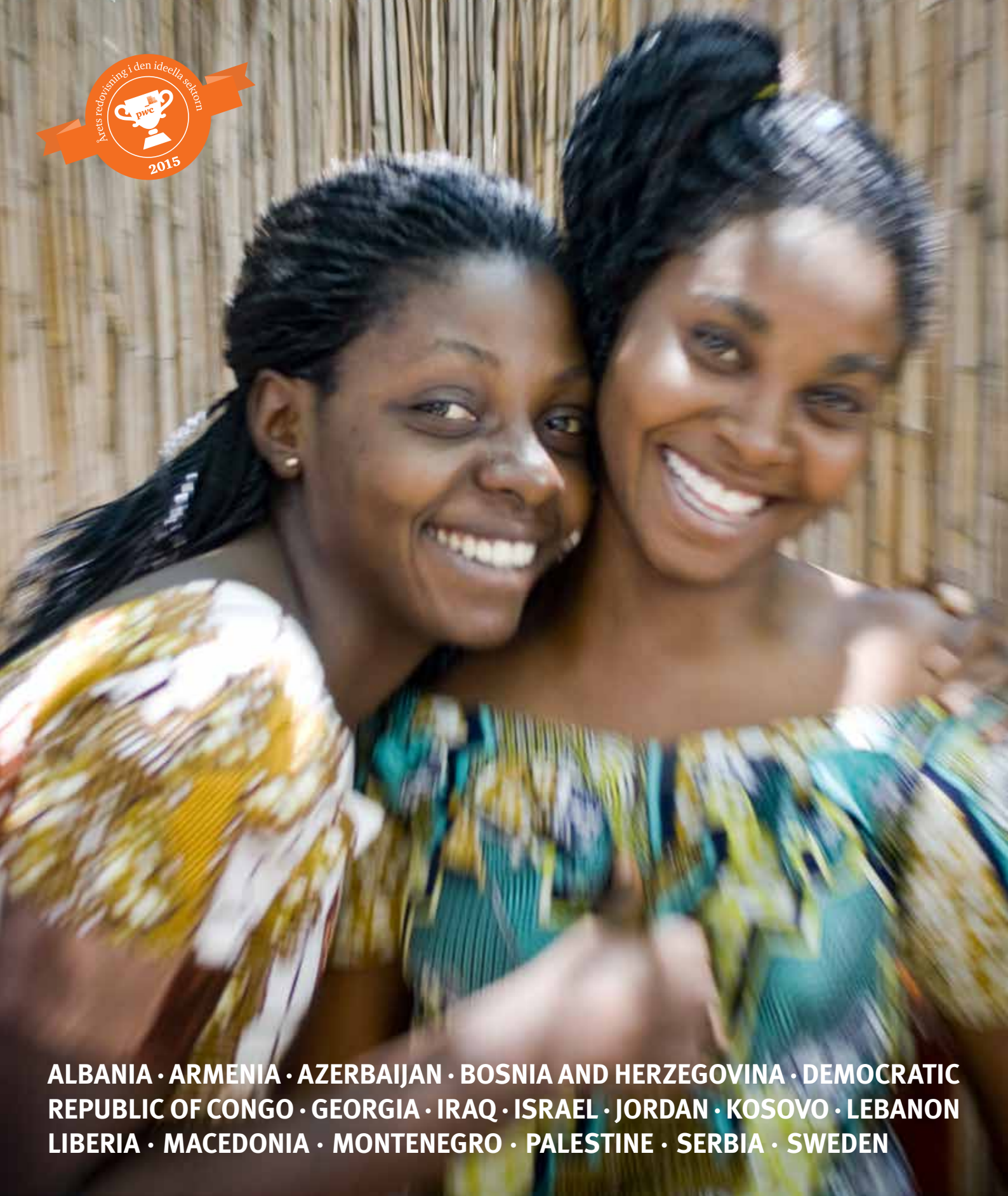


# ANNUAL REPORT 2015



KvinnatillKvinnan



ALBANIA · ARMENIA · AZERBAIJAN · BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA · DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC OF CONGO · GEORGIA · IRAQ · ISRAEL · JORDAN · KOSOVO · LEBANON  
LIBERIA · MACEDONIA · MONTENEGRO · PALESTINE · SERBIA · SWEDEN

# The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation

## Vision

- A world of sustainable peace based on democracy and gender equality and where conflicts are dealt with through non-violent means.
- A world in which human rights are respected and where all people can feel safe and secure.
- A world in which women have power and influence over decision-making and enjoy full and effective participation in the development of society.

## Our purpose

Women make up a large part of civil society in regions affected by war and conflict. Our focus, therefore, is to partner with women's organisations that operate in conflict regions, and to disseminate information and build public support for women's role and rights within peace and security. We also promote studies and research to increase awareness of how war and conflict impact women's roles and conditions in society.

## History

Kvinna till Kvinna was founded during the 1990's, when reports of mass rapes in the Balkan wars reached Sweden. The women's movement in Sweden made a joint appeal under the name of *Kvinna till Kvinna* (Woman to Woman), which was followed by a series of fundraising initiatives to support women's rights organisations operating in the Balkans.

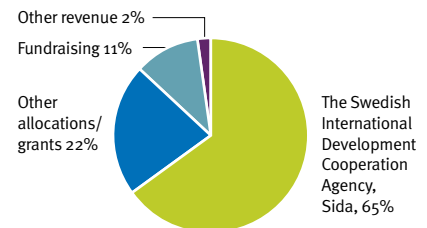
Since then, Kvinna till Kvinna has grown considerably. We now support more than 100 women's rights organisations and women's rights defenders all over the world.

## Our work in Sweden

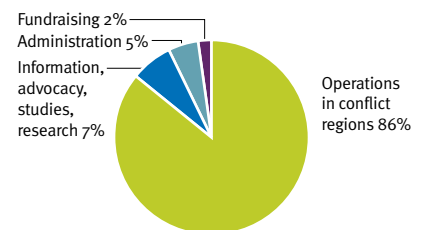
- We encourage people to take a stand and get involved for peace and women's rights in regions affected by war and conflict.
- We raise money to support the work carried out by our partner organisations.

Kvinna till Kvinna is a peace and women's rights organisation without any political or religious affiliations.

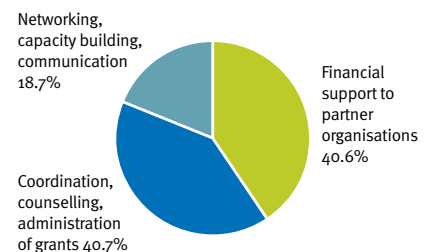
## How we get funding EUR 14.3 Million



## How we use the money EUR 13.9 Million



## Operations in conflict regions EUR 12 Million



## Contents

2 The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation	20 South Caucasus
3 Our work around the world	23 Western Balkans
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Sandrine Ramazani and Helene Makosho Luxene use theatre to combat violence against women in DR Congo. Find out more on page 10. Photo: Cato Lein

# Our work around the world

**Sweden**

Read more on page **20**

Freedom of expression is being limited in South Caucasus and women pushing for gender equality face strong resistance.

**South Caucasus**  
Armenia  
Azerbaijan  
Georgia

**Western Balkans**  
Albania  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Kosovo  
Macedonia  
Montenegro  
Serbia

**Middle East**  
Iraq  
Israel  
Jordan  
Lebanon  
Palestine

**Central and West Africa**  
The Democratic Republic of Congo  
Liberia

**Colombia**

**South Africa**

Read more on page **24**

Women's work for reconciliation and women's rights in the Balkans continues. The wars left deep scars that continue to divide the population.

Violence, conflict and poverty shape women's daily lives in Liberia and DR Congo. Yet a dynamic struggle for women's rights is being fought nonetheless.

The war in Syria as well as other escalating conflicts in the region make efforts to promote women's rights dangerous.

Read more on page **16**

In 2015, we offered training sessions on women, peace and security in Colombia and South Africa. Find out more on page 32.

Read more on page **12**

For safety reasons, we are unable to mention all the countries in which Kvinna till Kvinna operates. Equally, we cannot list all the organisations that we support. Read more about risks and challenges on page 6.



More and more people in Sweden are getting involved in doing voluntary work for Kvinna till Kvinna. In 2015, our group of volunteers joined the Stockholm Pride Parade for the first time, raising awareness about women's- and LGBT persons' rights.



In 2015, Lena Ag travelled to several places including the Balkans, where she met women who have fled war-torn Syria. She shared their stories of their experiences along the flight route in public debate and during meetings with politicians and decision-makers. The trip was arranged by the Nobel Women's Initiative. Photo: Igor Pavicevic

## We never give up

The world faced a great many challenges in 2015 with wars, conflicts and millions of people fleeing their homes. Those of us who work to strengthen women human rights in conflict affected regions have seen that women continue to be exposed to violence and excluded from peace negotiations, and that laws to combat sexual violence are not being respected.

That said, there have also been glimmers of hope for women and women's rights with signs of steady progress: women are enjoying better health, more education and, slowly but surely, they are also gaining greater financial independence. However, these developments are not very evenly distributed among the world's countries.

The situation facing women's rights defenders in conflict regions is still difficult, and many are subjected to threats and slander. In spite of this, these women continue to do remarkable work and there are several success stories from 2015. For example, in DR Congo, women have collected more than 200,000 signatures to force an amendment of the discriminatory electoral laws.

In Jordan, thanks to the dedication of a women's organisation, damages have, for the first time ever, been paid to a woman subjected to domestic violence.

In many respects, 2015 was dominated by the war in Syria, especially for our partner organisations in the Middle East that support displaced women. To highlight the important peacebuilding efforts of women activists in Syria, we published "*Peacebuilding defines our future now*" in cooperation with the Syrian organisation Badael. The report has had a global outreach, giving a voice to women previously not heard.

The war in Syria also had a major impact on Kvinna till Kvinna's work as a whole. In 2015, the Swedish government decided to finance part of its refugee package

with the national aid budget that also partly funds our operations. We are highly critical of this. Reducing the international development budget to welcome refugees is a short-term solution. It makes the long-term work of promoting democracy and sustainable peace in the countries where the refugees come from much more difficult. International development work is important to improve people's living conditions in the longer term, and by extension also to prevent war and conflict that forces people to become refugees.

Providing support to displaced women is also important once they are in Sweden. Our volunteers have started a support group for newly-arrived women informing them about their rights.

In 2015, we have seen a rise in the number of monthly donors – wonderful news! A big thank you to all of you who contribute to our work. Kvinna till Kvinna will keep on providing support to women in regions affected by war and conflict – our efforts are long-term and contribute to change.

Lena Ag  
Secretary General



# This is Kvinna till Kvinna

## We strengthen women's rights defenders

- Kvinna till Kvinna supports women's rights organisations and their work promoting peace and women's rights in regions affected by war and conflict.
- We provide financial support, as well as training and networking opportunities.
- Kvinna till Kvinna's working model is based on dialogue and long-term partnership. Our strength is that we get to know our partner organisations, we listen to them and support their priorities.

## Partner organisations

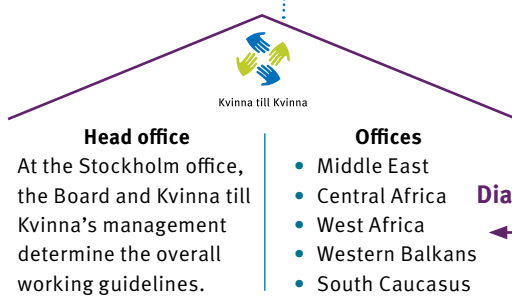
In 2015, Kvinna till Kvinna cooperated with 104 women's rights organisations in five regions affected by conflict: Central and West Africa, the Middle East, the South Caucasus and the Western Balkans.

## Donations and allocations

Donations and grants from individuals

Donations and grants from companies

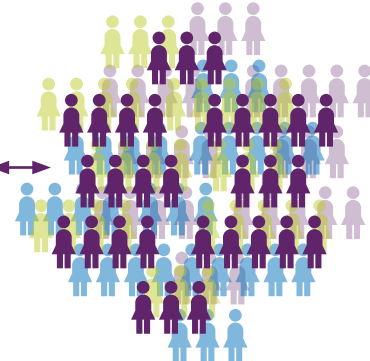
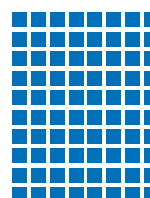
Grants from Sida and other public funding agencies



A total of 98 employees. 55 work at the head office.

## Local women's rights organisations

## Women in regions affected by war and conflict



Results are reported back to the donors.

## How our work is financed

Kvinna till Kvinna is able to support women in regions affected by war and conflict with the help of donations and allocations.

- The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is our main source of funding and we also receive grants from the Swedish State Inheritance Fund, the EU, the Folke Bernadotte Academy, Forum Syd, The Swedish Postcode Lottery, the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs as well as from Norway and the Netherlands.
- Donations and grants from individuals and companies represent an important part of our funding. Our main private donor is the Swedish Postcode Lottery.

## Communication, advocacy, training and research

- Our communication work seeks to raise awareness about women's situation in areas affected by war and conflict, as well as influencing decision-makers and legislation to improve the position of women in society.
- We target the Swedish public to raise awareness and encourage involvement in women's rights issues through the media, events and our volunteers.
- We work to develop research, and cooperate with individual researchers and research institutes.
- We offer trainings to improve knowledge and skills about women, peace and security.

# Results and risk management

Careful planning and contextual analysis are essential to ensure organisational effectiveness. Identifying risks enables Kvinna till Kvinna to organise our work in a safe way.

Kvinna till Kvinna develops goals and plans for the organisation based on our vision, mandate and strategy. Each project is evaluated to assess the results that have been achieved, and whether the work is relevant and effective.

Kvinna till Kvinna works with monitoring and evaluation, using set goals and indicators for each programme, to determine whether we and our partner organisations are on track to reaching our goals. It is also done to determine whether the right things are being done, in the right way and as planned. Monitoring is done using a number of different methods, such as key performance indicators, both quantitative and qualitative, as well as field visits, workshops, dialogue and reports from our partner organisations. These methods also help us to improve the organisation's work.

## Risks for Kvinna till Kvinna

Kvinna till Kvinna operates in a world where fast changes can affect the organisation from one day to the next. We are therefore continuously analysing our surroundings in order to enable us to continue to operate during challenging circumstances.

One of the countries where Kvinna till Kvinna faced difficulties in 2015 was Iraq. The conflicts in the country escalated and many women's rights defenders faced threats from extreme religious groups.

The fact that Kvinna till Kvinna was able to remain present and support women's rights defenders in the country is a success in itself. It was possible thanks to the great strength of our partner organisations, and their ability to continue with their work despite the difficult circumstances.

Corruption is a global problem and we have a zero-tolerance policy on corruption within partner organisations and Kvinna till Kvinna. We work on many levels in order to prevent corruption in our programmes, for example by having a close dialogue with our partner organisations.

## Cuts in development aid

The unrest in the Middle East also had consequences in Sweden, which received thousands of refugees in 2015. In order to fund the reception of refugees, the Swedish government is using money from the aid budget, which also partly finances Kvinna till Kvinna's work. Thanks to protests from civil society, the cuts were not as disastrous as first expected. However, Kvinna till Kvinna is certainly affected – operations in Liberia and South Caucasus will receive less support.

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## Looking ahead

During the strategy period 2011-2015, Kvinna till Kvinna grew considerably. Our new strategy leaves us well equipped for working for women's rights in the next few years.

From 2011 to 2015, Kvinna till Kvinna's annual revenue increased from SEK 82 million to SEK 144 million and the number of employees grew from 50 to 100. We established ourselves in Africa, expanded our operations in the Middle East, and took the first steps towards potential operations in Afghanistan, Ukraine and the Horn of Africa.

Kvinna till Kvinna's new strategy for the period 2016-2021 is focused on three areas:

1. Reduce violence against women.
2. Increase women's political participation.
3. Contribute to changes in security policies where women's human rights play a key role.

The aim is for Kvinna till Kvinna and our partner organisations to work together to promote development in these areas. In order to do so, Kvinna till Kvinna needs to develop in a number of ways. Here are examples of goals connected to the three key areas.

