

THE END OF POVERTY IS

# one voice away

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



Thrive  
WOMEN  
.....  
WORLDWIDE

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# ABOUT *Women Thrive Worldwide*

Women Thrive  
Worldwide  
amplifies the  
voices of women  
around the world  
who live on less  
than \$2 a day  
to support their  
efforts to break  
free of poverty,  
violence, and  
inequality.

Founded in 1998 as the Women's EDGE coalition, we know that changes in U.S. laws and policy and targeted advocacy to the United Nations and other international bodies can lift millions of women and families out of poverty.

We take a holistic approach to advocacy, recognizing the important connections between expanded economic opportunities for women, quality learning for girls, food security for families, and freedom from gender-based violence.

Our staff of experts knows that policies and development programs must not only be smart, effective, and sustainable—they must also be grounded in the everyday realities of women and girls living in poverty around the globe.

That's why, through our Global Partnership Network, we work closely with more than 100 grassroots partners in 34 countries worldwide. The perspectives of these men, women, and young people — along with a sophisticated understanding of how to make things happen in Washington, D.C. and on the global stage — drive all of our efforts to ensure that women and men can work together to thrive.





## WHAT SETS US APART?

### *We are advocates.*

We are the voice in Washington, D.C., for women living in poverty worldwide. We do not run programs ourselves on the ground.

### *We are independent.*

We do not accept any U.S. government funds. All our support comes from charitable foundations, forward-thinking businesses, and people like you.

### *We are grounded.*

We believe that women are the best source of solutions, and we advocate for priorities that women in developing countries say are best for them.

### *We have a big vision.*

Significant progress does not come without a game-changing vision and approach. We push for transformative change that will impact women, girls, and their families in every corner of the world.

# OUR ISSUES

Women Thrive Worldwide works on some of the world's most pressing issues. Our comprehensive approach improves the lives of women and girls and drives transformational change through smart, targeted efforts.

## SETTING WOMEN UP FOR ECONOMIC SUCCESS

In just about every developing country, unequal property rights, poor working conditions, pay discrimination, limited leadership roles, and a lack of access to credit reduce economic opportunities for women. Women Thrive Worldwide is changing the economic landscape for women entrepreneurs, farmers, market women and so many more by helping women access the resources and skills they need to network and advocate for their rights. We know that when women have the resources to help support their families and leadership skills to stand up for change, there's no limit to how far their communities can go.

## EXPANDING EDUCATION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Worldwide, 175 million youth cannot read. Sixty one percent of them are female. Far too many girls are either not in school, or not learning the skills they need in classrooms that are too often overcrowded, under-resourced, and staffed with unqualified educators. What we have today is a

learning crisis. That's why Women Thrive works to advance policies that promote equitable learning opportunities for both girls and boys, including improving literacy and math skills, education on and access to technology, and opportunities for other types of education such as vocational schools and training. We recognize the important role that quality education plays in promoting healthier, more stable, and more equitable communities, and we're working to secure those opportunities for girls around the world.

## ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

More than one-third of the world's women and girls will experience physical or sexual violence during their lives. In some countries, such violence affects seven in 10 women or more. Women Thrive works for comprehensive change to prevent, respond to, and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by championing proven local strategies and improving the efficacy of U.S. government investments. We believe that no one, no matter where they live, should ever have to live in fear of physical or sexual violence.





PHOTO: Darcy Kiefel

## ENSURING U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IS EFFECTIVE

Just one percent of the entire U.S. federal budget goes toward programs to alleviate poverty worldwide—programs that are important to American interests too. Programs aimed at helping women and girls in developing countries break free from poverty

are an even smaller part of the budget. We work to reform U.S. foreign aid and international development programs and policies through amplifying the voices of women and girls in developing countries. Investing in women worldwide is smart policy, and it ensures that U.S. tax dollars go that much further to help women and girls.



WHAT WE'RE *Accomplishing...*

Every day, our staff works strategically to advance policies and initiatives that enable women and girls around the globe to empower themselves. It's a big task, but we've made important progress in 2014.

## PUTTING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES ON THE MAP

We want a more inclusive and effective strategy to empower women economically, particularly those who work in the informal economy and live on \$2 a day or less.

### *A new portfolio.*

Women Thrive has launched an expanded portfolio to examine the challenges to and strategies for increasing women's economic opportunities. It's an effort rooted in more than a year of intensive research, meetings with grassroots leaders and local experts, and in-person conversations with women in Haiti and Ghana about their lives and needs.

### *Reporting the facts.*

To help the public and private sectors better understand the nuances of women's economic opportunity and how they can be more effective in their development initiatives, we issued the report *Less Than Two Dollars a Day*.

### *Strengthening key initiatives.*

We're working with the U.S. government, corporations, NGOs, foundations, and grassroots leaders to ensure that initiatives like PowerAfrica and Feed the Future set low-income women around the world up for success.

## TACKLING THE GLOBAL LEARNING CRISIS

We believe that every girl deserves a quality education.

### *Setting global priorities.*

For the last two years, we've pushed the United Nations to prioritize equitable learning in its next set of global development goals so that all children – girls and boys – learn the skills they need to live a productive life. Our hard work paid off in July 2014, when the UN's Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals proposed the following goal:

*Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all.*

The proposal goes to UN member countries for debate now. If adopted, it would help ensure that more girls learn the skills and knowledge they need to thrive.

