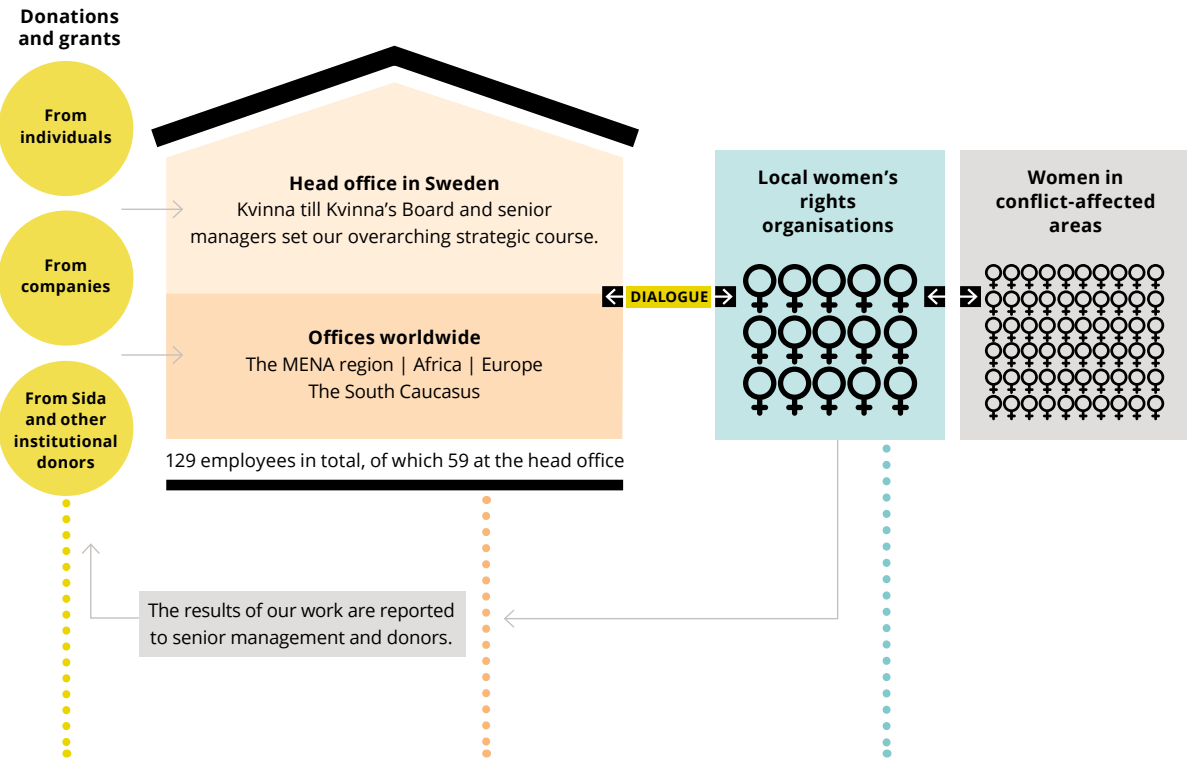


Photo: Viktor Girdar

HOW KVINNA TILL KVINNA WORKS

A peaceful and equal world for everyone. That is what we at Kvinna till Kvinna want to achieve. We do this by supporting 151 partner organisations, fostering studies and research, and raising awareness.

For us, our partner organisations come first. We get to know them, listen to them and support their priorities. We help them grow by providing financial support, training and networking opportunities.



Our funding	Our methods	Our partner organisations
<p>We are able to support women's rights thanks to donations and grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is our main source of funding. We also receive grants from the Swedish Inheritance Fund, the EU, the Folke Bernadotte Academy, Canada, the UK, the UN and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.Our work also heavily relies on donations from private individuals and companies. Our main private donor is the Swedish Postcode Lottery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communication: We raise awareness through digital communication, media appearances, events and the activities of our volunteers.Advocacy: We influence decision-makers and call for legislative change to improve women's rights.Research: We produce studies and reports, both by ourselves and together with researchers and research institutions.Training: We offer capacity-building training on women, peace and security.	<p>In 2020, Kvinna till Kvinna partnered with 151 women's rights organisations in four conflict-affected regions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The MENA regionEuropeAfricaThe South Caucasus <p>Strategic focus</p> <p>Our focus for 2016–2022 is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reduce violence against women.2. Increase women's political participation.3. Contribute to changes in security policy that give prominence to women's rights.

HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Example Empowering girls in rural areas	How we measure results
<p>1 We support many women's rights organisations, including Rwanda Women's Network (RWN). This strong, women-led organisation was founded after Rwanda's genocide, to provide a safe space for women who had experienced trauma or GBV. RWN runs a clinic and a network of shelters across the country.</p>	<p>We analyse what share of our budget directly benefits partner organisations, whether financially or through training and networking opportunities.</p>
<p>2 RWN receives funding from us to raise girls' awareness of gender equality, GBV and SRHR. They empower so-called 'girl champions' to bring about change by forming action & learning collectives and voluntary saving & lending groups. This allows the girls to earn an income and become financially independent.</p>	<p>We regularly meet our partners and maintain a close dialogue with them. This helps us monitor their work and understand the local context.</p>
<p>3 We build RWN's capacity and help them become a more sustainable organisation. We also arrange networking events so they can share their experiences with other actors. All this strengthens RWN as an organisation that addresses gender equality, GBV and SRHR.</p>	<p>We follow up on our partners' ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• plan and evaluate their projects• operate transparently and efficiently• network with relevant actors.
<p>4 As a strong women's rights actor, RWN can change institutions and strengthen the position of women. RWN works with various structures, policymakers, local leaders and NGOs. It holds public-speaking workshops for local women and puts them in touch with women MPs.</p>	<p>We work with our partner organisations to analyse their impact on society, so we may learn and develop together. Independent auditors evaluate our partners' work.</p>
<p>5 In the long run, this helps bring about equality, democracy and sustainable peace—which directly improves individual women's lives.</p>	



Jacqueline
Mahoko | Western Province, Rwanda

Twenty-year-old Jacqueline is a 'girl champion' trained by RWN. She's from a poor village in rural Rwanda, so her family was unable to pay for her studies. Dropping out of school at an early age affected her self-esteem. When Jacqueline joined RWN's initiative Women Space, she regained her voice. The other women at Women Space taught her how to sew and lent Jacqueline 100,000 RfW (approx. SEK 870) to buy a sewing machine. Once her business took off, Jacqueline was able to repay the loan. She dreams of owning a sewing school, where she'll empower other girls who were also forced to drop out of school.



Women and girls are disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

Claudine Nyiramahirwe, Francoise Mukangoboka and Angelique Mukandutiye from Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisation Réseau des Femmes Ouvrant pour le Développement Rural in Rwanda.

A GENDER ANALYSIS OF COVID-19

Just like the rest of the world, The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation has felt the harsh effects of the coronavirus pandemic. With closed borders and global lockdowns, we were suddenly unable to network, meet our partner organisations or support rights holders as usual.

But it's not just these practical effects we worry about; it's the way women and girls around the world may be impacted by covid-19 long after vaccines have stopped the spread of the virus.

Women are hit harder

Pre-existing structural inequality tends to be reinforced by crises. That is why women and girls have been hit harder by covid-19 than many other groups, because they are often already:

- economically more vulnerable, working in part-time, informal jobs with little security.
- deprioritised by health providers, which the spike in maternal mortality during the Ebola crisis proved.

- carrying the burden of caring for the elderly, children and the household.
- likely to work in the health care sector—a dangerous job these days.
- overlooked when governments provide aid (which usually focuses on the needs of men) without consulting women.

Long-term effects on women

Women and girls' vulnerability puts them at risk of several long-term effects:

- When the economy goes into recession, it is a particular blow to women, as poverty is already gendered.
- When societies enforce a lockdown, women and girls cannot escape the perpetrators of GBV. Across the countries we work in, we've seen how covid-19 has led to an increase in domestic violence.
- When schools close, teenage girls risk being married off and becoming pregnant, which means they'll likely never enter a classroom again.
- When authoritarian states impose extraordinary pandemic measures, these can be used to permanently violate human rights and silence women's voices.



Almost

70%

of health care workers around the world are female, the WHO reports.

UNFPA estimates global lockdowns this spring caused

15,000,000

extra cases of GBV in just 3 months' time.

64%

of journalists, activists and democracy experts believe covid-19 will negatively impact democracy in their country in the next few years.

Source 'Democracy Under Lockdown', Freedom House

Our partner organisations

The pandemic has also affected our partner organisations in different ways:

- Restrictions on movements forced some to close down counselling centres and halt their outreach.
- In other cases, organisations set up emergency hotlines, meaning staff sometimes worked around the clock.
- Working from home, often with unstable or unsafe internet connections, isolated activists and even jeopardised their safety.

And those are just some of the preliminary effects we've witnessed.

In the months to come, we strongly urge governments and decision-makers around the world to take a feminist approach to (the aftermath of) the covid-19 crisis. Without, women and girls risk suffering the consequences for years to come.

Still, there is light in the darkness. We've been amazed at how swiftly the women's movement has adapted to covid-19—fiercely advocating for a gendered response to the pandemic and using digital tools to network across borders in an unprecedented way! Whatever the future has in store, those advances are something worth celebrating.

ADAPTING TO COVID-19

Just like the rest of the world, Kvinna till Kvinna had to grapple with the major changes covid-19 brought along. Here are three ways in which we adjusted our work to promote women's rights across the world:

1 SETTING UP A HELPDESK

During the spring, the method & development unit ran a special helpdesk, to support staff in all regions with adjusting their work to the pandemic's new reality. The helpdesk received about two dozen requests for advice. Questions ranged from "how do I monitor a team from afar" to "what's the best way to set up an online GBV hotline" and "how can I adjust my budget to covid-19".

2 DIGITALISATION

A special working group helped all colleagues safely embrace the sudden switch to digital platforms. It produced guidelines on how to communicate via Microsoft Teams rather than Skype, for example, and published tips & tricks on navigating digital space during the pandemic. Especially in terms of online security, the group's support proved crucial.

3 WORKING FROM HOME

Just like the rest of the world, working from home became the new normal for us in 2020. Our head office emptied out from March, with our offices abroad following suit around the same time. Many of our partner organisations too started working from home. Here's a glimpse of what that has looked like for all of us...



A few days in, my working-from-home desk was covered in juice spills, my son's homework and post-it notes from my colleagues I had grabbed from the office. I only realised all of this had messed with my sanity when I called one of my colleagues at 9 pm for an invoice. These are now my new working hours...

Natalija Atanasov of Coalition Margins, North Macedonia

As we're constantly adjusting to the new situation, I've experienced a new phenomenon: 'working twice as hard to get half as far'.

Staff member at Akcija Združenska, North Macedonia

ITP SUCCESS DESPITE CHALLENGES

This year, our International Training Programme on Gender-Based Violence had to be digitalised due to covid-19. Cancelling wasn't an option, because the pandemic caused a worrying upsurge in GBV in many places. In spite of these challenges, stellar results were achieved.

• Many participants from the Moldovan health care sector, authorities and civil society had been working for years to strengthen GBV legislation in their country. Their efforts are now bearing fruit: in early 2020, a new law came into force, increasing harmonisation with the Istanbul Convention and strengthening cooperation between actors working with GBV. Our ITP participants also helped design new national GBV guidelines, which have already been implemented at the local level.

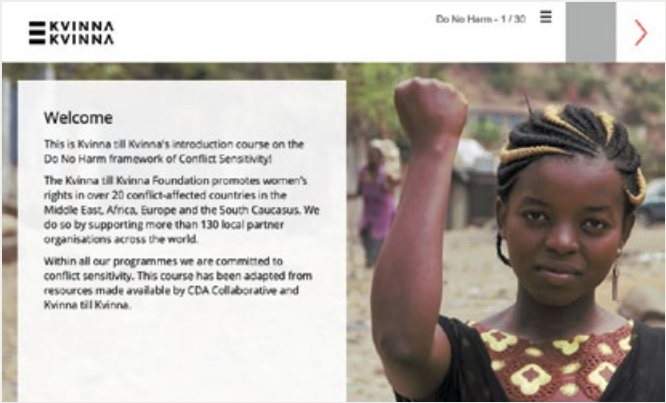
• An associate professor at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Chişinău designed a GBV course for medical students. This year, the first students enrolled. One initial reaction? "This course changed my mind about life and women!"

• Elsewhere in Moldova, another ITP participant set up conversation groups for fathers, to prevent GBV by changing men's attitudes towards fatherhood. At first, it was an uphill battle, especially because funding was scarce. This year, however, the father groups finally got off the ground—the first project of its kind in the country.



Participant in 'Father School'—a change project organised by a Moldovan ITP participant.

Did you know that SEK 150 can offer a teenage girl in Africa a year's worth of sanitary pads, so she doesn't have to miss school during her period? Your donation makes a difference!



PILOTING E-LEARNING

In 2020, we developed our very first e-learning course for partner organisations and staff, on conflict sensitivity and the Do No Harm approach. Jenny Sonesson and Ola Saleh, who produced the course together, tell us more:

Why e-learning?

We wanted to create a democratic and feminist learning space for all Kvinna till Kvinna staff and partner organisations. Digital learning makes it easier to share knowledge—which is not always easy for us, because our organisation is so decentralised. It also supports our climate efforts: e-learning means less travelling, and thus less greenhouse gas emissions! In these times of covid-19, it's a good way to support our partner organisations from a distance.

What has the reaction been?

By early September, our first course was ready to be tested. Thirty members of our Liberian partner organisations spent several days trying out the self-paced course. Their reactions were overwhelmingly positive:

"Some of the chapters were so exciting, I never wanted it to end. It was very interactive."

"Now I understand the difference between working IN conflict and working ON conflict."

What's next?

Following the success of the pilot, we're eager to develop more e-learning courses, to explore how we can support the online mobilisation of the women's movement. Integrated security and activists' personal safety might be the topic for our next course. First, we'll need to tackle a few challenges, though. We're working to secure the right infrastructure, identify partner organisations' most pressing needs and find ways of combining e-learning with face-to-face learning.

The first course is now available in English for all staff and partner organisations. The goal is to also make it available in the key languages of the countries we work in.

Photo: Bertin Mungonbe



DIGITAL FAREWELL IN COLOMBIA

Covid-19 broke out just as our training programme with the Colombian Ministry of Defence, armed forces and police was in full swing. Plans of participants coming to Sweden to swap notes with their European counterparts had to be turned into digital meetings in record time—but the switch was a success.