### 1. Reduce violence against women.

We are seeking to be an established expert and sought-after partner in the work against gender-based violence.

To achieve this, we will be improving our own tools during 2016-2017, for example our training materials, so that we can support women's rights defenders in their

work against gender-based violence even more effectively.

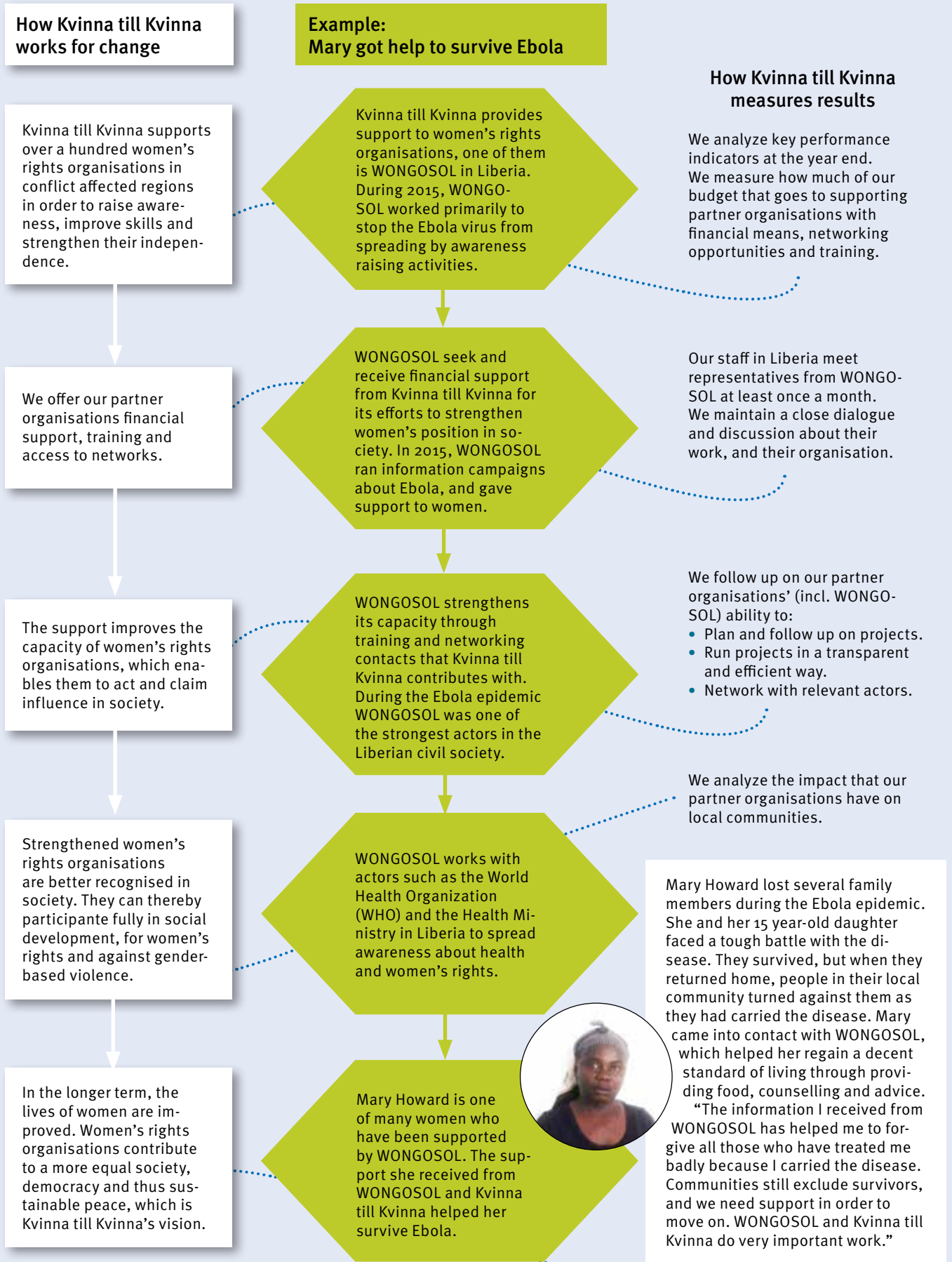
### 2. Increase women's political participation.

In order to increase women's participation and influence in social development, we are going to increase our financial support to women human right defenders.

### 3. Contribute to changes in security policies.

We seek to improve policies and attitudes concerning peace and security by raising awareness and influencing key individuals working with security policy.

# How Kvinna till Kvinna makes a difference





In DR Congo, it is common for teachers to demand sexual favours from girls in exchange for grades. Thanks to the efforts of our partner organisation CEDEJ, teachers in more than 100 schools have been educated about girls' rights, and those who have engaged in abuse have been dismissed. Photo: Cato Lein

# 91%

Proportion of Kvinna till Kvinna's total revenue that goes **directly towards the organisation's aims**, according to criteria set by the Swedish Fundraising Control.



## Important donations

In 2015, Kvinna till Kvinna raised a record SEK 14.9 Million! Fundraising is extremely important for our work to support women's rights organisations in regions affected by war and conflict.

In 2015, we raised SEK 4.4 Million from private donations. Monthly donors accounted for 58 percent of this. The number of monthly donors increased by 36 percent compared to 2014. A contributing factor was that we allowed monthly donations to be made via debit card and SMS

donations. By the end of the year, we had 1,018 monthly donors.

In 2015, we organised a number of different campaigns and activities to spread awareness and encourage involvement in Kvinna till Kvinna's work, as well as to raise money and increase the number of new donors.

In May, our photo exhibition **LES FEMMES** about women's lives and work for peace in DR Congo opened in Sweden. LES FEMMES was our biggest outreach event in 2015.

Our Mother's Day campaign in May included sales of gift cards featuring photographs from the exhibition. The proceeds from the campaign increased by 40 percent compared to 2014 and generated SEK 56,000.

Read more about LES FEMMES on page 10.



Photo: Cato Lein

The Mother's Day gift card pictured Rachel Mugula and Irene Mbinge Sango.

Kvinna till Kvinna's magazine *Fred i sikte* (Peace in Sight) provides donors with greater insight into our work for women's rights.

### Achievements in 2015

- 1,018 monthly donors by the end of the year, representing a 36 percent increase.
- In 2015, we began accepting monthly donations via debit card and SMS donations.
- Major increase in donations received via Swish (mobile money transfer application).

### Vision and short-term goals

Kvinna till Kvinna seeks to strengthen its identity as a fundraising organisation. In 2016, we are aiming to increase the number of monthly donors by 20 percent. We hope to see a similar increase in our total fundraising revenue in 2016.

To mark International Women's Day on 8 March, we arranged an event called *Women Business Leaders* at SUP46 in Stockholm. More than a hundred people attended the event which focused on women in male-dominated professions.





### What will SEK 500 pay for?

**500**

Ten women in DR Congo can receive materials for a year-long course in learning how to read and write.

**500**

Two refugee women from Syria can get access to healthcare and social support with the help of our partner organisations in Lebanon.

**500**

A social worker at the Women's Rights Center in Armenia can work for a week providing support to women under threat of violence.



"In 2015, I got the chance to visit Gaza and the West Bank with Kvinna till Kvinna, where I met women who had lost their homes, their children and their hopes for the future. The help and support that the women got from Kvinna till Kvinna was absolutely decisive for them, and their children and families. I am full of respect and admiration of the great work you are doing."

Alexandra Pascalidou, journalist and Goodwill Ambassador for Kvinna till Kvinna

During the political event *Almedalen Week* in Sweden, Kvinna till Kvinna arranged **peace yoga** to raise awareness about the stressful situation for women's rights defenders in conflict regions. Kvinna till Kvinna teaches yoga in places such as Gaza.

The event was organised with the communication agency Prime.



Policial peace yoga event.

### Fundraising by our volunteers

Kvinna till Kvinna's volunteers have arranged a number of different fundraising activities during the year. One event organised by our volunteer group in Uppsala in collaboration with the Uppsala Association of International Affairs raised SEK 14,000. A big thank you!



Reviewed and approved by the **Giving guide** 2015  
- Powered by Charity Rating

We are now included on Givarguiden's *Green list*, and have

been approved for our democratic structure, financial accounting and transparency towards our donors.



Snippa Smycket and Caroline Nordlund raised SEK 70,000 in 2015. Leymuun Farah, one of Kvinna till Kvinna's much appreciated interns, is wearing the jewellery.

### Christmas presents for women's rights

We are very proud of Kvinna till Kvinna's Christmas campaign, and our **gift boxes** are being further developed from year to year. Thanks to lots of free advertising space in newspapers, for example, sales of our Christmas presents increased by 58 percent. The Christmas campaign raised SEK 404 000, which is an increase by 19,5 percent compared to 2014.

The Christmas campaign also contributed to 531 new donors.



**75,000**

### Support for women refugees

In September, Kvinna till Kvinna raised money for displaced women from Syria. The campaign drew attention to our efforts of strengthening women in countries neighbouring Syria.

In October, the network *Female Singer-Songwriters* in cooperation with Kvinna till Kvinna and our volunteers raised SEK 30,000.

In total, Kvinna till Kvinna managed to raise SEK 75,000 for women refugees.

### Thanks for your support!

AAMILON Consulting · AMF Fastigheter/Gallerian · Beans AB · Binder Band · Bonnier Magazines · BSL Rekrytering · Cato Lein · Dagens ETC · Egmont Publishing AB · Female Singer-Songwriters · Fredens Hus (House of Peace) · Fria Tidningar · GT · Hemma · IcaKuriren · Kod Arkitekter · KPMG · Kulturhuset Borås · Lila Shala · Lisa Westerlund · Marie Laveau · Musikkollektivet Femtastic · NK-villan · Nöjesguiden · Obaren · Oxenstierna & Partners Parrots · Peas & Understanding · Prime · Pågen · Recognia AB · Resultat i Stockholm AB · Rickmer · Sandahl Partners · Snippa Smycket · Socialförvaltningen Stockholm stad · Stiftelsen Infinity Sturehof · Subtopia · SUP46 · Susanna Forsberg · Säkra Stockholm Öst AB · Teater Kolibri · Teater Tribunalen · Tshirt Store · Uppsala Konsert & Kongress



# LES FEMMES challenge the image of DR Congo

In 2015, Kvinna till Kvinna highlighted women’s situation in DR Congo using photography and theatre. The LES FEMMES project demonstrates that change is possible, and that women can be both victims of war and actors for peace and justice.

The photography exhibition LES FEMMES challenges the typically negative image of DR Congo, where several million people have died during twenty years of war and armed conflict, and where violence against women has been wide-spread. Around thirty images taken by the photographer Cato Lein depict the power and desire for change in women’s daily lives.

“The war in DR Congo has crushed society and women’s status is extremely low. At the same time, people are fighting for change. Women are central to the work for peace, justice and democracy. And LES FEMMES is depicting their reality. We hope that the exhibition has contributed to greater support for women in DR Congo and the fantastic and often risky work they do,” says Anna

Lithander, Editorial Manager and producer of the exhibition.

The photo exhibition appeared in numerous cities in Sweden during 2015, and was also shown in DR Congo at the end of the year.

### Actors denied visas

The LES FEMMES theatre project brought together young actors in DR Congo and Sweden. After months of preparation and expectations, their joint performance about violence against women was due to be held in Stockholm in May. However, the Congolese actors, who are involved in Kvinna till Kvinna’s partner organisation CEDEJ, were denied visas just ten days before the premiere. The play quickly had to be rewritten to allow the Swedish actors from Teater Tribunalen’s

## 19 millions for women’s rights



Kvinna till Kvinna is one of the beneficiaries of the Swedish Postcode Lottery, receiving SEK 19 Million in 2015, of which SEK 9 Million was spent on special efforts to combat violence against women in DR Congo.

“We would like to extend a big thank you to the Postcode Lottery and all those who buy lottery tickets. Their money is used for an important purpose,” says Lena Ag, Kvinna till Kvinna’s Secretary General.

The Swedish Postcode Lottery is one of the most popular lotteries in Sweden with almost a million customers.



The LES FEMMES photo exhibition gave thousands of people in Sweden an image of DR Congo that is seldom seen in the media. The premiere took place in the shopping mall Gallerian in Stockholm, which has 450,000 visitors per week.

political drama course to perform it alone, with video imagery from their colleagues in DR Congo.

To the director Susanna Forsberg, this was a clear example of the different conditions facing people.

“When I travelled to DR Congo to write the play with the Congolese actors, I had no problems getting a visa. My Congolese colleagues, however, were denied entry. It’s not fair, they have so much to teach us and I really hope that they will be able to come here in the future”, she says.

Despite the absence of key persons, the performance was very well received by the audience.

LES FEMMES was organised with support of the Swedish Postcode Lottery. The tour in Sweden was also financed by the Folke Bernadotte Academy.

# Volunteers

All over Sweden, there are local groups of volunteers who help to spread information about Kvinna till Kvinna and women's rights. In 2015, the number of volunteers increased to 200 and they have come into contact with more than 6,000 people with their outreach activities.



Kvinna till Kvinna's volunteers are active all over Sweden. One of the activities were disseminating information about Kvinna till Kvinna at the University of Gothenburg.

Our volunteering activities aim to get the general public involved in women's rights. The volunteers help Kvinna till Kvinna to spread information and raise money. Over 50 outreach activities were organised in 2015. In addition, every volunteer group organises monthly meetings with focus on issues that Kvinna till Kvinna work with.

"Our volunteers do a lot! They arrange events to raise money for us, they write op-eds, participate in forums and events, create meeting places for young activists, and much

more! During the year, the Stockholm group also started two meeting groups for young women newly arrived to Sweden," says Matilda Reiderstedt, Volunteer Coordinator.

## Long-term commitment

One long-term aim for the volunteer groups is for them to be sustainable, something that is always a challenge for volunteer organisations. A sustainability plan has therefore been put together, which highlights the importance of inclusivity in order to establish long-term commitment along the volunteers.

"One lesson we have taken on board in the last few years is that volunteer work must involve both outreach activities and social interaction. Our volunteers highly value having a safe meeting place where they are able to share experiences and discuss the peace and women's rights issues that they are so passionate about," says Matilda Reiderstedt.

## Volunteers in Sweden

The volunteering activities started in 2010. Since 2014 financed with the support of the Swedish Inheritance Fund. We cooperate with Sensus in the six cities where our volunteer groups are active. **Number of volunteers: 200 (2014: 150).** The work done by volunteers corresponds to 2,5 full-time employees.



Workshop for peace activists in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Photo: Bojana Mumin

## Young Women's Peace Academy

In 2015, 19 volunteers participated in *Young Women's Peace Academy*, a unique training project that seeks to strengthen young peace activists in Sweden as well as in conflict regions. Two of the volunteers, Dajana Mehedin and Marina Jevdjenic from Gothenburg, had the chance to travel to Bosnia and Herzegovina to meet peace activists.

"The trip enabled us to understand how complex building peace really is. But it's not impossible! The most positive thing we took away from the visit was that all participants learned something from the training and discussions."

Find out more on page 28.

## Peace role-play premiere

Kvinna till Kvinna's role-play exercise entitled *Fred för alla* (Peace for all) was launched in September. Our volunteers were trained on how to lead the exercise at schools, and during the autumn around 500 pupils aged 13-18 took part. The role-play is about conflict, gender inequality and peace negotiations. Actors get to experience at first hand what differences in power and influence can feel like.



"It was interesting to take part – a fun way of learning about conflicts and power," said a 17-year-old pupil at the Viktor Rydberg Gymnasium, Stockholm.



2015 was the first year in which volunteers travelled to one of Kvinna till Kvinna's programme countries, Palestine, to take part in an exchange. Erika Lejon Flodin from Uppsala and Sahar Omar from Jerusalem met on the West Bank.



# MIDDLE EAST

For women in the Middle East, 2015 was a particularly difficult year, as the war in Syria continued to affect the entire region. Yet, Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations continued their work for peace, democracy and women's rights nonetheless.

The war in Syria has been devastating for the country's population. A large proportion of Syrian civilians have been displaced, both within and outside the country's borders.

"Kvinna till Kvinna and our partner organisations are based in the surrounding countries where we work to support and empower women refugees and strengthen civil society. It is the civilian actors who can foster security and bring about a long-term change," says Regional Manager Linda Säll.

