

**WITH
AND
FOR
GIRLS**
AWARDS 2016

CONTENTS

About the With and For Girls Collective	3
Girl-led judging panels	4
Winners at a glance	5
Her Turn	6
Samoa Victim Support Group	8
Shakti Samuha	10
Women Lead Nepal	12
Asociatia pentru Libertate si Egalitate de Gen	14
Maedchentreff Bielefeld	16
Women's Resource Center Armenia	18
Youth NGO of the Zhytomyr Oblast "Parity"	20
Association de Défense des Droits des Aides Ménagères et Domestiques	22
Nyanza Initiative for Girls' Education & Empowerment	24
Pastoralist Girls Initiative	26
Rock Girl	28
Asociación AMA	30
Asociación Movimiento de Jóvenes de la Isla de Ometepe	32
A Breeze of Hope Bolivia	34
GlobalGirl Media	36
Al-Bir Cultivating Culture & Community Organisation	38
Fondation YTTO pour L'hébergement et la Réhabilitation des Femmes Victimes de Violence	40
Stars of Hope Society	42
Try Center for Training & Education	44
With Thanks...	46
Image Credits	47

ABOUT THE WITH AND FOR GIRLS COLLECTIVE

THE WITH AND FOR GIRLS COLLECTIVE IS A GROUP OF ORGANISATIONS WITH A COMMON BELIEF THAT GIRLS ARE AGENTS OF CHANGE

We have pledged a combined US\$1 million to find and fund organisations working with and for girls. Through a global awards initiative, we provide flexible funding, capacity building support, access to networks and profile raising opportunities to help winning organisations realise their ambitions to improve the lives of girls.

By cultivating a network of inspiring funders, organisations, and individuals, we build a movement of girl-rights supporters who can learn from one another, develop and grow.

Together, we champion the collective action of girls. We believe that when girls organise, they and their organisations can play a leading role in transforming societies and building gender equality.

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The With and For Girls Awards recognise small to medium sized locally-led organisations working to improve the lives of girls (10-19 year olds). Award winners work on a variety of thematic issues and have demonstrated strengths in engaging girls in governance, programme design and decision-making to ensure that their work really is girl-led.

CATEGORIES & AWARD PACKAGE

- 1
Winners with an annual income between US\$20,000-US\$100,000 receive US\$15,000 of flexible funding
- 2
Winners with an annual income between US\$100,000-US\$500,000 receive US\$50,000 of flexible funding
- 3
Winners also receive capacity building support as part of the award package
- 4
Up to four awards are made in each of the five regions: Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, The American Continent and the Caribbean, and The Middle East and North Africa



ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Eligible applicants are assessed against the following criteria:

- The extent to which they are girl-centred and girl-led
- The quality of their programmes
- The strength of institutional systems
- How grassroots and locally-led they are
- The extent to which they are working in collaboration with others
- How diverse they are

THE AWARDS PROCESS

The Collective uses a proactive sourcing approach to identify award candidates. We work with a network of expert referral partners to identify strong, grassroots, girl-led organisations eligible to apply.

January:

Nominations of eligible organisations by referral partners

February:

Nominated organisations are invited to complete an Expression of Interest

March-May:

The Collective assesses and shortlists applicant organisations

June-July:

Shortlisted applicant organisations are invited to submit a photo application and attend a phone/skype interview led by a regional panel of adolescent girls

July- August:

Girl-led panels select up to 20 winners

GIRL-LED

JUDGING PANELS

Girls’ voices are at the heart of the With and For Girls Awards. The final stage of the 2016 awards process was conducted through five regional judging panels made up of adolescent girls. Girls in Beirut, Dar es Salaam, Delhi, Leeds and San Cristobal de las Casas had final decision-making power over the choice of winning organisations.

The girl panellists were aged between 16 to 19 years old, with each panel comprising of approximately four girls and one adult. Each panel interviewed every shortlisted applicant from its region, and selected two larger and

two smaller organisations for an award, totalling 20 winners across the globe.

The inclusion of girls on the judging panel is testament to the importance the Collective places on girl participation. This year, two of the panels were run by 2015 Award winners – Insan Association from Lebanon and Melel Xojobal from Mexico. Empowering locally-led organisations and promoting the participation of girls as decision-makers is at the heart of the Awards. With these two panels, it was powerful to see girls who benefitted from last year’s funding judge the 2016 cohort.

