

Rwanda Women's Network empowers so-called 'girl champions' to bring about change and inspire other women. Here, Fillette Mujawimana participates in a FemDialogue meeting on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and period poverty in Kanama in western Rwanda.







## ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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

We work closely together with 140 local partner organisations across 20 countries to end violence against women, reach lasting peace and close the gender gap once and for all. How? By supporting our partners' programmes, conducting research and publishing studies, and raising public awareness. All without attaching importance to religious, political, national or ethnic affiliation.

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

### History

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

### Vision

Kvinna till Kvinna's vision is a world of sustainable and just peace based on gender equality, human rights and democracy. Our aim is to resolve conflicts through civil, non-military means, with women having power over decisions and being included in all parts of society. In a peaceful and just society, women are free from threats, fear and exploitation, their human rights are respected, and they enjoy the same social, economic and political opportunities as men do.

### Focus areas

#### • Ending violence against women

We work to prevent and end gender-based violence. Until women can live their lives free from the threat of violence, equality and lasting peace remain out of reach for us all.

#### • Strengthening women's participation in peace processes

When women take part in peace talks, peace agreements are more likely to be sustainable and address inequality. We call for equal participation of women in peace processes and for security policies to be based on the concept of human security.

#### • Promoting women's equal participation in society

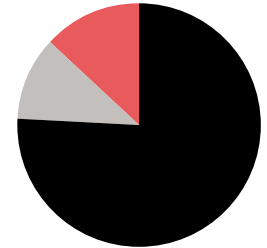
Across the world, women are underrepresented in decision-making, peace processes and the public debate. We advocate for women's full, effective and equal participation in all parts of society.

#### • Strengthening women's economic empowerment

Women's lack of economic empowerment is a major barrier to equality. That is why we strengthen women's opportunities to get an education, enter the labour market, access financial resources and become financially independent.

**Did you know that SEK 1,525 can provide five young Syrian women with the textbooks they need to attend university? Your donation makes a difference!**

### FUNDING SOURCES | SEK 196 M

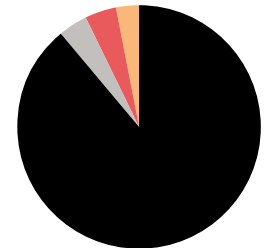


**76%**  
The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

**11%**  
Fundraising

**13%**  
Other grants

### FUNDING SPENT | SEK 195 M



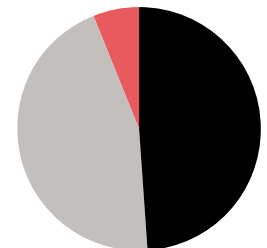
**89%**  
Operations in conflict regions

**4%**  
Information, advocacy, research

**4%**  
Administration

**3%**  
Fundraising

### OPERATIONS IN CONFLICT REGIONS | SEK 174 M



**49%**  
Financial support to partner organisations

**45%**  
Coordination, counselling, project administration

**6%**  
Networking, capacity building, communication



# A BRIEF OVERVIEW



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

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

## **What does Kvinna till Kvinna want to achieve?**

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

## **Why was Kvinna till Kvinna founded?**

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

## **Where does Kvinna till Kvinna work?**

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

## **What does Kvinna till Kvinna do?**

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

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

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

## **Which strategies do you use to achieve your goals?**

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

## **How is your work funded?**

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

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

## **How do you inform the general public about your work?**

We communicate about women's rights and our work through various channels, including printed and social media. Our volunteers too are an invaluable part of our communication and fundraising work (see pages 32–35). We also engage in advocacy, which you can read about on pages 14–15 and 32–35.

## **How do you measure whether your organisation is making progress?**

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

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

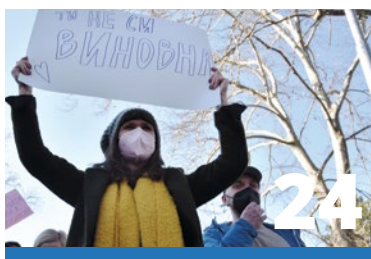
The model on page 9 shows how our work leads to both societal and personal change for women. Our results and long-term goals for each region are described in the regional sections: the MENA region on pages 16–19; sub-Saharan Africa on pages 20–23; Europe on pages 24–27; and the South Caucasus on pages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

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

We closely monitor and evaluate our operations through our programme and method unit and our programme offices to be able to adapt our work. This year, for example, we procured our very own e-learning platform. We also arrange annual workshops to share learnings across regions and within the entire organisation. For more about development and training, see pages 10–15.

# OUR WORK AROUND THE WORLD

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



## Europe

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



## Sub-Saharan Africa

- Liberia
- Rwanda
- The Democratic Republic of the Congo

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

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS FACING HEADWINDS

**After rain comes sunshine, they say. So after a long pandemic year, many were hoping 2021 would bring progress, with women's rights a priority as the world set out to 'build back better'.**

Unfortunately, it was a stormy year for women's rights, with a worrying anti-gender backlash in many countries. Our report 'Solidary Is Our Only Weapon' illustrates that: based on input from hundreds of activists, it paints a harsh picture of the harassment and abuse that women human rights defenders around the world face.

Even rights we sometimes take for granted—like a woman's right to decide over her own body—are under attack. Abortion is now practically illegal in Poland and

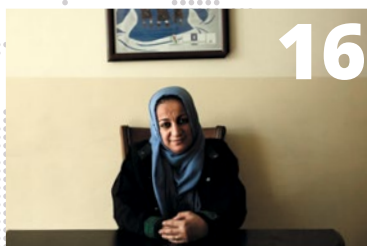
even Texas (as the US Supreme Court declined to block the state's Heartbeat Act).

When the Taliban retook Afghanistan last summer, we were horrified, fearing what this shift in power would mean for women and girls. An alumna of our Gemaket programme took to the mic during a protest we co-organised in Stockholm to voice those concerns. And yet, rays of sunshine pierced this year's clouds.

In Rwanda, a whopping 89% of the women candidates our partner organisations had coached ahead of local elections were victorious. Our Syria and Tbilisi teams organised their first-ever cross-regional exchange on working in active war-zones. Palestinian women founded a unique network for women water practitioners to combat climate change, and in Bosnia, we supported a street-art-based initiative for peace!

We were proud to join the OSCE's new Networking Platform for Women Peacebuilders and Mediators and its

**Head office in Stockholm**



**The MENA region**

- Egypt
- Iraq
- Israel
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Palestine
- Syria
- Tunisia



**The South Caucasus**

- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Georgia and the Abkhaz context

High-Level Advisory Group on Women, Peace and Security, and became one of only a handful of experts to join the Swedish Women's Mediation Network. Our new podcast series highlights how important platforms like these are to raise women's voices—have a listen on Soundcloud!

And finally, on the topic of voices: we're introducing an exciting new feature in this annual report. Each regional section now starts with a personal take on the year by one of our employees in the region. Korto talks about being our first female driver in Liberia, for example, while Ana in Georgia tries to combat shrinking space while working from home and juggling childcare. Enjoy their stories!

**Petra Tötterman Andorff** | Secretary-General

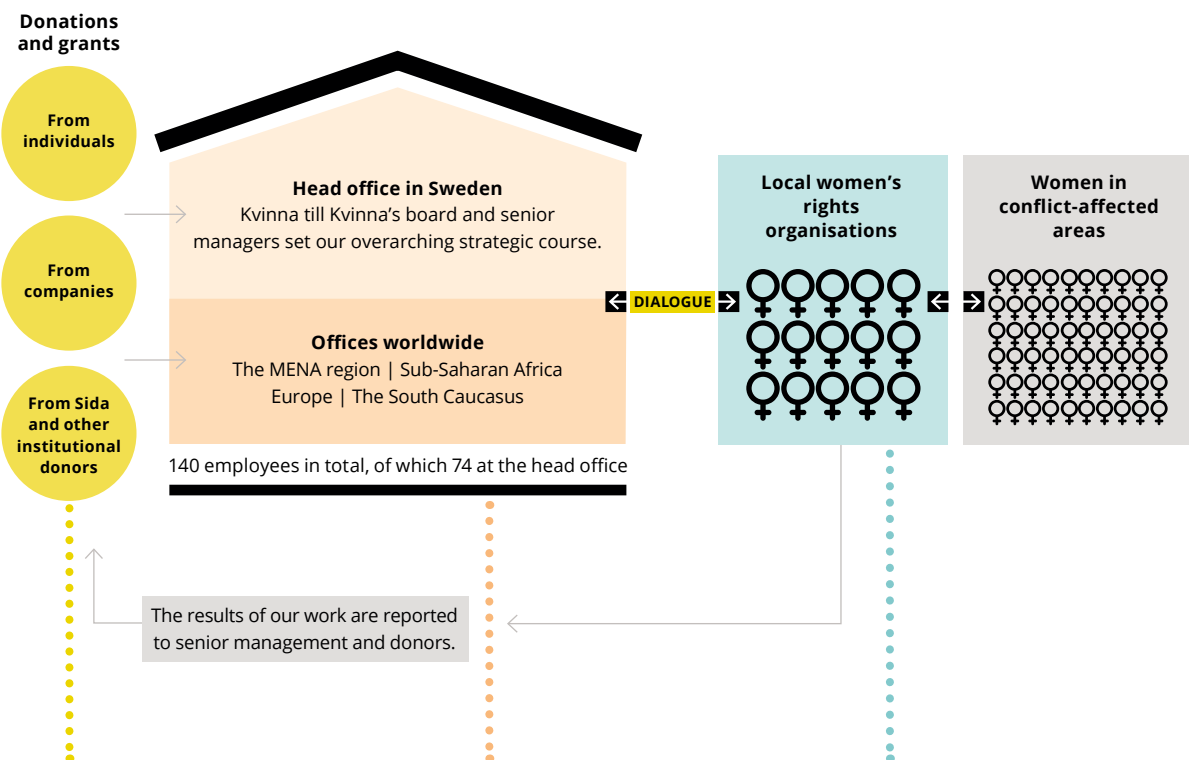


Photo: Leo Simonsson

# HOW KVINNA TILL KVINNA WORKS

A peaceful and equal world for everyone. That is what we at Kvinna till Kvinna want to achieve. We do this by supporting 140 partner organisations, conducting research and publishing studies, and raising awareness.

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



## Our funding

We are able to support women's rights thanks to donations and grants:

- The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is our main source of funding. We also receive grants from the Swedish Inheritance Fund; Folke Bernadotte Academy; the EU; Canada, Ireland, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the UK; Sweden's Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Swedish Institute; the Swedish police; and various UN bodies.
- Our work also heavily relies on donations from private individuals and companies. Our main private donor is the Swedish Postcode Lottery.

## Our methods

- **Communication:** We raise awareness through digital communication, media appearances, events and the activities of our volunteers.
- **Advocacy:** We influence decision-makers and call for legislative change to improve women's rights.
- **Research:** We produce studies and reports, both independently and together with researchers and research institutions.
- **Training:** We offer capacity-building training on women, peace and security.

## Our partner organisations

In 2021, Kvinna till Kvinna partnered with 140 women's rights organisations in four conflict-affected regions:

- The MENA region
- Europe
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- The South Caucasus

## Strategic focus

Our focus for 2016–2022 is to:

1. Reduce violence against women.
2. Increase women's political participation.
3. Contribute to changes in security policy that give prominence to women's rights.



# HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE



**The road to change**

We support women's rights organisations in conflict-affected regions to strengthen their knowledge, capacity and autonomy.

We offer our partner organisations financial support, training and access to networks.

Our support empowers women's rights organisations to act and claim space in society.

Stronger organisations are more impactful. They become active participants in society, promoting women's rights and preventing gender-based violence.

In the long run, this helps bring about equality, democracy and sustainable peace—which directly improves individual women's lives.

## Example | **Setting legal precedent in Montenegro**

**1**

We support many women's rights organisations worldwide, including Women's Rights Centre in Montenegro. WRC promotes gender equality and empowers survivors of domestic violence. It offers psychological counselling, free legal support, and cultural and educational activities.

## How we measure results

We analyse what share of our budget directly benefits partner organisations, whether financially or through training and networking opportunities.

**2**

WRC also engages in advocacy and monitors whether gender equality laws and policies are correctly implemented in Montenegro. When women are treated unfairly, WRC lawyers may represent them in court, serving as a liaison between them and the authorities. The funding we provide supports that work.

We regularly meet our partners and maintain a close dialogue with them. This helps us monitor their work and understand the local context.

**3**

We offer WRC capacity-development support, help them become more sustainable and invite them to networking and advocacy activities. This strengthens WRC as an organisation that works with gender-based violence and strengthens women's rights legislation.

We follow up on our partners' ability to:

- plan and evaluate their projects
- operate transparently and efficiently
- network with relevant actors.

**4**

As a strong women's rights actor, WRC is able to bring about legislative change. The organisation's knowledge and experience of court proceedings has made judges turn to it for advice ahead of important cases. WRC thus helps set legal precedent in the country.

We work with our partners to analyse their impact on society, so we may learn and develop together. Independent auditors evaluate our partners' work.

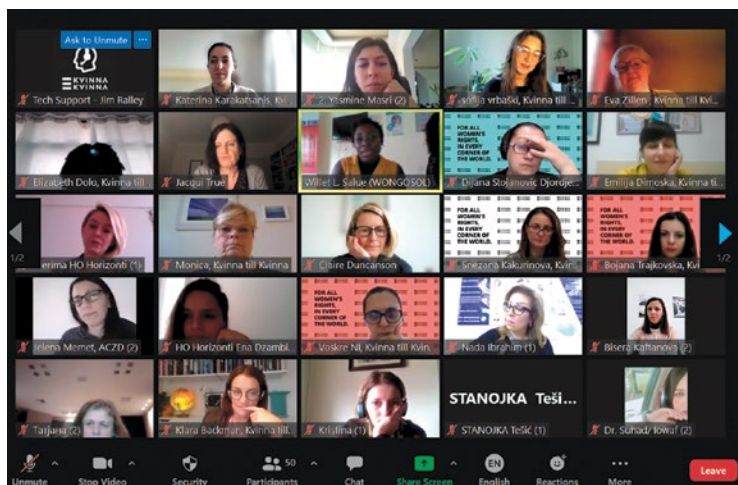
**5**



**Darija\***  
Podgorica | Montenegro

When Darija's long-term partner passed away, she was shocked to discover that Montenegro's Law on Disability Pension Insurance did not recognise their extramarital relationship: she was unable to inherit her partner's pension savings. So Darija turned to WRC for help. In 2021, they represented her case before the Basic Court in Podgorica—and won. Darija finally received the right to claim her partner's pension (even retroactively) and the law itself was amended. This victory marked the first time extramarital unions were legally recognised in Montenegro in a pensions context.