Starting in March, we met each other online for further workshops on Women, Peace and Security issues (including a gender analysis of covid-19's consequences). In between sessions, participants kept working on their change projects in their respective institutions.

When the programme formally ended in November, there were highly tangible, fantastic achievements to celebrate. The Ministry of Defence had adopted new equality guidelines, for example, and the topic of Women, Peace and Security will soon be part of military schools' curricula. Not to mention the fact that two of our participants will soon lead the Colombian Army and Navy's brand-new Gender Offices!

SIDA WRAPS UP PERFORMANCE AUDIT

Back in 2018, our main donor, Sida, ordered a large-scale audit of Kvinna till Kvinna's internal systems, processes and control mechanisms. In response to the audit's findings, we worked hard to adapt and innovate the way we function, reporting back to Sida every six months on improvements we'd made. We updated our programme handbook, for example, drafted new financial guidelines on procurement and anti-corruption, and strengthened our approach to decentralisation. In August, Sida gave us the happy news that the performance audit could finally be wrapped up. In practice, this is yet another stamp of approval for Kvinna till Kvinna as an organisation!



CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY

How can we become a greener, more sustainable, environmentally friendly organisation?

This year, the method & development unit sent out surveys to Kvinna till Kvinna's staff to ask them that exact question. Intense discussions took place, both in our country offices and in Stockholm. When the results from those discussions were sent in, one thing became very clear: our staff agree sustainability should be a priority!

Add to that the feedback we got from a climate spot-check Sida conducted over the summer, and we have a whole list of suggestions to work with. There's a call for greener offices, more conscious travel decisions and environmental discussions with our partner organisations, for example.

To turn these concerns into action, we're now developing a plan to integrate environmental sustainability into our work. The goal is to start taking practical steps in 2021!



ANNUAL RESULTS WORKSHOP

Since 2016, all staff has participated in a yearly workshop to share achievements, challenges and lessons learnt across Kvinna till Kvinna's regions. One part of the seminar always focuses on a specific theme. This allows for a deeper, more long-term analysis of results and helps us pinpoint our added value. In 2020, the theme was global movement-building. Because of covid-19, this year's workshop was held online, which allowed nearly 90 participants in 12 offices around the world to join!

Image Screenshot from the annual results workshop—a digital event this year!

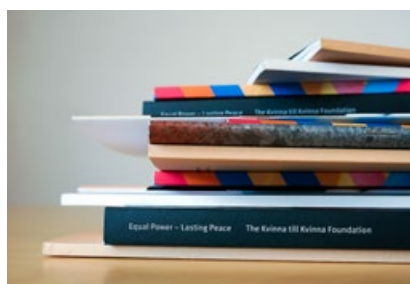
EXPLORING HOW CHANGE HAPPENS

We continued to hold training sessions for our partner organisations and staff, to introduce 'Theory of Change' as a tool for sustainable change. Coaching took place remotely with our Liberia and MENA teams, as well as with 15–20 participants from Iraqi organisations (including local consultants). The sessions were recorded so they could be shared with others.

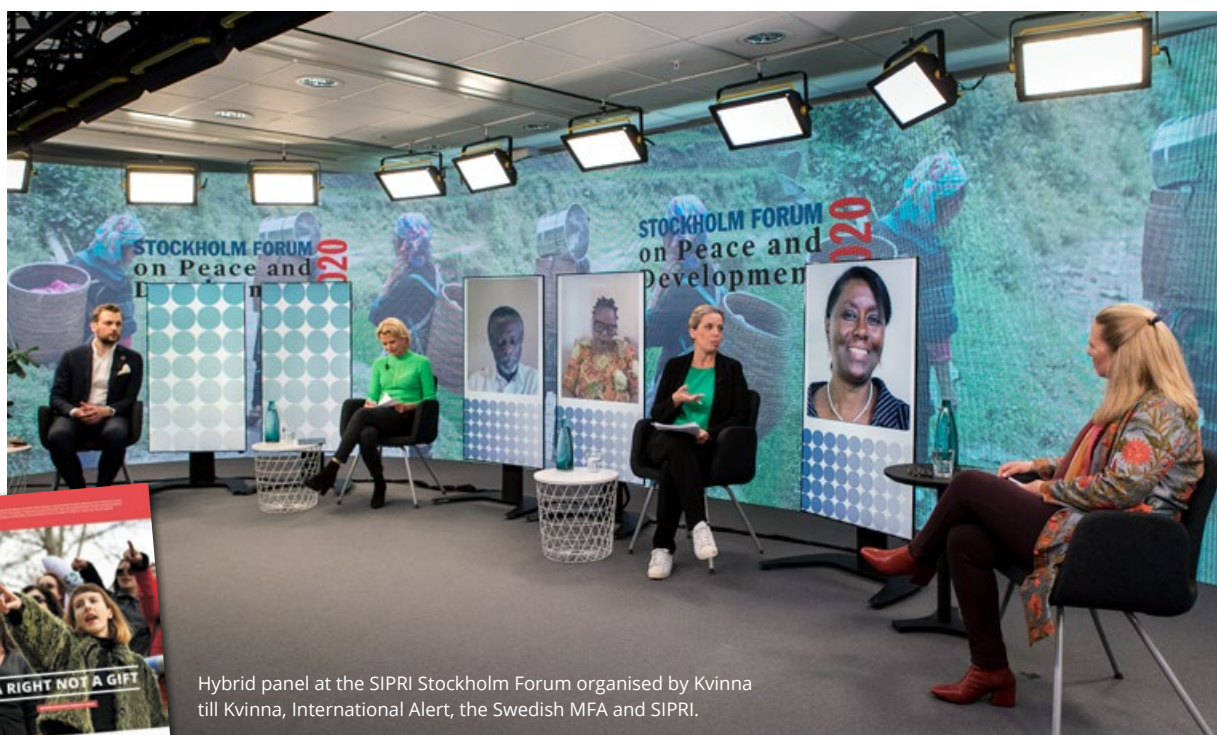
A few reactions from Iraq:

"The workshop made me think more intentionally about change."
"We see the bigger picture of the context and how change happens. It's like a spiderweb."
"The complexity of change becomes manageable. You need to know the fruit you want to reap before you sow the seed."
"Thinking with others expands our perspective. We feel we were lifted a step higher."





Research is an important part of Kvinna till Kvinna's mandate. We both produce our own reports and support our partner organisations' research on women, peace and security. Here are some of the latest publications to roll off the presses...



Hybrid panel at the SIPRI Stockholm Forum organised by Kvinna till Kvinna, International Alert, the Swedish MFA and SIPRI.

REPORT: A RIGHT NOT A GIFT

In 2000, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. It acknowledged women's crucial role as peacebuilders and recognised the myriad ways in which conflict affects women—a landmark victory for the women's movement. To mark the 20th anniversary of 1325, we launched the report 'A Right Not A Gift: Women Building Feminist Peace'.

We interviewed 91 women peacebuilders and WHRDs from Syria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine. As conflict is part of their everyday life, we asked them what the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda has meant for them. They described it as an important tool to mobilise, build coalitions and advocate for peace, saying Resolution 1325 has helped women claim a seat at the table.

But they also shared the challenges they face as advocates for peace, and identified shortcomings in the WPS agenda. Critical policy areas like women's economic rights, housing, land and property rights, violent extremism and shrinking space are left unaddressed. As long as these issues are ignored, sustainable peace is impossible.

We launched 'A Right Not A Gift' at the SIPRI Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development in May. This was followed by additional events and roundtables—including with representatives of the EU, the UN and the Swedish government. Because of covid-19, everything happened digitally—but we were able to reach thousands of viewers around the globe!

We also organised workshops to explore how to move forward with the recommendations of the report.

IFI REPORT BECOMES ADVOCACY TOOL

Last year, we published a report on the gendered implications of international financial institutions' decisions. Since then, we've used the report to advocate greater participation of women in development financing in Jordan, Egypt and Tunisia.

The report had revealed women's rights organisations struggle to gain access to IFIs' corridors of power—so we created inroads for activists to engage in dialogue with these actors.

In October, we co-hosted a panel debate at the Civil Society Policy Forum to the World Bank and IMF, attended by high-level representatives from both institutions. It was an opportunity for us to advocate a long-term, gender-transformative, macroeconomic approach to covid-19 recovery, with Jordan as an example.

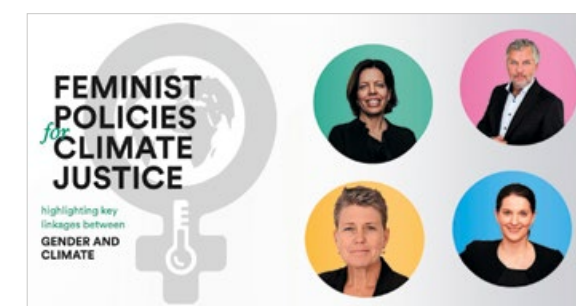
Just weeks later, our Jordanian team invited women's rights activists, civil society and partner organisations to discuss the World Bank's activities in Jordan. Participants got to share their concerns about the World Bank's equality efforts and its (lack of) consultation of women's organisations during the pandemic.

Exciting first steps that have the power to amplify women's voices in an entirely new arena!



A women peacebuilder from Syria interviewed for 'A Right Not A Gift' talks about peace:

One can dream about the future. Peace is a journey, not an end.



WHERE FEMINISM MEETS CLIMATE

Together with other NGOs from the Concord network, we researched the link between gender equality and climate change. The result is a new report, 'Feminist Policies for Climate Justice'.

"Climate change disproportionately affects women and girls, not least those who are already living in poverty, conflict or precarious situations," says Charlotte dos Santos Pruth, Kvinna till Kvinna's senior advocacy advisor. "The report strongly urges leaders to prioritise women's participation in climate initiatives. It's such a crucial part of the puzzle."

The report, which was launched in June, contains a range of suggestions on how to mitigate the climate crisis' effects on women and girls. Dos Santos Pruth hopes policymakers will heed the recommendations: "We need a greater focus on equality and climate justice, one which puts people and the planet's wellbeing front and centre."



Our secretary-general discussed our joint pandemic report on Swedish national television this autumn, in a programme about global solidarity in times of covid-19.

COVID-19'S GLOBAL EFFECT

This spring, we witnessed how the coronavirus pandemic hit marginalised groups and women around the world. So we teamed up with six NGOs to publish a joint analysis of the pandemic's disastrous effects on global development and gender equality. One worrisome finding, for example, is that school closures coupled with covid-19's economic consequences are feared to result in 13 million more child marriages in the next 10 years... The report's digital launch was accompanied by an op-ed in newspapers across Sweden (with a reach of 550,000 readers).

Glossary of terms

If you feel the development world is teeming with incomprehensible abbreviations, you're not alone. Here's a list of the five main ones we use in this report—we promise we tried to keep things to a minimum!

GBV: Gender-based violence. Acts that hurt, threaten, violate, force or restrict someone, and that are based in a gendered power structure.

WHRD(s): A female human rights defender, or any other human rights defender who works on gender issues or in defence of women's rights.

Res 1325: A landmark UN Security Council resolution, adopted in 2000, that acknowledged women's key role in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

WPS: Women, Peace & Security. The advocacy agenda based on Resolution 1325 and its successors.

SRHR: Sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Did you know that SEK 2,500 can provide ten Syrian girls with stationery and textbooks so they can finish their education? Your donation makes a difference!



Photo: Fadi Dahabreh

GOALS

Long-term goal
A strong and sustainable women's movement that strengthens women's rights and their opportunities to participate in decision-making, at all levels.

- Short-term goals**
- Reduce violence against women
 - Prevent and combat discrimination
 - Increase women's participation in peacebuilding and society
 - Support the development of women's rights organisations
 - Strengthen the protection of activists

WOMEN ON THE FRONTLINE
IN A VOLATILE REGION

Across the MENA region, we saw political instability, economic decline and rising inequality in 2020. Palestine faced gross human rights violations, Syria and Iraq remain mired in conflict, and Lebanon—which was hit with a destructive explosion in August—faces an ongoing, unprecedented economic crisis.

Women continued to be excluded from and marginalised in the labour market: the MENA region has one of the most gender-unequal unemployment rates in the world.

Covid-19 only exacerbated these challenges. Strict lockdowns were implemented, with citizens confined to their homes for months in several countries. In Lebanon and the Gaza Strip (one of the most crowded areas on earth) the medical system teetered on the brink of collapse. Tunisia initially managed to halt the spread of the virus remarkably well, but the fall of several consecutive governments hampered those efforts.

Many countries also saw increasing surveillance and attacks against activists and journalists—a trend which, in part, was facilitated by emergency laws and covid-19 measures.

Despite these worrying developments, however, the women's movement continued to display fantastic strength and determination. Our local partner organisations swiftly adapted to the pandemic: digitalising instead of postponing events, providing covid-specific aid, and offering everything from legal help and financial aid to mental health support when they noted a spike in GBV cases.

They also fought to defend the rights of refugees and internally displaced people—a much-needed initiative, as UNHCR estimates 23.6% of the world's refugees reside in the Arab world. That number even increased this year: Syrian government airstrikes in January caused a million people, 80% of which were women and girls, to flee Idlib Governorate.

The dedication of our local partner organisations is bearing fruit. We've seen new feminist groups emerge and established ones getting more powerful, as mobilisation for women's rights remains strong. All of this creates new opportunities for coalition-building across groups and across generations. So rather than a bleak picture, we see women standing on the frontlines of resistance—heralding a new dawn.

Image Esra Zobaydi is a participant of Kvinna till Kvinna's Palestinian partner organisation PCPD's feminist forum.



Photo: Christopher Henwig

YEARS OF ADVOCACY
FOR MUMS

Jordan is a tough context for women's economic empowerment: 34% of women are unemployed, and 34% of those who do have a job quit once they get married. Traditional gender roles, a lack of safe transportation and low wages for women are all part of the problem.

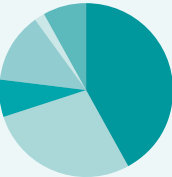
For over a decade, our local partner Sadaqa has fought to address another key cause of women's high unemployment: a lack of childcare services. According to Article 72 of Jordan's labour law, any workplace that employs more than 20 women with a total of 10 young children is required to provide childcare. But with hardly any penalty for non-compliance, implementation of Article 72 has been all but completely ignored.

Back in 2010, Sadaqa started doing research into the issue as a first step. It then ran advocacy campaigns, lobbied the government to make Article 72 more inclusive, provided over 200 companies with technical assistance and created training manuals for caregivers. All this shows that advancing gender equality and achieving long-term results can take time.