BY THE NUMBERS:

161

organisations were nominated by 61 referral partners

44

organisations were shortlisted from across 34 countries

The 20 winning organisations are working with over

30,690

people in 17 countries

WINNERS AT A GLANCE

REGION	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
Asia and the Pacific	Her Turn	Nepal
	Samoa Victim Support Group	Samoa
	Shakti Samuha	Nepal
	Women LEAD Nepal	Nepal
Europe and Central Asia	Asociatia pentru Libertatea si Egalitatea de Gen	Romania
	Maedchentreff Bielefeld	Germany
	Women’s Resource Center Armenia	Armenia
	Youth NGO of the Zhytomyr Oblast “Parity”	Ukraine
Sub-Saharan Africa	Association de Défense des Droits des Aides Ménagères et Domestiques	Mali
	Nyanza Initiative for Girls’ Education & Empowerment	Kenya
	Pastoralist Girls Initiative	Kenya
	Rock Girl	South Africa
The American Continent and the Carribean	Asociación AMA	Guatemala
	Asociación Movimiento de Jóvenes de la Isla de Ometepe	Nicaragua
	Breeze of Hope Bolivia	Bolivia
	GlobalGirl Media	USA
The Middle East and North Africa	Al-Bir Cultivating Culture & Community Organisation	Israel
	Fondation YTTO pour L’hébergement et la Réhabilitation des Femmes Victimes de Violence	Morocco
	Stars of Hope	Occupied Palestinian Territories
	Try Center for Training & Education	Jordan

HER TURN

Her Turn works to create a safe and protective environment for adolescent girls in the rural Sindhupalchok and Gorkha districts of Nepal, to enable them to live their life with dignity and self-esteem.

Based
in **Nepal**



 **840** Current direct beneficiaries

 **100%** Percentage who are female

 **100%** Percentage who are girls

 www.her-turn.org

CHALLENGE

Extreme poverty has led many families to encourage early marriage as a way to ease the economic burden they face.

In Nepal's rural regions, early marriage is a persistent problem that causes long-term damage to girls' physical, emotional and economic wellbeing. According to the United Nations Population Fund, 43 per cent of girls residing in rural areas and 27 per cent of girls residing in urban areas get married before reaching the age of 18.

Once married the girls are pressured to have children as soon as possible, often before their body is ready, posing enormous health risks and complications for the girls and their children. With little knowledge of their rights or basic information about how their body works, the young brides are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, particularly in a patriarchal society where domestic violence is considered a private matter.

RESPONSE

Her Turn runs a four-week workshop for girls in rural government schools also attended by girls who have dropped out of school. Girls meet with local female trainers to discuss issues including health and safety, sexual violence and trafficking, confidence-building, public speaking and leadership.

Girls work on a community project of their choosing and a Girls' Support Committee is formed in each school. Families and community members are invited to attend talks and performances that bring the girls' issues to light, helping raise awareness in the wider community about the risks of underage marriage and trafficking.

In 2014, Her Turn launched a mentorship programme to provide the girls with long-term support by matching them with mentors recruited from a pool of successful alumni.

Her Turn has worked with 2,570 girls in 37 schools in 21 Village Development Committees in Sindhupalchok and Gorkha districts. These districts are considered among the least developed in Nepal and were severely affected by the 2015 earthquake.



SAMOA VICTIM SUPPORT GROUP

Samoa Victim Support Group works with survivors of violence and sexual abuse in Samoa, providing shelters and support for women and girl while educating community members on violence prevention.

Based
in **Samoa**



1355

Current direct
beneficiaries



75%

Percentage
who are female



52%

Percentage
who are girls



www.samoavictimsupport.org

CHALLENGE

Around 46 per cent of Samoan women who have been in a relationship say they have experienced physical, sexual or emotional abuse by their partner, according to figures published by the United Nations.

In a culture where family reputation is highly valued, women are reluctant to report crimes. As a result, victims of domestic violence find little support within their families, leaving them isolated and trapped in an abusive environment. When a girl or woman does speak up about being abused, families prefer to go the traditional route. Forgiveness ceremonies are arranged in village councils, where the families of the offender and the victim are brought together to resolve the issue away from the police and the courts. There may be a fine or an apology, but no formal charge or conviction.

RESPONSE

Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG) was set up by a young lawyer frustrated at the lack of support for victims of gender-based violence. She brought together former police officers and legal professionals to provide support and counselling for survivors. It has reached over 25,000 people and is the only organisation of its kind in Samoa.