\*For security reasons, we cannot mention Darija's real name.  
Photo: Boris Pejovic



## WHEN WEE MEETS WPS

Women's economic empowerment (WEE) and women, peace & security (WPS) are two core issues we work with. And they go hand in hand: in our 2020 report, 'A Right Not a Gift', we interviewed more than 90 women peacebuilders. The majority of them said that economic inequality was a major obstacle for operationalising the WPS agenda...

Which is why we organised an online event in November for partner organisations from Syria, Iraq, Serbia and North Macedonia, to share best practices of working with both topics simultaneously. Academic experts from Edinburgh University, New York University and Monash University's Gender, Peace and Security Centre shared key learnings, while our Liberian partner WONGOSOL summarised how it has been advancing WEE and WPS in practice by implementing land reforms in Liberia.

Reactions from the two dozen participants were overwhelmingly positive, so we can't wait to use the recording of the event to continue the conversation.

## STRATEGY COLLAB WITH SIDA

Every few years, the Swedish government devises a new strategy to chart the course for its support to global civil society. Sida is the driving force behind this process—and this year, they turned to us for input on the new strategy! We took part in consultation meetings, wrote advisory briefs and sent them key reports like 'Solidarity is our only weapon'.

Together with Sida's other strategic partner organisations, we also co-drafted a list of recommendations. One of Kvinna till Kvinna's main suggestions was to make sure the new strategy would reflect the negative effect that shrinking civic space and anti-gender movements have on women human rights defenders in particular—a suggestion Sida decided to take into account.

PS: because every good collaboration is a two-way process, we in turn invited Sida for a meeting to provide input on our own upcoming new strategy!



**The event reminded me of the importance of action at different levels, focusing on the macro rather than the micro. WEE is a political issue!** (Participant)



## E-LEARNING PLATFORM

Following the success of our very first e-learning course last year, this year we procured our own digital learning platform. Based on software by Learnifier, this infrastructure will allow us to design useful courses for our partner organisations and offer them a digital space to meet. The goal is for our partners to eventually create their own courses on the platform as well. Colleagues at Kvinna till Kvinna country offices serve as 'pioneers' for this project. During internal trainings, they learnt to manage the new platform and worked on creating e-courses themselves. In the months to come, we'll be developing learning content for both our staff and partners.

# SWEDFUND: GENDER-EQUAL INVESTMENT

Swedfund is Sweden's development finance institution. Its mission is to fight poverty through sustainable investments in developing countries. It invests to generate jobs with decent working conditions and increase access to essential products and services, like renewable energy and healthcare. Just like many other organisations, Swedfund has to grapple with the possibility of encountering sexual exploitation, abuse or harassment (SEAH), either internally or in its portfolio companies.

Over the past two years, Kvinna till Kvinna and Swedfund explored ways of including a gender perspective in investment decisions. We asked Swedfund's CEO Maria Håkansson a few questions about the collaboration.

**Hi Maria!**

**Why did Swedfund contact Kvinna till Kvinna?**

"We want to improve gender equality and women's economic empowerment in our portfolio. That's why we invest in companies that are either led by women or that cater to or employ many women. Our owners have set us an ambitious target: 60% of our portfolio companies should meet our gender-investment criteria. We support the companies we invest in through different types of activities, like our talent programme Women4Growth."

"Our work is based on the belief that workplaces should be free from violence and harassment. So we contacted Kvinna till Kvinna to increase our SEAH knowledge and develop a systematic way to identify and tackle SEAH risks."

**Tell us a bit more about the project itself**

"Kvinna till Kvinna analysed our existing capacity and practices in terms of SEAH and gender equality. We discussed the results during an internal workshop



Photo: Olof Hödder / Swedfund

and set up a working group, with two representatives each from Swedfund and Kvinna till Kvinna. The group met regularly over the course of two years. The result was a practical 'Gender Risk Assessment and Safe Workplace Tool'."

**What is your main takeaway from the project?**

"SEAH is a difficult issue to detect and discuss—but our staff, from project teams to the Investment Committee, is now much better equipped to deal with it. We have a well-functioning investment process; including the new tool in it will help us address SEAH risks in a systematic way."

**What was it like working with Kvinna till Kvinna?**

"As the project advanced, our cooperation became closer. I think we now have a better understanding of each other's strengths and weaknesses and how we can complement each other. The results and lessons we learnt surpassed our expectations—despite the pandemic, when we couldn't meet face-to-face."

**Would you consider working with Kvinna till Kvinna again?**

"We really value Kvinna till Kvinna's expertise and experience. I see clear synergies and possibilities for further cooperation."



The name 'Barnahus' is a combination of the Swedish words 'barn' (child) and 'hus' (house) and reflects the way the model tries to create a safe space for minors.



**Dr Bergita Curri,**  
Institute of Forensic Medicine

**Setting up this centre is seen as an ambitious task. But I know we can and must do it.**

## PRIORITISING UNDERAGE VICTIMS' NEEDS

For several years now, our International Training Programme on gender-based violence (GBV) has coached professionals from key institutions and civil society organisations in the Balkans, supporting them as they innovate their work with GBV.

One of the ways we have done so was by introducing them to the Swedish 'Barnahus' model. Barnahus centres are safe spaces where children who've witnessed or been subjected to violence can meet police officers, doctors, social workers and therapists. Because the adults are all in one place, the child doesn't need to go through the traumatising ordeal of visiting different public agencies.

This year, alumni of the ITP programme—which we arrange in cooperation with the Swedish Police Authority—implemented the Barnahus model in their home countries! In Ukraine, prosecutor Olena Krasnozhon managed to set up a new department within the Prosecutor General's Office, focused on protecting children's rights. In Kosovo, Dr Bergita Curri, who works at the Institute of Forensic Medicine, spoke at a conference on victims of sexual violence, where she introduced the Institute's plan to set up a Barnahus-style centre. Later, she helped arrange a workshop on why biological evidence is so important in criminal proceedings, making sure to invite all relevant institutions that deal with sexual violence cases in Kosovo.

We're proud of the long-lasting important institutional change our ITP alumni are implementing!

### HELPING OTHERS OPENS DOORS

Hamzet Wasel is a Syrian NGO that operates in Syria and Lebanon to increase knowledge of non-violent change and human rights, strengthen the skills of individuals, groups and institutions, and create spaces for exchange and resource-sharing.

This year, the organisation designed two online courses on gender mainstreaming—and contacted us for expert input. Our conflict-sensitivity & peacebuilding advisor and Syria team helped design the flow and backbone of the course and

pointed Hamzet Wasel in the direction of relevant experts who could provide additional tips and be part of the NGO's pool of experts.

Kvinna till Kvinna is always happy to help others in the field in this way. Partly because every small contribution to women's rights is a positive thing—and partly because this strengthens our network and opens doors. Since we've collaborated with Hamzet Wasel, for example, they've invited several of our partner organisations to participate in other courses. Win-win!







## TOGETHER FOR SRHR

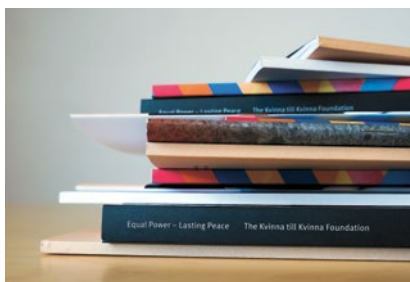
**The Swedish Platform** for Global SRHR issues unites Swedish researchers, civil society, practitioners and decision-makers to coordinate efforts to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights around the world.

The platform is led by RFSU (the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education), Sida and SIGHT (the Swedish Institute for Global Health Transformation).

As a member, we attended the platform's (online) annual meeting in May, alongside representatives of Sida and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, as well as Per Ohlsson Fridh, minister for international development cooperation. The event was an excellent

networking and advocacy opportunity! Kvinna till Kvinna held two presentations: one on SRHR, opposition and shrinking space, and one on sexual gender-based violence in different contexts. These were so well received that we were invited to attend a more select follow-up meeting with Sida, to provide input for its new SRHR strategy. Our SRHR advocacy journey continues!

**Image** SRHR is key in sub-Saharan Africa. Our Rwandan partners, for example, provide women and girls with the info they need to make choices about their reproductive and sexual health.



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

Photo: Waboh Sali



## CHALLENGING THE NORM

**We published a new report on economic rights to highlight the work of organisations around the world to increase economic gender equality in conflict-affected contexts.**

'Challenging The Norm – Global Stories of Women's Economic Empowerment' was launched in October and features five case studies that illustrate wildly different ways in which we and our partner organisations work to strengthen women's economic rights. In Rwanda, for example, we've introduced women farmers to gender-sensitive budgeting. One of our Syrian partners champions the rights of women journalists, while a Jordanian organisation works to increase access to childcare. During the pandemic, our Western Balkan partners monitored gendered labour-market discrimination and women entrepreneurs in the South Caucasus learnt all about digital marketing.

The report includes a list of recommendations for governments, international financial institutions and

donors. These range from getting civil society's input when designing post-pandemic recovery programmes to abolishing legal obstacles to economic equality and producing gender-aggregated statistics. All steps that can subtly help change the norm that women's economic contributions don't count.

### Why this report matters

Many of the human rights that women are denied are economic rights. These include labour rights, house, land and property rights, the right to inherit and the right to register a company, open a bank account or apply for credit on the same terms as men.

### Statistics show global economic gender equality is still a long way off:

- Only 49% women are part of the labour force
- Globally, only about 15% of farmland is owned by women
- 92% of women workers in developing countries work in the informal sector





## SOLIDARITY AS A WEAPON

Being a women human rights defender (WHRD) is a dangerous occupation. That's the conclusion of our new report, 'Solidarity Is Our Only Weapon', in which we asked 334 activists from 74 countries about their working conditions and how secure they felt as activists. Their responses speak for themselves:

- 61% had received threats or suffered harassment
- 1 in 5 had gotten death threats
- 6% had survived actual attempts on their lives
- 32% had experienced smear campaigns or false accusations
- Speaking out against corruption generated more of a backlash than any other cause

Worryingly, we learnt that most of the hatred stemmed from traditional leaders or religious actors, with the second most common perpetrators being governments and authorities. The latter also appear to have used the pandemic as an excuse to enforce control: 46% of WHRDs said they now face stricter regulations than before covid-19.

While this report is further proof of worrying trends, we have no intention of backing down. Because many respondents said that support from fellow activists and allies was one of the few things that gave them the strength to carry on—hence the title of our report.



Dozens of allies showed up to the report's launch in Stockholm, including Iraqi WHRD Intisar Al-Amyal (centre) and Swedish actress Bianca Kronlöf (right), portrayed next to Kvinna till Kvinna's Secretary-General Petra Tötterman Andorff (left).



**Rosa Emilia Salamanca González,**  
WHRD from Colombia

**Threats against women human rights defenders will always also be directed at their families.**

## STATE OF SRHR

Many of our partner organisations work with sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)—provision of and access to which is a huge problem in many regions. Which is why we decided to analyse the state of SRHR in conflict-affected countries around the world.

For practical reasons, we were unable to perform research in the field. But a team of consultants reviewed the current literature on SRHR and spoke to colleagues and partners in our programme countries. Their findings are interesting, to say the least:

- There tends to be less focus on sexual rights than sexual health in conflict, although neither are a top priority in (post-)conflict settings.
- Gender tends to be militarised during conflict: women are viewed as childbearing 'mothers of future soldiers'. This impacts SRHR: anti-abortion and anti-contraception policies become more popular and sex-selective abortion risks increasing. Women not involved in childbearing (younger, older or single women) are discriminated against in terms of SRHR information and services.
- Research and funding over the past decade have focused on conflict-related sexual violence, including rape as a weapon of war. Other issues that women face—like poverty or domestic violence—have received less attention as a result.
- Finally, the review found that talk about the technical, medical aspects of SRHR leaves little room to discuss intimacy, sex for pleasure and exploration of one's sexuality.



## TRUST-BASED FUNDING

In spring, our Beirut office launched a new report: 'Supporting Feminist Organising – Experiences and Learnings from the Middle East and North Africa'. It documented new ways of organising—as wars, migration, shrinking space, citizenship constraints and financial obstacles in the region are forcing activists to work across borders, for example, or set up informal networks rather than registered organisations.

Despite their size and unconventional structures, however, many emerging groups still value close partnerships with donors who can coach them towards organisational sustainability. The report provides recommendations on how to meet that need. The answer? Trust-based funding. There is no one-size-fits-all: donors should provide flexible, case-by-case funding. This may be more difficult than transferring a lump sum to a formal bank account once a year. But it would make a world of difference to feminist organising in the MENA region.

The report was introduced in different countries and accompanied by a series of podcasts, with different voices discussing topics related to the report.