This year, Sadaqa helped struggling childcare centres bridge temporary lockdowns. And when Jordan announced it would force childcare centres to close because of covid-19, Sadaqa and their network caused such a stir the decision was reversed within 48 hours! In other words: persistent work pays off.

OUR WORK IN BRIEF

- Our partners focus on:**
- Gender-based violence: 42%
 - Participation in society: 28%
 - Peacebuilding: 7%
 - Economic empowerment: 13%
 - Human security: 2%
 - Other, including SRHR: 8%



IRAQ
We have been working in the country since 2005. We have an office in Erbil.

Partner organisations: *Hawa Organisation for Relief and Development, Iraqi Organization for Women and Future, Iraqi Women's League, Pena Center, Rasan Organization for Women's Rights.*

ISRAEL
We have been working in the country since 2001. We have an office in Jerusalem.

Partner organisations: *Achoti for Women in Israel, Al Tufula Centre & Alternative Coalition 1325, Assiwar, Isha L'Isha, Kayan Palestinian Feminist Organisation.*

JORDAN
We have been working in the country since 2005. We have an office in Amman.

Partner organisations: *Ahel, Arab Women Organization, Jordanian Women's Union, Sadaqa, Sisterhood is Global Institute.*

SYRIA
We have been working in the country since 2009.

Partner organisations: *Badael, Dawlaty, Kesh Malek, Mobaderoon, Musawa/ Women's Study Center, Syrian Female Journalist Network, Women Now for Development.*

LEBANON
We have been working in the country since 2005. We have an office in Beirut.

Partner organisations: *Anti-Racism Movement (ARM), Association Najdeh, FeMale, Kafa (Enough) Violence and Exploitation, Knowledge Workshop, Lebanese Council to resist Violence Against Women, Lebanese Democratic Women Gathering, RDFL, The A Project, The Collective for Research and Training on Development-Action, Women's Humanitarian Organization.*

PALESTINE
We have been working in the country since 2001. We have an office in Jerusalem.

Partner organisations: *AISHA Association Woman and Child Protection, Al Qaws, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, Palestinian Centre for Peace and Democracy, Palestinian Working Women's Society for Development (PWWSD), Rural Women's Development Society, Sawa – All the Women Together Today and Tomorrow, Women's Affairs Center (WAC) Gaza, Women's Studies Center.*

TUNISIA
We have been working in the country since 2016. We have an office in Tunis.

Partner organisations: *Association femme et citoyenneté, Association Tunisienne des Femmes Démocrates, Aswat Nissa, Joussour de citoyenneté, Ligue des Electricités Tunisiennes.*

Across the region, we work with the WHRD-MENA coalition and CAWTAR.

Photo: Intisar Al-Amyal



PARTNER WINS PER ANGER PRIZE

We're incredibly proud of Intisar Al-Amyal, a representative of one of our Iraqi partner organisations, for winning this year's Per Anger prize! The Swedish government bestows the prestigious award to exceptional initiatives that advance human rights and democracy.

Intisar has been working to defend women's rights for more than 20 years. She's done so in the incredibly difficult context that is Iraq: a country that has faced four decades of totalitarianism, war, invasion and terrorism, where activists face regular death threats from extremist forces.

Intisar started out her career as a volunteer for the Iraqi Women's League, speaking out against GBV, honour killings and child marriage. Today, she's one of the most powerful feminist leaders in the country. The Per Anger jury agrees: "With her courage and commitment, Intisar Al-Amyal offers strength to those who were doubtful but who've now decided to become part of a movement for change."

On October 15th, Intisar accepted her award during a livestreamed digital ceremony hosted by The Living History Forum.



Intisar Al-Amyal,
laureate of the Per Anger prize

I can't imagine my life without helping and defending every person I can.

Photo: Al-Tufula Center - Nazareth Nursery Institution



YOUNG PALESTINIANS STAND UP FOR CHANGE

In Galilee in northern Israel, our partner Al Tufula Centre—Nazareth Nursery Institution runs a project to empower young Palestinian citizens of Israel to address violence in their community. This year, a group of 22 recent school graduates and university students took part in intensive training sessions on social change and leadership—focused on the issue of violence and different forms of identity. Al Tufula Centre set up meetings with civil society and community leaders in Haifa, Nazareth and the Golan Heights, so the young Palestinian citizens of Israel got to hear how these role models had brought about change. At the end of the project, participants turned their newfound knowledge into action: they partnered with 170 younger students to design GBV awareness-raising campaigns at local high schools. A chain of changemakers, so to say!

IRAQI GRASSROOTS EFFORTS

For years, we mostly worked with well-known, established partners in Iraq. High time to support grassroots work as well, we thought. Over the course of several weeks, our Iraqi team mapped out informal women's rights initiatives across the country. Women who do hands-on work in far-flung, insecure areas. Who run neighbourhood initiatives with great enthusiasm, but don't have the capacity to respond to calls for proposals. All because they're too busy changing society. That's how we found Ayadi Alsalam, Lahunna, Ardh Al-Iraq, Jud for Development and other initiatives. Last summer, we helped them structure their financial systems and put strategies to paper—exciting projects are in the making! We can't wait to present the results to you.



Photo: Fredrik Westerholm

TRAGEDY IN BEIRUT

On August 4th, a massive explosion ripped through Beirut—leaving the centre of the city in ruins, killing 200 and injuring 6,000. As hospitals were already overflowing with covid-19 cases, and Lebanon faced an ongoing economic crisis, violent protests broke out. Ultimately, the government was forced to resign. Amid this chaos, many mourned great losses—including those working for our partner organisations, who saw their own homes destroyed and loved ones hurt. Still, they managed to mobilise: they provided shelter, food and much-needed psychological support. Together, they cleaned up Beirut's streets and began to rebuild the city. Sadly, their efforts may be needed for a long time to come: "This is one of the most difficult situations we've ever faced," regional manager Marie Wikström says. "And that's saying something."



STREAMLINING GBV RESPONSE IN TUNISIA

For several years now, our partner AFC has been running a domestic-violence support centre in the small town of Kef—the only centre of its kind in northwest Tunisia. We support the centre's core functioning, from first-aid support to counselling groups. Because of its expertise, AFC has even been training its peers and providing technical GBV input to the government. Over the course of several years, AFC noticed authorities were struggling to coordinate their response to GBV. That's why they set up a GBV coordination committee, bringing together the Ministry for Justice, police, health providers, the Ministry for Gender and social services. This served as a role model for implementation across the country. Using its knowledge and experience, AFC holds trainings to help streamline GBV response at the municipal level. This summer, for example, the organisation arranged a special training on how to collect data on GBV for the members of its committee. Coordination work like this may not be glamorous or swift, but we're proud to be part of long-term efforts that change society for the better!

Photo: Sawa



Apart from the hotline, Sawa also runs two mobile clinics for SRHR and psychosocial support. During the pandemic, the clinic ran info campaigns on covid-19 prevention and protection in 42 marginalised villages in the West Bank.

24/7 HOTLINE DURING COVID-19

Our Palestinian partner organisation Sawa runs a support helpline for people of all genders. When covid-19 broke out, the helpline went into emergency mode and answered calls around the clock, and additional WhatsApp chat support was set up. This year, Sawa took 9,081 calls from Gaza and the West Bank. Many mentioned anxiety and depression. Twice as many callers talked about suicide this year, especially those aged 15–35. Four times as many discussed the need to self-harm. A large number of calls were also cries for help by victims of abuse, rape or incest. Reports of violence increased by 70% in 2020. To deal with the influx of calls, Sawa trained 40 new volunteers.

NEW GRANT FOR ECONOMIC GBV

We are the proud recipients of a new EUR 10.9 million grant from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for a project to tackle economic GBV against young women in Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon and Tunisia. Together with three MENA partners, we formed the FEM PAWER consortium, which will address the lack of social protection for young MENA women who work in the informal sector, whether as farmhands, domestic workers or shopkeepers, and who rarely get health care, pension coverage or maternity leave. FEM PAWER will strengthen 40 local women's rights organisations' advocacy skills for five years, to help them create long-term change at the highest level.



Photo: Anti-Racism Movement

We began supporting a new partner, Anti-Racism Movement (ARM), which has worked for over a decade to achieve social, economic and gender justice for migrant workers and other racialised groups in Lebanon.

Roughly 250,000 migrants—often young women from east Africa and Southeast Asia—work in Lebanon under the oppressive 'Kafala' system. This sponsorship system allows Lebanon to import labour from abroad, but severely limits employees' rights. If a migrant worker wants to quit their job, switch employers or even leave the country, they need permission from their employer. This puts migrant domestic workers in particular at high risk of abuse and exploitation. When covid-19 and the Beirut blast hit Lebanon, matters went from bad to worse for these workers. Many saw their wages slashed or lost their job, ending up paperless and homeless. Alongside its regular casework and advocacy activities, ARM immediately offered emergency aid (housing, food, hygiene and baby supplies) to 420 families. The organisation also set up an evacuation project, helping migrants who were unable to return home.



Photo: Kesh Malek

Kesh Malek also conducted research & data management trainings for 45 Syrian women this year, as part of their work to empower women economically. Here's the graduation ceremony at the end of the training!

NEW GENDER CURRICULUM

Our Syrian partner Kesh Malek has created a 'gender-awareness curriculum,' to encourage both its staff and rights holders to apply gender-sensitivity in everything they do. The organisation created the 165-page Arabic document together with an external expert. It covers key concepts like GBV, CEDAW and gender justice, and discusses the crucial role women played in the Syrian uprising and why gender is such an important factor in conflicts. The entire curriculum is tailored to the context of Syrian society and very user-friendly, featuring exercises and icebreakers. Kesh Malek's staff are already applying the curriculum's lessons when working with women inside Syria. Going forward, the goal is for the document to also help raise gender awareness among Kesh Malek's target groups.

GENDER INEQUALITY IN COVID-19'S WAKE

Kvinna till Kvinna's Liberian partner organisation WORIIWA established a peer club in Hope Kindergarten School to talk about girls' rights.

Photos: Maloboh Soli

In recent years, the DRC, Liberia and Rwanda made notable progress on women's rights. Some of those advances, however, have now been undone by the pandemic.

While the coronavirus didn't hit the African continent as hard as it did other places (keeping in mind that statistics for the region may not be reliable), it is not so much the virus itself as the restrictions it led to that deepened gender inequality.

Those restrictions differed from country to country—Rwandans are still living with curfews, while life is almost back to normal in the DRC. But we fear the effects will be long-lasting, especially for women and girls, who are often already among the poorest, most vulnerable, least protected groups.

Because of lockdowns, many women saw their income dry up: small businesses were forced to close, farmers could not reach the market, domestic migrant workers lost their jobs. This has driven millions more into extreme poverty—a disastrous trend for a continent that is home to nearly 60% of women living in poverty around the world.

As families have become economically more insecure, more daughters have been married off. Many are under-age and may become pregnant or permanently drop out of school. Just like that, a decade's worth of educational gains for girls risks being erased. School closures have compounded the problem and forced mothers to juggle jobs with looking after their children and the household.

The governments of the African countries we work in have had a hard time protecting women and girls from the effects of the pandemic. Just like elsewhere, civil society stepped up its game instead.

This year, our partners handed out covid-19 protection materials and menstrual products to more than 5,600 women. They offered legal aid and set up hotlines to deal

with a sharp increase in GBV, installed handwashing stations in the countryside and provided loans to keep women's farms afloat. They also raised awareness about women's rights (at a safe distance!) through radio spots.

Kvinna till Kvinna will keep supporting this work: when vaccines have eradicated the immediate threat of infection, the hard work of rebuilding society awaits.



Grace Scotland,
director of We4Self in Liberia,
on the pandemic

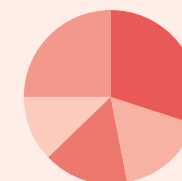
We are in a health crisis where half of the population is illiterate and living in poverty. If we don't reach out with information about covid-19, the virus could spread rapidly as there would be no preventive measures.

Photos: Maloboh Soli

OUR WORK IN BRIEF

Our partners focus on:

- Gender-based violence 30%
- Participation in society 17%
- Peacebuilding 16%
- Economic empowerment 12%
- Other, mainly SRHR 25%



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

We have been working in the country since 2009. We have an office in Bukavu.

Partner organisations: Association des Femmes des Médias du Sud-Kivu (AFEM), Association des Femmes Juristes Congolaises (Sud Kivu) (AFEJUCO), Rien Sans Les Femmes (RSLF), Services Par, Pour et Avec les Femmes (SEPPAF)

LIBERIA

We have been working in the country since 2007. We have an office in Monrovia.

Partner organisations: Community Healthcare Initiative (CHI), Liberia Female Law Enforcement Association (LIFLEA), Liberian Women Empowerment Network (LIWEN), Rural Women Right Structure (RWRS), Southeastern Women Development Association (SEWODA), The West Africa Network for Peace building (WANEP), West Point Women for Health and Development Organization (WPWHD), Women for Self-Employment (WE4SELF), Women NGOs Secretariat of Liberia, Women Rights Watch (WORIIWA).

RWANDA

We have been working in the country since 2017. We have an office in Kigali.

Partner organisations: Association of Kigali Women in Sport (AKWOS), Duhozanye, Haguruka, Réseau des Femmes, Rwanda Women's Network (RWN), Save Generation Organisation (SGO), Sevota, UNABU.

GOALS

Long-term goal

A future in which women in conflict-affected countries in Africa are no longer subjected to violence and have the same rights and opportunities to participate in society as men, and in which conflicts are resolved through peaceful methods.

Short-term goals

- Prevent violence against women and support its victims.
- Support the development and networking efforts of women's rights organisations.
- Increase women's participation at all levels of society.

TEEN MOTHERS BACK TO SCHOOL

Our partner organisation Réseau des Femmes has supported teenage mothers in Rwanda since 2018.

Because of the persistent stigma these young mothers face (both from their families and the community at large), the girls often have to drop out of school.

Réseau des Femmes helps them return to and complete their education. It urges school leaders and local authorities to ensure teenage mothers get the resources to go to school and encourages the young mothers' parents to look after their grandchildren during school hours. The organisation also educates young mothers about leadership, SRHR, economic empowerment and GBV prevention.

The resulting numbers speak for themselves: the first year, 14 girls went back to school. This year, that number jumped up to 43—despite covid-19 and the challenge of schools being temporarily closed! Several of the girls have graduated and found jobs since the start of the project. Many have become advocates of the cause, urging their peers to prioritise their education.



Photo: Peace Hillary Tumwesigire/Family Magazine

I got pregnant when I was 15. Even though our family is very poor, my mother agreed to take care of my child so I could go back to school.