SVSG helps refer cases to the police and offers counselling to survivors in a private setting. Members of SVSG will also accompany survivors to court to ensure they have company during this scary and often intimidating process.

The organisation also offers secured temporary accommodation while it works on rehabilitation, recovery and reintegration. An alternative school system helps children who cannot read transition into formal schooling.

Girls are heavily involved in the design and implementation of SVSG's programmes, as well as in monitoring and evaluation. SVSG has garnered the trust of many community leaders. It works for the goal of violence-free families, where women feel safe and heard, in line with SVSG's motto "We Support, We Help, We Care, We are Your Family."



SHAKTI SAMUHA

Shakti Samuha supports women and children affected by trafficking in Nepal and provides them with the skills to help them rebuild a dignified life. The organisation also works with children who are at high risk of being trafficked.

Based in **Nepal**



 **2485** Current direct beneficiaries

 **84%** Percentage who are female

 **87%** Percentage who are girls

 www.shaktisamuha.org.np

CHALLENGE

Trafficking of girls in Nepal is rife, with an estimated 12,000 children trafficked to India every year, according to UN figures. Facing a grim reality at home marked by poverty, misery and a lack of education, girls are often coerced or even forced to leave their villages to look for work and new opportunities.

But the promise of a new life soon turns into a nightmare with girls being recruited into prostitution or domestic slavery and subjected to horrific conditions that leave them with deep physical and emotional scars.

Following the devastating earthquake of 2015, authorities on both sides of the India-Nepal border say there has been a surge in trafficking. Even after girls are rescued, they suffer discrimination back home due to the stigma associated with trafficking and slavery. Those who do return find themselves shunned from their communities, isolated and vulnerable.

RESPONSE

The founders of Shakti Samuha understand first hand the trauma suffered by survivors of slavery and transformed their own trauma into a source of hope and healing for other survivors and those at risk of being trafficked.

Shakti Samuha provides safe houses and an emergency support programme to rehabilitate survivors and their children, and offers them income-generating skills to ensure a sustainable livelihood. The organisation holds monthly meetings to educate girls on trafficking and exploitation as well as training sessions on leadership skills and problem solving.

Workshops are conducted on a regular basis to provide education, healing and empowerment. Girls are taught about child sex abuse prevention and child rights. In addition, they are offered training in beauty treatments, dance and entrepreneurship.

Shakti Samuha has benefitted 2,485 beneficiaries directly and educated more than 17,000 people on the dangers of trafficking.



WOMEN LEAD NEPAL

Women LEAD Nepal invests in young women aged 15 to 24, equipping them with the skills, support and opportunities they need to become leaders and change-makers in their communities and their country. It works to see women and girls leading alongside men.

Based
in **Nepal**



 **465** Current direct beneficiaries

 **72%** Percentage who are female

 **64%** Percentage who are girls

 www.women-lead.org

CHALLENGE

Young women and girls represent a strong force of change in Nepal. Although their participation is critical to building Nepal's future, their voices are excluded from the decision-making process.

The end of Nepal's decade-long civil war in 2006 ushered in a promise of equality; yet women and other marginalised groups were left behind in the rebuilding phase. Key decisions in girls' lives are often made without their input, such as on marriage, education, and citizenship.

The government has taken steps to address the country's gender inequality, but much more still needs to be done at an institutional and community level to empower women to lead change and pave the way for gender equality.

RESPONSE

Women LEAD Nepal aims to get women involved in the country's decision-making process, which it sees as crucial for a peaceful and inclusive society. The organisation provides young women, aged 15 to 24, with the skills and knowledge to become leaders in diverse career fields, such as engineering, business, politics, arts, and more. Women LEAD Nepal also believes that boys must be included in the conversation in order to help change their peers' attitudes and perceptions of gender.

The organisation's intensive, year-long LEAD (Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Advocacy, and Development) course provides young women with leadership training, skills-building opportunities, mentoring, peer-support and university preparation. Participants, known as LEADers, are paired up with a mentor, a LEAD course alumni herself, who provides individual guidance throughout the year. LEADers then conduct their own after-school workshops helping younger boys and girls across Kathmandu acquire the skills they were taught.

Women LEAD Nepal has a Board of Trustees in Nepal made up entirely of alumni, empowering them to take full ownership of the direction of the organisation.

Women LEAD Nepal has helped 1250 beneficiaries directly and hundreds more through sponsored events.



ASOCIATIA PENTRU LIBERTATE

SI EGALITATE DE GEN

Asociatia pentru Libertatea si Egalitatea de Gen was set up to provide support services for girls and young women in Romania who have experienced violence, particularly those from disadvantaged families.