## Threats and violence in Iraq

Conflict and violence escalated in Iraq during 2015, with a major impact on the women in the country. Many of them are living under threat, and women who ran for elections faced threats from extreme religious groups, who believe that women should stay at home. The opportunities available to women's rights defenders to promote women's rights and gender equality are minimal.

"The challenges are many. Staff security is constantly being evaluated, and periodically we have

moved some of our staff from Iraq to Jordan," says Monica Nordenwald, Head of Security.

## Crisis in Lebanon

2015 was marked by crisis in Lebanon. The country has received around two million refugees from Syria.

"The country has witnessed a 50 percent population increase, putting public infrastructure under pressure. We can compare this to Sweden, which received around 160,000 refugees in 2015," says Linda Säll.

Many women are being killed by their husbands in Lebanon, so in May the organisation Kafa arranged a demonstration in Beirut against domestic violence. Kafa called for the authorities to take the violence seriously. New domestic violence legislation is still not being fully applied, and many cases of abuse have not gone to trial.



In 2015, millions of people in Iraq demonstrated against corrupt judges, and called for judicial reform. Intisar Al-Mayalie (in checked red shirt), a member of the Iraqi Women's League, was one of the women human rights defenders who made sure that women's voices were heard. Photo: Iraqi Women's League

Beirut suffered a terrorist attack and national security became the top political priority, overshadowing gender equality. However, Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations continued to advocate gender equality as a priority on the political agenda.

#### Pressure on Jordan

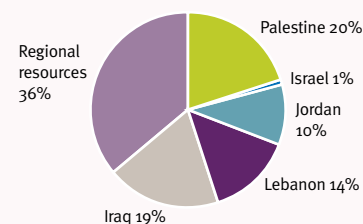
Political instability and the war in Syria dominated the development in Jordan too. The country has received more than 1.4 million refugees from Syria, and Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations provide sup-

port and education to refugees. They also work to counter gender based violence, support women's political participation, and strengthen women's position in society.

#### A violent year in Palestine

Violence escalated in Palestine during the year, worsening the situation for women. Kvinna till Kvinna regularly provide partner organisations with opportunities to meet and have a dialogue. The meetings contribute to reducing a sense of hopelessness, and also promote

#### Distribution of means to the Middle East



The region was allocated SEK 50.8 Million in 2015.

#### Iraq

- ▶ Kvinna till Kvinna has been collaborating with women's organisations in Iraq since 2005.
- ▶ Number of employees: 3
- ▶ Office in Erbil.
- ▶ 7 partner organisations:
  - Amez organization
  - Baghdad Women's Association
  - Pana Center
  - Arman Organization
  - Hawa Organisation for Relief and Development
  - Iraqi Women's League
  - Rasan Organization for Women's Rights

#### Israel

- ▶ Kvinna till Kvinna has been collaborating with women's organisations in Israel since 2001.
- ▶ Work is coordinated from our office in Jerusalem.
- ▶ 5 partner organisations:
  - Al-Tufula Centre
  - Al-Zahraa Organization for the Advancement of Women
  - Achoti – for Women in Israel
  - Coalition of Womace
  - Isha L'Isha

cohesion between women from the West Bank including East Jerusalem and the Gaza strip.

"We create safe spaces where women have the chance to engage in strategic work and share experiences. This way, they can inspire each other in the fight for change," says Linda Säll.

Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations in Israel work to combat discrimination as well as growing militarisation, both of which constitute steps towards bringing an end to the occupation of Palestine.



Many of those who have fled Syria end up in refugee camps in neighbouring countries, where several of Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations are operating. The Jordanian Women's Union runs a women's centre at the Baqa'a refugee camp where women can get access to health care, and legal and social support.

## Support to women refugees

More than four million people have fled Syria. Displaced women are often subjected to abuse, violence and forced marriage. Kvinna till Kvinna offers protection and support via our partner organisations.

Women and girls are particularly vulnerable as refugees, and after leaving Syria many end up in neighbouring countries Lebanon and Jordan without protection or supplies.

Darine Zein el Abidin is one of those affected by the war, and she fled Syria when the situation became too dangerous.

"I was afraid all the time. When my children were in school and I heard news of bombings, I ran to fetch them," she says.

Darine fled to Tripoli in Lebanon, where she received help from Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisation the Lebanese Council to Resist Violence Against Woman. She now helps other women refugees.

Poverty is one of the consequences of the war in Syria, as a result girls are increasingly being married off by their families. Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon have long been working separately to combat child marriage, and in 2015 some of the organisations began collaborating in this area.

It is important to increase cross-border networking, as some child marriages result in trafficking.

## Putting legislation into practice

One of Kvinna till Kvinna's goals in the Middle East is to contribute to improved legislation for women's rights. Efforts have shown good results in Lebanon.

A law against domestic violence was adopted in Lebanon in 2014, helped by a successful campaign led by Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisation Kafa.

Kafa works with women's shelters providing help and protection from violence. The pressure on support centres such as Kafa's has increased enormously since the law was adopted, correlating with the increased number of women now daring to seek help.

This is an example of how the work against gender-based violence in Lebanon is progressing.

Strengthening the legislation for women's rights, and ensuring that laws are put into practice, was one of the goals set for Kvinna till Kvinna's Middle East programme 2014-2015.

The results of the efforts in Lebanon demonstrate the power of the women's movement when working together on one specific issue.

### Long-term vision

Kvinna till Kvinna's vision for the Middle East is a strengthened and sustainable women's movement that influences and improves women's rights, and enhance opportunities for women to participate on local, national, regional and international levels.

### Short-term goals

- Increase women's participation in society, particularly peace-building efforts.
- Support the development of women's rights organisations.
- Combat violence against women.
- Eliminate discrimination.

## Results and facts



Eva Abu Halaweh is pleased about the legal progress in Jordan.

### Historic victory in Jordan!

For the first time ever, a woman in Jordan has been compensated for damages after being subjected to domestic violence. This victory comes after years of hard work by Mizan Law Group, a women's rights organisation that provides legal aid to abused women, that Kvinna till Kvinna has supported.

"The verdict is the first of its kind in Jordan. It is ground-breaking since it shows that violence against women is not permissible, and may serve as a deterrent," says Eva Abu Halaweh, Executive Director of Mizan Law Group.

24,000 calls



SAWA organization in Palestine offers help to women who have been subjected to sexual and gender based violence, through a hotline service, which is free and open 24/7. In 2015, the hotline received more than 24,000 calls.

### Licenses for female lawyers

According to tradition, single women in Iraq are expected to stay at home. This has made it difficult for educated women to work. The Hawa Organisation for Relief and Development in Iraq offered a course in 2015 for female lawyers, helping them to obtain documents and certificates to enable them to get their professional licenses. Today, several of them are practicing as lawyers, handling cases of crimes against women in courts, and are economically independent.



Several women were injured when Israeli soldiers started shooting with rubber bullets and tear gas at a demonstration for Palestinian women's right to live in peace and freedom on 8 March. One of the injured was Amal Khreishe, President of the Palestinian Working Women Society for Development (holding the megaphone). Photo: PWWSO

### Rewarding exchange between Palestine and Syria

The Women's Studies Center in Palestine has for 14 years been working on a successful programme to support women who have experienced grief and trauma due to the occupation. In 2015, they shared their experiences with women's rights defenders from Syria who meet women in crisis on a daily basis. The women's rights defenders received self-care training on how to prevent burn out and increase wellbeing.

**"I completely lost my concentration during work and stopped sleeping at nights. Now I understand that I must care for myself to be able to help others."**

These are the words of Rania, one of the participants, who works for a Syrian organisation that offers psychosocial support to displaced people.

### Health care to Yazidi women

In 2015, the Rasan Organization for Women's Rights in Iraq helped 90 Yazidi women get access to health care. Some of the women had become pregnant after sexual abuse while abducted by the Islamic State.

#### Jordan

- ▶ Kvinna till Kvinna has been collaborating with women's organisations in Jordan since 2005.
- ▶ Number of employees: 9
- ▶ Office in Amman.
- ▶ 7 partner organisations:
  - Arab Women Organization
  - Families Development Association
  - Jordanian Women's Union
  - Kura Women Voluntary Society
  - Rakeen Women Voluntary Society
  - Sisterhood is Global Institute
  - Queen Zein Al-Sharaf Charity Association

#### Lebanon

- ▶ Kvinna till Kvinna has collaborated with women's organisations in Lebanon since 2005.
- ▶ Work is coordinated from our office in Amman.
- ▶ 6 partner organisations:
  - Association Najdeh
  - Kafa (Enough) Violence & Exploitation
  - Lebanese Council to Resist Violence Against Women
  - Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering
  - Collective for Research & Training on Development-Action
  - Palestinian Women's Humanitarian Organization

#### Palestine

- ▶ Kvinna till Kvinna has collaborated with women's organisations in Palestine since 2001.
- ▶ Number of employees: 4
- ▶ Office in Jerusalem.
- ▶ 8 partner organisations:
  - AISHA Association for Women and Child Protection
  - Palestinian Centre for Human Rights
  - Palestinian Centre for Peace and Democracy
  - Palestinian Working Women's Society for Development
  - SAWA Organization
  - Stars of Hope Society for the Empowerment of Women with Disabilities
  - Women's Affairs Center
  - Women's Studies Centre



# CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA

Conflict and violence have long plagued the civilian population of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia. Kvinna till Kvinna supports local women's rights organisations in their struggle for equality and peace.

By mid-2015, Liberia had made it through the worst stages of the Ebola virus epidemic. The spread of the disease was absolutely catastrophic for Liberia, a country already bur-



Read about Mary Howard who survived Ebola on page 7.

dened by a long history of violence, armed conflict and high levels of unemployment. Local women's rights organisations played a decisive role in stopping the spread of the disease, by disseminating information, for example. Many of Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations now work hard to push the Liberian

government to build a functioning health care system.

In addition to fighting the spread of the Ebola virus, the women's movement in Liberia has continued its struggle for women's rights. This has included efforts by Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisation the West Africa Network for Peace-



Photo to the left: In DR Congo, decision-making is largely done by men. In order to combat gender inequality, Kvinna till Kvinna and the Life & Peace Institute work together to support efforts to enable women to participate in local conflict resolution. Women in the village of Makobola now participate in discussions. Cato Lein's photograph is part of Kvinna till Kvinna's exhibition LES FEMMES.



Women participating in a *Peace Hut* project in Liberia.

building, to continue focusing on conflict resolution and gender-based violence all over Liberia. The target group comprises both women and men and their methods include *Peace Huts*, a type of discussion forum for conflict resolution and women's rights.

### Alliance for women's rights

DR Congo is one of the poorest countries in the world and the long-standing conflicts continue to have a massive impact on women. Two thirds of Congolese women are estimated to become victims of violence during their lifetimes.

In DR Congo, women face discrimination in all sectors of society, including education and political decision-making. In order to in-

crease women's political participation, Kvinna till Kvinna ran the project *Women's Organisations for Leadership and Fundamental Rights (WOLF)*, between 2012 and 2015. The project helped to forge an alliance between women in civil society and decision-makers. They have now agreed on how to create public opinion for women's rights.

"Moreover, our partner organisations have been able to reach national decision-makers with suggestions about how to secure women's rights, something that is very challenging considering the vast geographic distances," says Katarina Vlachos, Project Manager for the WOLF project. To read more about WOLF's achievements, please turn to page 30.

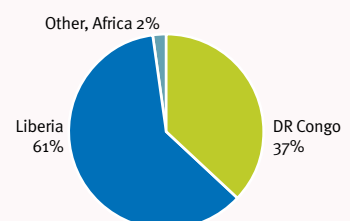
### DR Congo

- ▶ Kvinna till Kvinna has been collaborating with women's organisations in DRC since 2009.
- ▶ Number of employees: 4
- ▶ Office in Bukavu.
- ▶ 5 partner organisations:
  - Association des Femmes des Médias du Sud-Kivu
  - Cercle d'Échange pour le Développement des Jeunes dans la Région des Grands Lacs (CEDEJ)
  - Ministère de la Femme en Action
  - Solidarité des Femmes Activistes pour la Défense des Droits Humains
  - Vision Sociale

### Liberia

- ▶ Kvinna till Kvinna has been collaborating with women's organisations in Liberia since 2007.
- ▶ Number of employees: 8
- ▶ Office in Monrovia.
- ▶ 9 partner organisations:
  - Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia
  - Liberian Female Law Enforcement Association
  - Liberian Women Empowerment Network
  - Mano River Women Peace Network
  - Southeastern Women Development Association
  - West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
  - West Point Women for Health and Development Organization
  - Women NGOs Secretariat of Liberia
  - Women Rights Watch

### Distribution of means to Central and West Africa



The region was allocated SEK 20.5 Million in 2015.

## Results and facts



The *Gender Audit* report contains recommendations for peace negotiations.

### Gender analysis of peace deal

Since gaining independence in 1960, DR Congo has been shaped by armed conflict and unrest. Many peace deals have been signed, but most often, more violence has broken out. The last attempt to broker peace was in 2013, when the peace deal *The Framework of Hope* was signed.

In 2015, Kvinna till Kvinna and International Alert presented the *Gender Audit* report, which performed a gender analysis of the peace deal.

“The report shows that several important aspects needed to achieve sustainable peace have been forgotten. Women were entirely excluded from the process of drafting the agreement, and totally ignored as actors for its implementation,” says Malin Brenk, Regional Manager for Africa.

The report includes recommendations for future peace negotiations.

#### Long-term vision

Kvinna till Kvinna’s goal for Central and West Africa is a stronger and more united women’s movement that works effectively to promote women’s rights and participation in society.

#### Short-term goals

- Increase women’s participation in all parts of society, including peacebuilding processes.
- Support the development of women’s rights organisations.
- Prevent violence against women.



Great support for gender equality in DR Congo as part of the *Rien sans les femmes* campaign. Photo: Tatiana Miralles/Magguy Behendwa

### Successful campaign for women’s political participation

The *Rien sans les femmes* campaign was initiated in DR Congo in 2015, with the aim of getting more women involved in politics. The idea was born during a workshop arranged by Kvinna till Kvinna and International Alert. Participants decided to set requirements that electoral lists in DR Congo should include equal numbers of male and female candidates. Three weeks later, they had collected 207,315

signatures, which were handed over to the speaker of the National Assembly in Kinshasa.

“Thus far, electoral legislation has not been amended, but a gender equality law has been adopted. This has probably come as a direct result of the campaign,” says Susanna Rudehill, Field Representative.

60 national organisations have joined the campaign, as well as almost 15 international ones.

### She disarms rebels

Thanks to Kvinna till Kvinna’s partner organisation AFEM in DR Congo, Josephine Kimbembe has received training and self-confidence. She is now Administrative Chief of Shabunda, a territory troubled by violence, where she has successfully improved the situation for women and children.

Josephine Kimbembe has even disarmed rebel groups by teaching a female rebel leader about women’s rights and peace work through telephone calls and radio broadcasts. She persuaded the rebel leader to hand herself over, as well as her militiamen and the group’s weapons. Other rebel groups then followed her example, and did the same.

Before her training at AFEM, Josephine Kimbembe had no idea that



Josephine Kimbembe has made several changes since she was elected as Administrative Chief of Shabunda in DR Congo.

she could be a leader. The training gave her the courage to try, and now she is paving the way for others. It is an important step along the way to achieving sustainable peace.