Claudine Nyiramuhiza

TWO NEW DONORS

Our Liberia programme is now supported by two new donors! Irish Aid has already begun to finance our work in Liberia, while the UN Peacebuilding Fund will do so from next year onwards. A warm thank you to both!



Photo: Rien Sans Les Femmes/Mbuyi Mayi/Magazine



Rwandan adolescents can now turn to a new app for accurate info about safe sex and birth control.

The app has proved to be very popular, with 51,981 callers in the first month!

INNOVATIVE SRHR APP

Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is a taboo subject in Rwanda that many adolescents struggle to get accurate info about. Kvinna till Kvinna's partner Save Generations Organisation teamed up with social enterprise Viamo to design a new app to fix that.

The app, which is based on a free call-in service, sends adolescents text messages with info about topics they're curious about. Issues covered include puberty, menstruation, sex, birth control and HIV. Parents can also access the app, to learn how to have open-minded discussions with their children about SRHR.

Since its launch on September 30th, the app has proved to be very popular. The fact that the information sent out is confidential and written in Kinyarwanda (Rwanda's national language) only contributes to its success.



AUTHORITIES HELP ADDRESS GBV

Mirroring a worrying trend we've seen across countries during the pandemic, Liberia too faced an upswing in domestic violence and rape when covid-19 forced families to remain in lockdown at home.

In 2019, our partner WPHDO handled 100 GBV cases. This year, the counter was already at 140 in November... The same happened in courts across the country: in the first six months of 2020, Liberia's Criminal Court processed twice as many cases as the year before.

To call attention to the problem, WPHDO arranged consultative meetings with the national police and judiciary. During these meetings, WPHDO expressed its concern about victims being extorted by the police or ignored by the judiciary when the perpetrator turns out to be a prominent individual.

"I'm happy our whole team is here today at the meeting," one female police officer reflected, "because GBV cannot be overcome without law enforcers performing their duty."

Since the meetings, WPHDO—which works in the poor West Point area of Monrovia—has already noticed that the authorities are referring more GBV cases to the organisation's support centre.

Digital advocacy in the DRC

To meet the challenges of covid-19, we financed a training on digital advocacy tools for the Rien Sans Les Femmes movement in the DRC—a country in which the internet is rarely used to its full potential because of infrastructure issues.

188 members learned about social media's potential, content production and digital security. As a result, Rien Sans Les Femmes now uses Twitter and Facebook to call for women's political participation, enthusiastically live-tweeting from political gatherings!



NEW PARTNERS IN DRC

We're proud to introduce two new organisations we began working with in the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

- **AFEJUCO** is an association of Congolese women lawyers. They use their knowledge and expertise to seek justice for victims of gender-based violence in Bukavu and rural communities in South Kivu.
- **SEPPAF** (Service By, For and With Women) advances women's economic empowerment by changing gendered norms about work—whether by encouraging men to engage in childcare or women to become carpenters or vehicle mechanics!



79.1 MILLION SEK

That's how much funding we were granted by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) for our Rwanda programme! Over the next four years, we will use this grant to welcome new Rwandan partner organisations and continue working with our existing ones to address GBV, advance SRHR and increase women's participation in decision-making. Murakoze cyane, Sida!

GENDER BUDGETING BY FARMERS

In Gisagara in the south of Rwanda, our partner Duhozanye trained women farmers to engage in gender-responsive budgeting—and stand up for their needs as citizens!

Through 'community scorecards', Duhozanye helped the farmers determine how their district's budget could be redesigned to meet women's most pressing needs. The women farmers wanted more funding for green manure, for example, and would like more women to be trained as agricultural advisors. Once they'd prioritised their needs, Duhozanye encouraged the women to discuss the matter with local leaders and hold them accountable.

The women's advocacy was welcomed: "We highly appreciate this sustainable, participatory approach: it's a wake-up call for us as leaders," Gisagara's Joint Action Development Coordinator commented on the initiative.



Photo: Chero Jalloh

ANTI-RAPE PROTESTS

In late August, thousands of Liberians—including our partner organisations—gathered in Monrovia for three days of massive protest against a surge in sexual violence during the pandemic. President George Weah declared a state of emergency, citing "an epidemic of rape that mostly affects children and young girls."

The government responded by setting up a special taskforce, which drafted a road map with suggestions. These included increased subsidies to response centres, making GBV prevention part of the school curriculum, training police officers to avoid traumatising questioning of victims, rehabilitation of perpetrators and awareness campaigns on the radio and TV. The goal is for the measures to be in place by 2022.

A UN report from 2016 highlights how Liberia has struggled to eradicate sexual violence since its civil wars in the 90s and early 00s, during which more than 75% of women were raped. Impunity for perpetrators is widespread.



Photo: Rien Sans Les Femmes

AWARD UPS THE PRESSURE

Positive reinforcement can be a smart advocacy tool. In October, the Rien Sans Les Femmes movement gave DRC President Félix Tshisekedi an award for his commitment to gender equality. Under Tshisekedi's watch, the government has created a database of women candidates who can be nominated for political positions. The initiative is a great step in the right direction—but so far, it has only been implemented in the west of the DRC. Which is why, when the award was handed over, RSLF suggested with a wink that the president now expand the programme to the rest of the country as well.

AUTHORITARIAN TENDENCIES ON THE RISE

GOALS

Long-term goal

Ensure peacebuilding work in the region continues and put gender equality, women's participation and women's rights on the agenda for the EU accession process.

Short-term goals

- Ensure women are involved in ongoing peacebuilding and conflict-resolution processes.
- Improve protection for women subjected to violence.
- Support partner organisations' advocacy efforts.

Covid-19 placed a heavy burden on Europe's women's movements this year. As our partners kept up their work for peace and women's rights in the region, they were inundated with calls from women facing domestic violence. Many activists stepped up to lobby for a more gender-sensitive response to the crisis—one that would not overstep democratic bounds.

Because many are worried about increasing authoritarian tendencies in the Western Balkans: our partner organisations see democracy fray at the corners and women's rights being questioned. At the same time, threats and violence against WHRDs and women journalists are becoming more frequent, more public and more aggressive—with few consequences.

In the same vein, women's participation in decision-making is lagging in governments and parliaments across the region—a testament to the democratic challenges the region faces. At the local level, for example, a paltry 7% of mayors are female. Many more young men than young women are elected at this level, hinting at systemic discrimination. Ethnic minorities struggle to be heard.

The Western Balkans are also bogged down by unresolved conflicts, like the ethnic divisions and political stalemate in Bosnia and Herzegovina, or the strained relations between Kosovo and Serbia. These lingering divides hinder democratic development and EU integration.

In this troubled context, and despite the pandemic, our partner organisations determinedly kept up their work this year. They lobbied for legal change (achieving breakthroughs in several countries!), advanced women's economic empowerment and strengthened cross-border cooperation.

Women's organisations also had their hands full with supporting victims/survivors of GBV, which skyrocketed during the pandemic. Even as court proceedings were postponed because of covid-19, and victims/survivors struggled to find a place to go (none of the Western Balkan countries meet the minimum number of shelter spaces the Istanbul Convention prescribes), our partners kept offering counselling, running hotlines and helping victims/survivors report abuse to the police.

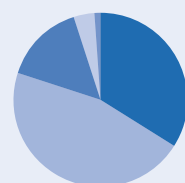
In a region where human rights and democracy are continuously under attack, supporting our partners' important work is a given for us. We're proud to present their achievements on the following pages—and hope it may be a reminder to others of the value of a strong civil society in Europe.

Image Outside the office of Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisation the Women's Center in Uzice, Serbia. Radmila Gujanić (in red) is the founder.

OUR WORK IN BRIEF

Our partners focus on:

- Gender-based violence 34%
- Participation in society 46%
- Peacebuilding 15%
- Economic empowerment 4%
- Human security 1%



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

We have been working in the country since 1994. We have an office in Sarajevo.

Partner organisations: Center for Women's Rights (CWR), CURE Foundation, Forum Zena Bratunac, HO Horizonti, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka, Lara Foundation, Rights for All (Prava za sve), Roma women association Bolja Budućnost Tuzla, TRIAL International, United Women Banja Luka (UW), Zenski Centar Trebinje.

MONTENEGRO

We have been working in the country since 1999.

Partner organisation: The Women's Rights Center.

KOSOVO

We have been working in the country since 1994. We have an office in Pristina.

Partner organisations: Artpolis, Kosova Womens Network (KWN), Mitrovica Women's Association for Human Rights (MWAHR), The Kosovo Gender Studies Center, The Network of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women's Organizations of Kosovo (NRAEWOK), Women's Association Medica Kosova.

ALBANIA

We have been working in the country since 1999.

Partner organisation: The Albanian Women Empowerment Network (AWEN).

NORTH MACEDONIA

We have been working in the country since 1999. We have an office in Skopje.

Partner organisations: Association for Advancement of Gender Equality AKCIJA ZDRUZHENSKA – SKOPJE, Association for Protection of Worker's Rights "Glasen Tekstiler", Association Women's Forum Tetovo, Coalition Sexual and Health Rights of Marginalised Communities Margins, Echo Educational Humanitarian Organization, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of Macedonia, HERA Health Education and Research Association, National network to end violence against women and domestic violence, Non-governmental organization KhAM, Organization of women of municipality of Sveti Nikole (OWMSVN), Reactor – Research in Action, Tiiiit! Inc. – Skopje together with PeachPreach.

SERBIA

We have been working in the country since 1994. We have an office in Belgrade.

Partner organisations: Alternative Girls' Center in cooperation with Catalista, ASTRA – Anti-Trafficking Action, Autonomous Womens Center (AWC), Roma Center for Women and Children DAJE, Reconstruction Women's Fund (RWF), The Association of Women Pescanik (Sandglass), Women in Black, Women's Centre Uzice.

UKRAINE

We closed our office in Kyiv in 2020.



Photo: Maja Janeska Ileva

PRIORITISING MENTAL HEALTH

Back in 2011, our partner Coalition Margins began experimenting with an innovative way of supporting GBV victims/survivors in North Macedonia. Instead of simply offering legal aid—which is what most hotlines in the country do—Coalition Margins added psychosocial aid to the mix. Having a team of lawyers and psychologists assist victims/survivors has proved to be successful. Coalition Margins is now helping three local grassroots organisations implement the same method, with a focus on GBV victims/survivors and women from marginalised communities.



SUPPORT FOR ROMA WOMEN

Covid-19 hit Roma women in the Western Balkans particularly hard. Many of them lost their jobs in the informal sector, and the Roma minority has traditionally had limited access to health care and information. State support rarely targets, let alone reaches, these women.

Luckily, our partner organisations DAJE (Serbia), Bolja Budućnost (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and HERA/RWI (North Macedonia) stepped in. Together, they knocked on Roma families' doors to provide humanitarian assistance and up-to-date info on the spread of the virus and ways of preventing infection. HERA/RWI also started a special Facebook group to keep women in the Suto Orizari municipality of Skopje informed, and to provide them with support when they faced GBV during periods of lockdown and curfew.

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT

On the eve of Montenegro's parliamentary elections in August, women's political participation was in dire straits. Numbers of women in parliament saw a dip, zero political parties were led by women and few women held high-level political positions. Our partner organisation The Women's Rights Center organised a major campaign to address the issue.

The organisation took to social media to raise public awareness and sent a flurry of advocacy letters to high-level policymakers and politicians. It also gained the support of the EU Delegation and representations of several EU member states. Their efforts paid off.

The Speaker of Parliament assured the public that the new parliament would 'do its utmost' to improve gender equality in politics. As a result, the share of women with a seat in a parliamentary committee increased to 33% compared to just 23% of MPs being women. And the Prime Minister-elect appointed 4 women to his cabinet of 12—the first time women make up a third of Montenegro's cabinet!

Through advocacy, studies like this can result in long-term change even when there is a backlash against women's rights, because they provide clear empirical evidence of the struggles women's rights organisations face.



'WHERE'S THE MONEY FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS?'

In spring, the EU awarded billions of euros in covid-19 support to the Western Balkans. To the dismay of the women's movement, however, the support was largely gender-blind: no assessment was done of the pandemic's impact on women and girls, whose needs were all but overlooked. Our partners in the region responded with a letter to the European Commission, demanding it live up to its commitments to gender equality.

A few weeks later, in June, eight of our Balkan partners published a report that looked at funding trends in the region. They had interviewed 71 donors and 241 local women's rights organisations. Their findings? Many EU countries and institutional donors claim they want to advance gender equality in the Balkans, but very little resources are actually ever awarded to women's rights organisations.

"Up to 82% of these organisations have had periods in which they did not have enough resources. At worst, this forces them to permanently close their doors," our partners explain. "In light of this, the work these organisations do is all the more impressive!"



Photo: Center for Women's Rights

IMPLEMENTING THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION

Our Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) partner organisations have years of experience of analysing their country's response to GBV. They engage in legislative advocacy and monitor the judiciary's sentencing of perpetrators as well as the police response to GBV cases.

United Women and Center for Women's Rights have called on the authorities for years to have them align BiH's laws with the Istanbul Convention. Their efforts paid off in 2020. Republika Srpska's Criminal Code and Law on GBV Protection were amended in May: the police now have to make a risk assessment of each reported GBV case, and more types of violence are classified as criminal offences. Similarly, the Federation of BiH adopted a legal change around the end of the year to ensure GBV victims may be accompanied by a 'person of trust' during trial proceedings.

These changes may seem small—but their impact on women's rights will be long-term. Because an updated legislative paragraph can make a world of difference for a woman who's suffered brutal GBV for years.



UKRAINE CONTINUES ON A SMALLER SCALE

After two intense years of cooperating with WHRDs in Ukraine, we were sadly forced to discontinue our activities on the ground in Ukraine due to funding cuts.

That said, Kvinna till Kvinna has and will stay in touch with local WHRDs, supporting them remotely. As we wrapped up our programme, for example, we took care to invite Ukrainian activists to international meetings and helped them attend crucial networking events. During the covid-19 pandemic, Ukrainian activists participated in panel debates we organised.

And of course, we'll keep an eye on future funding possibilities. Because the efforts of Ukrainian WHRDs to increase women's safety and security and empower women politically and economically are too important to be left unsupported!

Did you know that SEK 420 allows a woman who's been sexually abused to get emergency gynaecological care in Serbia? Your donation makes a difference!

RE-GRANTING SUCCESS

This year, Akcija Zdruzenska became the first organisation in North Macedonia in a decade to launch a re-granting scheme for local women's rights organisations—using Kvinna till Kvinna funding to provide sub-grants to smaller, grassroots organisations. In a country in which the rural women's movement is particularly fragile, this was a huge step.