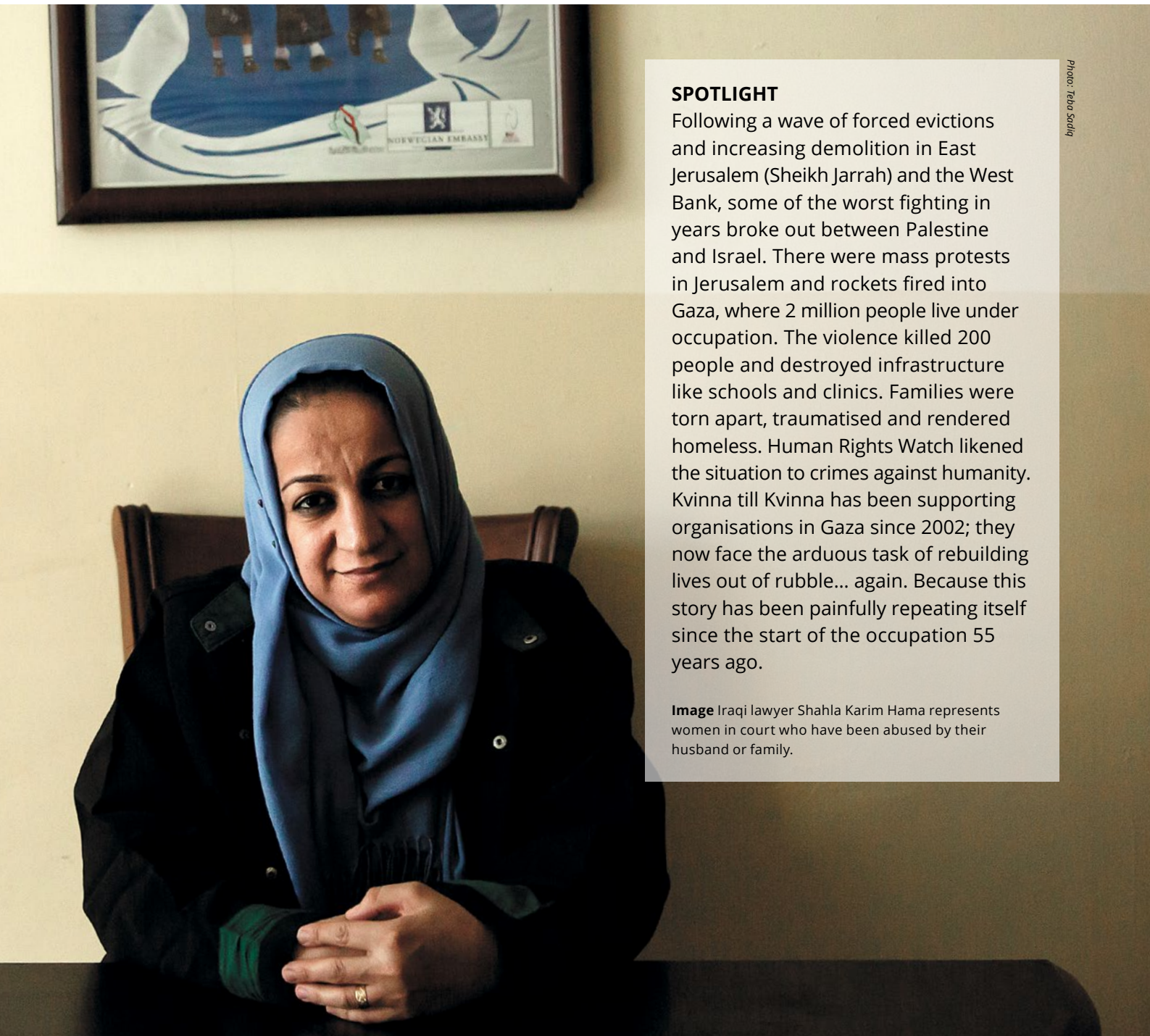


Photo: Teha Sadig

## SPOTLIGHT

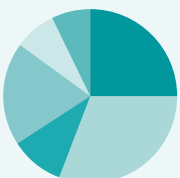
Following a wave of forced evictions and increasing demolition in East Jerusalem (Sheikh Jarrah) and the West Bank, some of the worst fighting in years broke out between Palestine and Israel. There were mass protests in Jerusalem and rockets fired into Gaza, where 2 million people live under occupation. The violence killed 200 people and destroyed infrastructure like schools and clinics. Families were torn apart, traumatised and rendered homeless. Human Rights Watch likened the situation to crimes against humanity. Kvinna till Kvinna has been supporting organisations in Gaza since 2002; they now face the arduous task of rebuilding lives out of rubble... again. Because this story has been painfully repeating itself since the start of the occupation 55 years ago.

**Image** Iraqi lawyer Shahla Karim Hama represents women in court who have been abused by their husband or family.

## OUR WORK IN BRIEF

### Our partners focus on:

- Gender-based violence: 25%
- Participation in society: 31%
- Peacebuilding: 10%
- Economic empowerment: 19%
- Human security: 8%
- Other, including SRHR: 7%



### EGYPT

We have been working in the country since 2014.

### IRAQ

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

**Partner organisations:** Hawa Organisation for Relief and Development, Iraqi Organization for Women and Future, Iraqi Women's League, Pena Center, Rozghar, Ardh Iraq for Relief and Development, Human Line, Jud Humanitarian Organisation for Development and Construction, Lahunna, Rajaa.

### ISRAEL

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

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

### JORDAN

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

### Partner organisations:

Ahel, Arab Women Organization, Jordanian Women's Union, JoWomenomics, Sadaqa, Takatoat.



## OUR STAFF ON 2021

2021 had its ups and downs.

Things were challenging because we live in Lebanon. The country is collapsing economically and there were electricity, internet and fuel cuts. Oh, and the banks stole our money. In October, there were clashes in Beirut right next to our office. Luckily, we were all working from home!

Kvinna till Kvinna is an understanding work environment: we not only get to work from home but also get a lot of support from each other. This kept us motivated to support our partners—many of them operate in places that lack stability and are witnessing backlash and shrinking space.

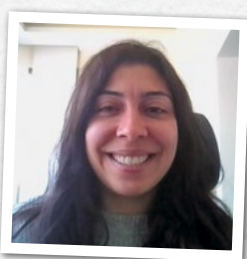
Despite these obstacles, we achieved successful results in the volatile and complex Syria context.

We implemented eight online workshops, trainings, exchange events and webinars for our partners in Syria to strengthen their organisational structures and build their capacity. We produced a nice story about our partner SFJN and their feminist approach to women's economic empowerment. It was also exciting to take part in the development of our new global strategy and a learning workshop on feminist peace, and to join the newly developed feminist monitoring practice group.

Personally, it was a rewarding year for us—we both had surgery to correct our eyesight and can see more clearly now!

The end of 2021 was a bit challenging for us. We had to apply for the upcoming two years of the programme while there were a lot of changes in staff that we work closely with. Still: we made it and had fun learning together, with the support of our colleagues. 2022—bring it on.

Elissa Shamma and Yasmine Masri  
Programme Officers—Beirut, Lebanon



## GOALS

### Long-term goal

A diverse feminist movement and diverse women's rights actors, which collectively fight for equal rights, justice and feminist peace.

### Short-term goals

- Support diverse women's rights actors and facilitate mutual learning
- Reduce discrimination, threats and violence against women (including activists)
- Increase access to justice for women
- Promote a feminist economy, including by addressing legal obstacles
- Amplify women's voices and strengthen their leadership in governance, peacebuilding and climate justice

## LEGAL SUCCESS IN EGYPT

Our Egyptian partner organisation GELEH did a stellar job this year facilitating Egyptian women's access to justice through its website, social media, hotline and TV programme. Its lawyers provided a whopping 21,564 consultations, the vast majority of which to women.

GELEH's Mo7amek website answers up to 2,500 questions from visitors every month, mainly on legal issues but also on social or economic dilemmas. This year, the team expanded the site's FAQ section with 60 additional legal tips. A new TV show was launched as well: the 10 episodes broadcast so far received plenty of positive feedback from the audience (74% of whom are women), with viewers even suggesting specific topics they'd like to see on the show.

On top of that, GELEH found the time to produce 33 videos for social media and send out 12 newsletters, to help a broader audience understand key legislative changes in the country—like proposed amendments to Egypt's personal status law, which would be a real setback for women's rights. As a result of GELEH's awareness-raising, civil society spoke up en masse against the amendments, which are now suspended—a victory for women!



### LEBANON

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

#### Partner organisations:

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

### PALESTINE

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

#### Partner organisations:

AISHA Association Woman and Child Protection, Al Qaws, Palestinian Working Women's Society for Development (PWWSD), Women's Affairs Center (WAC) Gaza.

### SYRIA

We have been working in the country since 2009.

#### Partner organisations:

Badael, Dawlaty, Kesh Malek, Mobaderoon,

Syrian Female Journalist Network, Women Now for Development.

### TUNISIA

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

Partner organisations: Association femme et citoyenneté, Association Tunisienne des Femmes Démocrates, Asswat Nissa, Jousour de citoyenneté.

Across the region, we work with the WHRD-MENA coalition, CATWAR, Ahel, CRTDA and others. The FemPawer consortium has assessed and selected 36 partners in Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Tunisia.

Photo: WND

## MENTAL HEALTH IN A WARZONE



In the active war zone that is north-western Syria, Women Now for Development (WND) offers safe spaces to women and girls, to help them with mental health issues like grief, fear, insomnia, abuse, isolation and anxiety.

In 2021, WND offered weekly psychosocial support sessions to 47 women and girls, both in small groups (led by social workers) and as online, one-on-one consultations. Participants engaged in practical exercises and were encouraged to open up, connect and become part of each other's support network. WND also organised self-care and awareness sessions for 143 women and girls, introducing them to helpful prevention and coping skills. In 24 cases, WND felt further support was needed: these women and girls were referred to other, more specialised service providers, with WND making sure to follow-up on their wellbeing.

*"Life used to feel completely hopeless. But then I started attending activities at the centre. I got to know myself better and discovered my own strengths. The 'Planning for Your Future' sessions taught me how to set goals, which I'm now working towards using the steps I developed during the sessions."* Iman, 18

Photo: Rethma Ismail



### FROM REPORT TO REALITY

In November, our Iraq team turned the recommendations from our 'Supporting Feminist Organising' report into action. It invited young WHRDs, grassroots organisations and volunteer groups to a roundtable discussion to brainstorm innovative ways of attracting funding and support.

The initiative matches recent mobilisation trends in Iraq: many young feminists have started organising by registering with the Ministry of Youth and Sports as 'volunteer teams'—a setup that gives them greater freedom and flexibility than official non-governmental organisations have.

The discussions were well-received—not least because they increased solidarity: participants enthusiastically networked and swapped ideas. Flexibility is the future indeed!

### SELMA T3ICH

Women agricultural workers in Tunisia face plenty of hardship. They perform intensive labour, but their precarious jobs grant little to no social security. And when taking public transport to or from work, women risk both sexual abuse and serious accidents, as roads in the Tunisian countryside are often in appalling condition.

Which is why our local partner Aswat Nissa launched the 'Selma T3ich' campaign to lobby for rural women workers' rights. The initiative gained a lot of traction on social media this year. Aswat Nissa attended regional consultations in different governorates and even met the Minister for Transport to discuss the matter. Fingers crossed this will lead to the effective implementation of Tunisia's transportation law and the adoption of a humane social security system for women agricultural workers!



### WEBINARS ON WEE

Between October and December, our Tunis office arranged six webinars on feminist economic concepts, all livestreamed on YouTube. They centred on issues like the harmful impact of neoliberalism on feminism; the influence international financial institutions have on the MENA region's fiscal policy; and how women's rights organisations can engage with these institutions. This gave rise to plenty of questions. Are there ways for the global economy to acknowledge the unpaid care work that women do? How can tax systems become more gender-responsive? What advocacy tactics work best to make that happen? And how can women's organisations serve as economic watchdogs? We look forward to continuing these discussions—because the webinars gave us food for thought, to say the least.

### EMERGENCY SUB-GRANT

About 15 years ago, our Lebanese partner CRTDA set up Namlieh: a showroom, catering and food service provider and sales space for 36 rural women cooperatives from across the country. More than 500 women soon made a living by sending traditional and healthy products they had made themselves—like jams and pickles—to Namlieh, where they were then sold. Namlieh became financially sustainable fairly quickly. But then covid-19 hit Lebanon (which was already suffering economically) and delivered a hard blow to the initiative. Thanks to a Kvinna till Kvinna sub-grant by CRTDA, however, Namlieh managed to stay afloat and survive. Here's to another decade of women's economic empowerment!





Photo: Women Affairs Center



In the autumn, Women Affairs Center shared what it had learnt from the project during a workshop with 50 representatives from MENA women's rights organisations, in a bid to inspire their peers to take action too.

## STEPPING UP FOR THE CLIMATE

Climate change is one of the most pressing problems of our day. In Gaza, our partner Women Affairs Center (WAC) bravely decided to do something about it, despite not having any experience of climate activism. They did a fantastically thorough job.

WAC started by hiring a climate specialist and liaising with climate NGOs, academic experts and students from relevant fields. With these students, WAC held no fewer than 70 workshops for Palestinian farmers, to identify best practices for sustainable agriculture, urban farming and climate change adaptation and resilience. These discussions were summarised in ten articles and a documentary, with practical tips on everything from organic fertilisers to water conservation techniques. WAC also identified five promising home-based agricultural business led by women and offered these businesses grants and technical support.

## WOMEN IN WASH

In late 2020, we organised a workshop (with the support of the Stockholm International Water Institute) for our Palestinian partners to explore ways of strengthening the role of women in the country's water, sanitation & hygiene (WASH) sector.



Today, only 4.5% of people working with WASH in Palestine are women... Our discussions led to a concrete result: the establishment of a network of Palestinian women water practitioners!

The new network is hosted by our partner organisation, the Palestinian Hydrology Group, and unites women farmers, engineers, public servants, utility workers and students. It will be working to make the water sector more inclusive by lobbying to give women a greater say in it, promoting career opportunities for women, making policy recommendations and researching topics like water & conflict. We can't wait to see the tidal wave of change to come!



**Technology is the future, they say.  
We'd like to rephrase that: women  
in technology are the future!**

### FEMALE TECHIES

In Egypt, we proudly support Motoon, a unique organisation that connects and empowers women in the male-dominated tech sector. Motoon's vibrant community of female 'techies' almost doubled in size this year: it now counts 80 tech speakers, mentors and trainers. This community held six women-to-women tech workshops for journalists and women's rights activists in 2021, teaching them all about filmmaking, video-editing, social media and branding.

The organisation's online 'Temple of Tech' mentorship programme also allowed 35 young women to gain new skills this year in fields like web development, system administration, machine learning and typography design. To top it all off, Motoon provided digital security support to women facing online abuse (including women human rights defenders), since one of the organisation's goals is to make cyberspace safe and inclusive for everyone.

### A stifling development

A new report we published this year look at shrinking space in Jordan. Interviews with local activists painted a worrying picture: more than 90% said civic space is indeed shrinking, with 95.5% blaming the government. As a result, many said that defending women's rights in Jordan can be a risky endeavour.

One in two respondents said donors contribute to the shrinking of civic space: their agendas don't always respond to the country's actual needs, they fund established organisations and ignore emerging ones, and shy away from questioning the government.

The good news is that this can be changed. Our report contains recommendations for donors to play a more positive role—for example by investing in grassroots actors, offering flexible funding and promoting solidarity among women's activists by listening to them and creating networking opportunities.



Photo: Majid Hady

### A LONG-TERM JOURNEY

Several years ago, we began working with IWL and Hawa in Iraq. They developed impressive organisational capacities, becoming a strong advocacy actor with a broad network and solid strategy. Today, they lead two powerful WHRD networks.

In 2021, TEM (led by Hawa) collaborated closely with the government to produce a Voluntary National Review for the UN on Iraq's efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The Haqi network (led by IWL) submitted a report to the OHCHR with feedback on the government's implementation of CEDAW recommendations.

That the two networks got to provide input at such a high level is testament to their reputation as experts—and wonderful proof of IWL and Hawa's growth over the years!



## SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

### SPOTLIGHT

Sub-Saharan Africa has emerged from the pandemic relatively unscathed compared with the rest of the world—at least in terms of the official number of people who fell ill with covid-19. But that number doesn't tell the full story. Many schools have been shut for almost two years, meaning children have lost out on months of education. As the pandemic has pushed more households into poverty, daughters have had to take on jobs to support the family. Others have been married off so there would be one less mouth to feed (with underage pregnancies as the result). Few of these girls will ever take up their studies again. And as the focus has been on covid-19, other lifesaving vaccines have not been delivered and maternal health care has been deprioritised. Indirect effects like this are harder to measure. But that doesn't make them any less deadly.

**Image** Olive and Gisele of our partner Rwanda Women's Network volunteer to encourage and support other young Rwandan women.



**In the south-east of Liberia**, a region of dusty-red roads and lush forests, our partner organisation WE4SELF has been supporting women's income-generating activities for years. More than 1,560 women cooperate through community Village Savings and Loans (VSLA) associations, making a living together by producing soaps and oil, breeding snails and farming.

In recent months, their economic cooperation has really been paying off. Five of the associations have improved their business practices: they've started using online payment systems and now maintain digital sales records. And they are putting their savings to excellent use: they've purchased land on the outskirts of Monrovia for an office and a centre to sell their wares and are using their savings to improve maternal health and follow up on cases of gender-based violence!

**Image** Members of WE4SELF proudly show off the three acres of land they purchased with their savings just outside the capital city.





## OUR STAFF ON 2021

When I was growing up, I wanted to be a driver. I saw one woman who use to drive her car to work and admired her so much. I told my friend that I wanted to be a driver, he said being a driver in Liberia is not for women because the roads are bad. I decided to not listen to him and went ahead and enrolled at a driving school. I was the only female enrolled.

I would plead with my supervisor to put me on the roster for an out-of-town trip, because I wanted to have the experience of driving on bad roads. [Roads in rural Liberia tend to be in such poor condition that some are even completely washed away during the rainy season!] He resisted, but I still push forward. Finally, he allowed me one day. I drove from Monrovia to northern part of Liberia and impressed all of them in the vehicle. As I was driving, I heard them say 'Korto, you're a woman, we never knew you could drive like this!' I kept smiling and told myself 'Yes, I longed for this day to come so I must make good use of it.'

Now, my friends and family member are so proud of me, including some of them who discouraged me from the beginning. I have become role model to young women and I feel so good when I go to the rural community especially. When the little girls come around and ask 'Aunty, that you bring this big car?', all I do is smile and say 'You can do it too when you grow up'.

I'm so happy that I'm driving for an international NGO that supports women's rights: I feel that I am giving back to the society and especially the women of Liberia. Kvinna till Kvinna didn't take a male driver over me because of bad-road excuses that most of the institution used. Now, everyone respect me and see me as equal.

**Korto Kesselley,**  
Driver—Monrovia, Liberia



Korto joined our staff this year as our first-ever female driver in Liberia—a deliberate recruitment.

Because it is rare for Liberian women to work as chauffeurs, we wanted to walk the talk and show we believe women can have whatever job they want!



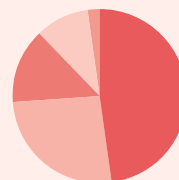
**Nowaii Keiser,**  
Executive Director of Rural  
Women Rights Structure

**Empowering women is not a waste but a strength, a pathway out. Because when you are empowered economically, you are respected in society and [contribute to] development. It allows you to take care of your family and country.**

### OUR WORK IN BRIEF

#### Our partners focus on:

- Gender-based violence: 48%
- Participation in society: 26%
- Peacebuilding: 14%
- Economic empowerment: 10%
- Other, mainly SRHR: 2%



#### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

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

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

#### LIBERIA

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

**Partner organisations:** *Community Healthcare Initiative (CHI), Lesbian & Gay Association of Liberia (LEGAL), Liberia Female Law Enforcement Association (LIFLEA), Liberian Women Empowerment Network (LIWEN), Rural Women Right Structure (RWRS), Southeastern Women Development Association (SEWODA), West Point Women for Health and Development Organization (WPWHDO), Women for Self-Employment (WE4SELF), Women NGOs Secretariat of Liberia, Women Rights Watch (WORIWA).*

#### RWANDA

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

**Partner organisations:** *Association of Kigali Women in Sport (AKWOS), Duhozanye, Empower Rwanda, Family Circle Love Lab, Haguruka, Paper Crown Rwanda, Réseau des Femmes, Rwanda Women's Network (RWN), Save Generation Organisation (SGO), SEVOTA, UNABU.*

### GOALS

#### Long-term goal

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

#### Short-term goals

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



### TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Environment and climate change is an important topic for Kvinna till Kvinna—including in sub-Saharan Africa. This year, our Rwanda office assessed both its own knowledge of the issue as well as the Rwandan women's movement's participation in the country's climate efforts. The goal being to increase women's representation in combating climate change.

Eleven local women's rights organisations participated in the assessment, gauging their own capacity to integrate climate concerns into their programmes and internal operations. This resulted in an admirable list of plans: from creating green offices and conducting a feminist analysis of the government's climate policies, to developing internal climate guidelines and ways of measuring programmes' environmental impact. We look forward to seeing these steps implemented in the coming months!

Photo: Julien/SEPPAF



### WOMEN CARPENTERS

Certain jobs in the DRC—like being a car mechanic or a carpenter—are traditionally seen as being 'for men only'. A norm our partner organisation SEPPAF has turned upside-down entirely. This year, SEPPAF trained ten young women to become fully-qualified carpenters. Five of them have already found work and earn enough money to provide for their family. A project that both empowers individuals and changes society's view on what a woman can or cannot do!

## LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX

Although there is a comprehensive sexual education curriculum in Rwanda, the quality of sex ed can vary. Modules that teachers are uncomfortable with may be skipped; the same applies to taboo topics like abortion—even though girls have the right to learn in which circumstances abortions are allowed. Many children from less affluent families can't afford to regularly attend school either, which means they lose out on sexual education.

Four of our partner organisations—Rwanda Women's Network, Save Generations Organisation, Réseau des Femmes and Haguruka—collaborated to address this. They first reviewed existing teaching materials (the state curriculum and materials developed by civil society) and then created a new, user-friendly handbook that covers nine different topics in detail. To make sure both schoolteachers and out-of-school facilitators would be able to use the new handbook, they also wrote a guide on how to conduct sex-ed sessions with students.

The resulting handbook has been a real success: it was officially approved by the Rwanda Biomedical Board and is now used not just by our partner organisations, but also by other NGOs and schools across the country, who preferred the new material to the existing curriculum!



**Nathalie Ndimubanzi,**  
Zaida Catalán scholarship recipient



**To all the women [reading this]:  
remember that our rights are not  
a favour given to us. We deserve  
them as human beings, as women.**

### ZAIDA CATALAN SCHOLAR

Our DRC office hosted one of the first three recipients of the new Zaida Catalán scholarship, which was established by Sweden's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Folke Bernadotte Academy in memory of Swedish citizen Zaida Catalán, who was murdered in the DRC in 2017 while working for the UN. The scholarship is granted to young peacebuilders at the start of their career who are dedicated to gender equality and women, peace and security (WPS). For a whole year, scholars get to join an NGO in either the DRC, Palestine or Afghanistan—places where Catalán herself worked as a peacebuilder and gender expert.

This year, we were proud to be selected to host one of the first scholars. Nathalie Ndimubanzi worked with our partners, monitored WPS issues and supported our communication and programming activities. We couldn't have asked for a more passionate and hard-working colleague—so thank you, Nathalie! We look forward to welcoming your successor in 2022.



Photo: MIRADI



**A 10% INCREASE IN POWER**

In July, the DRC adopted a new law regulating the composition and functioning of the country's National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI). Congolese civil society had been lobbying hard ahead of the law's adoption to ensure it would make elections more inclusive and democratic. Article 10 of the new law, for example, reserves five CENI seats for civil society (ten are reserved for political parties).

As soon as the law was passed, our DRC partner Rien Sans Les Femmes proposed names of women who would be perfect for those five civil society seats. It met with MPs and called for more women to be elected to the CENI. Whether they were successful? We'll let the numbers speak for themselves. Previously, 23% of CENI seats were held by women. Today, just months after the new law, that number is... 33%. Enough said.

Photo: Hagarika

**BUILDING A MOVEMENT**

By law, 30% of seats in Rwanda's decision-making bodies are reserved for women. Sometimes, numbers far exceed that quota: 64% of Rwandan parliamentarians in recent years have been women. At the decentralised levels, however, norms around women's roles in society make for a very different situation: women rarely constitute more than a third of local elected officials. Which is why we supported four partner organisations as they coached women who were participating in their programmes ahead of nationwide local elections in October.

And what a result they achieved! 124 of the 139 women who were mentored—or 89%—were elected. Today, they are in positions ranging from village leaders to district councillors: addressing important issues like gender-based violence and unpaid care work and making the distribution of services and resources more equal. This amplifies women's voices across communities. And that is perhaps the most important result of all: the long-term investment in a grassroots movement of women leaders, who in turn inspire future generations of leaders.

**DEFENDERS' RIGHTS**

**Just like in many other places around the world, women human rights defenders face regular harassment, threats and discrimination in Liberia.**

The same applies to members of the LGBTQI+ community—in fact, there are no laws or policies to protect Liberian LGBTQI+ rights defenders. That is why our partner organisations LIWEN and Community Healthy Initiative ran an awareness-raising project in Grand Bassa and Montserrado.

They invited community and religious leaders to discuss the rights of women's activists and the LGBTQI+ community and talk about the obstacles these groups face. At first, participants were sceptical. Towards the end of the project, however, they found it easier to talk about the topic and displayed increased tolerance. A fact that was confirmed during follow-up with the LGBTQI+ community itself, which said the awareness-raising project had led to increased acceptance!

**Did you know that SEK 3,242 can offer 30 women farmers in Rwanda a full-day training on business strategies and agricultural management? Your donation makes a difference!**

**MAINSTREAMING GENDER**

In Liberia, we run an EU SEAL gender mainstreaming project in partnership with Mercy Corps. Together, we discussed gender with 11 civil society organisations, most of whom specialise in issues other than women's rights. We brought in a consultant who helped them conduct an internal gender assessment and who recommended gender-friendly policy revisions, for example to promote parental leave and gender-balanced recruitment or to prevent workplace sexual harassment. Once policies had been revised, we mentored the organisations as they implemented the changes. Capacity-development like this may not be 'sexy', but it is a sure-fire way to change working cultures for the better.





## SPOTLIGHT

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is currently facing its biggest political crisis since the end of the war in 1995. Republika Srpska—one of the two entities that make up the country—has called into question the legitimacy of state institutions. Around the end of the year, it intensified its efforts to withdraw from them, even hinting it would create its own army. This development threatens the stability of the entire country and, by extension, the wider region. At the same time, democracy has been backsliding in Serbia and an anti-gender movement has become more vocal in the region, especially in North Macedonia and Serbia. For Kvinna till Kvinna—whose journey started in the Balkans—this is yet another reminder that lasting peace can only be achieved through sustainable and inclusive peacebuilding.

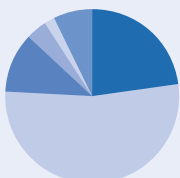
**Image** In February, hundreds of North Macedonian activists took to the streets to protest against online sexual harassment

Photo: Jasna Susna

## OUR WORK IN BRIEF

### Our partners focus on:

- Gender-based violence: 23%
- Participation in society: 53%
- Peacebuilding: 11%
- Economic empowerment: 4%
- Human security: 2%
- Other: 7%



### BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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

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

### MONTENEGRO

We have been working in the country since 1999.

**Partner organisation:** The Women's Rights Center.

### KOSOVO

We have been working in the country since 1994.

**Partner organisations:** Artpolis, Kosova Women's Network (KWN), Mitrovica Women's Association for Human Rights (MWAHR), The Kosovo Gender Studies Center, Women's Association Medica Kosova.

### ALBANIA

We have been working in the country since 1999.

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



## OUR STAFF ON 2021



During the first half of the year, my two children (age 7 and 12) were at home with me, attending online classes while I tried to work. This took my multitasking skills to a whole new level: I developed 'juggling' skills I was not even aware I had!

Here is what an ordinary day looked like...

I first take on the role of a mother who needs to wake up her children and prepare them for school. Then I become a chef, making breakfast while checking e-mails and communicating with colleagues as an employee.

I switch back to the role of a home teacher, explaining things to a first-grader because he can't understand his actual teacher through the screen. My dyslexic sixth-grader doesn't understand anything of her online classes and has anxiety and panic attacks before classes during which she might be asked a question. I switch between my roles of teacher and mother, trying to teach her while at the same time comforting her that everything will be fine in the end.

Chef-me discovers it's almost lunchtime! I try to prepare snacks while employee-me is on some meeting or training. E-mails await replies, tasks need to be done, colleagues are waiting for answers to be able to continue their work.

My two-bedroom apartment is both a school and an office: classes take place in the kitchen and the children's room, while my mobile office (a laptop, charger, headphones and a bag with some notebooks) moves from the kitchen to the balcony to the bedroom to the living room. Wherever there is quiet space to finish my tasks or attend a meeting without any interruptions.

Connection problems are common with three devices using Teams at the same time. This is especially traumatic for the sixth-grader, because connection issues mean she's unable to answer all the questions of her online test, resulting in a lower score. Living like this for a year and half affects your mental health and would lead anyone to burnout...

I'm very grateful to my colleagues for their understanding—not just when my youngest child jumps in on a meeting just to say hi or to ask a Very Important Question (thank you to whoever invented the mute button!), but also when I need to postpone a deadline.

All year, we reminded each other of how important our work is and how thankful we are for our achievements during the pandemic. My colleagues' appreciation motivated me to do my best—and to survive 2021.

**Dijana Stojanovic Djordjevic**  
Programme Officer—Skopje, North Macedonia

## GOALS

### Long-term goal

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

### Short-term goals

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

## FEMDEFENDERS DAY PANEL



Photo: Maja Janvska Ilieva

**On Femdefenders Day**, we organised a panel discussion in North Macedonia. In front of an (inter)national audience, five women human rights defenders discussed 'a typical day in the life of an activist'. They spoke about the amount of resistance they encounter. How single events can derail—or boost—their work. How to cooperate with activists from other sides of the political spectrum. And what keeps them going, both in their private lives and at work. As Femdefenders Day was 'covid-cancelled' last year, this year's event was a breath of fresh air!