Based in
Romania



1431

Current direct beneficiaries



65%

Percentage who are female



52%

Percentage who are girls



www.aleg-romania.eu/en

CHALLENGE

In 2014, an 18-year-old girl was gang-raped by seven boys in the eastern Romanian village of Vaslui. Despite the fact that three of the perpetrators admitted to the crime, a court in the village released the boys citing the fact that it was their first offence. They were not, according to the court, deemed a danger to society.

The case shocked public opinion in Romania, casting a shameful light on a culture of gender discrimination and violence.

According to Asociatia Pentru Libertate si Egalitate de Gen (ALEG), 24 per cent of Romanian women have suffered from partner violence and 14 per cent were exposed to violence by a non-partner. Women have little access to specialised services and figures suggest that less than one per cent of offenders are punished.

Survivors feel intimidated by family and the police into not reporting crimes, while girls who do report assault are often stigmatised. The problem for survivors is compounded by the lack of support services available to them.

RESPONSE

ALEG works to tackle the core of the problem through advocacy while offering direct support to the victims of violence and abuse. ALEG provides information and psychological counselling as well as social and legal support. In response to requests from survivors, ALEG set up an online counselling platform on its website where girls can discuss their concerns anonymously.

Thanks to ALEG, survivors have reported gaining a better understanding of their rights and about the different forms, causes and effects of abuse. The organisation helps survivors overcome feelings of guilt and shame and offers much needed support in navigating the justice system by offering legal representation.

ALEG also runs educational projects on sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as the Gender Equality Festival, a yearly gathering aimed at campaigning against gender stereotyping in Romania.



MAEDCHENTREFF BIELEFELD

Maedchentreff Bielefeld is a space for girls and young women – particularly those who have suffered discrimination due to economic or ethnic background, sexuality or disability- to share their experiences and take part in activities that help build their strengths and creativity.

Based in **Germany**



64 Current direct beneficiaries



100% Percentage who are female



90% Percentage who are girls



www.maedchentreff-bielefeld.de

CHALLENGE

Regardless of how gender parity has improved, discrimination still exists even in the most developed countries. Being perceived as different can be difficult, particularly for adolescents who are still developing a sense of self. In the German city of Bielefeld, a third of residents come from migrant backgrounds.

Those who have recently arrived have trouble integrating. This is made all the more difficult with the recent influx of refugees which has hardened local residents' attitudes towards newcomers, making them feel unwelcome and unwanted.

But newcomers are not the only ones struggling with exclusion. Be it sexism, xenophobia, racism or any other form of discrimination, girls are left insecure and unable to thrive.

RESPONSE

Maedchentreff Bielefeld is the sole female-only space to offer leisure facilities for the city's girls and young women. It offers a holistic and resource-orientated space that is culturally sensitive and aimed at battling discrimination and social exclusion. It offers activities such as creative skills, cooking, self-defence, dancing, theatre and media. It also organises field trips and offers support with homework and job applications for those who need it.

With an all-female Board and an all-female staff, Maedchentreff Bielefeld is well placed to serve the needs of the city's girls and young women. All the activities are planned and organised by the girls themselves, giving them a sense of responsibility and agency.

The centre is free with no prior registration required. It is open six days a week and girls who frequent Maedchentreff Bielefeld have reported better grades at school. Those who have experienced racism say the support they received has given them the strength to deal with their experiences.



WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER ARMENIA

Women's Resource Center Armenia works to equip young women in Yerevan, Armenia and the surrounding regions with the necessary education and support to help them become active citizens.

Based
in **Armenia**



2000 Current direct beneficiaries



90% Percentage who are female



65% Percentage who are girls



www.womenofarmenia.org

CHALLENGE

Societal attitudes in Armenia mean that men are encouraged from boyhood to take on leadership positions while women are relegated to secondary roles. Traditional female stereotypes dominate the media, advertising and even children's textbooks. Gender-based violence, trafficking and harassment are rife.

Almost one in ten Armenian women are subjected to occasional or regular beatings by a husband or partner, according to a study supported by the United Nations Population Fund. A quarter of women face psychological violence, and one in 30 have experienced sexual violence, according to the study. Over 60 per cent of women say they experience controlling behaviour with many women handing over their earnings or savings to their partner against their will.

Poverty and unemployment further fuel the violence. Violence against women has an immense impact on their physical and psychological health. Women and girls believe that in order to change attitudes, there must be a political will to support women's progress.