Between June and December, the sub-grants allowed six local organisations to (re)start activities, sometimes even reopening offices and hiring a new team. In total, they reached up to 1,500 women in 38 villages. Doing all of this during a pandemic was not easy for Akcija Zdruzenska. But thanks to its close online monitoring and mentorship efforts, the team pulled off the launch!



Staff member at Akcija Zdruzenska, North Macedonia

Since I used my garden as an office, I'm quite sure by now all of my neighbors have also become capable of completing a procurement procedure without any mistakes.



KOSOVO-SERBIA DIALOGUE

Relations between Kosovo and Serbia have been fraught for years: the latter doesn't recognise the former as an independent state, and both struggle to find a way of normalising relations. In this tense context, our partner organisations continued their trust-building efforts this year.

Alternative Girls' Center (Serbia) and Artpolis (Kosovo) overcame covid-19 obstacles and digitalised their Feminist Spring School. For the fifth year in a row, they brought together 20 young activists from both countries to learn about politics, history and feminism. Even sensitive topics like wartime sexual violence were discussed, to increase understanding of each side's narrative. We're incredibly proud that they're not letting a pandemic stand in the way of peace!

DEADLY GEOPOLITICAL CONFLICT



A WHRD from the region,
about the conflict in and
around Nagorny-Karabakh.

**If women are not included,
the peace process will look
the way it has for the past
30 years—broken.**

GOALS

Long-term goal

A sustainable women's movement
that influences and advances
women's rights.

Short-term goals

- Prevent gender-based violence and improve protection of survivors.
- Increase women's participation in peacebuilding, governance and decision-making.
- Combat and prevent discrimination against women.
- Support the development of women's rights organisations, feminist individuals and women's initiative groups.

Photo: Maja Brand

Just like in many other regions, covid-19 was a major challenge for the South Caucasus this year. But the situation became truly disastrous when active war broke out over Nagorny-Karabakh in late September. As they carry their own grief and trauma, our partner organisations and individual activists continue their work for women's rights.

The coronavirus hit Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia hard. Poverty increased in the region as businesses closed and tourism ground to a halt, while state responses to the pandemic virtually ignored the most vulnerable groups.

In this unstable context, war over Nagorny-Karabakh broke out like a ticking timebomb. Since a tentative ceasefire in the mid-90s, the territory has been contested—officially part of Azerbaijan, but de facto run as an unrecognised, independent state supported by Armenia. This autumn, the situation escalated: outright war raged for six weeks. During that time, tens of thousands living in and around Nagorny-Karabakh had to flee, often ending up in make-shift shelters. This caused an ongoing humanitarian catastrophe, with many facing a lack of basic necessities. The conflict is thought to have cost almost 6,300 lives across the conflict divide, while many more remain missing.

Eventually, a deal brokered by Russia ended the fighting. Armenian troops were forced to pull out as Russian peacekeepers were deployed. Azerbaijan's president, Ilham Aliyev, was celebrated as a hero at home.

Looking back, WHRDs and peace activists in the region are disappointed with the official peace process. For decades, they'd decried the way peace negotiators made little to no effort to include diverse voices, including those of women. Many parts of the new peace agreement are unclear. Activists in Armenia and Azerbaijan worry recent developments will make the region even more hostile to civil society.

Georgia worries about the implications of the Russian presence in Nagorny-Karabakh. The country's parliamentary elections back in October were already tainted by unrest: Georgia's ruling party claimed victory for the third time, which the opposition fiercely contests. Public protests calling for new elections broke out in Tbilisi and Batumi. The chaos has been a breeding ground for organised crime and corruption.

Despite these worrying developments, our partner organisations and activists continue their work in the South Caucasus: providing gendered humanitarian aid, training young women to become peace negotiators, supporting displaced people, fostering cross-conflict ties, and—more than anything—calling for women's voices to be heard.

Image Armanush, GBV survivor, has gained strength through Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisation Spital Helsinki Group Human Rights NGO.

'THE MISSING PEACE'

To learn more about Nagorny-Karabakh, read our gender brief on women's priorities for peace in the region.



The number of displaced women who received legal aid, psychological support and emergency kits from the Coalition.

GENDERED HUMANITARIAN AID

The Nagorny-Karabakh conflict forced tens of thousands of people to flee to Azerbaijan and Armenia. International donors and both countries' governments provided some support to displaced people, but their help was often too little, too late. And it was rarely gendered: aid kits included cigarettes for men, but no tampons... That is why brave WHRDs on both sides of the border mobilised to help.

Our Armenian partner organisations FemHouse and the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women raised money to donate food, hygiene kits, covid-19 protection and clothes to families arriving in Yerevan. They also arranged for women and children to see therapists and legal advisors.

The same happened in Azerbaijan. Schools, wedding venues and even trucks by the side of the road were packed with refugees in dire need of food, medicine and a place to shower. WHRDs set up a network of volunteers across the country to provide relief to displaced families.

In both countries, WHRDs lobbied fiercely to make sure women's needs were heard. Eventually, they were successful: as their efforts attracted nationwide attention, embassies in both countries finally began to prioritise the needs of displaced women and girls.

INTEGRATED SECURITY IN GEORGIA

With the help of Kvinna till Kvinna, our Georgian partner WISG (Women's Initiatives Supporting Group) has been organising workshops on integrated security for WHRDs and rights holders for more than seven years. This year, they conducted a major analysis of the results these workshops have had. Their finding? Participants described the workshops as a "positive, emotional, even life-changing experience".

Being able to discuss their struggles with others had made participants feel less alone. They described how meditative, creative and bonding exercises all offered a space for self-reflection and growth. Many had kept implementing the workshops' lessons afterwards, to improve their professional and private lives. "The workshops aren't easy, but they made me all the more determined to remain an activist," one participant said.



In a muddy desert in the middle of nowhere in Azerbaijan, there is an IDP settlement called Umid—"hope" in Azerbaijani. Despite its name, there is no infrastructure in Umid and only very basic trade. When a covid-19 lockdown was enforced, many Umid residents lost what little income they had, and families were suddenly unable to afford food.

Despite these obstacles, women's rights activists living in Umid still found the energy to act. They set up a fundraising campaign and clothing drive, managed to get local businesses to chip in, and inspired the men in the settlement to get involved as well.

In the end, the Umid activists helped out 200 families—a testament to their unparalleled strength and determination.

SURVIVORS FIND STRENGTH THROUGH CRAFTING

Six Armenian women over the age of 40 form the Shuhel Handicrafts Collective. All of them are survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Together, they've created a hub for women's economic empowerment and a safe space for their generation to heal from their experiences.

During the pandemic, Shuhel's members sold their creations online—from warm socks and slippers to beautiful jewellery and bags. In the aftermath of the Nagorny-Karabakh conflict, they donated 50% of all sales to initiatives that supported displaced families.

Image Shuhel Handicrafts is part of the Women's Resource Center.



Ms. Manana Gophodze,
The vice-mayor of Khoni municipality

We'll definitely work to integrate the early warning system into our activities!



EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

For more than three years, we've helped our Georgian partner Fund Sukhumi develop a gender-responsive early warning system, to alert public stakeholders to early signs of violence and GBV against conflict-affected and displaced women in the region. Trials have so far proved to be very successful. To convince local municipalities to adopt the system, Fund Sukhumi arranged an online roundtable in December. The meeting was attended by representatives from 11 municipalities, who were enthusiastic. "Human security is a top priority," the vice-mayor of Khoni municipality said. "We'll definitely work to integrate the early warning system into our activities!"

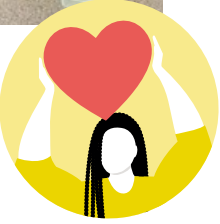
STUDENTS FOR THE CLIMATE

The environment has become a pressing issue for many of our partner organisations—including Development Center in Abkhazia. The organisation usually raises awareness of reproductive health & rights among local youth. This year, however, it set up a series of environment & climate trainings for students, together with the local education and ecological departments.

The trainings were a big hit and resulted in the 'Start With Yourself' anti-littering campaign. Students and their parents attended lectures, discussion clubs and documentary screenings. Eventually, up to 250 students and 150 friends and family members took part in a rubbish pick-up day to clean their school and community!



URGENT COVID-19 RESPONSE



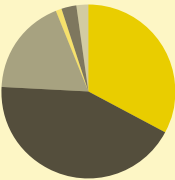
During the spring and summer, the Women's Fund, the Women's Resource Center in Armenia and the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women put some of their planned activities on hold to meet women's most urgent needs during the pandemic. Their initiatives benefited more than 1,460 women:

- Aid donations, including phones and SIM cards, rental help, psychological support for 400 women, food and hygiene kits, and covid-19 masks and sanitisers;
- A chat hotline to support women and girls confined at home with no one to talk to;
- Legal advice by phone or online to help women apply for government aid, defend their workplace rights and navigate divorce proceedings;
- Monitoring women's reproductive rights, to ensure women still had access to contraception, abortion, pregnancy care and regular check-ups despite the pandemic.

OUR WORK IN BRIEF

Our partners focus on:

- Gender-based violence 33%
- Participation in society 43%
- Peacebuilding 18%
- Economic empowerment 1%
- Human security 3%
- Other 2%



ARMENIA
We have been working in the country since 2004.

Partner organisations:
Coalition to Stop Violence against Women, Democracy Today, FemHouse, Nalbandyan Women's Club, Society Without Violence, Spitak Helsinki Group, Women's Resource Center, Women's Resource Center Shushi, Women's Rights Centre.

AZERBAIJAN
We have supported women's rights in the country since 2004.

GEORGIA AND THE ABKHAZ CONTEXT
We have been working in the country since 2004. We have an office in Tbilisi.

Partner organisations:
Georgia: Anti-Violence Network of Georgia (AVNG), Association "Imedi" IDP women's movement for peace, Cultural-Humanitarian Fund "Sukhumi", Democrat Women's Organization of Samtskhe-Javakheti, Studio-Mobile – Accent on Action, Changes for New Capacity, Women's Initiatives Supporting Group (WISG)

The Abkhaz context: *Association of Women of Abkhazia, Development Center Gagra, Women's Fund for Development.*



Photo: Caro Lein

BBC 100 INFLUENTIAL WOMEN

Each year, the BBC publishes a list of 100 inspiring women from around the world. This year, we were excited (read: ecstatically proud) to see one of our colleagues and a Kvinna till Kvinna partner included on the list!

Hayat Mirshad is an activist, journalist and humanitarian. She's currently the co-director of our Lebanese partner organisation FeMale, where she challenges corruption and the patriarchy in the Middle East.

Douce Namwezi N'lbamba is part of Kvinna till Kvinna's DRC team. She founded Uwezo Afrika, a non-profit initiative that empowers women economically, and tackles menstruation taboos by providing young women with sex education and hygiene kits.

@KvinnaKvinnaINT
Join 450+ other women's rights supporters
—follow our new international Twitter account!



SRHR ON NATIONAL TV AND RADIO
As a partner organisation of Radiohjälp (Sweden's public service radio's charity wing), Kvinna till Kvinna joined a live fundraising broadcast on national TV and radio in December. Our advocacy advisor Jessica Poh-Janrell and Annette Natukunda Mukiga from the Rwanda office talked about our work to advance SRHR in Rwanda and protect women's right to their own bodies. Important issues to discuss on air!

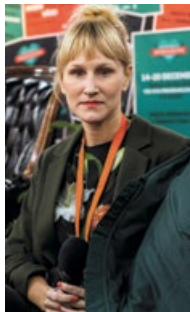


Photo: Mette Alm, Sveriges Radio

AKTIVISTSKOLAN

As the coronavirus threatened to turn 2020 into a very uninspiring year for our volunteers, we designed the brand-new 'Aktivistiskolan' for them—a series of eight online talks hosted by Kvinna till Kvinna experts to give our volunteers insight into the way we work. The digital initiative turned out to be a huge success: 96 volunteers together spent 400 hours attending the sessions this autumn, learning more about women's rights in conflict zones and forging closer ties with each other!



DATA-DRIVEN COMMUNICATION

This year, our communication and fundraising teams did a lot of work behind the scenes to ensure our digital communication with donors is powered by data.

We implemented new digital tools like Hoptar and Google Optimize, to test and analyse how visitors use our websites. Finetuning our Google Analytics strategies allowed us to collect even more reliable data. After skimming through the resulting data, we made a range of changes, from tweaking our sites' user experience and interaction design to enabling new ways of donating and making it easier for web visitors to browse through our online publications. On the fundraising side, we also implemented a new CRM system. This now allow us to automate and optimise the way we interact with donors, making our communication even more tailored.



I want to build schools abroad. Education should be free for everyone.

Nasrin, 24, from Afghanistan

GEMAKET MANIFESTO

As our three-year Gemaket project for young women who emigrated to Sweden came to an end, we interviewed the girls about their experiences. The result is a manifesto on how to facilitate integration, with a summary of their demands to Swedish policymakers.

The manifesto was launched in March, at an event attended by dozens of Members of Parliament. Together, we discussed what those in power can do to create change for young women with a non-Swedish background. Later that evening, Kvinna till Kvinna hosted a party, celebrating one last time with all Gemaket participants.

In September, we also organised a digital debate about the issue at Sweden's annual Book Fair. Within a few weeks, more than 1,500 viewers had watched the resulting video on social media—a much higher turnout than real-life seminars at the Book Fair usually have!

RECORD-BREAKING FUNDRAISING

We want to shout it from the rooftops: we raised more money from private and corporate donors during 2020 than in any previous year! The numbers say it all: a 60% increase in monthly donors, a 24% increase in corporate donations, and a whopping 50% more funds raised than last year—for a total of SEK 24.6 million! In addition to that, we also sold products for more than SEK 230,000!

Our Christmas campaign, which raised awareness of men's violence against women, was a big hit as well. This year, we launched an audiobook as part of the campaign, to share the harrowing story of fictional character Jasmina. The recording is still available on Storytel!



CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

We greatly value our corporate partners and their contributions to our work. Here's a glimpse of some of the businesses who've teamed up with us:

- Vegan razorblade brand **Estrid** shaved SEK 700,000 off its profits to donate it to our work for women's rights.
- Pharmaceutical company **Gedeon Richter Nordics** made a SEK 100,000 Christmas donation to us.
- Online shopping website **Ellos** donated part of its sales profits to us and made Kvinna till Kvinna the beneficiary of the newfound Ellos Awards, which celebrate women who use their online voice to highlight women's rights. In total, Ellos raised SEK 125,000.