### NORTH MACEDONIA

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

**Partner organisations:** Association for Advancement of Gender Equality Akcija Združenska, Coalition Sexual and Health Rights of Marginalised Communities Margins, ECHO Educational Humanitarian Organization, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of Macedonia, Tiiiit! Inc., PeachPreach, Organization of women of municipality of Sveti Nikole, HERA Health Education and Research Association, Reactor – Research in Action, National network to end violence against women and domestic violence, Non-governmental organization KhAM, Association Women's Forum Tetovo, Association for Protection of Worker's Rights "Glasen Tekstilec", Association ESE.

### SERBIA

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

**Partner organisations:** Alternative Girls' Center, ASTRA – Anti-Trafficking Action, Autonomous Women's Center, Centre for Women's Studies, Roma Center for Women and Children DAJE, Reconstruction Women's Fund (RWF), The Association of Women Pescanik (Sandglass), Women in Black

Photo: Helsinki Citizens' Assembly

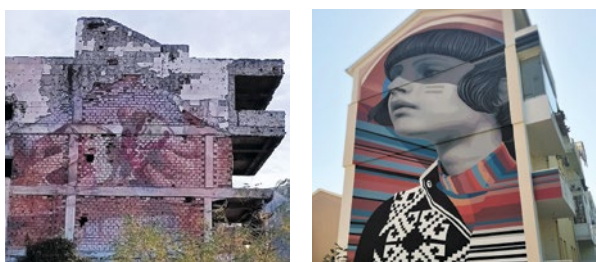


## WHERE THE STREETS HAVE A NAME

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (BiH), some of our partner organisations are part of the 'Peace With Women's Face' initiative, which aims to make the memorialisation of the '92-95 war more gender equal: men who experienced the war are often glorified, while women are either forgotten or seen as victims.

One of the initiative's most visible activities is the campaign '100 women, 100 streets named after women'. Many BiH streets, squares and buildings are named after male veterans (even convicted war criminals), but few bear the name of female heroes... Which is why the initiative urged five cities to name at least one street each after a woman. In Sarajevo, for example, they are lobbying to rename a square after Aida Buturović, a librarian murdered during the war while trying to save books.

Photo: Razon from Mostar



## STREET ART FOR PEACE

Mostar is one of Bosnia and Herzegovina's main cities, but has remained a divided place since the war in the 90s. In 2020, we connected with feminist activists who run a street art festival in Mostar. Their goal is to strengthen dialogue and tolerance in the community in a creative way that appeals to all citizens, regardless of any divides that may separate them. They create murals to revitalise abandoned spaces and ruins, giving Mostar a more intercultural post-war look.

Did you know that SEK 300 lets a WHRD who faces hate speech on social media to talk with a psychologist in North Macedonia? Your donation makes a difference!



Maja Raičević,

Founder of the Women's Rights Centre, Montenegro

## The Istanbul Convention allowed us to call violence by its real name and start resolving the problem.

### MEETING EU MEMBER STATES

This autumn, we once again organised our annual EU advocacy week for our Western Balkan partner organisations. Our partners got to talk to Members of the European Parliament, EEAS representatives and the European Commission's DG of Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations in Brussels (albeit via Zoom, given the pandemic) to discuss ways of prioritising gender issues in the EU accession processes.

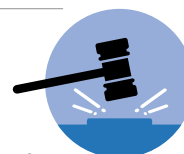
A particular success this year was that we managed to set up a meeting with different EU-enlargement working groups, during which our partners got to present the most pressing challenges for women's rights in the region for no fewer than 18 EU member states! We also co-organised an event to mark the 10th anniversary of the Istanbul Convention.

### "STOP WHAT YOU'RE DOING"

Our partner organisation Mitrovica Women's Association for Human Rights expanded its local-level peacebuilding work in the northern parts of Mitrovica—a divided community in the north of Kosovo. The organisation brings women politicians and youths from the Serbian and Albanian communities together, both in the city and in its surroundings, to increase mutual understanding.

The organisation's staff were regularly harassed as they shuttled between the two communities, because peace is a sensitive issue in Kosovo. Even the police reacted, telling them to stop doing what they were doing... Luckily, Mitrovica Women's Association is not the kind of organisation to back down just because someone tells them to do so!

## VICTORY FOR TRAFFICKING VICTIM



For the past five and a half years, ASTRA—one of our partner organisations in Serbia—has been representing and assisting a victim of human trafficking in court. Last March, Serbia's Constitutional Court finally ruled in favour of the victim! The Court said the victim's constitutional right to not be trafficked had been violated, which sends the important message that human trafficking is not just any crime, it is a violation of Serbia's constitution.

On top of that, the court found that Serbia's legal system had failed to adequately protect the victim (who was a minor at the time) and even added to her trauma by not adjusting its proceedings to take into account everything she had been through. It promptly awarded the victim EUR 5,800 in compensation. For ASTRA, the main win is that the verdict will hopefully improve the way trafficking victims are treated in the future.





## HIGH-LEVEL GBV CONFERENCE

**In June, we organised an online conference on access to justice for victims/survivors of gender-based violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).**

Our Bosnian partner organisations Center of Women's Rights, United Women, Trial and Lara shared their experiences and suggested ways of strengthening institutions' response to violence against women. The event was attended by representatives from the judiciary and law enforcement, social services and training centres for judges and prosecutors. Many attendees highlighted how our partners have directly contributed to changes in policies or practices over the years.

### Conference highlight

Dunja Mijatovic, commissioner for human rights at the Council of Europe, addressed the conference and highlighted the importance of the type of monitoring that our partners and other women's rights organisations do. She announced that GREVIO—the independent group of experts that monitors implementation of the Istanbul Convention for the Council—will use a publication written by our partners (after having monitored countless cases of gender-based violence in BiH) as one of its baseline reports.

## CHARTING THE EU'S COURSE

The European Union's Gender Action Plan (GAP III) details how the EU aims to support gender equality in its member countries. As the previous GAP only covered the period up until 2020, a new GAP was recently adopted for 2021–2025. Never one to take promises at face value, Kvinna till Kvinna published an analysis of the new GAP in March. Here are some of our main recommendations:

- The EU should forge strategic partnerships with women's rights organisations and help ensure they play an active role in developing member states' GAP Implementation Plans
- The EU should prioritise funding for women's rights organisations, including grassroots actors
- Civil society should not be forgotten during GAP monitoring and evaluation



## ALLIES ON TWITTER

On November 25th, during the annual 16 Days of Activism campaign, the head of the EU delegation in Montenegro spoke out about violence against women on her Twitter account. She specifically mentioned our local partner organisation, Women's Rights Centre, and the work its founder Maja Raicevic and her colleagues are doing to stop gender-based violence.

This shout-out to the Women's Rights Centre (which included a video interview with Maja Raicevic) came at a good time: our partner had been dealing with several tough cases of femicide, which resulted in a storm of harassment and attacks against the organisation...

So: thank you @EUAmbME for being an ally when our partner most needed it!



Photo: Women in Black



## WORRYING TREND

There has been a clear backslide in Serbia in terms of democracy, civic space and human rights. This year, attacks on women human rights defenders and female journalists intensified, something our partner organisation Women in Black experienced first-hand: twice in a short period of time, the team found the door to its office covered in hate graffiti. We support increased security measures for partners and will continue to monitor and bring up the situation with the EU Delegation and EU member states.

## THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

### SPOTLIGHT

Shrinking civic space is one of the most worrying trends the South Caucasus is experiencing today. In an atmosphere of overt militarisation (which only intensified in the aftermath of the second Nagorny-Karabakh war), politicians spew nationalist rhetoric and pass increasingly restrictive laws. Religious leaders give voice to conservatism and misogyny. This affects women living in the region and silences local civil society. And yet, as Kvinna till Kvinna's recent report 'Solidarity Is Our Only Weapon' shows, our partners continue to stand up for gender equality, LGBTQI+ rights and women's inclusion. If anything deserves a spotlight, it is the relentless courage of these human rights defenders.

**Image** Hermine and Hamest are both part of our partner organisation Spitak Helsinki Group, which supports victims and survivors of gender-based violence in Armenia.





## OUR STAFF ON 2021

Well, hello there!

Another year gone by in the blink of an eye...

The pandemic and all its implications continued to be a major unfortunate highlight of the year. This didn't help my anxiety levels. I've become a complete hermit, isolating out of fear and concern for my daughter's health: she can't get vaccinated yet because of age restrictions and the unavailability of vaccines.

But I'm extremely thankful for the flexibility my job affords me: people in other sectors have to respond to unreasonable expectations while trying to juggle childcare and domestic work. I feel so privileged.

In that sense, 2021 was rather uneventful. Sadly, I can't say the same when it comes to political developments—shrinking space and the slow but steady shift away from democratisation in the region that we at the office observed and analysed with heavy hearts and minds.

Constant flare-ups and political tension around the anniversary of the second Nagorno-Karabakh war, attacks against the LGBTQI+ community in Tbilisi and human security issues across the region were just some examples. Coupled with the day-to-day work of following up with partners and growing to-do lists, this made for a rather stressful year. Still, it was nothing in comparison to the trauma and suffering that our partners went through.

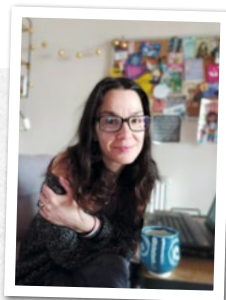
But moments of empowerment kept me going. One event in particular did wonders for my anxiety and isolationism: after a nearly two-year hiatus, we held an in-person workshop with several of our partners around gender-responsive early warning systems.

Being around my brilliant colleagues, inspirational speakers and partners again reminded me of the amazing energy you receive from these exchanges. At first, I was very nervous about joining the event, but it turned out to be a great decision. It opened the door for other interactions, encouraged me to 'come out of my shell' and shed at least some of my covid worries.

I'm infinitely grateful to my manager, my sisters at the office and the incredible feminist collective that is our partner pool for their constant support and understanding, both at my best and my worst :)

Love,

**Ana Nemsitsveridze-Daniels**  
Senior Programme Officer—Tbilisi, Georgia



## GOALS

### Long-term goal

Ensuring women in the South Caucasus enjoy equal opportunities in inclusive, peaceful and cohesive communities that are free from conflict, violence and discrimination.

### Short-term goals

- Support women's and LGBTQI+ movements that advance gender equality
- Strengthen women's participation in and contribution to peace, conflict transformation and resilience
- Continue addressing sexual and gender-based violence
- Recognise the importance of women's economic rights and climate justice

## CONNECTING ACROSS 1,000 MILES

First it was to be an in-person event. Then it had to be cancelled because of covid. Then clashing schedules caused delays. In the end, we did make it happen (albeit digitally): a first-ever, cross-regional exchange between our partner organisations in Syria and the South Caucasus.

For two days in November, 20 participants from Syria, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Abkhazia and Georgia got together to discuss shared struggles and experiences. Day one focused on women's access to peace talks and advocacy in wartime, while day two focused on the logistical challenges of operating and supporting women in conflict zones.

Listening to each other's stories of struggle was not always easy. But that made it all the more inspiring for our partners. Our own main takeaway? That it is crucial to keep connecting and sharing, because we have more in common than we think, regardless of physical distance.



## OUR WORK IN BRIEF

### Our partners focus on:

- Gender-based violence: 31%
- Participation in society: 32%
- Peacebuilding: 7%
- Economic empowerment: 11%
- Human security: 19%



### ARMENIA

We have been working in the country since 2004.

#### Partner organisations:

*Coalition to Stop Violence against Women, Spitak Helsinki Group, Women's Fund Armenia.*

### AZERBAIJAN

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

### GEORGIA AND THE ABKHAZ CONTEXT

We have been working in the country since 2004. We have an office in Tbilisi.

#### Partner organisations:

*Anti-Violence Network of Georgia (AVNG), Cultural-Humanitarian Fund "Sukhumi" (CHFS), Democrat Women's Organization (DWO), Women's Initiatives Supporting Group (WISG).*



Photo: William Edleborg

LGBTQI+ activists in Georgia on the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia in 2018.

## LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

**Changing the gender** marker in someone's passport may seem like a simple enough task: 'M' becomes 'F' or vice versa and voilà. But things have been much harder than that for trans people in Georgia. Their government does not offer them any straightforward procedures to apply for a legal gender change. The resulting mismatch in trans Georgians' actual gender and the gender listed on their passport puts the community at greater risk of unemployment, poverty, abuse and marginalisation.

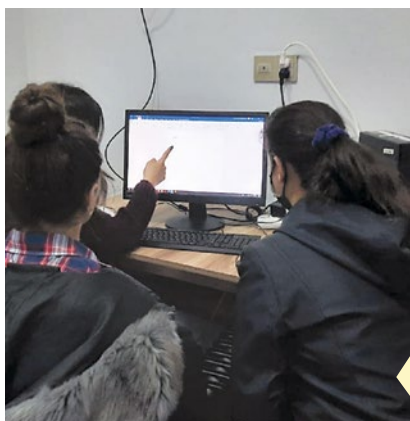
Our partner organisation Women's Initiatives Support Group (WISG) has been addressing this for years. On March 25th, they celebrated a milestone: the Tbilisi Civil Registry Service officially recognised the gender of a trans

woman for the very first time! Unfortunately, however, it only agreed to do so because the applicant was able to prove she had undergone invasive gender reassignment surgery. Demanding such proof violates the European Convention of Human Rights.

Which is why WISG is taking things one step further—all the way to the European Court of Human Rights. Following Georgia's refusal in 2017 to change the gender marker of two trans men who had not undergone surgery, WISG supported the men as they took their case to Strasbourg. The Court's verdict is still out, but March 25th sent a hopeful signal to trans Georgians!

MY BODY,  
MY CHOICE

Photo: Natshe Kermova



### SELF-DEVELOPMENT IN AZERBAIJAN

In Barda, a small town in central Azerbaijan, young women decided to create a safe space for other women to learn new skills, after the city was affected by the second Nagorny-Karabakh war. Since the Barda Women's Club's start, it has reached more than 300 women: teaching them IT and providing career coaching and psychological and legal support. The network has been so popular that the local media even produced a video on it.

Lamiya and her daughter Lala come from a remote, conservative village where women are not allowed to go out on their own. Lamiya travelled to Barda to work on her self-confidence, while her daughter would learn to use a computer. One year later, Lamiya has found a job as a computer operator and Lala enthusiastically volunteers at the local public service hall. Or: how lives can change in the course of just a few months!