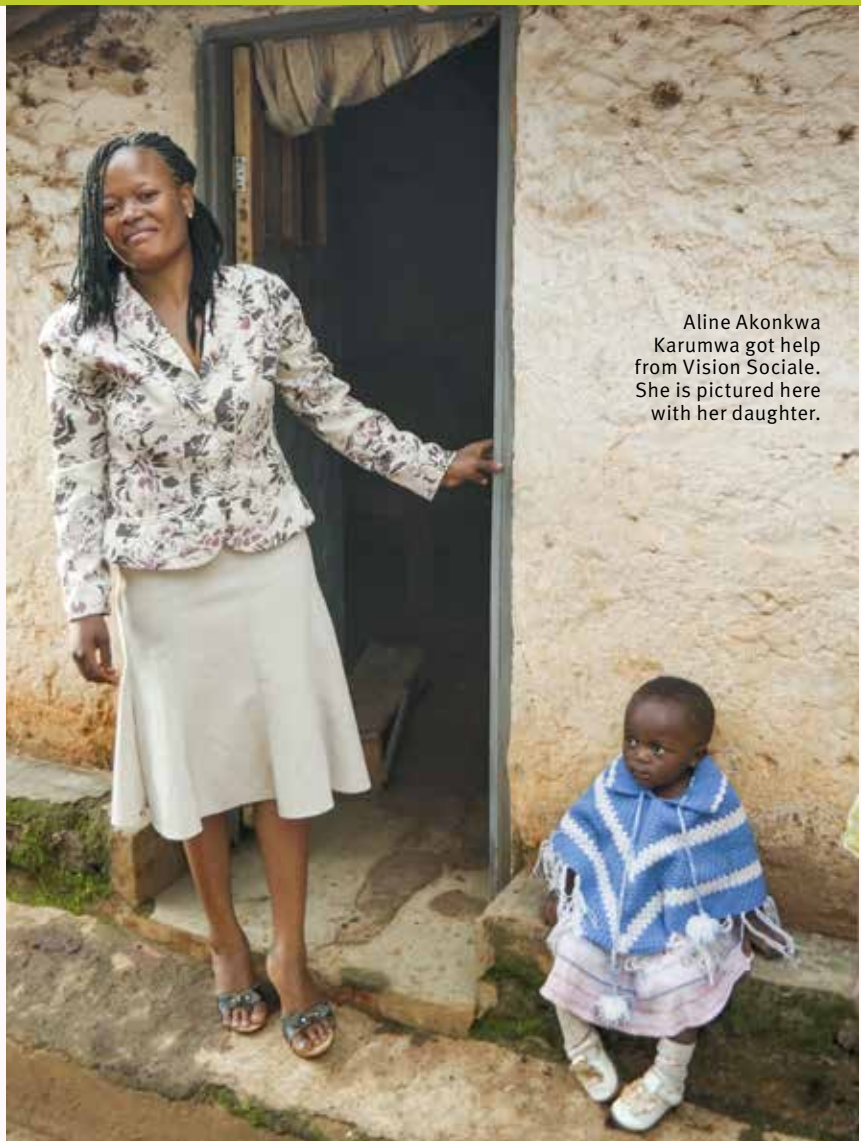
## Young woman back at school

Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisation Vision Sociale in DR Congo provides women with legal aid. One of those who has received help is 18-year-old Aline Akonkwa Karumwa.

One of Kvinna till Kvinna's long-term goals in DR Congo is for women in South Kivu to get more support to demand their rights. Vision Sociale's support to Aline can be seen as one of the success stories of 2015 within this area.

Aline's boyfriend left her when she got pregnant, and it turned out that he was actually already married to another woman. Aline then contacted Vision Sociale, who helped her get child support from the father.

After she became pregnant, Aline dropped out of school, but Vision Sociale gave her the support she needed to return to her studies.



Aline Akonkwa Karumwa got help from Vision Sociale. She is pictured here with her daughter.

"I want to train to be a lawyer so that I can help people, like Vision Sociale helped me. And my dream is for my daughter to get an education," says Aline Akonkwa Karumwa.

Dropping out of school dramatically increases the risk for teenagers to end up in poverty, and it often results in poor health.

Esther Seton-Cee (AFELL), Theresa O. Brown (WORIWA) and Cynthia Y. Gonleh (LIWEN) work to unite the women's movement in Liberia. Photo: David Guizzie

## Liberian women influencing legislation

In Liberia, Kvinna till Kvinna is working to help women become politically active, and for women to be able to influence decision-makers on local and national levels.

Thanks to many years of hard work by the Liberian women's movement, a decision was made in



2015 to strengthen the legislation on domestic violence, and to expand it to criminalise marital rape. It is now awaiting a final decision by the Legal Council. Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisation, the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia, has been working for more than ten

years to bring about these changes. In 2013, WONGOSOL, another of Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations, and its 105 member organisations also joined the fight.

Thanks to hard work and perseverance, they have together managed to push this process forward.



Women rights defenders in regions affected by conflict gain strength from sharing their experiences. Therefore Kvinna till Kvinna arranged a conference in Georgia that was attended by more than 80 participants, including Elvira Meliksetyan from the Women's Resource Center in Armenia. Photo: Salome Sagaradze

# SOUTH CAUCASUS

Violence against women is a widespread problem in the South Caucasus, a region that is characterised by unresolved conflicts, patriarchal structures and discrimination against women. Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations fight for women's rights and sustainable peace, but are facing ever greater opposition.

Little is reported in the Swedish media about the ongoing conflicts in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan that continue without any hope of resolution in sight. The women's rights organisations in the region that are supported by Kvinna till Kvinna work long-term to build peace at a grassroots level and, at the same time, to influence decision-makers. They work to stop violence against women, by providing shelters, legal support centres and psychosocial support. Many are working to increase women's participation in the political system, both on local and national levels.

"The conflicts in the region are generally described as being 'frozen', and are the conflicts over Nagorno-

Karabakh, Abkhazia and South Ossetia," says Malin Askhamre, Field Representative.

The women's movement in the South Caucasus is young. The Orthodox Church in Georgia, on the other hand, is well-established and strong, and some of its representatives have on several occasions expressed discriminatory views on women and LGBT persons. In recent years, freedom of expression has become increasingly restricted, and it is difficult for civil society to organise itself. In Azerbaijan, for example, it has become more difficult to receive funding from foreign donors such as Kvinna till Kvinna.

"Without funding, our partner organisations may be forced to close

their operations, which makes it harder for us to make a difference in the region," says Malin Askhamre.

Providing long-term financial support is one of Kvinna till Kvinna's main tasks, along with arranging meeting places where women's rights defenders can share information and experiences.

"One of our goals in 2015 was to arrange a large conference, in which activists from all areas in the region could participate. We focused on sustainable activism considering that the space available to civil society is shrinking."

Kvinna till Kvinna arranged the conference at the end of 2015 in Georgia, in cooperation with Global Fund for Women and the Women's Fund in Georgia. The event was attended by 80 activists from the South Caucasus, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Balkans. Many of them considered the conference to be a unique opportunity to meet and discuss strategies for the future.

## Young women build peace

Kvinna till Kvinna is seeking to promote women's participation in peace negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, as they have thus far been excluded.

The conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh has been going on for more than 25 years, and Kvinna till Kvinna's vision is for more women to be actively involved in activities that promote peace in the region.

From 2012 to 2015, Kvinna till Kvinna was involved in the EU-funded programme, *the European Partnership for the Peaceful Settlement of the Conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh* (EPNK). The aim was to increase the credibility and legitimacy of peace-building activities, which had less and less room for manoeuvre during the period.

### Understanding across borders

The roles and specific tasks of Kvinna till Kvinna and our partner organisations were to improve knowledge among young Armenian and Azerbaijani women about their rights, as well as to include young women in peacebuilding activities.

### Long-term vision

Kvinna till Kvinna's goal for the South Caucasus is a sustainable women's movement that influences and improves women's rights and participation.

### Short-term goals

- Increase women's participation in peace-building activities.
- Greater protection to women at risk of violence.
- Support the development of women's rights organisations.

Kvinna till Kvinna also sought to give young women the chance to meet to build relations and understanding across conflict borders.

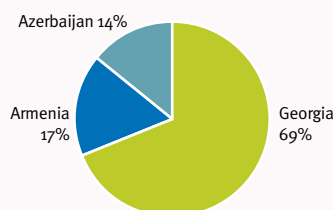
### Women leaders at a local level

The EPNK project reached 1,500 young women, thanks to efforts including 237 training sessions. Despite the tense situation in the region, considerable results were achieved. At first, many young women were opposed to peacebuilding activities, but towards the end of the project they were ready to work more actively for peace. Today, a group of young women act as local leaders on peace and human rights, and they see themselves as leaders of social change. A platform for young women activists has been established, and they conduct a positive dialogue among themselves.

**"I can't blame the Armenian girls for the bad things that have happened to me."**

These were the words of a young Azerbaijani woman from Nagorno-Karabakh talking about the conflict after participating in peace meetings arranged by Kvinna till Kvinna.

### Distribution of means to South Caucasus



The region was allocated SEK 18.4 Million in 2015. In addition to this, Armenia and Azerbaijan have also received funding from cross-border projects.



"For a strong, long-term women's movement, it is important to create a safe context where activists can reflect on their work, and the Integrated Security method contributes to achieving this," says Ekaterine Gejadze. Photo: Private

### Integrated Security – a tool against burnout

Stress, frustration and feelings of inadequacy affect many women's rights defenders. Also being exposed to external threats means that many are at risk of burn out. Kvinna till Kvinna works with Integrated Security as a method to strengthen and motivate these women.

The situation in the South Caucasus means that many women's rights defenders have to cope with high levels of stress, which represents a threat to the entire movement in the longer term. Kvinna till Kvinna has therefore introduced Integrated Security as a method to strengthen women's rights defenders' own safety and wellbeing to be able to carry on.

One of this year's Integrated Security workshops was arranged in the Turkish town of Göreme with participants from the South Caucasus and the Balkans. Ekaterine Gejadze from the Women's Fund in Georgia was one of the participants.

"The Integrated Security method has given me tools to manage stress. It also includes strategies on how to tackle and counteract burn out. It's important to create a strong, long-term women's movement," says Ekaterine Gejadze.

Find out more about Kvinna till Kvinna's work on Integrated Security on page 31.

## Results and facts

### Azerbaijani and South Ossetian women share experiences

Azerbaijani and South Ossetian women's rights organisations cannot meet on home soil due to inadequate security. In November, Kvinna till Kvinna therefore arranged a meeting in another region where organisations met to try to find solutions on how to create sustainable peace.

One result of the meeting was a recommendation to international donors, where the women highlighted the importance of flexibility and patience.

### Youth learn about their bodies

The isolated breakaway region of Abkhazia is characterised by traditional values, and sex education is not part of the school curriculum. Thanks to long-term efforts

Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations have access to several schools, where they



Taboo issues discussed in Abkhazian schools.

have been entrusted by the head teachers to teach pupils about sexual and reproductive health.

A collaboration between Kvinna till Kvinna, the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU) and the Georgian organisation Tanadgoma was also initiated in 2015, to provide Georgian and Abkhazian gynaecologists, nurses and youth leaders with training on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

### Combating violence in Georgia

Kvinna till Kvinna envisages a world without violence against women. On a local level, this means that we support actors who share our goals. One of these is the Anti-Violence Network of Georgia, which runs shelters, hotlines and crises centres in Georgia. In 2015, the network helped almost 2,000 women.

### Georgia including Abkhazia and South Ossetia

- ▶ Kvinna till Kvinna has been collaborating with women's organisations in Georgia, Abkhazia and South Ossetia since 2002.
- ▶ 14 partner organisations:
  - Anti-Violence Network of Georgia
  - Association "Imedi" IDP women's movement for peace
  - Association of South Ossetian Women for Democracy and Human Rights
  - Association of Women of Abkhazia
  - Cultural-Charity Centre "World without Violence" named after Zurab Achba
  - Cultural-Humanitarian Fund "Sukhumi"
  - Democrat Women's Organization of Samtskhe-Javakheti
  - Nongovernmental women's organization "Avangard"
  - The Union of Businesswomen of Gagra
  - Union of Wives of Invalids and Lost Warriors
  - Women's Initiatives Supporting Group
  - Women's Political Resource Center
  - StudioMobile – Accent on Action
  - Women's Fund in Georgia

### More women leaders

Politically active women in the South Caucasus have obtained valuable leadership skills and been strengthened as formal and informal leaders through Kvinna till Kvinna's project, *Women's Organizations for Leadership and Fundamental Rights*, that ran from 2012 to 2015. This has subsequently helped more women obtain positions of leadership. Almost 80 percent of the women who took part in the project in Georgia received leading positions in the municipal authorities, after the 2014 local elections. In Azerbaijan, the percentage of women in local decision-making administrations increased from 27 percent in 2009 to 35 percent in 2014.

### South Caucasus

- ▶ Kvinna till Kvinna's work in the region is coordinated from our office in Tbilisi, Georgia.
- ▶ Number of employees: 8

### Armenia

- ▶ Kvinna till Kvinna has been collaborating with women's organisations in the country since 2004.
- ▶ 4 partner organisations:
  - Democracy Today
  - Society Without Violence
  - Women's Resource Center
  - Women's Rights Center

### Azerbaijan

- ▶ Kvinna till Kvinna has been collaborating with women's organisations in the country since 2004.
- ▶ 5 partner organisations:
  - Association for the Protection of Women's Rights named after D. Aliyeva
  - Sumgayit Discussion Club
  - Women Problems' Research Union
  - Women's Association for Rational Development
  - YUVA Humanitarian Center



Violence against women is a big problem in Armenia. On 1 October, women's rights defenders in Yerevan gathered to achieve one specific goal – to get the government to adopt a law against domestic violence. "I believe that our work will put pressure on the public and the state to recognise the importance of a law prohibiting domestic violence," says Lida Minasyan from Society Without Violence. Photo: Nvard Margaryan

# WESTERN BALKANS

Twenty years have passed since the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina came to an end, but despite a formal peace resolution, the ethnic tensions still run deep in the Balkan nations. Kvinna till Kvinna's support to women's organisations that work for reconciliation and sustainable peace remains important.

Twenty years ago, the presidents of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia signed the *Dayton Peace Agreement*, thus marking the end of the brutal war. The same peace agreement also laid the foundation for Bosnia and Herzegovina's new constitution. Lidija Zivanovic, an activist during the war and later head of Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisation the Helsinki Citizens Assembly, initially welcomed the *Dayton Peace Agreement*.

"Then we realised that the agreement, and subsequently also the constitution, was devoid of any plan of action to make the country more gender-equal. Instead, the organisation of the country was entirely based on ethnicity."

## "Our work is ignored"

Vildana Džekman was eight years old when peace was reached and now works for Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisation the CURE

Foundation. It is clear to her that the sense of alienation between the different parts of the country is getting deeper each year.

"It was during a seminar with Kvinna till Kvinna that I really understood that the impact of the constitution trickles down into the local society. No one listens to women's voices, our work is ignored. That motivates me to work to bring about a change in the constitution and for women to be self-evident participants in the process."

## Valuable lessons

Kvinna till Kvinna was founded as a reaction to the Balkan wars. One of the women who has been working for the organisation since the beginning is Eva Zillén, now a Senior Adviser. She points out that the constitution needs to be amended for a united, democratic and gender-equal Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"There is a great deal to be learned



Eva Zillén has been involved in Kvinna till Kvinna since its formation in response to the wars in the Balkans.

from the mistake of dividing power based on ethnicity. The sad thing is that no one seems interested in the lessons. Instead, the model is being reused in other places."

Despite the setbacks, the women's movement has continued with its efforts, managing to push through legislation for both gender equality and political quotas.

"The problem is that the laws are not being enforced in practice. That is something that the EU should have as a prerequisite, if or when Bosnia and Herzegovina commences membership negotiations," says Eva Zillén.



Vildana Džekman is actively involved in the fight for women's rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is clear to her that the *Dayton Peace Agreement* has not contributed to sustainable peace or gender equality. The photograph was taken at PitchWise, a feminist art festival.

## Engendering the Peace Process

A Gender Approach to Dayton and Beyond

Kvinna till Kvinna's publication *Engendering the Peace Process* (2000) reviewed the peace agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina and represented the first gender analysis ever performed on a peace agreement. The analysis was done the same year as the UN's resolution for women, peace and security was adopted, and formed part of the Security Council's documentation. The report shows that issues concerning gender and power do matter in peace agreements. Download at [www.kvinnatillkvinna.se](http://www.kvinnatillkvinna.se)

## Balkan women influence the EU

Several countries in the Balkans are striving for EU membership. In 2015, Kvinna till Kvinna worked together with our partner organisations for women's rights and gender equality to be integrated in the EU's accession processes.