It goes without saying we're beyond grateful for these partners' support!

Women's health is incredibly important for us. So of course we want to take proactive steps to ensure women everywhere can have a better future.

Matilda Winderlich, Gedeon Richter Nordics AB



Photo: Maria Broström

GLAMOUR GOWNS
AGAINST GBV

When fashion designer Frida Jonsvens found out how the pandemic led to an increase in GBV both in Sweden and abroad, she felt horrified. So she paired up with photographer Maria Broström, to create a series of photographs and a campaign film featuring celebrities and survivors speaking out against GBV. One of Frida's glamorous gowns was auctioned off for SEK 30,000, while the campaign itself raised more than SEK 100,000 in just a few weeks.

Frida Jonsvens,
fashion designer

Women are being raped, abused and murdered in their own homes. I simply couldn't stand by without doing anything. I have a responsibility to act.



DEFENDING WOMEN'S RIGHTS
DURING THE PANDEMIC

In late November, our Stockholm volunteers arranged and moderated a digital debate, 'Defending Women's Rights During the Pandemic', featuring Alice Bah Kuhnke (EU MP), Åsa Regnér (UN Women), Katarina Bergehed (Amnesty International) and Dijana Stojanovic Djordjevic (our programme officer in North Macedonia). *"It's so important that you're arranging this [debate]. At the European Parliament, we're fighting so citizens, volunteers and organisations like Kvinna till Kvinna can be part of making the EU more democratic and stopping violence against women."* (Alice Bah Kuhnke)

Since the debate was broadcast on our Facebook page, it has racked up more than 4,300 views and received 138 reactions. Thumbs up!

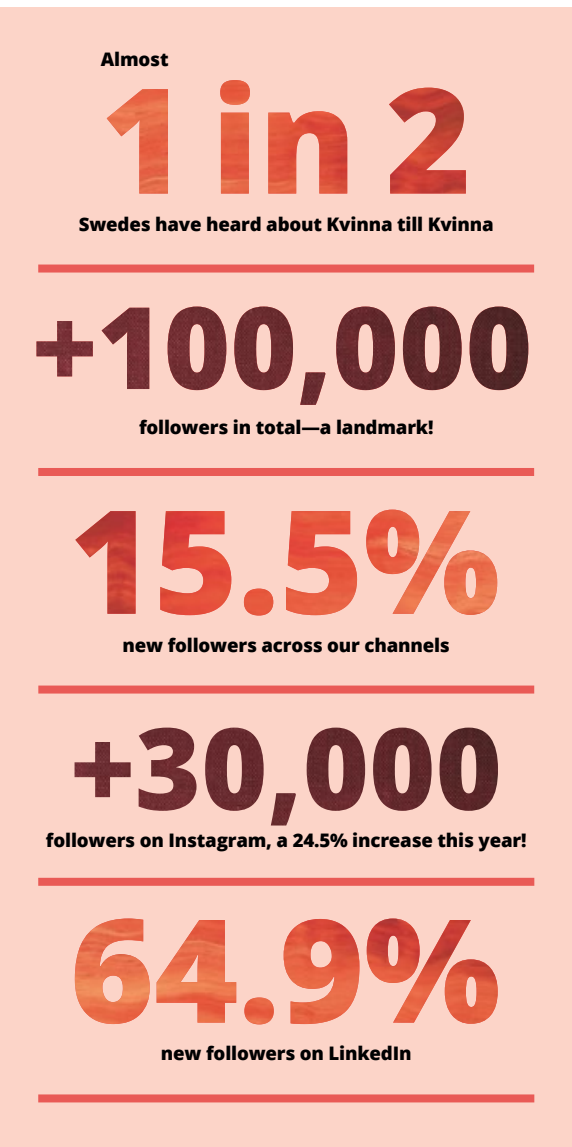


Photo: Marcus Fendberg



SOLD-OUT WEBSHOP GOODIES

In 2020, we added new products to our webshop, including branded reflectors to stay safe on dark days and a lovely, breast-shaped Empowerment Pendant necklace. They sold like hot cakes! Grab some of the final ones on kvinnatillkvinna.se/shop, or stay tuned for exciting new products we'll be launching soon.

Linnéa Claeson,
Goodwill Ambassador

In the midst of this nightmare, Kvinna till Kvinna's presence is like a ray of light. Our partners told me how much they value our support.

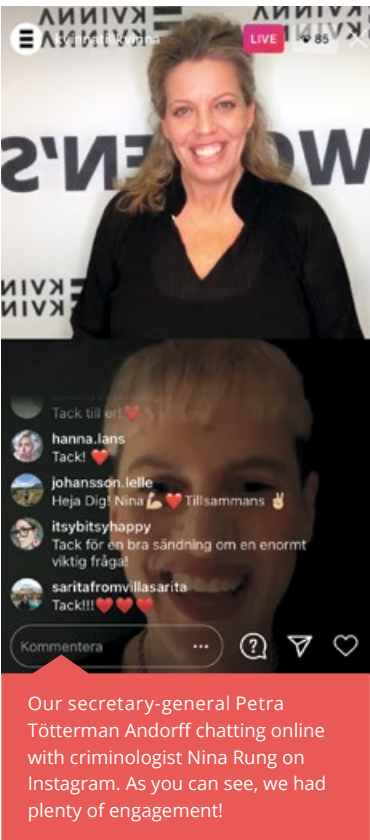
Photo: Linnéa Claeson



VIOLENCE AND HOPE

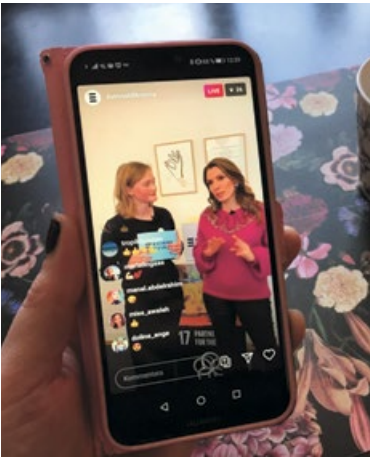
"Men's violence and women's strength is what I saw in Jerusalem. But I don't doubt women's strength is the more powerful of the two."

From January 27th to 29th, our goodwill ambassador Linnéa Claeson travelled to Jerusalem to learn more about the work we do with our partners. "Jerusalem is a very particular place," Linnéa describes the city. "The conflict looms behind every corner. Weapons are everywhere. Sometimes I felt on edge: the lack of respect for women was tangible." That feeling was also reinforced by Linnéa's conversations with our partner organisations: "I'll never forget the stories they told me: of sorrow, pain and frustration. Houses being destroyed. Children being tortured. Violence." But Linnéa left with a feeling of hope: "Civil society felt so spirited. None of these women are ever going to give up. I was very impressed by their work—it was like a shot of pure energy."



POPULAR LIVESTREAMS

Following last year's successful live chats, we organised additional social media broadcasts with Alexandra Pascalidou, Petra Tötterman Andorff, Margot Wallström and Nina Rung this year. These racked up almost 20,800 views! Here's former Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström's advice to all of us: "Do something selfless, read books and get involved! We should all be a bit kinder to each other, to compensate for all the anger and hate these days."



Kvinna till Kvinna's Board is appointed by the Swedish section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and the Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society. While the secretary-general runs Kvinna till Kvinna's daily operations, the Board sets Kvinna till Kvinna's long-term strategic course. Board members are elected for a period of four years.

CHAIRPERSON

1. DEVRIM MAVI

Editor-in-chief and op-ed writer. Has been involved in the feminist and anti-racism movement for more than 15 years. Board member since 2014.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

2. VIOLA FURUBJELKE

Former member of the Swedish parliament, ambassador to Syria/Lebanon and secretary-general of the Olof Palme International Centre. Board member since 2011.

SECRETARY

3. KAJSA WEJRYD

Former teacher, high-school director and bookkeeping consultant. President of Women in the Church of Sweden (1995–2003). Board member since 2014.

MEMBERS

4. JOHANNA MANNERGREN

Peace researcher at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs. Former journalist, peace observer (South Africa) and election observer (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

5. LARS JALMERT

Emeritus professor of education at Stockholm University and board member of the Fredrika Bremer Association. Has participated in eight government reviews on gender-based violence.

6. MALIN ALMROTH

Coordinator at Victim Support Sweden. Former trainer at the Expo foundation. Studied Political Science and Human Rights.

7. MARIA APPELBLOM

Police chief superintendent. Former chief of the UN Standing Police Capacity and chairperson of Stockholm's UN association.

DEPUTY MEMBERS

8. LENA BACKHAUSEN

Licensed psychologist, former HR manager and leadership and organisational consultant. Has been involved in WILPF for many years, including as board member.

9. TSEHAINESH TEKLEAB

Environmental strategist at the Public Employment Service. Former employment coordinator, Red Cross volunteer and board member of Save the Children's local association.

10. CARINA ANDERSSON

Manager for east and southern Africa at the Red Cross. Significant experience of development cooperation, including through We Effect.

11. LISEN BERGQUIST

Head of communication at 1825, a mental health centre for young adults. Formerly worked at Friends, the Albright Stonebridge Group and the Swedish Institute of International Affairs.



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ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2020

THE KVINNA TILL KVINNA FOUNDATION
REGISTRATION NUMBER 802401-6134

Content

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The Board of The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation hereby issues its annual accounts for the financial year of 2020.

The annual accounts are compiled using Swedish crowns (SEK). Unless otherwise specified, all amounts are reported in thousand SEK. Figures between brackets are from the previous year.

About Kvinna till Kvinna

The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation has defended women's rights since 1993. For every woman's right to be safe and to be heard.

We are one of the world's leading women's rights organisations, with more than 150 partner organisations in 20 countries across the globe. We work in areas affected by war and conflict to strengthen women's influence and power, end violence against women and highlight women's struggle for peace and human rights.

Kvinna till Kvinna's mandate

- To conduct projects in war- and conflict-affected regions that promote women's self-reliance, self-esteem and psychosocial and/or physical health, or that contribute to promoting women's participation in building a democratic civil society.
- To foster studies and research on the effects of war and armed conflict on women.
- To publicise facts and information about the effects of war and to build public support for peaceful conflict resolution through civil methods.

When it was founded, Kvinna till Kvinna brought together Sweden's peace and women's movements; three dozen organisations have since supported us.

Significant events during the year

2020 was set to be an extraordinary year for women's rights: it was the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and the 20th anniversary of UNSC Resolution 1325. To highlight this, we published the report 'A Right Not A Gift: Women Building Feminist Peace', for which we interviewed 91 women peacebuilders and WHRDs from six different countries, asking them what the Women, Peace and Security agenda had meant for them. The report was launched in May at the SIPRI Stockholm Forum, which was followed by other online events and roundtables with representatives from the EU, the UN and the Swedish government.

Instead of being dominated by women's rights, however, 2020 was mainly marked by the covid-19 pandemic, which hit women and girls everywhere particularly hard. To raise awareness of the consequences of the pandemic, we collaborated with six Swedish civil society organisations to produce a joint analysis of the pandemic's catastrophic effects on global development and equality.

Kvinna till Kvinna itself was also negatively affected by covid-19 this year. As borders were closed and the world went into lockdown, we suddenly found ourselves unable to network, meet our partner organisations or defend women's rights as usual. Across the countries we operate in, we noted how covid-19 caused a spike in domestic violence. It also quickly became clear to us that the pandemic's long-term consequences would continue to affect women and girls for many years to come.

Our partner organisations were affected by covid-19 in various ways. Lockdowns forced some of them to shut down their counselling centres and halt their outreach activities, for example. In other cases, our partners set up emergency hotlines; as staff worked from home, this step meant some employees found themselves working 24/7. Most of our activities continued despite this year's challenges, thanks to the remarkable way in which the global women's movement adjusted to covid-19.

During the spring of 2020, the EU awarded billions in covid-19 support to the Western Balkans. As this support lacked a real gender analysis, our partners in the region responded with a letter to the European Commission to urge it to live up to its gender-equality commitments.

A few weeks later, in June, eight of our Balkan partners launched a report analysing funding trends in the region. They had interviewed 71 donors and 241 local women's organisations. Their findings revealed that many EU countries and institutional donors claim they want to promote equality between women and men in the Balkans, but that very few resources are actually awarded to women's rights organisations—the ones working the hardest to achieve this goal.

Covid-19 had a particularly detrimental effect on Roma women in the Western Balkans. Several of our partners worked to provide this minority with up-to-date info on the spread of the virus and ways of preventing infection.

To help the Rien Sans Les Femmes movement in the DRC overcome covid-19's challenges, Kvinna till Kvinna financed a training session on digital advocacy tools. 188 of the movement's members got to learn more about social media's potential as an advocacy tool, production of web content, digital security and social media monitoring and reporting.

In Liberia, thousands of people (including our partner organisations) gathered in Monrovia in late August for three days of massive protest against a major increase in sexual violence during the pandemic. The country's president declared a state of emergency, citing “an epidemic of rape that mostly affects children and young girls.” A special taskforce was set up to draft a road map with suggestions.

Our Rwandan partner organisations led a coalition of NGOs that sent a statement to the government to call for a gender-sensitive response to the pandemic. As a result, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion became an official part of Rwanda's covid-19 steering committee, with our partners invited to share their thoughts on the issue with several ministries.

Together with our partners, we became the proud recipient of a new EUR 10.9 million grant from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The grant will fund a project to tackle economic gender-based violence against young women in Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon and Tunisia.

Our Palestinian partner organisation Sawa runs a support helpline for people of all genders. When covid-19 broke out, the helpline went into emergency mode, with Sawa answering calls around the clock and setting up additional WhatsApp chat support. The organisation noted a 70% increase in reports of violence this year.

On August 4th, a massive explosion ripped through Beirut, leaving the centre of the city in ruins. Our partners instantly mobilised to provide shelter, food and much-needed psychological support. Together, they cleaned up the streets of Beirut and began to rebuild the city.

The Nagorny-Karabakh conflict forced tens of thousands of people to flee to Azerbaijan and Armenia. Brave WHRDs on both sides of the border mobilised to help and advo-

cated to ensure women's needs wouldn't be ignored during the crisis. In the end, they were successful: displaced women's needs became a priority.

For three years now, Fund Sukhumi in Georgia has been working to implement an early warning system for violence and gender-based violence in the South Caucasus. The system, which was designed to help the police and social services detect warning signs in time, was developed with the help of Kvinna till Kvinna.