## BUILDING LIVES FROM SCRATCH

As the Nagorny-Karabakh context became a hotspot of conflict in 2020, one of the organisations that lost everything was Women's Centre Shushi. It used to empower Nagorny-Karabakh women who had been affected by conflict: arranging educational activities for them, screening films on gender & conflict, providing safe spaces and offering psychological support to survivors of gender-based violence. But the recent conflict tore the organisation apart and forced its members to flee from their homes.

They joined tens of thousands of other people who suddenly found themselves out of a home, out of a job, living in uncertain conditions. Many displaced people were only able to secure menial jobs—sweeping streets or shovelling snow. Meagre government support made it hard to find housing, while locals were not keen on renting out rooms to them, as they blamed the new arrivals for the war.

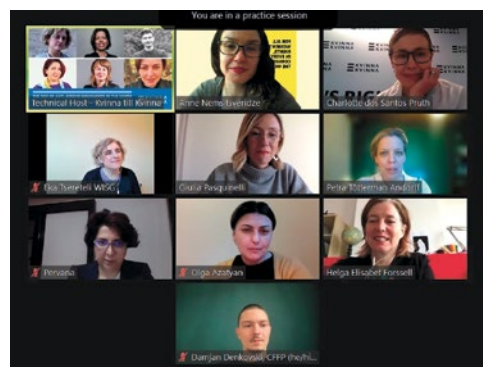
Amid this chaos, the members of the Women's Centre somehow overcame impossible odds. They regrouped, rebuilding not just their organisation but also their own lives and those of others. They began by offering humanitarian support, but now also work to create trust between displaced women and their host communities; support families trying to return to Nagorny-Karabakh; offer trauma consultations and provide a listening ear to displaced women. Along the way, they even managed to attract a new temporary donor to strengthen their organisation, with a tirelessness that feels awe-inspiring.

Photo: Emily Mkrtchyan



**Amid these big political games, human life and security have lost their value.**

Gayane Hambardzumyan, a 51-year-old mother of three and founder of the Women's Centre, has been a peace activist for a decade. Just like her colleagues, she had to leave her entire life behind during the recent war over Nagorny-Karabakh. But Gayane refuses to give up: "I will do everything in my power to make sure future generations don't have to experience what we went through."



## EU FEMINIST ADVOCACY

**One of the ways in which we support our partners is by opening doors for them and providing networking opportunities, which was exactly what we did during our third EU-South Caucasus advocacy week in December.**

Five women human rights defenders from three different contexts in the region met with EU policy-makers to present their work and concerns. We engaged in intensive preparatory meetings with the group: drafting talking points, formulating messages and identifying issues to zoom in on.

During the week itself (which took place online because of the pandemic), the women human rights defenders met with 27 representatives from EU Delegations, the European External Action Service, the EU Parliament's LGBTI Intergroup and other agencies. Topics discussed included human security following the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the contested territory of Nagorny-Karabakh, shrinking civic space and ways in which the EU can support civil society in the South Caucasus. The highlight of the week was a panel event we organised with the Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy, about anti-gender movements and narratives in the region.

At the end of the week, participants reflected on what they had learnt and how they will keep engaging in EU advocacy. This led to concrete plans like developing a regional advocacy strategy, following up on specific policy processes and keeping in touch with the EU officials the participants had met. Fingers crossed we'll be able to share that new strategy on these pages next year!

**Did you know that SEK 120 allows a Georgian woman escaping an abusive relationship to stay the night in a shelter? Your donation makes a difference!**



# STAND UP FOR ABORTION

September 28th is International Safe Abortion Day. A time to celebrate that abortion is legal in more countries than ever right now, or that fewer women are dying from unsafe abortions—all thanks to the tireless work of determined activists. But women's freedom is under attack: in the US alone, an increasing number of states are curtailing women's right to decide over their own body.

Which is why RFSU (the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education) organised an awareness-raising campaign—this year with Kvinna till Kvinna as its co-organiser. Together, we urged people to “stand up” for abortion: publishing a picture of themselves proudly standing up in an unexpected or significant location.

Over a thousand people participated and showed their support, from politicians and ambassadors to artists, midwives, civil society and even the leaders of some of Sweden's biggest political parties.



**Petra Tötterman Andorff,**  
Secretary-General

**All these pictures show women human rights defenders that they are not alone. By standing beside these activists, the world can help them find the energy to change laws and attitudes that try to shackle women.**



Photo: Attila Yoldas

**Attila Yoldas,**  
Journalist  
and author



## ONE YEAR, THREE CAMPAIGNS

**History's heroines:** On International Women's Day, we highlighted milestones achieved by women's rights activists from the past. Because it is thanks to these historical figures that we are where we are today! The result would have warmed the hearts of these long-gone heroines.

**1 million:** Over the Midsummer holiday, our goodwill ambassador Linnéa Claesson challenged her social media followers to pause their celebrations for a few seconds to help her reach a goal: raising SEK 1 million to combat violence against women. The response was astounding: in just 36 hours, the target was reached. We're still blown away by the success of this campaign—thank you to everyone who responded!

**GBV at XMAS:** Christmas is usually a time of festive joy—but not for everyone. This year, our Christmas campaign once again focused on gender-based violence: a harsh reality for many women that no amount of snow, sleighbells and sweets can erase.

En miljon för kvinnors rättigheter.

Var med och stärk kvinnors inflytande och makt, stoppa våld och synliggör kvinnors kamp för fred och mänskliga rättigheter. Tillsammans gör vi skillnad!

**Klicka för att öppna Swish!**

1 118 049 kr

0 1 000 000 kr

Valfritt belopp

Swisha

När du gör en Swish till denna kampanj så bidrar du till att nå målet. (SEK) och kan bidra till att förbättra kvinnors situation.

**KVINNA KVINNA**

## OSCE ADVOCACY

When Sweden became Chair of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in 2021, we saw a golden advocacy opportunity. Together with the government, we managed to make Women, Peace & Security (WPS) one of the OSCE's focus areas during Sweden's time as Chair. We also succeeded in convincing Sweden to lobby for our recommendations on linking WPS with women's economic rights throughout the year.

We participated in major OSCE events as keynote speakers and panellists; attended a civil society conference in connection to the annual OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting; and were the only NGO invited to organise an event during a high-level OSCE conference in May. Our event focused on ways the OSCE can include civil society and women peacebuilders during the different phases of conflict cycles, to make peace more inclusive. Women peacebuilders we work with in the South Caucasus joined the panel to talk about obstacles they face in their work.

Oh, and our secretary-general was elected to the OSCE's High-Level Advisory Group for its new WPS initiative. Another win!



We hosted four live **Femdefender Talks**—with author Saud Ali (on women in war and conflict), journalist Katarina Wennstam (on men's violence against women), businesswoman Ishtar Touailat (on entrepreneurship) and Member of the European Parliament Alice Bah Kuhnke (on activism and politics). You can watch the recordings on our Swedish Facebook and Instagram accounts!

**@kvinnatillkvinna**



Photo: Kamille Pfeiff / Folke Bernadottesakademin

Jessica Poh-Janrell pictured with the other members of the Swedish government's Women's Mediation Network, an important tool for Sweden's feminist foreign policy.

## WOMEN IN PEACE PROCESSES

Our advocacy advisor Jessica Poh-Janrell was elected as one of a handful of experts to join the Swedish Women's Mediation Network—an initiative to promote women's participation in global peace processes, run by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Folke Bernadotte Academy.

Until now, the network was mostly made up of diplomats. This year, it welcomed more diverse voices, from academics to representatives of civil society. Apart from Jessica, the network's 21 members also include two former Kvinna till Kvinna staffers.

Together, they will provide hands-on peace support in foreign countries, back local women's mediation networks and advocate to advance women's role as peacebuilders.



**Jessica Poh-Janrell,**  
Advocacy advisor

**I'll be pushing for local women's participation in peace talks: 'regular' women's voices need to be heard.**

### GLOBAL NEWSLETTER

You can now subscribe to our new international newsletter! Four times a year, we'll send you updates about the work of our partner organisations, new reports and policy briefs we've published, invites to events and live broadcasts, and career opportunities. Sign up today!





## LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

This autumn, we launched a new, six-month programme focusing on leadership, feminism and migration. Fourteen activists (age 18–30) took part, from students just starting out in their career to others already working in leadership roles. All of them had a migrant background, with roots in places like Afghanistan, Vietnam, Ethiopia, India, Eritrea, Somalia, Iraq and Pakistan.

Together, they participated in three group workshops, attended lectures by external experts, took part in our online 'Aktivistskolan' for volunteers and did regular reflection exercises. Every participant was also matched with a mentor who supported and checked in on them throughout the programme.

The initiative was a resounding success—many of the young women expressed joy at finally having found a programme that acknowledged all the ways in which a migrant background can be a strength for leaders.



Participant,  
leadership programme

**I feel so, so grateful  
I got to take part.  
It's not often that we  
women with foreign  
roots get the chance  
to meet each other  
and feel such a strong  
sense of belonging.**

**A warm THANK YOU** to the Swedish Postcode Lottery for awarding SEK 12 million to women's rights this year. Your support allows our partner organisations to empower women economically, strengthen their participation in decision-making, prevent gender-based violence and lobby for lasting legal change.



# 14.7%

new followers across our channels  
—for a total of 127,344

# +14,800

followers on LinkedIn, a 42% increase

# +40,000

followers on Instagram, a 28% increase

**Our international  
Twitter is our fastest-  
growing channel!**



Have you seen these funky new Statement socks in our webshop? Don't wait—order your own pair today!

Photo: Marcus Frenberg / Monark



## HAVE A LISTEN

Are you a knowledge-hungry feminist who loves thorough analyses? Then our new podcast series, Femdefenderpodden, will be right up your alley. Our seven episodes so far discuss topics like gender-based violence legislation in the EU, abortion rights, the impact of the Taliban takeover on women in Afghanistan and different ways in which global politics affected the women's movement in 2021. All episodes are available for streaming on our website (in Swedish).



We live-recorded one of the episodes at the Gothenburg Book Fair, where we talked about women human rights defenders' importance for democracy with Amanda Lind, Sweden's former Minister for Culture.



## DISASTER IN AFGHANISTAN

Just like the rest of the world, we were horror-struck when the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan in late August. While we don't actively work in Afghanistan, we felt unable to remain silent about a development that will have disastrous consequences for Afghan women and girls.

As chaos reigned at Kabul airport and humanitarian needs escalated, we co-organised a protest in Stockholm. Both our secretary-general and Nasrin Ebrahimi (a former participant of our leadership programme) were among the speakers, calling for Afghan women's rights to be respected.

In the weeks that followed, we also released a podcast episode about the situation, published an op-ed in Altinget, took part in weekly meetings with other engaged international NGOs and organised a live event about the situation with the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SAK).



**Both Sweden's Feminist Foreign Policy and the country's presidency of the UN Security Council would not have been the same without Kvinna till Kvinna.** Swedish government official

### VERDICT: DON'T BE SHY

2021 marked the third anniversary of our global Women, Peace & Security advocacy programme. Over the past years, we have lobbied EU, UN, OSCE and Swedish decision-makers to put WPS issues at the top of their agendas. Were our efforts successful? And how can we finetune our advocacy activities? We asked a consultancy firm, which reviewed core documents and interviewed our staff and international policymakers.

The results are summarised in a 25-page evaluation, with the main verdict being that we are on the right track. All interviewees recognised us as a key actor and trusted expert. Policymakers are happy with our work and say they actively seek out our input.

"In the global landscape of WPS advocacy efforts, this is a formidable position to have," one person remarked. But there is always room for improvement. Recommendations included having more of a global (rather than a Swedish) focus, being more proactive, strengthening our own voice (not just our partners') and, last but not least, not being shy. So we're determined to step up our advocacy game and demand MORE from policymakers in 2022!

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

#### CHAIRPERSON

##### 1. DEVRIM MAVI

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

#### DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

##### 2. MALIN ALMROTH

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

#### SECRETARY

##### 3. KAJSA WEJRYD

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

#### MEMBERS

##### 4. JOHANNA MANNERGREN

Associate Professor in Peace & Development Research and Senior Lecturer at Södertörn University. Former journalist, peace observer and election observer.

##### 5. LARS JALMERT

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

##### 6. MARIA APPELBLOM

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

##### 7. LENA BACKHAUSEN

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

#### DEPUTY MEMBERS

##### 8. TSEHAINESH TEKLEAB

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

##### 9. CARINA ANDERSSON

Head of unit MENA and Europe at the Red Cross. Significant experience of development cooperation, including through We Effect.

##### 10. LISEN BERGQUIST

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



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# ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2021

THE KVINNA TILL KVINNA FOUNDATION  
REGISTRATION NUMBER 802401-6134

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The board of The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation hereby issues its annual accounts for the financial year of 2021.

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

## About Kvinna till Kvinna

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

We are one of the world leading women's rights organisations, with roughly 140 partner organisations in 20 countries across the globe. We work in areas affected by war and conflict, to strengthen women's influence and power, end violence against women and highlight women's struggle for peace and human rights.

## Kvinna till Kvinna's mandate

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

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

## Significant events during the year

Much like last year, 2021 was dominated by the pandemic, which affected our operations. Many of our programme countries faced restrictions, with our local staff and partner organisations having to deal with the consequences: increased violence against women, the curtailing of women's economic empowerment, and fewer opportunities to network and support our partner organisations the way we usually do. In spite of all this, we and our partner organisations managed to achieve positive results. Below, we have listed a few examples.

*Political participation:* In Rwanda, no less than 89% of the women candidates our partner organisations had coached ahead of local elections won. By law, 30% of seats in Rwanda's decision-making bodies are reserved for women. Sometimes, numbers far exceed that quota: 64% of Rwandan parliamentarians in recent years have been women. At the decentralised level, however, norms on women's role in society make for a very different situation. Women rarely constitute more than a third of local elected officials. Which is why we supported four partner organisations as they coached women ahead of October's local elections. 124 of the 139 women who were mentored were elected. Today, they are in positions ranging from village leaders to district councilors, addressing important issues like gender-based violence and women's economic empowerment and making the distribution of resources more equal. This amplifies women's voices across communities and is a long-term investment in a grassroots movement of women leaders, who in turn inspire future generations of leaders.