RESPONSE

Women's Resource Center Armenia (WRCA) has set up a crisis centre, which offers legal aid and counselling to victims of domestic violence. It offers training courses on women's rights and gender-based violence, while simultaneously lobbying and advocating for changes in legislation that will address gender discrimination in all its forms. The centre also provides a telephone hotline for emergencies.

WRCA provides a safe space where women can share their experiences, educate themselves and receive the support they need to better their lives and take control of their futures. It organises regular roundtable discussions as well as a career club for women

The organisation offers prenatal programmes for pregnant women and sexual health courses for adolescent girls.



YOUTH NGO OF THE ZHYTOMYR OBLAST “PARITY”

Youth NGO of the Zhytomyr Oblast “Parity” works to empower women in the Zhytomyr region of Ukraine to achieve equality and seeks to involve authorities, the media and public figures to help it combat inequality.



Based in **Ukraine**

 **4200** Current direct beneficiaries

 **30%** Percentage who are female

 **57%** Percentage who are girls

 **Contact via Stars Foundation**

CHALLENGE

Gender discrimination has long been a problem in Ukraine. Domestic and sexual violence against girls and women is widespread. Women are expected to conform to out-dated gender stereotypes and many have a poor understanding of their sexual and reproductive rights.

The town of Zhytomyr, in the north west of Ukraine, ranks among the lowest nationwide in terms of salaries and jobs, according to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The country's economic crisis and the on-going war in Eastern Ukraine have further added to the economic strain facing the town. In that context, women face the twin threat of gender discrimination and economic insecurity.