After two years of intensive cooperation with WHRDs in Ukraine, we were sadly forced to discontinue our activities on the ground due to funding cuts. That said, Kvinna till Kvinna has remained and will continue to remain in touch with local WHRDs to support them remotely.

Covid-19 forced us to digitalise our International Training Programme on Gender-Based Violence. Cancelling wasn't an option, because the pandemic caused a worrying upsurge in GBV in many places. In early 2020, a new law that increased harmonisation with the Istanbul Convention and strengthened cooperation between different stakeholders working with GBV came into force in Moldova.

Each year, the BBC publishes a list of 100 inspiring women from around the world. This year, we were proud to see our DRC colleague Douce Namwezi N'bamba and Kvinna till Kvinna partner Hayat Mirshad from Lebanon included on the list!

We're also incredibly proud of Intisar Al-Amyal, a representative of one of our Iraqi partner organisations, for winning this year's Per Anger prize, the Swedish government's prize for human rights and democracy.

Communication, fundraising and non-profit activities

We are delighted that the public's interest in following and supporting our work continued to increase this year. We gained 15.5% new followers across our social media channels, which allowed us to hit the 100,000-followers mark. On LinkedIn, we saw a follower increase of 64.9%, while we reached 30,000 fans on Instagram (an increase of 24.46% compared to last year). Almost 1 in 2 Swedes have heard about Kvinna till Kvinna.

We raised more money from private and corporate donors during 2020 than in any previous year. A 60% increase in monthly donors, a 24% increase in corporate donations and 50% more funds raised than last year, for a total of SEK 24.6 million!

Our Christmas campaign, which raised awareness of men's violence against women, was a big hit as well. This year, we released an audiobook as part of the campaign, sharing the harrowing story of fictional character Jasmina. The recording is still available on Storytel.

As the pandemic threatened to turn 2020 into a very uninspiring year for our volunteers, we designed the brand-new 'Aktivistskolan' for them—a series of eight online talks hosted by Kvinna till Kvinna experts, to give our volunteers insight into the way we work. A total of 96 volunteers together spent 400 hours attending the sessions this autumn, learning more about women's rights in conflict zones and forging closer ties with each other.

As our three-year Gemaket project for young women who emigrated to Sweden came to an end, we interviewed the girls who had participated about their experiences. The result is a manifesto on how to facilitate integration, with a summary of the girls' demands to Swedish policymakers. The manifesto was launched in March, at an event attended by dozens of Members of Parliament.

Together with other NGOs from the Concord network, we analysed the link between gender equality and climate change, reporting our findings in the new report 'Feminist Policies for Climate Justice'. The report, which was launched in June, contains a range of suggestions on how to mitigate the climate crisis' effects on women and girls.

In 2019, we published a report on the gendered implications of the decisions of international financial institutions. In October, we co-hosted a panel discussion at the Civil Society Policy Forum to the World Bank and the IMF, attended by high-level representatives from both institutions. It was an opportunity for us to advocate a long-term, gender-transformative, macroeconomic approach to covid-19 recovery, using Jordan as an example.

Method, development and quality assurance

The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation worked hard to deal with the challenges covid-19 brought along this year. We set up a helpdesk to assist staff with adjusting their work to the pandemic's new reality. A dedicated working group helped all colleagues safely embrace the sudden switch to digital platforms. Working from home became the new normal for us in 2020: all our offices emptied out from March, while most of our partner organisations too started working from home.

Back in 2018, our main donor, Sida, ordered a large-scale audit of Kvinna till Kvinna's internal systems, processes and control mechanisms. In August 2020, this performance audit could finally be wrapped up. In practice, this is yet another stamp of approval for Kvinna till Kvinna as an organisation!

Since 2016, all staff have participated in a yearly workshop to share achievements, challenges and lessons learnt across Kvinna till Kvinna's regions. This year's workshop's theme was global movement-building. Because of covid-19, the workshop was held online, which allowed nearly 90 participants in 12 offices around the world to join! In December, we conducted another workshop, this time focusing on women's economic empowerment.

Since 2009, Kvinna till Kvinna has issued a separate report in compliance with the Quality Code of Giva Sverige (the Swedish Fundraising Association). 2020 marked the first year we implemented Giva Sverige's new self-diagnosis questions (which are based on six principles that measure an organisation's impact), using Giva Sverige's template to structure our response. Kvinna till Kvinna opted to report at level two (out of three) and achieved 92% of its goals. This impact reporting is complemented by The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation's Global Strategy Report.

Kvinna till Kvinna's vision and three-part mandate chart the organisation's course. Since 2018, we have followed

up on our strategy with the help of a global framework that contains ten focus areas, each with their own indicators. These are presented to the Board every other year (including in 2020) in the form of a written report that is also available to external donors.

In addition to Kvinna till Kvinna's six-year strategy, the organisation follows up on and evaluates specific goals and indicators for each programme. These quantitative and qualitative indicators help us evaluate a programme's progress; we collect the necessary data for this process through various methods, including reports from our partner organisations, country visits, workshops and ongoing dialogues. Kvinna till Kvinna uses these indicators to conduct follow-ups, which allow us to learn from our experiences, update the way we work and remain relevant.

Profit/loss and financial position

Kvinna till Kvinna's activities (including our advocacy work and our support to women's organisations in regions affected by war) have been implemented in compliance with our Articles of Association. Since mid-1993, we have disbursed SEK 2,103.9 million in monetary support, of which SEK 182.4 million was disbursed in 2020.

Fundraising and donations

In 2020, we raised SEK 24.6 million through donations and fundraising efforts; adding free advertising and pro bono work, the amount totals SEK 27.8 million. Kvinna till Kvinna has been a beneficiary of The Swedish Postcode Lottery since 2010. This year, we received SEK 13.2 million from them.

Allocations and grants

In 2020, we supported 151 women's rights organisations in Africa, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), the South Caucasus and Europe. Allocations amounted to SEK 172.5 million in 2020.

Net profit/loss for the year

We made a net profit of SEK 9,569 thousand (in 2019, the corresponding figure was SEK 668 thousand). This increase in profit is mainly due to the increase in donations we experienced this autumn and to a number of activities that could not go ahead as scheduled because of covid-19. For detailed financial accounting, see the following income statement, balance sheet, cash flow statement and notes.

Sustainability

Although 2020 was an intensive year during which a range of external factors affected our operations, we not only managed to maintain professional routines and structures but even found time to develop new ones. Back in 2019, we developed new incident-management routines. In early March this year, we set up a special team to handle the pandemic. All staff were sent covid-19 guidelines containing general advice, HR info and updates about the situation in the regions we work in. We concluded the

incident in August: by then, we deemed our standard procedures sufficient to handle the situation.

During the year, the finance department finalised and adopted a new anti-corruption policy, a new procurement policy and new financial guidelines. The HR department finalised new terms & conditions for staff at headquarters, staff at our programme offices and expat staff, to harmonise employee regulations across the organisation. The fundraising unit adopted a new fundraising strategy and improved its data-driven communication to make our income flows more sustainable.

We ramped up our efforts to become a greener, more sustainable and environmentally-friendly organisation, sending out a survey to all offices while Sida conducted a climate spot-check. Our resulting goals include greener offices, more conscious travel decisions and environmental discussions with our partner organisations. We are currently developing a plan to systematically integrate environmental sustainability into our work. The target is to start taking practical steps in 2021.

At the end of 2020, we had a total of 134 employees. Adjusted for those on leave of absence, substitute employees and employees on short-term contracts, the average number of employees was 129. Of 70 employees in Stockholm, 59 worked at the head office while the remainder were deployed in our programme countries. An average of 67 employees worked in our programme countries: they are stationed in Erbil, Beirut, Jerusalem, Tunis and Amman in the MENA region; Tbilisi (Georgia) in the South Caucasus; Monrovia (Liberia), Bukavu (DRC) and Kigali (Rwanda) in Africa; and Belgrade, Pristina, Sarajevo and Skopje in the Western Balkans. At our programme offices, an average of 61 staff members were locally or nationally employed.

Kvinna till Kvinna's deputy secretary-general left the organisation in August. To fill the resulting gap until a new deputy secretary-general could be recruited, it was decided to make the method & development unit part of the programme department and combine the HR and security units into one single department. In December, this temporary solution was approved by the Board of the trade union, which made the changes permanent. As a result, our organisation now consists of four departments: programme & method, communication, finance and HR & security.

Future developments

The Board decided to keep Kvinna till Kvinna's current strategy in place for an additional year because of covid-19. The strategy, which will now set the course for the organisation until the end of 2022, focuses on three thematic areas in which Kvinna till Kvinna pushes for progress together with its partner organisations: gender-based violence, political participation and respect for women's rights. The strategy also has a fourth theme, which centres on the organisation's internal development.

We are working on a new strategy for 2023–2028, which the Board is expected to adopt in June 2022. The pandemic once again reminded us of the importance of financial stability, both for Kvinna till Kvinna as an organisation and for women and girls around the world. The senior management team therefore decided the organisation will prioritise private and institutional fundraising and internal financial systems during the next two years, with a greater focus on women's economic empowerment across our programmes. Our online development, which took a major leap forward in 2020, continues, both in terms of the tools we use internally, our communication and fundraising, and our programme activities. In the coming years, we will also strive to develop a greater awareness of our internal and external impact on the climate, and take steps to actively address racism.

Administration

Kvinna till Kvinna was initially formed in 1993 as a network of women's organisations. The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation was founded in 1995 by the Swedish section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). The organisation is headed by a secretary-general. Kvinna till Kvinna consists of four departments: programme & method, communication, finance, and HR & security. The senior management team comprises the secretary-general, the deputy secretary-general and the heads of the four different departments. The secretary-general and the deputy secretary-general were co-opted to the Board during the year. A Board secretary and a staff representative, with a personal deputy, were also co-opted to the Board. The secretary-general is appointed and dismissed by the Board, which functions as the former's employer. The Board is elected every fourth year by WILPF Sweden (6 members) and the Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society (1 member). The current Board took up office in May 2019.

The Board's rules of procedure and annual plan are revisited and evaluated once a year. The rules of procedure stipulate who is responsible for the organisation's long-term strategic planning as well as guidelines and evaluations, and specify procedures for internal management & control as well as financial management. The rules of procedure also regulate matters pertaining to the accounts and budget decisions, and require Kvinna till Kvinna's auditor(s) to attend at least one Board meeting each year, which they duly did in 2020.

Board members		2020
7 Board meetings were held in 2020		Attendance
		1 January – 31 December
Devrim Mavi		7
Viola Furubjelke		5
Maria Appelblom		6
Lars Jalmert		7
Kajsa Wejryd		7
Lena Backhausen		3
Johanna Mannergren		7
Malin Almroth		6
Tsehainesh Tekleab		6
Carina Andersson		5
Lisen Bergquist		5

Multi-year overview	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
General conditions					
Number of partner organisations	151	149	131	111	108
Average number of employees	129	126	114	98	93
Result (thousand SEK)					
Operating income	201 562	200 989	169 716	147 055	138 099
Operating expenses	-192 004	-199 786	-165 741	-147 328	-137 016
Net operating result	9 558	1 203	3 975	-273	1 083
Profit/loss from financial investments	159	-471	19	-218	-182
Net profit/loss for the year	9 569	668	3 990	-491	901
Financial position					
Equity (thousand SEK)	18 186	8 617	7 949	3 958	4 449
Definitions					
Equity – The Foundation's net assets, ie. the difference between assets and liabilities.					

Changes in equity	Project-specific donations	Retained capital	Profit/loss for the year	Total capital
Equity 2020-01-01	479	7 297	841	8 617
Allocation of the previous year's profit/loss	–	841	-841	–
Net profit/loss for the year	–	–	8 176	8 176
Donor-designated purpose 2020	1 910	–	–	1 910
Utilised funds 2020	-517	–	–	-517
Transfer to/from restricted equity				
Equity 2020-12-31	1 872	8 138	8 176	18 186

Specification of project-specific funds

The following funds are included: Syrian refugees SEK 131 thousand, Sweden programme SEK 191 thousand, Own contribution to the framework agreement SEK 350 thousand, Postcode Lottery Georgia SEK 1,200 thousand.

The Foundation's profit/loss and financial position are specified in the following income statement, balance sheet and cash flow statement plus notes.

Income statement (thousand SEK)	Note	2020	2019
Operating income	2		
Donations		24 611	16 242
Grants	3	172 475	181 199
Other operating income		4 476	3 548
Total income for the Foundation		201 562	200 989
Operating expenses	4, 5		
Programme expenses		-182 395	-189 668
Fundraising expenses		-4 908	-4 485
Administrative expenses		-4 701	-5 633
Total operating expenses		-192 004	-199 786
Profit/loss from operations		9 558	1 203
Profit/loss from financial items			
Profit/loss from financial investments		318	677
Interest expenses and similar profit/loss items		-159	-1 148
Total profit/loss from financial items		159	-471
Total profit/loss from financial investments		9 717	732
Gross profit/loss		9 717	732
Tax	6	-147	-63
Net profit/loss for the year		9 569	668
Allocation of net profit/loss for the year			
Net profit/loss for the year according to the income statement (see above)		9 569	668
Utilisation of designated/unrestricted reserves from previous years		347	520
Reservation of designated/ unrestricted funds received but not utilised during the year		-1 740	-347
Amount remaining for the year/funds carried forward		8 176	841

Balance sheet (thousand SEK)	Note	2020-12-31	2019-12-31
Assets			
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets			
Equipment, tools and installations	7	0	0
Financial fixed assets	8		
Other long-term securities holdings		620	620
Total fixed assets		620	620
Current assets			
Stocks etc.			
Merchandise		22	16
Total stocks etc.		22	16
Current receivables	9		
Accounts receivable – trade		685	0
Other current receivables		3 363	10 515
Prepaid expenses and accrued income		1 395	2 869
Total current receivables		5 443	13 384
Cash and bank		104 800	83 131
Total current assets		110 265	96 531
Total assets		110 885	97 151
Equity and liabilities			
Equity			
Funds brought forward		8 617	7 949
Net profit/loss for the year		9 569	668
Total equity		18 186	8 617
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable		1 979	2 729
Tax liabilities		147	63
Liability from received but not utilised grants	10	26 923	20 293
Other current liabilities		1 939	1 462
Accrued expenses and deferred income	11	61 711	63 987
Total current liabilities		92 699	88 534
Total equity and liabilities		110 885	97 151

Cash flow statement (thousand SEK)	Note	2020	2019
Operating activities			
Profit/loss from operations before financial items		9 716	731
Adjustment for items not included in cash flow		0	25
Income tax paid		-146	-67
Cash flow from operating activities before changes in working capital		9 570	689
Cash flow from changes in working capital			
Increase/decrease in stocks and ongoing work		-6	-9
Increase/decrease in accounts receivable – trade		-685	1 451
Increase/decrease in current receivables		8 703	-4 989
Increase/decrease in accounts payable – trade		-750	1 036
Increase/decrease in current liabilities		4 837	-1 373
Cash flow from operating activities		21 669	-3 195
Cash flow for the year		21 669	-3 195
Opening cash and cash equivalents		83 131	86 326
Closing cash and cash equivalents	12	104 800	83 131

NOTE 1 Accounting and valuation principles

These annual accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Swedish Annual Accounts Act, BFNAR 2012:1 (K3) and BFNAR 2020:1, and with the operating guidelines for annual accounts of the Swedish Fundraising Association (GIVA Sverige). These principles have not been changed since last year.