*Women in peacebuilding:* Our teams in Beirut and Tbilisi arranged their first cross-regional exchange ever. For two days in November, 20 participants from Syria, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Abkhazia and Georgia got together to discuss their experiences of working in active warzones. Day one focused on women's access to peace talks and advocacy in wartime, while day two focused on the logistical challenges of operating and supporting women in conflict zones. The topics weren't always easy to discuss. But sharing their stories and hearing others reflect their experiences had participants feeling empowered and less lonely.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), where we've witnessed a deterioration of the political situation, we returned to our roots by supporting a street art-based peace initiative. Mostar is one of BiH's main cities but has remained divided since the war in the 90s. In 2021, we connected with feminist activists who run a street art festival in the city. Their goal is to strengthen dialogue and tolerance in the community in a creative way that appeals to all citizens, regardless of the divides that separate them. They create murals to revitalise abandoned spaces and ruins and give Mostar a more intercultural post-war look.

*Climate and the environment:* Palestinian women founded a unique network for women water practitioners to combat climate change. And in Gaza, our partner Women Affairs Center (WAC) tried to make society more sustainable, despite not having any experience of climate activism. They did a fantastically thorough job: WAC started by hiring a climate specialist and liaising with climate NGOs, academic experts and students from relevant fields. With these students, WAC held no fewer than 70 workshops for Palestinian farmers, to identify best practices for urban farming and climate-adapted sustainable agriculture. These discussions were summarised in ten articles and a documentary, with practical tips on everything from organic fertilisers to water conservation techniques. WAC also identified five promising home-based agricultural businesses led by women, offering them grants and technical support. In the autumn, WAC shared what it had learnt from the project during a workshop with 50 representatives from MENA women's rights organisations, to encourage them to take action in their own countries as well.

*Economic empowerment:* In the south-east of Liberia, our partner organisation WE4SELF has been supporting women's income-generating activities for years. More than 1,560 women cooperate through so-called 'village saving and loan associations', making a living together by producing soaps and oil, breeding snails and farming. In 2021, their economic cooperation really paid off. Five of the associations improved their business practices: they started using online payment systems and now maintain digital sales records, which helps them become more self-reliant and sustainable. They also purchased land on the outskirts of Monrovia for an office and a centre to sell their wares, and are using

their savings to improve maternal health and follow up on cases of gender-based violence.

In Barda, a small town in central Azerbaijan, young women got together after their city was affected by the second Nagorny-Karabakh war to form the Barda Women Club. The women activists (all of whom are volunteers) created a safe space for other women and girls to learn new skills and get new experiences. Since the initiative's founding, it has reached more than 300 women: teaching them IT, providing career coaching and offering psychological and legal support. The network's popularity attracted the attention of the local media, which produced a video on the Barda Women Club.

### **Communication, fundraising and non-profit activities**

The public's desire to follow and support our work has kept growing stronger. We gained 14.7% new fans on social media, where almost 130,000 people now follow us. On LinkedIn, we saw a follower increase of 42%, while we have now more than 40 000 fans on Instagram, an increase of 28% compared to last year. Our international Twitter is our fastest-growing channel.

We raised more funds from private and corporate donors in Sweden. Our monthly donor base grew by 40% compared to last year, and monthly donors donated 45% more funds. We also received roughly 30% more donations from companies than we did in 2020 (not counting the support we receive from The Swedish Postcode Lottery). This year, Kvinna till Kvinna raised a total of SEK 22,845,000.

Three big fundraising campaigns helped us achieve that number:

**Our 8 March campaign** highlighted the legacy of historical women's rights activists in terms of women's rights and equality, with the message 'Now you get to carry the torch'. Four long-gone heroines were the visual face of the campaign: Elin Wägner, Fredrika Bremer, Shirley Chisholm and Elise Ottesen-Jensen. The campaign raised SEK 1,272,606.

**Our 2021 Christmas campaign** elaborated upon the theme of last year's campaign—'Break the world's deadliest Christmas tradition: End men's violence against women'—to raise awareness of gender-based violence and encourage people to donate. By the end of the holiday season, we had raised SEK 2,885,999.

**Our goodwill ambassador** Linnéa Claeson also raised funds to help Kvinna till Kvinna end men's violence against women and strengthen women's right to decide over their own lives and live without the threat of violence hanging over them. Claeson's goal was to raise a million Swedish crowns through her followers—a goal that was achieved in just 36 hours!

We launched a brand-new podcast, Femdefenderspodden. The seven episodes we released in 2021 discussed topics



like abortion legislation around the world, GBV laws in the EU, the impact of the Taliban takeover on women in Afghanistan, and different ways in which global politics affected the women's movement in 2021. All episodes are available for streaming on our homepage.

We also kickstarted a new, six-month programme focusing on leadership, feminism and migration. Fourteen activists (age 18–30) took part, from students just starting out in their career to others already working in leadership roles. All of them had a migrant background, with roots in places like Afghanistan, Vietnam, Ethiopia, India, Eritrea, Somalia, Iraq and Pakistan. They participated in three group workshops, attended lectures by external experts, took part in our online 'Aktivistiskolan' for volunteers and did regular reflection exercises. Every participant was also paired up with a mentor who supported them throughout the programme.

We published two major reports. The first, *'Solidary Is Our Only Weapon'*, highlights the threats and harassment women human rights defenders are subjected to. We asked 334 activists from 74 countries about their working conditions and how secure they feel as activists. A shocking 61% had received threats or suffered harassment; 1 in 5 had even gotten death threats.

The second report focused on economic rights and highlighted the work of organisations around the world to increase economic gender equality in conflict-affected contexts. *'Challenging The Norm – Global Stories of Women's Economic Empowerment'* was launched in October and features five case studies that illustrate different ways in which we and our partner organisations strengthen women's economic rights. In Rwanda, for example, we've introduced women farmers to gender-sensitive budgeting. One of our Syrian partners champions the rights of women journalists, while a Jordanian organisation works to increase access to childcare. During the pandemic, our Western Balkan partners monitored gendered labour-market discrimination, and women entrepreneurs in the South Caucasus learnt all about digital marketing.

### Method, development and quality assurance

In 2021, we kept working hard to manage the fall-out of the coronavirus pandemic. In spring, we drafted the yearly report for our biggest cross-regional programme (in which more than 50 of our partner organisations are involved); we were able to conclude that our efforts to deal with the pandemic had been successful the year before. Both staff and partner organisations had reacted swiftly and in innovative ways. Another conclusion was that the programme's different focus areas (including gender-based violence, peace and women's economic empowerment) had remained relevant during the pandemic, even as some activities had had to be conducted in a different way than originally planned.

Since 2016, all our staff have participated in an annual workshop to share achievements, challenges and

lessons learnt across the regions we work in. This year, nearly 100 employees participated in the online seminar. The topic was peace. For Kvinna till Kvinna, peacebuilding is not just about ensuring women have a seat at the table: having a feminist perspective also means questioning traditional peacebuilding processes and acknowledging the processes and arenas for peace that women themselves prefer. 'Feminist peace' will actually be one of the official goals of Kvinna till Kvinna's upcoming six-year strategy, which will cover 2023–2028.

We also procured a new online-learning platform this year. A preparatory study and needs assessment resulted in a set of criteria that the supplier would have to meet in terms of security and type of tool (in Africa, for example, phone-based learning is preferred to computer-based learning). We will use the platform to provide learning materials to and facilitate exchanges between women human rights defenders. Internally, it will help facilitate onboarding of new staff members, among other purposes.

### Profit/loss and financial position

Kvinna till Kvinna's activities (both our advocacy work and our support to women's organisations in conflict-affected regions) were conducted in compliance with our Articles of Association. Since mid-1993, we have disbursed SEK 2,285.2 million in monetary support, of which SEK 181.3 million was disbursed in 2021.

### Financial instruments and investment policy

Kvinna till Kvinna invests with a long-term perspective in mind and will increasingly favour investments that are likely to have a positive ethical or environmental effect.

We aim for risk diversification, both in terms of maturity, the stocks we invest in and the investment managers we work with. We only invest in bank deposits, debt securities such as bonds or certificates of deposit, stocks, investment or equity funds, and alternative investments. The environment, human rights, working conditions and good governance should always factor into our investment decisions. Our policy is to avoid investing in companies that mainly produce or sell goods and/or services in the tobacco, arms, alcohol, gambling or pornography sectors.

### Fundraising and donations

In 2021, we raised SEK 22.8 million through donations and fundraising (or SEK 25.1 million when including free advertising and pro bono work). Kvinna till Kvinna has been a beneficiary of The Swedish Postcode Lottery since 2010. This year, we received SEK 12 million from them.

### Allocations and grants

In 2021, we supported 140 women's rights organisations in sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, the South Caucasus and the Western Balkans. Allocations amounted to SEK 172.6 million.

### Net profit/loss for the year

We made a net profit of SEK 1,001,000. In 2020, the corresponding figure was SEK 9,569,000. This drop in profit is due to the fact that we received major donations in the autumn of 2020 (a bequest plus additional resources from The Swedish Postcode Lottery), a share of which we used this year. For detailed financial accounting, see the following income statement, balance sheet, cash flow statement and notes.

### Sustainability

Although 2021 was not an easy year, with many external factors affecting our work, we still managed to continue developing our internal systems and processes. We strengthened our financial routines to reflect the recommendations of Sida's performance audit from 2018. We raised the climate bar for ourselves and took additional measures to become a greener, more sustainable and more environmentally-friendly organisation: our different offices made concrete plans to become greener; we approach travel in a more conscious way; and we continued discussing environmental issues with our partner organisations, several of which have been taking climate action. Climate became an important parameter of Kvinna till Kvinna's partnership principles, which guide our cooperation with local women's rights organisations in the countries we work in. We also drafted a new environmental policy and a position paper on the climate crisis and its effect on women.

We developed a new guideline on teleworking and regularly reviewed whether or not we wanted staff to come into the office, to make sure we followed all the latest official recommendations. We also adopted new guidelines to strengthen our information security and ensure we fulfil our legal and ethical responsibilities. Because we defend women's rights around the world, we need to be able to securely store large amounts of data. The new guidelines help streamline Kvinna till Kvinna's approach to information security and make sure all staff use secure data storage solutions—which helps prevent cyberattacks, makes our platforms and network more secure, and protects our data. All staff participated in a training that introduced them to the new guidelines and systems.

At the end of 2021, we had a total of 140 employees. Adjusted for those on leave of absence, substitute employees and employees on short-term contracts, we employed an average of 132 people. Of our 73 employees in Stockholm, 63 worked at the head office while the remainder were deployed in our programme countries. An average of 59 employees worked in our programme countries: they are stationed in Erbil, Beirut, Jerusalem, Tunis and Amman in the MENA region; Tbilisi in the South Caucasus; Monrovia, Bukavu and Kigali in sub-Saharan Africa; and Belgrade, Pristina, Sarajevo and Skopje in the Western Balkans. At our programme offices, an average of 66 staff members were locally

or nationally employed. Kvinna till Kvinna's head of programme & method left the organisation in September. Recruitment of her successor, who will join us on February 15th 2022, took place in December. As of August 1st, we also have a new deputy secretary-general. And one employee started working at our brand-new office in Brussels in 2021, to strengthen our EU advocacy efforts.

### Future developments

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the board decided to keep Kvinna till Kvinna's current strategy in place for another year. The strategy, which will set the course for the organisation until the end of 2022, focuses on three thematic areas in which we and our partner organisations push for progress: gender-based violence, political participation and respect for women's rights (it also has a fourth theme, which relates to our internal development). As this strategy will expire in 2022, we spent a great deal of time developing a new one this year. Both staff, partners and external actors were asked for input as we conducted a thorough analysis of our current context and any developments we foresee for the next six years. New external and internal goals have already been defined, so the new strategy has started to take shape; it should be finished by June 2022.

### Administration

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

The board's rules of procedure and annual plan are revisited and evaluated once a year. The rules of procedure stipulate who is responsible for the organisation's long-term strategic planning and guidelines and evaluations; specify procedures for financial management and internal management & control; regulate matters pertaining to the accounts and budget decisions; and require Kvinna till Kvinna's auditor(s) to attend at least one board meeting each year, which they duly did in 2021.



## Board members

2021

7 board meetings were held in 2021	Attendance
	1 January – 31 December
Devrim Mavi	7
Viola Furubjelke (left her position on 210908)	4
Maria Appelblom	5
Lars Jalmert	7
Kajsa Wejryd	7
Lena Backhausen	6
Johanna Mannergren	6
Malin Almroth	7
Tsehainesh Tekleab	6
Carina Andersson	5
Lisen Bergquist	6

## Multi-year overview

2021

2020

2019

2018

2017

General conditions					
Number of partner organisations	140	151	149	131	111
Average number of employees	132	129	126	114	98
Result (thousand SEK)					
Operating income	196 370	201 562	200 989	169 716	147 055
Fundraising and donations	22 845	24 611	16 242	17 270	13 708
Allocations and grants	172 569	172 475	181 199	149 869	132 877
Net turnover (webshop)	349	207	232	216	107
Other sources of income	608	4 269	3 316	2 361	363
Operating expenses	-195 535	-192 004	-199 786	-165 741	-147 328
Net operating result	836	9 558	1 203	3 975	-273
Profit/loss from financial investments	202	159	-471	19	-218
<b>Net profit/loss for the year</b>	<b>1 001</b>	<b>9 569</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>3 990</b>	<b>-491</b>
Financial position					
Equity (thousand SEK)	19 188	18 186	8 617	7 949	3 958

## Definitions

Equity – The Foundation's net assets, ie. the difference between assets and liabilities.

Changes in equity	Project-specific donations	Retained capital	Profit/loss for the year	Total capital
Equity 2021-01-01	1 872	6 746	9 569	18 187
Allocation of the previous year's profit/loss	–	9 569	-9 569	–
Net profit/loss for the year	–	–	1 001	1 001
Donor-designated purpose 2021	803	-803	–	–
Utilised donor-designated funds 2021	-2 022	2 022	–	–
<b>Equity 2021-12-31</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>17 534</b>	<b>1 001</b>	<b>19 188</b>

## Specification of donor-designated project funds

The following funds are included: Sweden programme SEK 153 thousand, South Caucasus project SEK 500 thousand.