### *Training leaders.*

In August 2014, Women Thrive headed to Kenya to train 50 advocates from 24 countries across Africa, so these women and men have the know-how to successfully advocate with their own governments for quality learning opportunities for girls and more.



## BUILDING SUPPORT FOR U.S. ACTION TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE WORLDWIDE

We are shaping policy so no one has to experience physical or sexual violence.

### *Bipartisanship matters.*

Women Thrive and our partners in the Coalition to End Violence Against Women and Girls Globally have recruited more bipartisan support than ever before for the International Violence Against Women Act.

### *Working smart.*

We successfully passed an amendment to the House National Defense Authorization Act and introduced a Senate amendment (to be voted on this fall), which would advance the U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally. Specifically, it would expand the Department of Defense's role in combatting gender-based violence.

### *Advocating for the advocates.*

Women Thrive advocates for U.S. funding for the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, which directly funds 77 programs in 70 countries worldwide and supports innovative approaches to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls.

## BRINGING TOGETHER THE RIGHT PEOPLE

We need allies—and a lot of them—to have an impact for women and girls.

### *Working with stakeholders.*

After releasing recommendations for USAID's Gender Equality & Female Empowerment Policy, we brought together 60 NGOs to help make the recommendations a reality.

### *Making lasting connections.*

Women Thrive connected Michelle Obama's office with Sara Ruto, a leading education advocate in East Africa, who joined the First Lady to present at the historic U.S.-African Leaders Summit.







# THE Global Partnership Network



PHOTO: Darcy Kiefel



The Global Partnership Network (GPN) is comprised of 115 groups in 34 countries, each working to help women and girls break free from poverty, violence, and inequality through advocacy and programs shaped by their individual communities.

Members of the GPN are diverse, including local community groups, civil society organizations, service providers, farmer cooperatives, women's associations, national and regional networks, social enterprises, think tanks, small businesses, and advocacy-oriented organizations.

## KEY GPN ACTIVITIES:

### *Collaborating.*

Network members and the women and girls in developing countries drive every one of Women Thrive's program initiatives, whether we are advocating for change in Pakistan, Ghana, Honduras, or Washington, D.C. GPN members provide knowledge of proven strategies that are working in their communities, countries, or regions.

### *Training and Technical Assistance.*

Women Thrive provides technical assistance and, whenever possible, on-the-ground training for local and national women's advocates

and their allies so they can make their voices heard in their communities, by their governments, and on the global policy making stage.

### *Connecting.*

We connect our Global Partnership Network advocates with decision makers they could not otherwise access. We also facilitate peer-to-peer information sharing, so that best practices are shared around the world.

### *Advocating.*

The Global Partnership Network can quickly engage

women and men from around the world to mobilize global grassroots support for policies that provide opportunities for women and girls—a tactic we use to help shape the development of a new international goal to improve learning opportunities for girls.

### *Providing Accountability.*

Network members help track and monitor the impact of U.S. and international policies aimed at addressing poverty, hunger, inequality, and violence, ensuring that development dollars are wisely spent.

# MOBILIZING A *Movement*

The ways activists and decision-makers access information online continue to evolve. Recognizing this changing landscape, Women Thrive Worldwide has reached more people than ever with effective online organizing and engagement.

## #BRINGBACKOURGIRLS

Before much of the world was aware of the abductions in Nigeria, Women Thrive, Girl Rising, and TakePart.com had already mobilized thousands to contact U.S. officials demanding action. Within days, the Senate condemned the kidnappings and Secretary of State Kerry offered U.S. assistance in rescue efforts.

## G+ WOMEN AND POVERTY

Working with the ONE Campaign and Google, we co-hosted an innovative online conversation in October—connecting ordinary, caring people with experts on gender policy and economic empowerment.





## STRONG ACTIVIST SUPPORT

We are growing a movement. Our activists, supporters, and fans engage at rates higher than before and continue to climb.

### GROWTH SINCE 12/31/2013:



**181%**

More Email Activists + Supporters



**226%**

More Facebook Fans



**144%**

More Twitter Followers

## NO1NOWHERE

This online photo petition ([www.No1Nowhere.com](http://www.No1Nowhere.com)) is founded on a simple truth: no one—regardless of where in the world she or he lives—should have to fear gender-based violence. People from all over the world have joined the campaign, including Members of Congress like Representatives Nita Lowey and Joe Heck, faith leaders like Rev. David Beckmann and Imam Mohamed Magid, and celebrities like television's Mayim Bialik and Grammy-winning singer/songwriter Angélique Kidjo.





# SHINING *a spotlight*

Public education and engagement is an essential part of our work. In 2014, we reached millions of people worldwide, engaging major media outlets and providing timely and compelling insights on the worldwide struggle of women striving to break free of poverty, violence, and inequality.

**Los Angeles Times**

**National Journal**

**GLAMOUR**



**Chicago Tribune**

**ALJAZEERA**  
AMERICA



Voice of America

THE  
HUFFINGTON  
POST



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