Income statement

Operating income

Only the inflow of economic benefits that the organisation has received or will receive on its own account is recognised as income. Unless otherwise specified below, income is valued at the fair value of the benefit that has been or will be received.

Donations

Donations include donations received from the general public, companies, organisations, associations, private and non-profit funds and foundations, and sponsorship. Donations also include bequests, the value of donated assets, and income from donations with deeds of gift. Funds from The Swedish Postcode Lottery are also classified as donations. Donations received in the form of undertakings by companies to pay a certain percentage of their sales to a fundraising organisation are also deemed funds raised, because the third-party company, not Kvinna till Kvinna, is the seller. As a rule, donations are recognised as income when they are received and valued at their fair value.

Grants

Funds that the organisation has received from the European Union, the Swedish state or formally independent bodies formed by either of these, and which are provided in the form of transfers of resources to an organisation in exchange for the organisation meeting, or pledging to meet, certain conditions relating to its activities, are deemed public grants and are to be reported as grants (K3, Sections 36.8 and 37.10). If these conditions are not met, there is an obligation for such grants to be repaid. The definition of a grant also applies to other organisations that provide funds under these conditions.

Grants are recognised as income once the conditions for receiving the grant have been met. Grants received are recognised as liabilities until the conditions for receiving the grant have been met. Grants received to cover certain costs are reported in the same financial year as the cost they are intended to cover.

Other income

Primarily income from completed International Training Programmes (ITP) and the sale of products.

Operating expenses

Operating expenses are divided as follows: programme, fundraising and administrative expenses.

Programme expenses

Programme expenses refer to expenses that have a direct connection to the fulfilment of the organisation's purpose and Articles of Association, namely:

- To support projects that promote women's self-reliance, self-esteem and psychosocial and/or physical health, or that otherwise help promote women's participation in building a democratic civil society.
- To publicise facts and information about the effects of war and to build public support for peaceful conflict resolution through the use of civil methods.
- To foster studies and research on the effects of war and armed conflict on women.

Administrative expenses incurred as a direct result of an activity/project are seen as programme expenses. Examples of such expenses are our overseas offices, centralised project management & governance and the administrative handling of grant applications.

Fundraising expenses

Fundraising expenses consist of expenses with a direct connection to fundraising activities that target all of the organisation's donors.

Administrative expenses

Administrative expenses are expenses that the organisation incurs to fulfil the quality requirements it has for its operations and donors, but that cannot be regarded as programme expenses. Around 7.3% of our allocations finance administrative expenses; these are accounted for as programme expenses. What remains are expenses for certain managers and some staff in the finance and communication departments, as well as expenses to develop our administrative and organisational processes, accounting expenses and some common expenses.

Common expenses

Common expenses include IT, finance and accounting functions, premises and management (Board of Directors and the secretary-general).

Leasing

All of the organisation's leasing costs are recognised as operating costs. Leasing costs include rent for our premises.

Remunerations to employees

Ongoing remunerations to employees in the form of wages and salaries, payroll overhead and the like are recognised as expenses concurrently with the performance of their duties. Since all pension obligations are classified as defined contributions, these costs are recognised in the year in which they are incurred.

Profit/loss from financial investments

Interest income is recognised as it accrues. Dividends received are recognised when the right to receive payment is established.

Income tax

The tax expense for the year includes tax relating to that year's taxable income. This applies to our activities within the International Training Programme (ITP), which is classed as an economic activity. There are no temporary differences, which is why deferred tax is not reported.

Balance sheet

Assets and liabilities are valued at their cost of acquisition unless otherwise stated below.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are valued at their cost of acquisition less depreciation according to plan. They are systematically depreciated over their assessed economic life. Tangible fixed assets are derecognised when they are disposed of or when their use is not expected to produce any future economic benefits.

We apply the following depreciation period:

Equipment/Computers	5 years
---------------------	---------

Some equipment purchases are reported as programme expenses. This occurs when appropriations have been made for their purchase, or when, due to the risk of theft during field work, the equipment is equated with expendable equipment. This year, equipment purchases totalling SEK 534 thousand were reported as programme costs.

Financial assets

At the moment of acquisition, financial assets are valued at their cost of acquisition plus direct transaction costs.

Receivables

Receivables are reported in the amounts we estimate will be paid, based on individual assessment.

Foreign currencies

Cash, bank balances and other financial assets are valued at the closing day rate.

Equity

The retained earnings include all profits and losses brought forward from the current and previous periods. Designated funds include donations that have not yet been utilised.

Liability for grants received but no utilised

Where the organisation has received a grant but not yet fulfilled its conditions, the grant is recognised as a liability.

NOTE 2 The Foundation's income

	2020	2019
The Foundation's income is detailed as follows:		
Donations	24 611	16 242
Grants	172 475	181 199
Other operating income	4 476	3 548
Total	201 562	200 989
Donations are detailed as follows:		
General public	8 703	3 767
Companies	1 928	1 245
The Swedish Postcode Lottery	13 210	10 800
Other foundations	770	430
Total	24 611	16 242
Donations not reported in the income statement		
Advertising	2 862	938
Pro bono services (estimated amount)	290	194
Total	3 152	1 132
Total donations		
Donations reported in the income statement	24 611	16 242
Donations not reported in the income statement	3 152	1 132
Total	27 763	17 374

NOTE 3 Grants recognised as income

	2020	2019
Sida grants recognised as income		
Western Balkans	15 615	14 361
South Caucasus	6 127	5 019
Middle East, Jerusalem	8 825	14 198
Middle East, Amman	33 628	39 546
Liberia	9 931	10 541
Ukraine	582	7 280
Cross-regional framework grant	48 369	41 971
Communication grant	4 068	3 746
Rwanda	13 379	12 246
Other Sida	1 586	1 554
Sida administration grant	11 196	11 111
Total	153 306	161 573
Other grants for projects and activities		
Radiohjälpen	2 381	-
Swedish Inheritance Fund	701	1 198
UN Trust	71	1 439
EU	3 347	3 734
Folke Bernadotte Academy	194	1 205
International Alert EPNK project	-	1 402
Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs	2 208	68
Canada	6 200	-
British Foreign & Commonwealth Office	1 772	7 717
GIZ*	-	1 854
SDC**	1 399	362
Swedish Institute	679	-
UN Women	216	-
Other	-	647
Total	19 169	19 626
Total grants recognised as income	172 475	181 199

*German Corporation for International Cooperation
**Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

NOTE 4 Leasing

	2020	2019
Future leasing charges fall due as follow:		
Falling due and payable within 1 year	4 931	5 411
Falling due and payable within 5 years	2 009	2 215
Total	6 940	7 626
Expensed leasing charges during the period		
	6 203	6 996
Total	6 203	6 996
Leasing charges include premises and office and IT equipment		

NOTE 5 Average number of employees, staff costs

	2020	2019
Number of employees (women only)		
Sweden	69	70
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	2
Kosovo	2	2
North Macedonia	5	4
Serbia	4	4
South Caucasus	5	5
Liberia	10	9
Palestine and Israel	3	3
Jordan and Lebanon	12	11
Iraq	3	2
Rwanda	7	6
Ukraine	1	4
Tunisia	2	2
DRC	4	2
Total	129	126

Salaries and other employee benefits

Secretary-general	852	830
Other employees	51 208	45 240
Total salaries and benefits	52 060	46 070
Payroll overhead	12 577	15 415
(of which pension costs)	2 766	2 835
Pension costs secretary-general	291	274

Changed accounting regulations for employee taxes at our programme offices result in lower reported payroll overhead costs but higher salary costs.

Board and senior managers

Women	6	6
Men	1	1
Total	7	7

Voluntary work

During the year, a varying number of individuals did volunteer work for Kvinna till Kvinna (e.g. packing dispatches, raising awareness and street fundraising). The value of these efforts has not been recognised in the income statement.

NOTE 6 Tax on the year's taxable income

	2020	2019
Income tax is based on taxable economic activities		
Pre-tax profit/loss recognised	688	295
Total	688	295
Tax calculated at prevailing rate (21.4%)	147	63
Total	147	63

NOTE 7 Equipment

	2020	2019
Costs of acquisitions brought forward	1 464	1 464
Closing accumulated costs of acquisitions	1464	1464
Depreciation brought forward	-1 464	-1 439
Depreciation for the year	-	-25
Accumulated depreciation carried forward	-1 464	-1 464
Closing recognised value	0	0

NOTE 8 Long-term securities

	2020	2019
Costs of acquisition brought forward	620	620
Closing accumulated costs of acquisition value	620	620
Securities specification		
	Book value	Market value
Stocks	541	658
Money market fund	79	79
Total	620	737

NOTE 9 Contingent liabilities

	2020	2019
Rental guarantee/deposit	849	849
Total	849	849

NOTE 10 Liability, received but not utilised grants

	2020	2019
Sida South Caucasus	1 201	117
Sida Europe/Western Balkans	3 693	3 375
Sida Middle East	5 763	4 676
Sida Liberia	306	109
Sida Rwanda	2 844	3 633
Sida framework grant	8 278	4 816
Sida communication	237	393
Sida other	1 740	859
Swedish Inheritance Fund	3	510
Irish Aid	737	-
Radiohjälpen	1 619	-
Other grants	502	1 805
Total	26 923	20 293

NOTE 11 Accrued expenses and deferred income

	2020	2019
Holiday pay	-3 183	-2 470
Other items	-4 881	-4 758
Prepaid grants, Sida	-50 720	-53 800
Repaid payroll fees*	-6 694	-6 578
Retroactive pension contributions*	3 767	3 619
Total	-61 711	-63 987

*Adjustment made during 2019 and 2020 for staff posted abroad.

NOTE 12 Cash and cash equivalents

	2020	2019
Cash assets	191	230
Bank balances	104 609	82 901
Total	104 800	83 131

NOTE 13 Significant events after the end of the financial year

The Board closely follows the covid-19 pandemic that is affecting the world. Kvinna till Kvinna monitors the spread of the virus in Sweden and its programme countries and will take the necessary measures to protect staff. The secretary-general continuously updates the Board on the latest developments and their impact on the organisation.

Stockholm 2021-03-17

Devrim Mavi
Chairperson

Viola Furubjelke

Maria Appelblom

Lars Jalmert

Kajsa Wejryd

Johanna Mannergren

Malin Almroth

Our audit report has been submitted this day, 2021-05-03

Kajsa Goding
Authorised public accountant

Monika Wannholm
Authorised public accountant

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the board of Kvinna till Kvinna
Corporate identity number 802401-6134

Report on the annual accounts

Opinions

We have audited the annual accounts of Kvinna till Kvinna for the year 2020. The annual accounts are included on pages 37-47 in this document.

In our opinion, the annual accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act and present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Kvinna till Kvinna as of 31 December 2020 and its financial performance and cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act. The statutory administration report is consistent with the other parts of the annual accounts.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA) and generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditor's Responsibilities" section. We are independent of Kvinna till Kvinna in accordance with professional ethics for accountants in Sweden and have otherwise fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation of the annual accounts and that they give a fair presentation in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act. The board is also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of annual accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the annual accounts, the Board of Directors is responsible for the assessment of the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. They disclose, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting. The going concern basis of accounting is not applied if decision has been taken to discontinue the operations.

Auditor's responsibility

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs and generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these annual accounts.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the annual accounts, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of the Association's internal control relevant to our audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board of Directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board of Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual accounts. We also draw a conclusion, based on the audit evidence obtained, as to whether any material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the annual accounts or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion about the annual accounts. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the annual accounts, including the disclosures, and whether the annual accounts represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We must inform the Board of Directors of, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit. We must also inform of significant audit findings during our audit, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identified.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

Opinions

In addition to our audit of the annual accounts, we have also audited the administration of the Board of Directors of Kvinna till Kvinna for the year 2020.

In our opinion, the Board of Directors have not acted in breach of the foundations Act, the foundation regulation or the annual accounts Act.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted the audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditor's Responsibilities" section. We are independent of Kvinna till Kvinna in accordance with professional ethics for accountants in Sweden and have otherwise fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is responsible for the administration according to foundation Act and the foundation regulation.

Auditor's responsibility

Our objective concerning the audit of the administration, and thereby our opinion about discharge from liability, is to obtain audit evidence to assess with a reasonable degree of assurance whether any member of the Board of Directors in any material respect has undertaken any action or been guilty of any omission which can give rise to liability to the Association, or

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden will always detect actions or omissions that can give rise to liability to the Association.

As part of an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. The examination of the administration is based primarily on the audit of the accounts. Additional audit procedures performed are based on our professional judgment with starting point in risk and materiality. This means that we focus the examination on such actions, areas and relationships that are material for the operations and where deviations and violations would have particular importance for the Association's situation. We examine and test decisions undertaken, support for decisions, actions taken and other circumstances that are relevant to our opinion concerning discharge from liability.

Stockholm May 3, 2021

Kajsa Goding
Authorized Public Accountant

Monika Wannholm
Authorized Public Accountant

The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation | 2021

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Image When covid-19 hit Liberia, Tupee Nagbo went bankrupt after 25 years of being in business. She wants the world to know that the global pandemic has severely affected women: "The lockdown made us lose all of our money. No one would buy any fish, everything would just rot." Tupee takes part in leadership trainings provided by Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisation Women Rights Watch (WORIWA) and is chairperson for the Fanti Town Community, in Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County.

Photo: Wolobah Sali



Kvinna till Kvinna has a 90-account—a special type of account granted by the non-profit organisation Swedish Fundraising Control. This account is an assurance to the public that the accountholder's fundraising activities are monitored by the Swedish Fundraising Control. It guarantees that funds are raised in an ethical and responsible way, and that the collected funds are used for their intended purpose.

**For all women's rights,
in every corner of the world.**