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

## INCOME STATEMENT

Income statement (thousand SEK)	Note	2021	2020
<b>Operating income</b>	2		
Donations		22 845	24 611
Grants	3	172 569	172 475
Net turnover		349	207
Other operating income		608	4 269
<b>Total income for the Foundation</b>		<b>196 371</b>	<b>201 562</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>	4, 5, 6		
Programme expenses		-181 342	-182 395
Sales expenses		-349	6
Fundraising expenses		-5 551	-4 914
Administrative expenses		-8 293	-4 701
<b>Total operating expenses</b>		<b>-195 535</b>	<b>-192 004</b>
<b>Profit/loss from operations</b>		<b>836</b>	<b>9 558</b>
<b>Profit/loss from financial items</b>	7		
Profit/loss from other securities and receivables that are fixed assets		27	9
Interest income and similar profit/loss items	8	343	308
Interest expenses and similar profit/loss items	9	-168	-159
<b>Total profit/loss from financial items</b>		<b>202</b>	<b>158</b>
<b>Total profit/loss after financial items</b>		<b>1 038</b>	<b>9 716</b>
<b>Gross profit/loss</b>		<b>1 038</b>	<b>9 716</b>
Tax	10	-37	-147
<b>Net profit/loss for the year</b>		<b>1 001</b>	<b>9 569</b>



Balance sheet (thousand SEK)	Note	2021-12-31	2020-12-31
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
<i><b>Tangible fixed assets</b></i>			
Equipment, tools and installations	11	0	0
<i><b>Financial fixed assets</b></i>	12		
Other long-term securities holdings		620	620
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>620</b>	<b>620</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
<i><b>Stocks etc.</b></i>			
Merchandise		30	22
<b>Total stocks etc.</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>22</b>
<i><b>Current receivables</b></i>			
Accounts receivable – trade		33	685
Other current receivables	13	14 085	3 363
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	14	2 146	1 396
<b>Total current receivables</b>		<b>16 264</b>	<b>5 444</b>
<i><b>Cash and bank</b></i>		127 053	104 800
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>143 347</b>	<b>110 266</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>143 967</b>	<b>110 886</b>
<b>Equity and liabilities</b>			
<b>Equity</b>			
Funds brought forward		17 534	6 746
Net profit/loss for the year		1 001	9 569
Donor-designated project funds		653	1 872
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>19 188</b>	<b>18 187</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable		3 356	1 979
Tax liabilities		138	147
Liability from received but not utilised grants	15	61 721	26 923
Other current liabilities		2 026	1 939
Accrued expenses and deferred income	16	57 538	61 711
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>124 779</b>	<b>92 699</b>
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>		<b>143 967</b>	<b>110 886</b>

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Cash flow statement (thousand SEK)	Note	2021	2020
<b>Operating activities</b>			
Total profit/loss after financial items		836	9 716
Adjustment for items not included in cash flow		22	0
Income tax paid		160	-231
<b>Cash flow from operating activities before changes in working capital</b>		<b>1 018</b>	<b>9 485</b>
<b>Cash flow from changes in working capital</b>			
Increase/decrease in stocks and ongoing work		-8	-6
Increase/decrease in accounts receivable		652	-685
Increase/decrease in current receivables		-11 472	8 788
Increase/decrease in accounts payable		1 377	-750
Increase/decrease in current liabilities		30 506	4 837
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>		<b>22 073</b>	<b>21 669</b>
<b>Cash flow for the year</b>		<b>22 073</b>	<b>21 669</b>
<b>Opening cash and cash equivalents</b>			
Opening cash and cash equivalents		104 800	83 131
<b>Exchange difference for cash and cash equivalents</b>			
Exchange difference for cash and cash equivalents		180	0
<b>Closing cash and cash equivalents</b>	17	<b>127 053</b>	<b>104 800</b>



## NOTE 1 Accounting and valuation principles

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

### Income statement

#### Operating income

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

#### Donations

Donations include donations from the general public, companies, organisations, associations, private and non-profit funds and foundations; sponsorship; 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 donate a percentage of their sales to us are also deemed funds raised, because the company in question, not Kvinna till Kvinna, is the seller. As a rule, donations are recognised as income when they are received and valued at their fair value.

#### Grants

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

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

#### Net turnover

Income from the sale of products via the webshop.

#### Other income

This primarily refers to income from consultancy assignments and trainings Kvinna till Kvinna conducts. In previous years, it also included income from the International Training Programme. Unless otherwise specified below, income is valued at the fair value of the benefit that has been or will be received.

#### Operating expenses

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

#### Programme expenses

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

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

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

#### Fundraising expenses

Fundraising expenses consist of expenses with a direct connection to fundraising activities that target all of the organisation's donors. Examples of such expenses are staff salaries, system expenses and donor management.

#### Administrative expenses

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

#### Common expenses

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

#### Leasing

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

#### Employee remuneration

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

#### Profit/loss from financial investments

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

#### Income tax

Tax expenses for the year include tax relating to that year's taxable income. It applies to product sales and any consulting assignments and trainings we conduct. In previous years, it also included income from our International Training Programme. There are no temporary differences, which is why deferred tax is not reported.

#### Balance sheet

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

#### Tangible fixed assets

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

We apply the following depreciation period:

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

Some equipment purchases are reported as programme expenses. This is the case when appropriations have been made for their purchase, or when the equipment is regarded as expendable, due to the risk of it being stolen in the field.

**Merchandise stock**

Merchandise is valued (according to the first-in first-out principle) at its lowest cost of acquisition and its net realisable value on the balance sheet day.

**Financial assets**

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

**Receivables**

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

**Foreign currencies**

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

**Equity**

Retained earnings include all profits and losses brought forward from the current and previous periods. Designated funds are recognised as donations for a specific cause that have not yet been utilised and other project-specific funds.

**Liability for grants received but not utilised**

If the organisation has received a grant but not yet fulfilled its conditions, the grant is recognised as a liability. Allocated but not yet disbursed grants are recognised as either a non-current or current liability.

**NOTE 2 The Foundation's income****Accounting estimates**

Estimates on the balance sheet day are based on assumptions about the future and other important variables, such as whether there has been a discussion on the conditions under which a grant may be recognised as income, the uncertain valuation of certain financial assets and whether allocated grants will actually be utilised.

	2021	2020
<b>Donations are broken down as follow:</b>		
General public	8 335	8 703
Companies	2 208	1 928
The Swedish Postcode Lottery	12 002	13 210
Other foundations	300	770
<b>Total</b>	<b>22 845</b>	<b>24 611</b>
<b>Donations not reported in the income statement</b>		
Advertising	2 000	2 862
Pro bono services (estimated)	277	290
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 277</b>	<b>3 152</b>
<b>Total donations</b>		
Donations reported in the income statement	22 845	24 611
Donations not reported in the income statement	2 277	3 152
<b>Total</b>	<b>25 122</b>	<b>27 762</b>

**NOTE 3 Grants recognised as income**

	2021	2020
<b>Public grants, Sida</b>		
Civsam (SPO)	51 157	48 369
Communication grant	4 543	4 068
Liberia	9 675	9 931
Middle East, Amman	34 583	33 628
Middle East, Jerusalem	–	8 825
Rwanda	15 428	13 379
South Cacasus	1 201	6 127
Western Balkans	21 674	15 615
Ukraine	–	582
Other Sida	163	1 586
Sida administration grant	9 826	11 196
<b>Total</b>	<b>148 250</b>	<b>153 306</b>

**Other public grants**

Swedish Inheritance Fund	–	701
Folke Bernadotte Academy	83	194
Swedish Police	2 172	–
Swedish Institute	374	679
Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs	1 372	2 208
EU	4 197	2 869
Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs	700	479
British Foreign & Commonwealth Office	–	1 772
Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	4 808	–
SDC*	1 622	1 399
Global Affairs Canada	4 795	6 200
UNDP	2 544	–
UN Trust	–	71
UN Women	–	216
Other	56	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>22 723</b>	<b>16 788</b>

**Private grants**

Radiohjälp	1 596	2 381
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 596</b>	<b>2 381</b>

<b>Total grants according to the income statement</b>	<b>172 569</b>	<b>172 475</b>
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\*Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

**NOTE 4 Leasing**

	2021	2020
<b>Future leasing charges fall due as follow:</b>		
Falling due and payable within 1 year	5 314	4 931
Falling due and payable within 5 years	12 720	2 009
Falling due and payable after 5+ years	6 264	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>24 298</b>	<b>6 940</b>
Expensed leasing charges during the period	6 365	6 203
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 365</b>	<b>6 203</b>

Leasing charges include premises plus office and IT equipment



**NOTE 5 Average number of employees, staff costs**

	2021	2020
<b>Number of employees (women only)</b>		
Sweden	73	69
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	3
Kosovo	1	2
North Macedonia	5	5
Serbia	3	4
South Caucasus	5	5
Liberia	11	10
Palestine and Israel	3	3
Jordan	6	7
Lebanon	5	6
Iraq	4	3
Rwanda	7	7
Ukraine	0	1
Tunisia	4	2
DRC	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>129</b>

**Salaries and other employee benefits**

Secretary-general	911	852
Other employees	51 746	51 208
<b>Total salaries and benefits</b>	<b>52 657</b>	<b>52 060</b>

Payroll overhead	14 479	12 577
(of which pension costs)	3 224	2 766
Pension costs secretary-general	287	291

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

**Board and senior managers**

Women	6	6
Men	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>

**Volunteer work**

All through the year, a varying number of individuals volunteered for Kvinna till Kvinna (e.g. packing dispatches, raising awareness and raising funds in the streets). The value of their efforts has not been recognised in the income statement.

**NOTE 6 Purchase of equipment**

	2021	2020
Consumable equipment	1 583	535
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 583</b>	<b>535</b>

**NOTE 7 Profit/loss from other securities**

	2021	2020
Dividends	27	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>9</b>

**NOTE 8 Other interest income and similar items**

	2021	2020
Interest income, bank	1	2
Exchange rate gains	342	307
<b>Total</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>308</b>

**NOTE 9 Interest expenses and similar profit/loss items**

	2021	2020
Exchange rate losses related to accounts receivable and operating liabilities	-163	-157
Other financial expenses	-5	-159
<b>Total</b>	<b>-168</b>	<b>-159</b>

**NOTE 10 Tax on the year's taxable income**

	2021	2020
<b>Income tax is based on taxable economic activities</b>		
Net profit/loss for the year	1 001	6 569
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 001</b>	<b>6 569</b>
Taxable income	179	688
<b>Total</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>688</b>
Tax calculated at prevailing rate (20.6%)	37	147
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>147</b>

**NOTE 11 Equipment**

	2021	2020
Costs of acquisitions brought forward	1 464	1 464
Sale/disposal	-417	-
<b>Closing accumulated costs of acquisitions</b>	<b>1 047</b>	<b>1464</b>
Depreciation brought forward	-1 464	-1 464
Sale/disposal	417	-
<b>Closing accumulated depreciation</b>	<b>-1 047</b>	<b>-1 464</b>
<b>Closing recognised value</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**NOTE 12 Long-term securities**

	2021	2020
Costs of acquisition brought forward	620	620
<b>Closing accumulated costs of acquisition value</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>620</b>
<b>Securities specification</b>	<b>Book value</b>	<b>Market value</b>
Stocks	541	796
Money market fund	79	79
<b>Total</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>874</b>

**NOTE 13 Other current receivables**

	2021	2020
Credit for tax and fees	641	1 788
Security deposit	1 033	1 019
Prepaid donations	1 817	562
Current receivables, partner organisations	609	-2
Current receivables, consortium (DMFA)	9 593	-
Other current receivables	391	-5
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 085</b>	<b>3 363</b>

**NOTE 14 Prepaid expenses and accrued income**

	2021	2020
Prepaid rent	1 179	951
Prepaid insurance premiums	75	87
Prepaid support to partner organisations	449	-
Other prepaid expenses and accrued income	442	358
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 146</b>	<b>1 396</b>

**NOTE 15 Liability, received but not utilised grants**

	2021	2020
Sida South Caucasus	101	1 201
Sida Europe/Western Balkans	3 370	3 693
Sida Middle East	4 817	5 763
Sida Liberia	157	306
Sida Rwanda	4 458	2 844
Sida Civism	8 828	8 278
Sida communication	13	237
Sida other	-	1 740
Swedish Inheritance Fund	3	3
Irish Aid	1 511	737
Radiohjälpen	23	1 619
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs	37 185	-
Other grants	1 254	502
<b>Total</b>	<b>61 721</b>	<b>26 923</b>

**NOTE 16 Accrued expenses and deferred income**

	2021	2020
Holiday pay	3 198	3 183
Other items	6 054	4 881
Prepaid grants	45 359	50 720
Repaid payroll fees*	6 694	6 694
Retroactive pension contributions*	-3 767	-3 767
<b>Total</b>	<b>57 538</b>	<b>61 711</b>

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

**NOTE 17 Cash and cash equivalents**

	2021	2020
Cash assets	330	191
Bank balances	126 723	104 609
<b>Total</b>	<b>127 053</b>	<b>104 800</b>

**NOTE 18 Significant events after the end of the financial year**

In June, we will move into a new office in Stockholm's Hammarby Sjöstad district. We have signed a lease until June 2030.

The war between Russia and Ukraine in late February may affect our work in the South Caucasus, but even our activities in Sweden, given the war's effect on the security situation in Europe.

3/17/2022

Stockholm  
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Dennis Mavi  
Dennis Mavi  
Ordförande  
3/17/2022

DocuSigned by:  
Maria Appelblom  
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Johanna Mannergren  
Johanna Mannergren

Vår revisionsberättelse har lämnats  
4/7/2022

Kajsa Goding  
Kajsa Goding  
Auktoriserad revisor

4/7/2022

Monika Wannholm  
Monika Wannholm  
Auktoriserad revisor

# AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

## Report on the annual accounts

### Opinions

We have audited the annual accounts of Kvinna till Kvinna for the year 2021. The annual accounts are included on pages 37-47 in this document.

In our opinion, the annual accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act and present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Kvinna till Kvinna as of 31 December 2021 and its financial performance and cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act. The statutory administration report is consistent with the other parts of the annual accounts.

### Basis for Opinions

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

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

### Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

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

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

### Auditor's responsibility

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

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

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

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



## Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

### **Opinions**

In addition to our audit of the annual accounts, we have also audited the administration of the Board of Directors of Kvinna till Kvinna for the year 2021.

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

### **Basis for Opinions**

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

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

### **Responsibilities of the Board of Directors**

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

### **Auditor's responsibility**

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

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

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

Stockholm April 7, 2022

Kajsa Goding  
Authorized Public Accountant

Monika Wannholm  
Authorized Public Accountant



#### **The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation | 2022**

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**Image** Mariam Abu Alatta has been with our Palestinian partner organisation Aisha since 2011. When fighting broke out in Gaza in mid-May, she and her colleagues risked their lives for 10 terrifying days to help displaced people. One of the attacks led to the death of Mariam's thirty-year-old cousin. In the months since, the organisation has tried to continue its regular work again while putting additional focus on psychological support.

*Photo: Soliman Anees Hijji*



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

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