The aim is for women's rights to be a clear part of the process for those countries seeking EU membership, and for women's rights to be more visible in the documents that guide the EU accession process. The strategy for achieving this is to lobby the EU to live up to its commitments on gender equality, by putting pressure on countries seeking membership.

After many years of hard work, Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations have reached a breakthrough. They have gained greater influence and several of their core issues are now being addressed in

the EU's annual reports. The European Commission's Country Reports now addresses women's rights and gender equality.

Two specific examples from 2015 of what Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations have been working for are the EU's report on Serbia that highlighted the growing problem of men who kill their partners, and the report on Macedonia that specifically mentioned the importance of highlighting Roma women's rights. Despite some progress, a lot of work still needs to be done for women's rights to be highlighted consistently.



Kvinnorättsförsvarare från västra Balkan besöker regelbundet EU:s högkvarter i Bryssel, med stöd av Kvinna till Kvinna. Under 2015 deltog bland andra Sanela Shkrijelj (till vänster) och Snenska Ilikj.

EU parliamentarians and EU officials rarely get information directly about the women's situation in the Balkans. Providing them with such information, with the aim of making women's voices heard in Brussels, has therefore been a challenge.

To achieve this, Kvinna till Kvinna arranges meetings for women's rights defenders to meet EU parliamentarians and officials in Brussels, as well as officials at EU delegations in the respective countries, in order to expand their knowledge, and influence their decisions about the EU's accession process.

### Albania

- ▶ Collaboration with women's organisations in Albania since 1999.
- ▶ Our work in Albania is coordinated from the Belgrade office.
- ▶ 1 partner organisation:
  - Albanian Women Empowerment Network

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

- ▶ Collaboration with women's organisations in the country since 1994.
- ▶ Number of employees: 3
- ▶ Office in Sarajevo.
- ▶ 10 partner organisations:
  - Association of Citizens Buducnost
  - CURE Foundation
  - Forum Zena
  - Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka
  - Horizonti
  - Lara
  - United Women Banja Luka
  - Zenski Centar Trebinje
  - Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
  - Rights for All

### The geographical area of Kosovo\*

- ▶ Collaboration with women's organisations in the country since 1994.
- ▶ Number of employees: 2
- ▶ Office in Pristina.
- ▶ 8 partner organisations:
  - Artpolis NGO
  - Kosovar Gender Studies Center
  - Kosova Women's Network
  - Mitrovica Women Association for Human Rights
  - Ruka Ruci
  - The Network of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women's Organizations of Kosovo
  - Women's Association "Medica Kosova"
  - Women Center "Open Door"

### Macedonia

- ▶ Collaboration with women's organisations in Macedonia since 1999.
- ▶ Number of employees: 1
- ▶ Office in Skopje.
- ▶ 2 partner organisations:
  - National network to end violence against women and domestic violence
  - Reactor

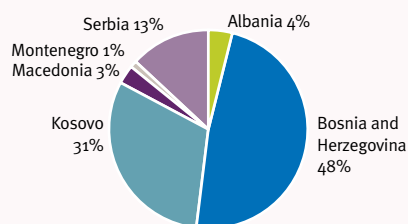
### Montenegro

- ▶ Collaboration with women's organisations in Montenegro since 1999.
- ▶ Our work in Montenegro is coordinated from the Belgrade office.
- ▶ 1 partner organisation:
  - The Women's Rights Center

### Serbia

- ▶ Collaboration with women's organisations in Serbia since 1994.
- ▶ Number of employees: 2
- ▶ Office in Belgrade.
- ▶ 4 partner organisations:
  - Alternative Girls' Center
  - Autonomous Women's Center
  - Women's Space (Coordinates the Roma Women Network.)
  - Women in Black

### Distribution of means to the Western Balkans



The region was allocated SEK 12.9 Million in 2015.

\* All country names align to UN terminology. Sweden has recognised Kosovo as a sovereign state.



## Results and facts

### Mobile app to combat violence

A mobile app developed by the Autonomous Women's Center (AWC) is now available in Serbia. It is designed to protect women from violence. The app is particularly suitable for young women, since 99 percent of 16 to 24-year-olds in Serbia use mobile phones. And they are in great need of support. Although there are no official statistics, the organisations that work with this issue say that a third of women have been subjected to domestic violence in Serbia.



Kvinna till Kvinna has a long-term cooperation with the AWC, which organises the Women against Violence Network. It works strategically to give women the help they need when they are subjected to violence. The network also engages in political advocacy to try to get the state to be better equipped to prevent and deal with violence against women.

The mobile app *Bezbedna* ("Safe") contains a map to show the nearest police station, social services office, emergency medical care, and more.



### Network for reconciliation

In 2015, Kvinna till Kvinna organised *Young Women's Peace Academy* project that focused on strengthening young women's rights defenders in regions affected by conflict. Thanks to this cross-border project, several of the participants have created networks for peace and reconciliation, with hopes of contributing to sustainable peace in their home countries.

One of the participants was Blerta Kelmendi, who has started an organisation to foster understanding between young Albanians and Serbs in Mitrovica in Kosovo.

"Through the project, I have learned so many things that I will be able to use in my future work. And now I am contributing to creating cross-border friendships," she says.

Find out more about *Young Women's Peace Academy* on page 28.



Blerta Kelmendi contributes to reconciliation in the Balkans.

### Long-term vision

Kvinna till Kvinna's goal for the Western Balkans is to ensure that gender equality and women's rights are on the agenda when Balkan countries apply for EU membership, as well as to contribute to ensuring that the peacebuilding work in the region continues.

### Short-term goals

- Ensure that women participate in negotiation processes.
- Improve protection of women subjected to violence



As part of the 15th anniversary of the groundbreaking and highly important *UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security*, Kvinna till Kvinna demonstrated along with several of our partner organisations outside the UN headquarters in New York. We called for women's role in peacebuilding in Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan to be strengthened.

## Communication and advocacy

An important goal for Kvinna till Kvinna is for more people in Sweden to know about the work that our organisation is doing to support women's rights organisations in regions affected by war and conflict.

It is a challenge to spur interest in things that take place thousands of miles away. Kvinna till Kvinna works actively with communication and awareness raising in Sweden to reach out to the public and politicians. To create interest in women's rights, we run campaigns, participate in various events and panel discussions, appear in the media, and are active in social media. The aim is to be perceived as the most trustworthy and proactive organisation when it comes to supporting women's rights organisations in regions affected by war and conflict.

In 2015, Kvinna till Kvinna largely focused on reporting about the situ-

ation in the Middle East. The report *"Peacebuilding defines our future now"* about women's activism in war-torn Syria generated the most media attention. An op-ed published in the Swedish newspaper Svenska Dagbladet on the lack of media coverage about the minimal power and influence of displaced women also received widespread coverage.

"Kvinna till Kvinna is repeatedly asked about the situation facing displaced women from Syria, and about women's efforts for peace and participation in peace processes. This shows that we are increasingly used as experts on these issues," says Press Officer Anna-Carin Hall.

### Challenge to generate interest

When Kvinna till Kvinna's operations can be linked to events in Sweden media shows interest in our work, as for example on the topic of women refugees, and that the Swedish government pursues a feminist foreign policy.

A challenge, however, is to get the Swedish media interested in those parts of our work that are not directly linked to Sweden. To raise attention to these issues, whenever Kvinna till Kvinna's head office in Stockholm is visited by women's rights defenders from across the globe, we contact reporters and facilitate interviews.

# Policy for women's rights

The fact that Sweden pursues a feminist foreign policy represents a major step forward for women's rights.

However, the fact that the Swedish government actually acts in accordance with this is equally important. That is why Kvinna till Kvinna during 2015 has been communicating our view of what a feminist foreign policy is, how it makes a difference and how it can be used.

"A feminist foreign policy is primarily about focusing on the living conditions and security of both men and women and the struggle for gender equality across the world. And this is something we have been emphasising in panel discussions, op-eds, blog posts and in meetings with decision-makers," says Josefine Karlsson, Manager of the Policy and Advocacy Unit.

## Meeting with politicians in Iraq

One occasion during which feminist foreign policy was in focus, was when Kvinna till Kvinna arranged a seminar in Baghdad about violence

against women, together with the Swedish and Norwegian embassies. Participants included Iraq's then Minister of Women's Affairs, Bayan Nouri, fifty Iraqi members of parliament and ministers, international officials from the UN and the EU, as well as women's rights defenders from different parts of the country.

## Promises of better legislation

"We and our partner organisations see an urgent need for Iraq to go from words to action when it comes to strengthening the protection of women and girls from violence. We also see a need to address the critical situation facing internally displaced women," says Emelia Frennmark, Kvinna till Kvinna's Field Representative in the country.

Politicians at the seminar promised to convey the women's rights defenders' demands to decision-makers.

"The Minister of Women's Affairs promised to review legislation so it would better protect women's rights," says Bushra Zaki from Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisation Pana Center in Kirkuk.



Awezan Nuri and Bushra Zaki from Pana Center in discussions with Iraq's Minister of Women's Affairs, Bayan Nouri.

## Long-term vision

- To increase awareness and knowledge, both within Sweden and internationally, about the effects of war on women, and the importance of women's participation for peaceful and democratic development.
- To get more people involved in women's rights.

## Short-term goals

- Our priority in 2016 is to raise awareness about Kvinna till Kvinna and our work.
- Continued focus on digital channels, and greater visibility in the media.

## Unique report about women's peacebuilding efforts in Syria

Women's peacebuilding efforts in Syria were made visible through a unique report that the Syrian human rights organisation Badael published together with Kvinna till Kvinna in 2015.

"Women's rights groups in Syria work on a daily basis under very difficult circumstances to try to find solutions for peace and to reduce the effects of the violence. Their efforts include local campaigns to hinder the spread of small arms, and actions to combat the recruitment of child soldiers to the Islamic State," says Oula Ramadan, Executive Director, Badael Foundation.

"*Peacebuilding defines our future now*" is the first and only report that has mapped women's rights groups' peace efforts inside Syria during the ongoing war, such as in Aleppo and Al-Hasaka. The report is based on interviews with 49 Syrian organisations and a hundred activists. The launch of the report in Sweden generated about thirty news articles and radio appearances.

"The report enabled us to bring attention to the women working for peace in the region, whose voices are never heard in the media. The report is important as it identifies alternatives to military interventions," says Saba Nowzari, Project Manager, Kvinna till Kvinna.



Read the report online: [www.kvinnatillkvinna.se](http://www.kvinnatillkvinna.se)



Participants of Young Women's Peace Academy during a workshop in Armenia. A total of 140 young women took part in the project.

# Young Women's Peace Academy

In 2015, Kvinna till Kvinna ran *Young Women's Peace Academy*, a project to strengthen young women's rights defenders. More than 100 women from conflict-affected countries and Sweden participated.

The purpose of *Young Women's Peace Academy* was to strengthen young women in their roles as peacebuilders, conflict solvers and leaders. Through the trainings they learned to take an active role in their communities, proactively pushing the gender equality and peace work efforts forward.

"Participants came from countries shaped by conflict and nationalism: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia. This really is a long-term initiative, and we hope that participants will want to contribute to creating sustainable peace in their respective countries," says Project Manager Saba Nowzari.



*Young Women's Peace Academy* was set up with funding from the Swedish Postcode Lottery.

A total of 19 volunteers from Kvinna till Kvinna in Sweden also took part in the programme.

One of the goals was for participants to work together to develop a manifesto about peace and gender equality, the *Young Women's Peace Charter*.

"The manifesto includes recommendations to people in power, both nationally and internationally. We thereby hope to be able to influence the debate about women's rights from the perspective of young women," says Saba Nowzari.

The manifesto was launched on International Women Human Rights Defenders Day in November, Femdefenders Day, when participants from all the countries met in Stockholm.

In short, the manifesto states that the participants want to spread feminism all over the world, combat patriarchal structures and increase security for feminists and peace activists. It is an important document to enable political influence.

Leyla Murshudova (27) took part in *Young Women's Peace Academy*.



## "My brother threatened to kill me"

Leyla Murshudova from Azerbaijan was forbidden to work by her family. However, she ignored the threats from them and society, and chose her own path. She is now actively involved in efforts to promote women's rights.

"A friend sent me a link to *Young Women's Peace Academy*. I didn't know that much about women's issues before that. It's so right for me. I've had the chance to meet women's rights defenders and be inspired. Now I'm also going to get involved in women's rights. I want all women to be free to live their lives as they want to," says Leyla Murshudova.

# Femdefenders Day

Kvinna till Kvinna highlights the situation facing young women's rights defenders in regions affected by conflict in the report *#Femdefenders – Young women who tear down barriers*.

Kvinna till Kvinna celebrates Femdefenders Day in conjunction with International Women Human Rights Defenders Day on 29 November, in order to honour and encourage women who dare to fight for peace and gender equality, despite threats and violence.

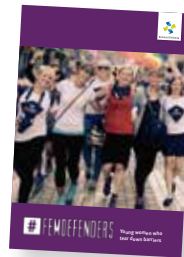
"The theme for Femdefenders Day 2015 was the situation facing young women's rights defenders, based on *Young Women's Peace Academy* that we carried out in the Western Balkans, South Caucasus and Sweden during 2015," says Charlotte dos Santos Pruth, Editor of the Femdefenders report.

The report is based on the 140 participants' experiences, both of the opposition they encounter, and the strength they find to carry on.

"Half of the young women have been exposed to slander, sexual harassment, threats or abuse, because they are involved in peace and women's rights issues."

The Femdefenders report was launched at a seminar in Stockholm. Participants included the Swedish Minister of Democracy, Alice Bah Kuhnke, as well as the 2015 *Right Livelihood Award* laureate Kasha Jacqueline Nabagesera from Uganda.

"We also organised a panel discussion with young women who participated in *Young Women's Peace Academy*," says Charlotte dos Santos Pruth.



## Femdefenders party

For the second year in a row, Kvinna till Kvinna arranged a Femdefenders party, this time at the Marie Laveau nightclub in Stockholm. The programme included conversations with participants of *Young Women's Peace Academy*, live performances, and a club night with the Femtastic collective.

"We want the party to be an opportunity for feminists to meet and have fun! At the same time, it's a chance for us to spread information about women's rights defenders and the work that Kvinna till Kvinna carries out," says Karolina Sturén, Project Manager.

Read the report online:  
[www.kvinnatillkvinna.se](http://www.kvinnatillkvinna.se)



A dance performance by Sickanonical Productions at the Femdefenders party, which was attended by about 200 people.

# Daily dialogue about women's rights

Kvinna till Kvinna reaches out to thousands of people who are interested in human rights through social media and websites.



It takes practice to get your message across in interviews and social media. Ana Lobzhanidze and Teona Tsintsalashvili receive training from Kvinna till Kvinna's Press Officer, Anna-Carin Hall. In 2015, they took part in Kvinna till Kvinna's International Training Programme on women, peace and security.

Kvinna till Kvinna's main social media channel is Facebook, and we communicate via both a Swedish and an English page. The purpose of the Facebook pages is to raise awareness about Kvinna till Kvinna's work.

In 2015, both pages increased their numbers of followers, which means that more and more people know of us and what we do.

"Social media gives us a chance to directly communicate with those who are interested in our work. We encourage involvement through our posts, and answer questions as fast

as we can," says Olga Beletski, Web Editor.

Social media requires constant monitoring, since it is available to everyone.

"Sometimes we need to delete offensive or racist comments, and we have developed a crisis plan in case we have to deal with any social media attacks."

Working with social media means having your work close to hand in your mobile, which can make it hard to unplug during time off.

"This can contribute to stress and become an occupational health and

safety issue, so we are trying to impose routines that will have a long-term stress-reducing effect," says Anna Lithander, Editorial Manager.

## Tough competition

Kvinna till Kvinna's website features stories about women's work for peace and gender equality in conflict-affected regions. The aim is that the content will contribute to increase donations from private individuals and companies. This is a challenge which demands creativity, as the competition from other organisations is huge.



## Long struggle in Jordan paid off

The Facebook post that reached most people in 2015 was published in June and was seen by 99,100 Facebook users. Read more on page 15.

# 549

In 2015, Kvinna till Kvinna was mentioned in 549 news articles. That is an increase of 33 percent compared to 2014. We also had 15 op-eds published.

We appeared 22 times in broadcast media (radio: 16, television: 6). This is somewhat fewer than the 31 appearances we made in 2014.



## Follow us!

**Swedish Facebook:** The number of followers increased by 20% from 25,500 (2014) to 31,000.

**English Facebook:** The number of followers increased by 40% from 1,761 (2014) to 2,465.

**Twitter:** The number of followers increased by 26% from 6,700 (2014) to 8,434.

**Instagram:** The number of followers increased by 130% from 1,500 (2014) to 3,500.



In November, Kvinna till Kvinna arranged a seminar that was attended by the Swedish Minister of Democracy, Alice Bah Kuhnke, as well as participants from our project *Young Women's Peace Academy*.

### Vision and short-term goals

The long-term vision for the promotion of studies and research is to increase knowledge about how war and armed conflict affects women's conditions in society, as well as the significance of women's participation in peace processes.

Our short-term efforts include influencing researchers to include gender perspectives.

## Important breakthrough for our research programme

Kvinna till Kvinna is involved in research development. The aim is to make the organisation a strong and sought-after expert on women's situation in conflict-affected areas.

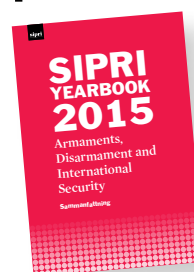
The long-term goal of the research programme is to develop Kvinna till Kvinna's role as an expert on women's rights in regions affected by war and conflict. We want to provide the security debate with a gender perspective by doing the following:

- Add to the experience and knowledge that already exists, with relevant research results – internally and for our partner organisations.
- Cooperate with relevant researchers and research institutes.
- Find methods to gather knowledge from partner organisations.

### Brilliant results in 2015

One of our goals is for the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, SIPRI, to address gender aspects about war and conflict in its yearbook. The yearbook is important as it enjoys a wide international distribution and forms part of the current security debate. Kvinna till Kvinna has been working towards this goal since 2011, and in 2015 the efforts paid off.

Another important goal reached during the year was that the Stockholm Security Forum, which is arranged by SIPRI and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, in-



► SIPRI is one of the highest-ranking think tanks in the world. Its yearbook is written by experts, and in 2015, Kvinna till Kvinna contributed with gender aspects on war. SIPRI's publications are estimated to have had over a 100 million readers in 2014.

cluded participants with knowledge about gender issues at 9 out of 17 roundtable discussions.

"Kvinna till Kvinna enjoyed a great deal of influence over the choice of issues and participants, which is very positive," says Lovisa Strand, Project Manager Research.

### Funding is a challenge

"The biggest challenge for the research programme is partly to find funding for the operations, and partly to bridge the differences between traditional activist work and academic methodological work," says Lovisa Strand.

### Increased security for women

2015 marked the end of the project *Women's Organisations for Leadership and Fundamental Rights*. It has focused on women's security, among other things, and has been running since 2012 in all regions in which Kvinna till Kvinna operates. One of the aims was to increase the

capacity of women's rights organisations to handle security threats.

"We have conducted 578 Integrated security workshops, during which women's rights defenders have gained increased insight into different types of security threats and learned how to respond to them," says Project Manager Katarina Vlachos.

To strengthen the sustainabil-

ity of the project, women's rights defenders have also been trained as instructors. This has contributed to a greater security perspective with developed strategies on how external threats and internal problems can be better dealt with by Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations. The project was financed by *Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women (FLOW)*.

# High-level peace training

Officials from government agencies, the military, women's rights defenders and journalists gather to learn about women, peace and security under the direction of Kvinna till Kvinna and Indevlop. Participants come from countries such as South Sudan, Colombia and Myanmar.



"I have always been afraid of the military. But now I meet military personnel that are willing to engage in dialogue, so I am too," says Fátima Muriel from Colombia, who participated in ITP 2015.

Kvinna till Kvinna and Indevlop have been running the International Training Programme (ITP) on women, peace and security since 2011. It is based on UNSC Resolution 1325, which stipulates that women should take part on equal terms with men in all peace work.

"The programme has a good reputation and we recruit both women and men who have influence, and are involved in conflict resolution and peace in their home countries,"



What does UNSC Resolution 1325 mean to you? Participants write their answers to the question as suggestions for a Twitter post.

says Anna Sundén, Project Manager at Kvinna till Kvinna.

In 2015, there were 130 participants in the programme, which has had a total of 450 participants since it started. Following the training programme, many participants have been promoted and become key figures in their organisations.

## Challenges in Myanmar

2015 was the first year that an ITP was arranged with participants from Myanmar. The group dynamic was a challenge since government representatives and civil society are not used to interacting.

"There was a strong distrust between them, so we spent a lot of time building trust. When the participants met for the last time, several of them stated that they now see the importance of dialogue and that they have started cooperating," says Anna Sundén.

By the end of the year, the Myanmar ITP had already yielded results.

Participants have, for example, provided gender equality training to armed groups who have signed the national ceasefire agreement. Participants from different sectors have even cooperated in making demands for the peace process in Myanmar to include at least 30 percent women.

## "The training makes us stronger"

This year also saw the beginning of a new ITP in Colombia, which focused on the ongoing peace process, given in collaboration with the Swedish Embassy.

"The Embassy in Bogotá has seen the positive results of the ITP trainings. For several years, we have had participants from Colombia in our training sessions, who have then gone on to contribute to change at home. One example is that several women are now employed at the government agency that is responsible for peace negotiations, thanks to pressure from ITP-trained officials," says Maria Ristinmaa, Project Manager.

Fátima Muriel was one of the participants in Colombia. She is president of an umbrella organisation for 30 different organisations that work for peace and women's rights.

"We are already using resolution 1325 as a tool to influence local politicians, but we are strengthened by being part of the training and learning about different terms, and learning from other participants."

## International Training Programme

Kvinna till Kvinna and Indevlop arranged three ITPs in 2015:

1. Myanmar.
2. Colombia.
3. DR Congo, Georgia, Liberia, Colombia and South Sudan.

The ITPs are implemented on behalf of Sida. The ITP in Colombia was financed by the Swedish Embassy in Bogotá.



# Impact reporting 2015

Kvinna till Kvinna is a member of the Swedish Fundraising Council (FRIL), which works to increase trust in the fundraising sector by working with quality assurance and skills development. As a member, Kvinna till Kvinna is required to report on the impact of our work.

Since 2013, it has been mandatory for members of FRIL to issue an impact report. The aim of the report is to show donors, the general public and other interested parties the value of the organisation's efforts.

This year, Kvinna till Kvinna has allowed the questions for the impact report to guide us in the process of putting together the Annual Report. Below, we provide references to where in the report the impact reporting is most clear.

## What does your organisation wish to achieve?

A description of the organisation's vision, purpose and history can be found on page 2 (*About Kvinna till Kvinna*). On page 5 we explain what we want to achieve for women. Our goals are described on page 6.

## In what organisational context does your organisation operate?

Our history and overall working method as well as where we operate is described on pages 2-3 (*The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation* and *Our work around the world*). Page 5 (*We strengthen women's rights defenders*) brings up our work and collaboration with our partner organisations. The various partner organisations in each region are named on pages 13, 15, 17, 22 and 24.

## What strategies do you employ to achieve your goals?

Kvinna till Kvinna's overall strategies for the next six years are described on page 6 (*Looking ahead*) and on page 38 (*Future progress*).

The long-term vision and short-term goals for each region is described on pages 14, 18, 21 and 25.

On pages 8 and 27 we describe the goals for our fundraising and communication.

Pages 5-7 (*Results and risk management*, *Looking ahead* and *How Kvinna till Kvinna makes a difference*) explain how we work to achieve our goals.

## What capacity and knowledge do you have to achieve your goals?

On page 5 (*This is Kvinna till Kvinna*) we provide a general description of our organisation. More details about the organisation can be found on pages 36-37 (*Administration*). There you can also find a description of the voluntary work. More about the volunteering activities can be found on page 11 (*Volunteers*). Number of employees

as well as when we started collaborating with women's organisations in each region are described on pages 13, 15, 17, 22 and 24.

On pages 8-9 (*Important donations*) we further explain how we reach out through our fundraising activities and collaborations with private individuals and companies. Note 2 (*The Foundation's income*) on page 43 we detail how the revenues are distributed from each donor.

Pages 12-25 describe how we work to achieve our goals in the regions where we operate. Information about how we reach out through our communication channels and advocacy work can be found on pages 26-30.

## How do you know whether your organisation is making progress?

Pages 6-7 (*Results and risk management* and *How Kvinna till Kvinna makes a difference*) are dedicated to describe how we plan and follow up on our work.

## What have you achieved so far?

Our results from the Middle East can be found on pages 12-15. Results from the DR Congo and Liberia can be found on pages 16-19, results from the South Caucasus on pages 20-22 and results from the Western Balkans on pages 23-25.

Pages 26-30 detail what we have achieved through our communication work. Page 27 and 31 describe the main results of our work with studies and research.

The chart on page 7 (*How Kvinna till Kvinna makes a difference*) illustrates how our work leads to changes related to women's rights on both societal and personal levels. A summary of what we have achieved from all regions can be found on page 36 (*Impact of our work*).

# The Kvinna till Kvinna Board

Kvinna till Kvinna was founded by the Swedish Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). The Board is appointed by WILPF Sweden and the Swedish Peace and Arbitration Association. The Board bases its work on the Rules of Procedure together with the long-term strategic plan and annual work programmes, which are evaluated every year. The Secretary General runs the operations of Kvinna till Kvinna as directed by the Board. A new Board was appointed into office in May 2015.



Birgit Hansson



Viola Furubjelke



Jesper Hansén



Maria Appelblom



Lars Jalmert



Devrim Mavi

Photo: Annika af Klercker



Marie Sundberg



Banafshe Hejazi



Karin Karlsbro



Eliza Küçükaskan



Kajsa Wejryd

## Chairman

### **Birgit Hansson**

Active on the Board since 2010.

Licensed psychologist. Has been President of the Swedish Psychological Association and Rector of the Swedish National Police Academy. Holds an honorary doctorate from Stockholm University.

## Vice Chairman

### **Viola Furubjelke**

Active on the Board since 2011.

Former Member of the Swedish Parliament (Social Democrats) and Committee on Foreign Affairs, as well as Ambassador in Syria/Lebanon and Secretary General for the Olof Palme International Center. Previously served as Chairman of the Swedish UN Association.

## Secretary

### **Jesper Hansén**

Active on the Board since 2012.

Deputy Humanitarian Director at Save the Children Sweden. Has previously worked as Organisational Developer at Forum Syd in Phnom Penh. Degree in International Law.

## Regular Members:

### **Maria Appelblom**

Active on the Board since 2007.

Candidate of Law and Masters in Human Rights. Has held a number of positions on a strategic level within the Swedish Police. Since 2014, Chief of the UN Standing Police Capacity.

### **Lars Jalmert**

Active on the Board since 2012.

Emeritus Professor of Education at Stockholm University. Board member of Men for Gender Equality, the Fredrika Bremer Association and Feministiskt Perspektiv. Politically active in the Swedish feminist party, Feminist Initiative.

### **Devrim Mavi**

Active on the Board since 2014.

Editor-in-chief, journalist and debater. Has been actively engaged in gender equality and anti-racism issues. Former spokesperson for the Feminist Initiative party.

### **Marie Sundberg**

Active on the Board since 2015.

Financial journalist for more than thirty years and spent the last ten years working as a foreign correspondent, mainly in Brussels but also in Oslo. Degrees in economics and journalism.

## Deputy Board Members:

### **Banafshe Hejazi**

Active on the Board since 2015.

Human rights consultant for the City of Stockholm. Has spent the last fifteen years working with issues concerning gender, human rights, peace and conflict in Sweden and abroad. Has studied gender theory and international security.

### **Karin Karlsbro**

Active on the Board since 2015.

Sustainability Manager at the Swedish Property Federation. Former permanent secretary at the Swedish Liberals parliamentary secretariat and chief-of-staff at the Government Offices of Sweden. Licensed lawyer.

### **Eliza Küçükaskan**

Active on the Board since 2015.

Social entrepreneur focused on business development and leadership. Consultancy business owner, and former CEO of Milvik, a micro insurance company in Ghana. She ended her service as a Board member on 8 September 2015.

### **Kajsa Wejryd**

Active on the Board since 2014.

Teacher and retired administrative manager. Has been actively involved in gender issues for many years. President of Women in the Church of Sweden from 1995 until 2003.

## Thank you!

We would like to extend our gratitude to **Lennart Lindgren, Mari Mörth and Sara Olsson** who ceased to serve on the Board of Kvinna till Kvinna in 2015.

# Administrative report

The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation  
Org nr 802401-6134

## Information about our operations

The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation (Kvinna till Kvinna) operates without any religious, political, national or ethnic affiliation. These requirements also apply to Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations.

## Kvinna till Kvinna's vision

- A world of sustainable peace based on democracy and gender equality and where conflicts are dealt with through non-violent means.
- A world in which human rights are respected and where all people can feel safe and secure.
- A world in which women have power and influence over decisions and enjoy full and effective participation in the development of society.

## Kvinna till Kvinna's established mandate

- To conduct projects in war and conflict affected regions that promote women's self-reliance and self-esteem, women's psychosocial and/or physical health, or 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 the use of civil methods.

## Goals

Kvinna till Kvinna empowers women living in conflict affected areas with the aim of increasing their power and influence to affect their societies. We build close working relationships with our partner organisations committed to the principle that the people impacted by armed conflicts know best what is needed in their society.

Women make up a large part of civil society in regions afflicted by war and conflict. Our focus, therefore, is to partner with women's organisations that run activities responsive to the various stages of armed conflict.

Disseminating information and advocacy are essential components of our work. The main goals of Kvinna till Kvinna's communications and outreach work are to increase awareness and knowledge in Sweden and internationally about the effects of war on women, and to highlight the importance of women's participation in the development of peace and democracy. Because of our strong presence in regions of conflict our communication is primarily based on information from our staff and partner organisations. This enables us to share information and conduct advocacy work that provides a local perspective which is credible and based on expertise.

Kvinna till Kvinna's mandate of encouraging studies and research is another way of increasing awareness of how war and armed conflict impact women's roles and conditions in society, and of the importance of women's participation in peace processes.

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS DURING 2015

The world faced a great many challenges in 2015 with wars, conflicts and people fleeing their homes. There has been an escalation of violence and conflict in the Middle East and this has had a serious impact on the women in the region. The increased violence has also affected Kvinna till Kvinna's operations in many ways.

The war in Syria had a devastating impact on civil society and women. More than four million people have been displaced, most of them fleeing to neighbouring countries. During this mass migration, women and girls have frequently suffered from abuse, violence and forced marriages.

The position of women in Iraq has deteriorated considerably. Many are facing security threats, for example women who have stood in elections have been threatened by extreme religious groups as they believe that women should stay out of public life. The opportunities available to women's rights defenders to promote women's rights issues were minimal. In Lebanon, 2015 has also been a year characterised by crisis as it has received around 2 million refugees from Syria.

Meanwhile there are international trends showing that women around the world are, generally speaking, enjoying better health, more education and, slowly but surely, they are also gaining greater financial independence. The global women's movement has become ever stronger in the past forty years. Terms such as "women, peace and security" and "sexual and reproductive health" are now well known and used in high level international security forums.

In October the UN Resolution 1325 marked its fifteenth anniversary with special events in New York and the launch of a global study, for example. The new global sustainable development goals were adopted by the UN's General Assembly and these include targets on both women's rights and gender equality, and peace and justice, which is encouraging. However, the Human Rights Council in Geneva adopted a resolution on "traditional values", constituting a step back for women's rights. We also found that the scope for civil society declined in many countries, and several nations introduced so-called travel bans for human rights defenders.

Kvinna till Kvinna launched two important reports in 2015. *#Femdefenders – Young women who tear down barriers* highlights the situation facing 140 young women's rights defenders in conflict regions. Half of the women interviewed in the study had been subjected to defamation, sexual harassment, threats or abuse, because of their commitment to peace and women's rights.

Women's peace activism in Syria was highlighted in a unique report entitled, *"Peacebuilding defines our future now"*. It was published by the Syrian human rights organisation Badael together with Kvinna till Kvinna. To date it is the only report to explore the work being carried out by women's rights groups inside Syria.

The implementation of the framework programme funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) began in 2015. This has enabled Kvinna till Kvinna to start developing a comprehensive framework for follow-ups and results. Several new specialist roles were created and the work to strengthen employees and partner organisations on the thematic areas "Gender Based Violence", "Women in Peacebuilding" and "Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation" commenced.

An increased number of persons started to follow Kvinna till Kvinna on social media in 2015. On the Swedish Facebook page, for example, the number of followers increased to 31,000, representing a 20 percent increase. To keep up with these developments, we developed new routines for our social media work, which requires constant monitoring. We also developed a crisis plan for digital security, which includes recommendations on how to handle passwords securely.

### IMPACT OF OUR WORK

Kvinna till Kvinna has, together with its partner organisations, made a great deal of progress in all regions during 2015. Here are some examples:

In DR Congo, the women's movement collected more than 200,000 signatures in just a few weeks to bring about a change in the country's electoral laws that discriminated against women.

In Jordan, a woman was for the first time paid damages for having been subjected to domestic violence. This marks a historic victory for women's rights, achieved after decades of hard work by the women's rights organisation Mizan, with support from Kvinna till Kvinna.

Through its partner organisations in countries near Syria, Kvinna till Kvinna has provided support to thousands of women fleeing violence and war. Our partner organisations provide protection, psychosocial support and vocational training. Several organisations also raise awareness about sexual harassment and the negative consequences of child marriage. Children being forced into marriage is a growing problem as a result of the war in Syria.

Several of the women and men working to advance the peace process in Colombia have participated in the international training programme (ITP) about women's role in sustainable peace and security that is organised by Kvinna till Kvinna together with other organisations.

Kvinna till Kvinna has arranged meetings that have enabled women's rights defenders from the Balkans to meet parliamentarians in Brussels and officials at EU delegations in their respective countries. As a result, our partner organisations have been able to strengthen their relations with EU actors. One example of these efforts can be seen in the European Commission's annual progress report, which now highlights women's rights and gender equality. The EU's 2015 report on Serbia also addressed the growing problem of men killing their partners.

In Iraq, Kvinna till Kvinna has arranged a seminar about violence against women with the Swedish and Norwegian embassies. The event was attended by Iraq's then Minister of Women's Affairs, Bayan Nouri, around fifty Iraqi members of parliament and ministers, international officials from the UN and EU, as well as women's rights defenders from different parts of the country. The politicians present at the seminar promised to present the women's rights defenders demands to decision-makers and the Minister of Women's Affairs promised to review legislation so as to better serve women's rights.

One of Kvinna till Kvinna's aims with its research programme is for the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) to address gender perspectives on war and conflict in its yearbook. The yearbook is important since it is widely circulated around the world and it forms part of the current security debate. This is something that Kvinna till Kvinna has been working towards since 2011 and it was achieved for the first time in 2015.

There were also a number of grassroots activities taking place in Sweden in 2015. Kvinna till Kvinna's volunteers organised a support group in Botkyrka to inform newly-arrived women about their rights.

### SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AFTER 2015

The situation in the Middle East has had a major impact on European politics in 2015, and the streams of refugees continued to dominate political discussions and dialogue in Sweden. One effect of the increased costs of receiving refugees has been cuts in the Swedish aid budget, and in January 2016, we were informed about which grants were to be affected. The extent of the cuts varied. Whilst the framework grant was cut by 7 percent, the Liberia programme was reduced by a massive 35 percent and the Georgia grant by 40 percent.

### ADMINISTRATION

Kvinna till Kvinna was initially formed as a network of women's organisations in 1993. The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation was founded by the Swedish Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) in 1995.

The organisation is headed by a Secretary General. Kvinna till Kvinna has three departments (Resource, Communication and Field Department) and each department is managed by a head of department (the Deputy Secretary General, the Head of Communication and the Head of Development Cooperation). The Resource Department comprises three units: Methodology, Finance and Human Resources. The Head of Finance and Human Resources is part of the organisation's overall management team, along with the Secretary General and the other Heads of Department.

During the year, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General were co-opted members of the Board. A Board Secretary and a staff representative, with a personal deputy, were also co-opted to the Board.

The Secretary General reports to the Board and the Board appoints and dismisses her.

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 2015. The Board's Rules of Procedure and Annual Plan are revisited

annually. The purpose of the Rules of Procedure is to specify procedures for the Board's work, allocate responsibilities among Board members, and to clarify the division of responsibilities between the Board and the Secretariat. The Rules of Procedure also outline the organisation's long-term strategy, the management and control systems, as well as the systems for managing and administering funds. The Rules of Procedure also control matters relating to the accounts and budget decisions, and that Kvinna till Kvinna's auditors must attend at least one Board meeting each year, which they have indeed done in 2015.

	1 Jan – 5 May 2015	6 May – 31 Dec 2015
<b>Board Members</b>		
Number of meetings	2	5
Birgit Hansson, Chair	2	5
Viola Furubjelke, Deputy Chair from 6 May	1	4
Mari Mörth, Deputy Chair, resigned 5 May	1	
Lennart Lindgren, resigned 5 May	2	
Sara Olsson, resigned 5 May	2	
Maria Appelblom	1	4
Jesper Hansén	0	4
Marie Sundberg		4
Lars Jalmert, Deputy Member, Regular Member from 6 May	2	5
Devrim Mavi, Deputy Member, Regular Member from 6 May	0	3
Kajsa Wejryd, Deputy Member	2	4
Banafshe Hejazi, Deputy Member		4
Eliza Küçükaskan, Deputy Member, dismissed 10 February 2016		2
Karin Karlsbro, Deputy Member		0

The organisation had a total of 98 employees by the end of 2015. Adjusted for those on leave of absence, temporary employees and short-term project staff, this figure comprised 94 full-time positions. Of these, 55 were employed at the head office in Stockholm where work is focused on the coordination of support in conflict affected regions, communications and fundraising, management and methodology development, as well as human resources and finance issues.

There were 43 people working at the offices in the organisation's programme countries. The offices in the Middle East are located in Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Erbil and Jerusalem. The office in South Caucasus is located in Tbilisi in Georgia. In Africa, we have offices in Monrovia in Liberia, and in Bukavu in DR Congo. Our offices in the Western Balkans are located in Belgrade, Pristina, Sarajevo and Skopje. Of the employees at the field offices, 33 were locally and nationally employed staff.

#### WIDESPREAD SUPPORT IN SWEDISH SOCIETY

Kvinna till Kvinna is supported by a number of Swedish organisations, which inform their members about our work. Our thanks go to:

- 1.6 Million Club
- The Centre Party Women's Organisation
- Farmaciförbundet (Swedish association of pharmacies, since 2014 part of Unionen trade union)
- Feminist Initiative
- The Fredrika Bremer Association
- Handikappförbunden HSO (Swedish Disability Federation)
- Riksförbundet Hem och Samhälle (Society for Home and Community)
- The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
- The Christian Democratic Party Women's Association
- Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation
- Kvinnor för Fred (Women for Peace)
- Church of Sweden women's organisation
- The Swedish Liberal People's Party women's association
- The Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO)
- The Swedish Green Party
- The Moderate Party Women
- National Association for Immigrant Women
- National Organisation for Women's Shelters and Young Women's Shelters in Sweden
- Save the Children Sweden
- Social Democratic Women in Sweden
- Socialist Party Women
- Soroptimist International of Sweden
- United Nations Association of Sweden
- The Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society
- Swedish women's left-wing association
- UN Women Sweden
- The Swedish Ecumenical Women's Council
- The Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees (TCO)
- Bang Magazine
- Verdandi (Swedish Workers' Association for Fellowship and Solidarity)
- Women's Policy Committee of Sweden's Left Party

#### Voluntary work

Kvinna till Kvinna's voluntary activities are carried out with the help of volunteers. The efforts of these volunteers are very important for strengthening Kvinna till Kvinna's presence at public events. Thanks to funding from the Swedish Inheritance Fund our volunteer efforts were given a huge boost in 2014 and 2015. Local volunteer groups now exist in six cities: Gothenburg, Linköping, Malmö, Stockholm, Umeå and Uppsala. Altogether, there are now around 200 active volunteers.

Around fifty external activities, such as lectures in schools and at international affairs associations, was arranged by and with the help of our volunteers. The volunteers participated in major events such as Feministiskt Forum in Stockholm, the Göteborg Book Fair in Gothenburg and the Femdefenders Day in Stockholm. Volunteers also arranged a number of different fundraising events, particularly focusing on the International Women's Day on March 8, where they collected money to support Kvinna till Kvinna's work.

In addition to the external events, volunteers also arrange their own monthly gatherings to provide and receive training on issues concerning Kvinna till Kvinna, and to plan activities. In 2015, 19 volunteers from the various local groups partici-

pated in Kvinna till Kvinna's project *Young Women's Peace Academy* and completed training, as well as participated in exchanges, with other young women's rights activists from countries where we operate.

During the year Kvinna till Kvinna also put together a role-play exercise entitled *Peace for all*. Volunteers conducted the role-play exercise with more than 500 pupils during the autumn.

### QUALITY ASSURANCE WORK

Since 2009, Kvinna till Kvinna has issued a separate report in compliance with the guidelines of the Quality Code adopted by the member organisations of The Swedish Fundraising Council's (FRII). The purpose of this report is to improve transparency and to benefit management and control within the Council's member organisations. The Quality Code is the consolidation of all that is deemed good practice within FRII's member organisations.

Kvinna till Kvinna's vision and three mandates indicate the direction of the organisation. Kvinna till Kvinna also has five long-term, strategic goals for its work. The goals are outlined in the strategic plan for 2011–2015 which is monitored annually by all parts of the organisation's operations to assure compliance.

In addition to Kvinna till Kvinna's strategic plan, the organisation monitors and evaluates each programme to determine whether Kvinna till Kvinna and its partner organisations are on track to reaching their goals, but also whether they are doing the right things, in the right way and as has been decided. Goals and indicators are specific to each programme. Both quantitative and qualitative indicators are used to help evaluate a programme's progress. Kvinna till Kvinna uses these indicators to follow up and subsequently understand its organisation, learn from experience and update its working methods and frameworks where needed in order to stay relevant. A number of different methods are used to achieve this, including reports from partner organisations, field visits, workshops and dialogue. Some goals are linked to specific activities (such as a course in sexual and reproductive health and rights) and the results are then measured directly in the form of an increase in participants' knowledge on the subject. Other goals are linked to long-term social change, such as greater respect for women's rights. These kinds of results are less quantifiable and measured over a longer period of time.

### FUTURE PROGRESS

In June 2015, Kvinna till Kvinna's Board adopted a new strategy that is to guide the organisation over the coming six years 2016-2021. The strategy is focused on three thematic areas where Kvinna till Kvinna will push for progress together with its partners.

The three thematic strategic aims:

- A future where women are not subjected to gender-based violence.
- A future where women participate fully and effectively in the development of an equal and democratic society.
- A future where global security is based on human security and where women's human rights are respected.

The Board also identified a number of areas where the organisation is to develop. Some examples include Kvinna till Kvinna adopting a clearer role as an actor in humanitarian contexts, for the whole organisation to have an increased focus on what it means to be a fundraising foundation, and that the expansion and decentralisation of the field department should continue.

### FULFILMENT OF OUR PURPOSE

Kvinna till Kvinna's work has been implemented in compliance with our Articles of Association. This applies to the support to women's organisations in conflict affected regions, our advocacy work and the encouragement of studies and research of the effects of war and armed conflict on women.

Since mid-1993, Kvinna till Kvinna has disbursed monetary aid of SEK 1,306.5 million. Of this amount, SEK 123.6 million was disbursed in 2015.

### PROFIT/LOSS AND FINANCIAL POSITION

#### Fundraising and donations

Money from fundraising and donations amounted to SEK 14.9 million in 2015, and including complimentary advertising the amount is SEK 15.9 million. Kvinna till Kvinna has been one of the beneficiaries of the Swedish Postcode Lottery since 2010 and received SEK 10 million in 2015. We also had SEK 1.2 million bequeathed to us.

#### Allocations and grants

In 2015, Kvinna till Kvinna supported 104 women's organisations in DR Congo, Liberia, the Middle East, the South Caucasus and the Western Balkans. This is actually fewer than 2014, largely because we have phased out organisations in the Balkans. The allocations amounted to SEK 118.7 million in 2015. The framework agreement with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida, was finalised in early 2015. It was to provide us with SEK 83.3 million over three years, but this has been reduced to SEK 81.2 million. There has been a 7 percent reduction on the 2016 payment.

#### Profit/Loss for the year

We have a surplus of TSEK 3,534 this year (TSEK 861 for 2014) which leaves us with equity of TSEK 3,548. We must continue to increase our equity to create security for our organisation.

For detailed financial accounting, see the following income statement, balance sheet, cash flow statement and notes.

## Multi-year overview

	2015	2014	2013	2012
<b>General conditions</b>				
Average number of employees	98	92	78	62
Number of partner organisations	104	130	133	132
	-	-	-	-
<b>Income and cost-benefit analysis (EURO)</b>				
Operating income	14,294	14,057	12,844	12,608
Operating expenses	-13,934	-13,925	-12,986	-12,595
Profit (loss) from financial items	-14	-34	-	-10
Tax on economic activities	-7	-7	-	-
<b>Net profit (loss) for the year</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>-141</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Financial position</b>				
Equity (EURO)	372	1,5	-89	52

Unless otherwise specified, all amounts are reported in TSEK. The figures in brackets represent last year's values.

## Income statement

	Note	2015	2014
<b>The Foundation's income</b>			
	2		
Donations		14,869	13,789
Grants		118,744	117,697
Other operating income		2,611	2,474
<b>Total income for the Foundation</b>		<b>136,224</b>	<b>133,960</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>			
	3, 4		
Programme service expenses		-123,647	-117,697
Fundraising expenses		-2,215	-1,966
Administrative expenses	4	-6,630	-13,045
<b>Result of operations</b>		<b>3,732</b>	<b>1,252</b>
<b>Profit (loss) from financial items</b>			
Profit (loss) from securities and receivables that are fixed assets		-	-
Other interest income and similar income statement items		562	8
Interest expenses and similar profit/loss items		-698	-328
<b>Total profit (loss) from financial investments</b>		<b>-136</b>	<b>-320</b>
Profit (loss) after financial items		3,596	932
Tax	5	-62	-71
<b>Net profit for the year</b>		<b>3,534</b>	<b>861</b>
<b>Allocation of net profit for the year</b>			
	7		
Net profit for the year according to the income statement (see above)		3,534	861
Utilisation of designated/unrestricted reserves from previous years		-	-
Reservation of designated/unrestricted funds received but not utilised during the year		-98	-69
<b>Amount remaining for the year/funds carried forward</b>		<b>3,436</b>	<b>792</b>

## Balance sheet

	Note	31-12-2015	31-12-2014
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets			
Equipment	6	429	606
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>429</b>	<b>606</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
<b>Current receivables</b>			
Accounts receivable – trade		618	697
Other current receivables		3,768	1,581
Prepaid expenses and accrued income		2,020	1,707
		<b>6,406</b>	<b>3,985</b>
<b>Cash and bank balances</b>			
		43,779	48,004
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>50,185</b>	<b>51,989</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>50,614</b>	<b>52,595</b>
<b>Equity and liabilities</b>			
<b>Equity</b>			
	7		
Funds brought forward		14	-847
Net profit (loss) for the year		3,534	861
<b>Total capital and reserves</b>		<b>3,548</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Liability from received but not utilised grants	8	36,026	27,913
Other current liabilities		3,704	4,120
Accrued expenses and deferred income	9	7,336	20,548
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>47,066</b>	<b>52,581</b>
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>		<b>50,614</b>	<b>52,595</b>
<b>Pledged assets and contingent liabilities</b>			
Rental guarantee		849	849
Mortgages		664	664



## Cash flow statement indirect method

	2015	2014
<b>Operating activities</b>		
Operating profit (loss) before financial items	3,732	1,252
Adjustment for items not included in cash flow, etc.	283	274
Interest received	1	8
Interest paid	-6	-10
Paid income tax	-312	-319
	<b>3,698</b>	<b>1,205</b>
Increase/Decrease in accounts receivable – trade	79	558
Increase/Decrease in other current receivables	-2,255	803
Increase/Decrease in accounts payable – trade	273	751
Increase/Decrease in other short-term operating liabilities	-5,784	-1,310
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>-3,989</b>	<b>2,007</b>
<b>Investing activities</b>		
Investments in tangible fixed assets	-106	-140
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>	<b>-106</b>	<b>-140</b>
<b>Financing activities</b>		
Exchange rate difference	-130	-318
<b>Cash flow from financing activities</b>	<b>-130</b>	<b>-318</b>
<b>Cash flow for the year</b>	<b>-4,225</b>	<b>1,549</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</b>	<b>48,004</b>	<b>46,455</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>43,779</b>	<b>48,004</b>

# Notes

## Note 1 Accounting and valuation principles

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Swedish Annual Accounts Act, BFAR 2012:1 (K3) and FRII's Styranse riktlinjer för årsredovisning (Operating guidelines for annual financial statements).

### 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 is received or will be received (receivable).

### 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 is the seller – not the fundraising organisation.

### Grants

Funds that the organisation has received from the European Union, the Swedish state and formally independent bodies formed by the EU or Swedish state, and which are provided in the form of transfers of resources to an organisation in exchange for that organisation having met, or having pledged to meet, certain conditions relating to its activities, are deemed public grants and are to be recorded as grants (K3, Sections 36.8 and 37.10). This is also a requirement in relation to the obligation to repay if the conditions are not met. The definition of a grant also applies to other organisations that provide funds under these conditions.

### Other income

Primarily, income from successfully completed International Training Programme (ITP) courses.

### OPERATING EXPENSES

#### Programme service expenses

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

- To conduct projects in war and conflict affected regions that promote women's self-reliance and self-esteem, women's psychosocial and/or physical health, or 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 the use of civil methods.

Administrative expenses incurred as a direct result of an activity/project are programme service expenses. Examples of such expenses are our overseas offices, central project management and project governance, as well as administration of grant applications.

Our programme service expenses increased in 2015 compared to the previous year, mainly because we can derive our expenses more clearly in our new business system, and because we now have a requirement for a direct contribution that is financed through funds raised.

### Fundraising expenses

Fundraising expenses consist of expenses that have a direct connection to fundraising activities targeting any or all of the organisation's donors.

### Administrative expenses

Administrative expenses that the organisation incurs to fulfil the quality requirements that we have for our purpose and for our donors, but that cannot be regarded as programme service expenses. In our allocations, around 7.3% finance the administrative expenses and these are accounted for as programme service expenses. Remaining expenses are those for certain managers and some staff within the finance and communication departments, as well as development expenses for administrative and organisational processes, accounting expenses and some of the common costs.

### Common costs

The above costs include common costs that can be defined as follows: Common costs include IT, the finance and accounting function, the cost of premises, and management in the form of the Board of Directors and the Secretary General.

### Leasing

All the organisation's leases are recognised as operating leases. Leasing costs include rental for premises.

### Payments to employees

Current payments to employees in the form of wages and salaries, social security contributions and the like are recognised as expenses in pace with the employees carrying out their jobs. Since all pension obligations are classified as defined contribution plans, a cost is recognised in the year the pension benefits are earned.

### Income tax

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

### Fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are valued at their costs of acquisition less depreciation according to plan. Tangible fixed assets are systematically depreciated over their assessed economic life. In doing so, the following depreciation periods are used:

#### Equipment/Computers 5 years

Some equipment purchases are recorded as programme service expenses. This occurs when appropriations have been made for the purchase, or when, due to the high risk of theft in field work, the equipment is equated with expendable equipment. During the year, equipment purchases totalling TSEK 118 were recorded as programme service costs.

### Receivables

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

### Foreign currencies

Receivables and payables in foreign currencies are valued at the closing day rate. Receivables in foreign currencies, foreign currencies in cash and bank balances in our field offices are valued at the exchange rate applied for the most recent transfer of funds from Sweden. These currencies are used in the field and are not intended to be returned to Sweden.

## Note 2 The Foundation's income

	2015	2014
<b>The Foundation's income is detailed as follows:</b>		
Donations	14,869	13,789
Grants	118,744	117,697
Other operating income	2,611	2,475
<b>Total</b>	<b>136,224</b>	<b>133,961</b>

### Donations are detailed as follows:

Donations reported in the income statement		
General public	4,430	3,789
Companies	181	-
Swedish Postcode Lottery	10,000	10,000
Other foundations	258	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,869</b>	<b>13,789</b>

### Donations not reported in the income statement

Advertising	1,041	350
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>350</b>

### Total donations

Donations reported in the income statement	14,869	13,789
Donations not reported in the income statement	1,041	350
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,910</b>	<b>14,139</b>

### Grants recognised as income

#### Sida grants for projects and activities

Western Balkans	4,448	22,421
South Caucasus	8,333	7,401
Middle East, Jerusalem	8,032	7,427
Middle East, Amman	11,846	20,361
Middle East, Iraq	8,371	9,435
Liberia	11,403	11,880
Afghanistan	2,237	175
Ukraine	164	-
Cross-regional framework allocations	16,473	-
Information contributions	2,106	-
Other Sida	8,319	4,619
Sida allocations for administration	6,813	6,653
<b>Total</b>	<b>88,545</b>	<b>90,372</b>

### Other grants for projects and activities

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	3,489	6,285
Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society	-	360
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, FLOW project	12,766	10,815
Swedish Inheritance Fund	1,351	798
Swedish Radio Appeal (Radiohjälpen)	-	738
Folke Bernadotte Academy	1,982	1,093
International Alert EPNK project	720	2,241
Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs	491	-
Forum Syd	90	1,052
International Alert	-	276
Swedish Postcode Lottery	9,310	3,667
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,199</b>	<b>27,325</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>118,744</b>	<b>117,697</b>

## Note 3 Leasing

	2015	2014
<b>Future lease payments fall due according to the following:</b>		
Falling due and payable within 1 year	4,496	3,987
Falling due and payable later than 1 but within 5 years	4,333	5,820
Falling due and payable later than 5 years	177	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,006</b>	<b>9,807</b>

Expensed leasing charges during the period	4,819	4,268
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Leasing charges include premises and office and IT equipment.

#### Note 4 Average number of employees, staff costs

	2015	2014
<b>Number of employees, women only</b>		
Sweden	64	55
Albania	–	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	2
Kosovo	3	2
Serbia	2	2
South Caucasus	6	6
Liberia and DR Congo	10	11
Palestine and Israel	3	3
Jordan and Lebanon	4	6
Iraq	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Salaries and other employee benefits:</b>		
Secretary General	736	717
Other employees	30,851	27,998
<b>Total salaries and benefits</b>	<b>31,587</b>	<b>28,715</b>
Payroll overhead	11,971	10,994
(of which pension costs)	2,537	2,586
Pension costs Secretary General	266	226

#### Board of Directors and senior management

##### Number of Board members on the balance sheet date

Women	5	5
Men	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>

##### Number of Secretary Generals

Women	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

#### Voluntary work

During the year a varying number of people worked voluntarily for the organisation packing dispatches, and with information and collection box fundraising, for example. The value of these efforts has not been recorded in the income statement.

#### Note 5 Tax on net profit for the year

	2015	2014
<b>Income tax is calculated on taxable economic activity.</b>		
Pre-tax profit recorded	76	324
Tax calculated at the applicable tax rate (22%)	17	71
Adjustment of prior year tax	46	–
<b>Reported tax expense</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>71</b>

#### Note 6 Equipment

	2015-12-31	2014-12-31
Costs of acquisitions brought forward	1,701	1,562
Purchases during the year	106	139
<b>Closing accumulated costs of acquisitions</b>	<b>1,807</b>	<b>1,701</b>
Depreciation brought forward	–1,095	–822
Depreciation for the year	–283	–273
<b>Accumulated depreciation carried forward</b>	<b>–1,378</b>	<b>–1,095</b>
<b>Residual value according to plan carried forward</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>606</b>

## Note 7 Equity

	Specific-purpose donations	Retained equity	Net profit (loss) for the year	Total equity
Balance carried forward 31 December 2014	69	-847	792	14
Donor-specified purpose 2015 not utilised	98	-	-	98
Transfer to net profit/loss for the year	-	792	-792	-
Net profit (loss) for the year	-	-	3,436	3,436
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>-55</b>	<b>3,436</b>	<b>3,548</b>

### Specification of specific-purpose funds

The following funds are included: Bosnia and Herzegovina TSEK 47, Georgia TSEK 16 and Syrian refugees TSEK 104.


## Note 8 Liability, received but not utilised grants

	2015	2014
Sida South Caucasus	477	470
Sida Europe/Western Balkans	1,113	1,282
Sida Middle East	8,635	4,402
Sida Liberia	1,022	2,610
Sida Afghanistan	2,022	4,522
Sida Ukraine	1,836	-
Sida framework grant	6,233	-
Sida information	209	-
Sida other	2,024	-
Other allocations	12,455	14,627
	<b>36,026</b>	<b>27,913</b>

## Note 9 Accrued expenses and deferred income

	2015	2014
Accrued interest payments	3	-18
Holiday pay	1,911	1,588
Other items	3,422	2,327
Prepaid grants Sida	2,000	16,200
Prepaid grants, other donors	-	451
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,336</b>	<b>20,548</b>

Stockholm 2016-04-27

  
Birgit Hansson  
Ordförande

  
Viola Furubjelke


  
Jesper Hansén

  
Maria Appelblom

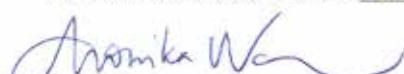
  
Lars Jalmert


Devrim Mavi

  
Marie Sundberg



Vår revisionsberättelse har lämnats 2016-04-29.

  
Monika Wannholm  
Auktoriserad revisor

  
Pernilla Varverud  
Auktoriserad revisor

## Auditor's report

To the board of directors of The Kvinna till Kvinna foundation, corporate identity number 802401-6134

### Report on the annual accounts

We have audited the annual accounts of The Kvinna till Kvinna foundation for the year 2015. The annual accounts of the foundation are included in the printed version of this document on pages 35-45.

### Responsibilities of the Board of Directors for the annual accounts

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

### Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these annual accounts based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual accounts are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the annual accounts. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the annual accounts, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the foundation's preparation and fair presentation of the annual accounts 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 foundation's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Board of Directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the annual accounts.

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

### Opinions

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 The Kvinna till Kvinna foundation as of December 31, 2015 and of its financial performance and its cash flows 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.

### Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

In addition to our audit of the annual accounts, we have examined the administration of the Board of Directors of The Kvinna till Kvinna foundation for the year 2015. *ju*

**Responsibilities of the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors are responsible for the administration under the Foundation Act and the Charter of Foundation.

**Auditor's responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion with reasonable assurance on the administration based on our audit. We conducted the audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden.

As a basis for our opinion concerning discharge from liability, in addition to our audit of the annual accounts, we examined significant decisions, actions taken and circumstances of the foundation in order to determine whether any member of the Board of Directors is liable to the foundation. We also examined whether any member of the Board of Directors has, in any other way, acted in contravention of the Foundation Act, the Annual Accounts Act or the Charter of Foundation.

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

**Opinions**

The Board of Directors members have not committed any act or been guilty of any omission, which, in our opinion, could give rise to any liability to the foundation for the financial year 2015.

Stockholm April 29<sup>th</sup> 2016



Monika Wannholm  
Authorized Public Accountant



Pernilla Varverud  
Authorized Public Accountant

**The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, 2016**

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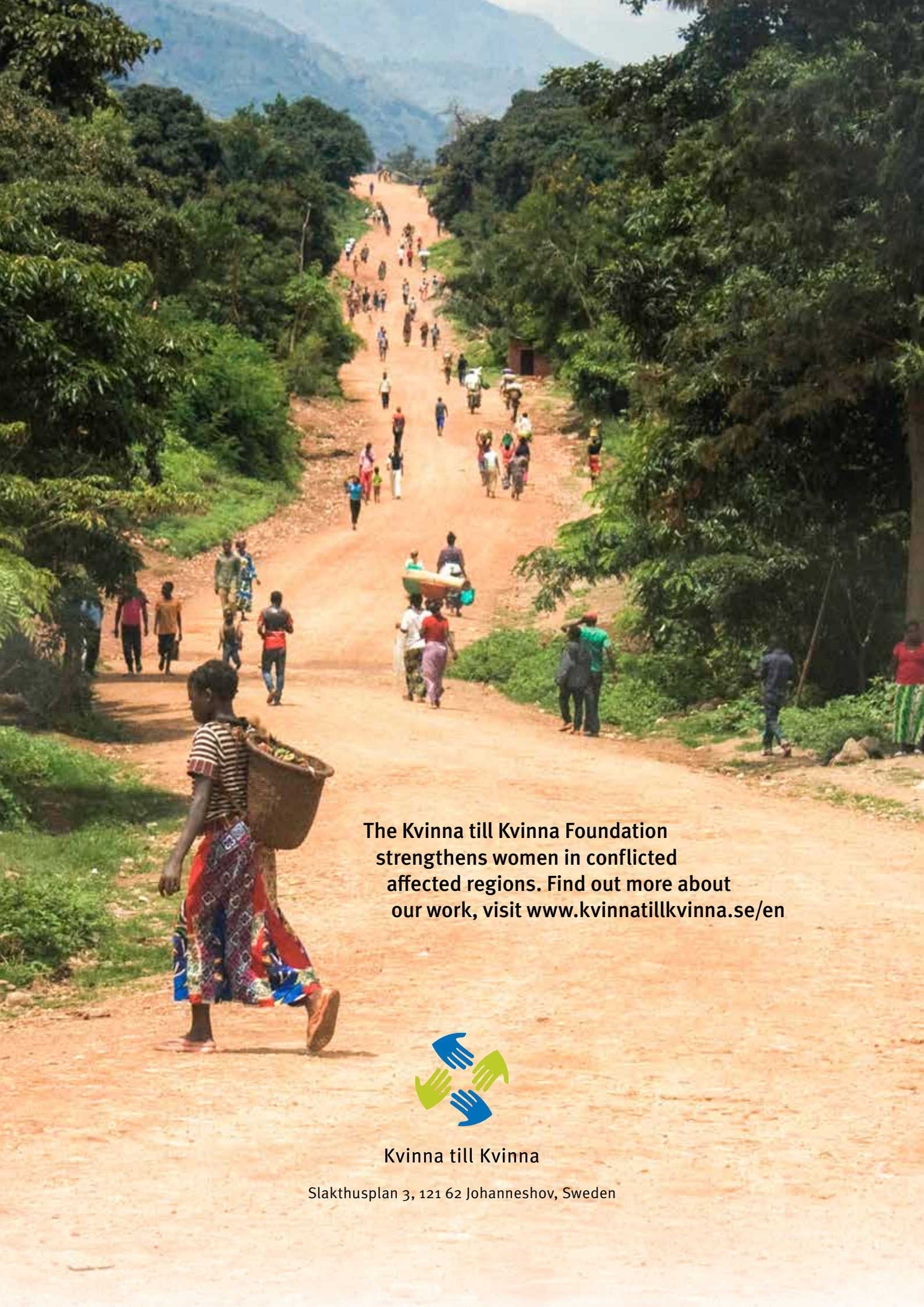
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Kvinna till Kvinna has a 90-account, which is a special type of account granted by the Swedish Fundraising Control for donations. It is the public's assurance that the fundraising is monitored by the Swedish Fundraising Control. It guarantees that the fundraising is managed in an ethical and responsible way, and that the funds that are collected are used for the intended purpose.

Last page photo: Most women travel on foot in DR Congo. In the mountains outside Uvira there are ongoing armed conflicts between various rebel groups. The women who come down from the mountain villages to sell crops on the market, travel with the constant fear of abuse on the way. The photo is part of Kvinna till Kvinna's exhibition LES FEMMES.



**The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation  
strengthens women in conflicted  
affected regions. Find out more about  
our work, visit [www.kvinna-till-kvinna.se/en](http://www.kvinna-till-kvinna.se/en)**



**Kvinna till Kvinna**

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