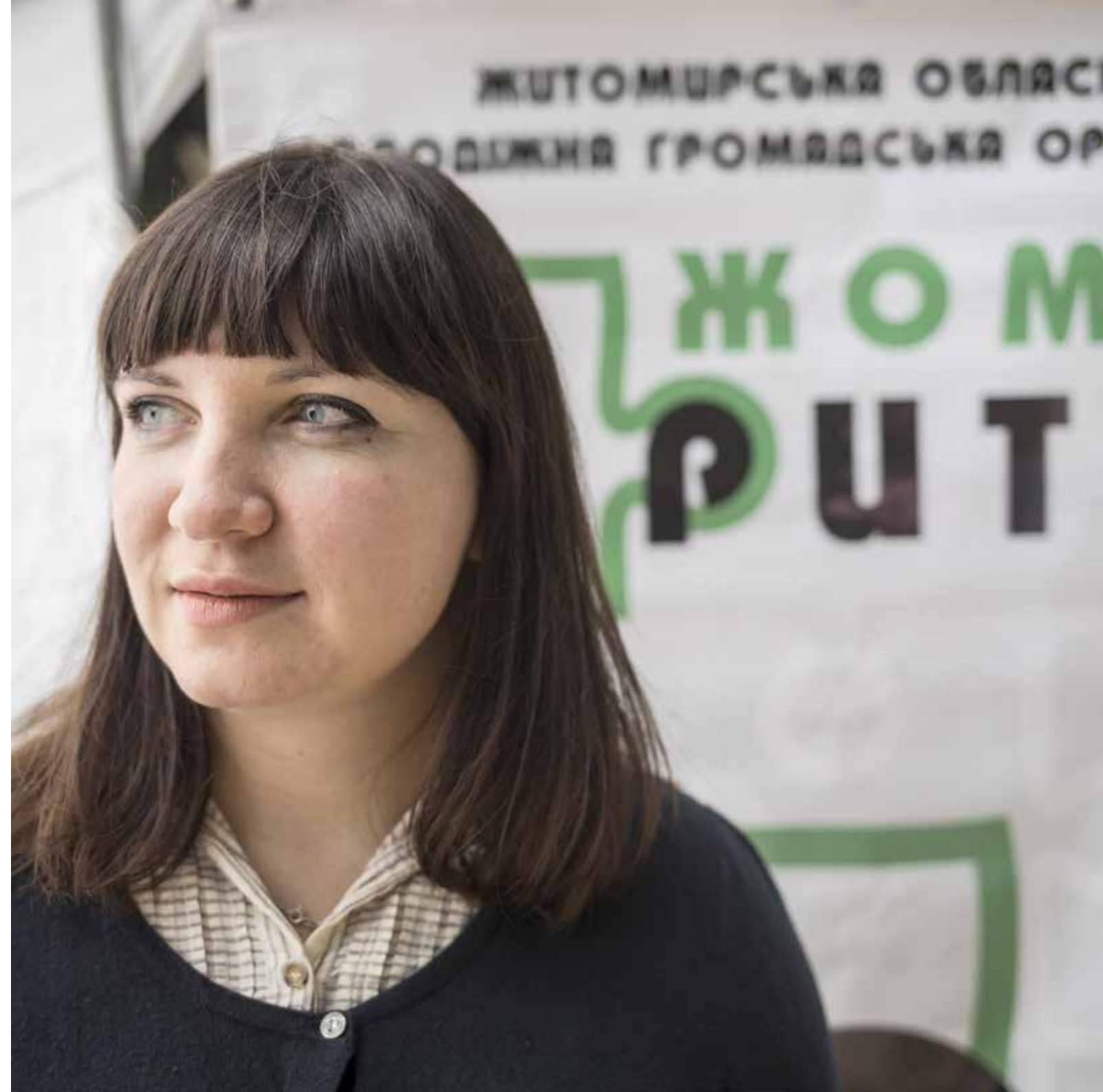
RESPONSE

Youth NGO of the Zhytomyr Oblast “Parity” (NGO “Parity”) was founded in 2012 by four female activists with a view to developing leadership skills among young women in Ukraine. It seeks to break down gender stereotypes by involving the authorities, the media and public figures.

NGO “Parity” holds regular workshops for the girls of Zhytomyr, where they can discuss their needs and vision for the development of their community. NGO “Parity” educates girls on family planning and sexual health as well as raising awareness about women's rights and gender violence. Financial literacy and the development of entrepreneurial skills are key components of its work.

It works closely with educational establishments in the city of Zhytomyr and the surrounding region. It has established partnerships with state institutions and civil organisations and is part of the All-Ukrainian Coalition for Sexual Health and Family Planning, the Office of Gender Strategy and Budgeting as well as the Industrial Gender Committee on Advertising.

NGO “Parity” has benefitted 4,200 people, some of whom are now working at the organisation and helping to guide the newcomers.



ASSOCIATION DE DÉFENSE DES DROITS DES AIDES MÉNAGÈRES ET DOMESTIQUES

Association de Défense des Droits des Aides Ménagères et Domestiques was set up by domestic workers in Mali to help secure the rights of people working in private households. The organisation supports girls and women who have experienced violence and exploitation, and works to improve employment terms and create safe working conditions.

Based
in **Mali**



 **700** Current direct beneficiaries

 **99%** Percentage who are female

 **95%** Percentage who are girls

 www.addad-mali.blogspot.com

CHALLENGE

Mali is one of the poorest countries in the world and the tenth poorest in Africa. Many young girls with little education and few practical skills at their disposal turn to domestic help as a way of making money. Girls as young as 12 leave their village and head to the city where an expanding middle class has increased demand for domestic work.

Once there however, many are faced with the harsh realities of urban life. Their young age and inexperience means they are unable to negotiate adequate terms of employment and before long they find themselves at the bottom of the social ladder. Story upon story of violence, sexual abuse and exploitation paint a very bleak picture of the status of domestic workers in Mali.

For some, the conditions are so unbearable that they are forced to flee, leaving behind whatever money they are owed, only to face further abuse and exploitation in a city unknown to them.

RESPONSE

Association de Défense des Droits des Aides Ménagères et Domestiques (ADDAD) was established by a group of female domestic workers to highlight the plight of people working in private households and raise awareness of workers' rights. It works to see the implementation of legislation that provides safe working conditions for domestic workers.

The organisation helps domestic workers settle disputes with employers, offering empowerment workshops, working with public authorities and private employers to secure the workers' rights.

ADDAD offers literacy and legal training to help the workers improve their employment conditions and has successfully helped 700 people, mainly girls and women who have faced exploitation. The organisation has supported domestic workers who have fallen pregnant as a result of sexual abuse in the course of their work. In some cases, it has convinced the fathers to contribute to child raising costs.

ADDAD has been active and vocal in the media on the rights of domestic workers and has been advocating for policy change at national level to see Mali adhere to the standards of the International Labour Organisation.



NYANZA INITIATIVE FOR GIRLS'

EDUCATION & EMPOWERMENT

Nyanza Initiative for Girls' Education & Empowerment is an organisation that supports girls who dropped out of school in the Kenyan province of Nyanza due to early marriage or pregnancy, giving them a second chance at education and a better life.

Based in **Kenya**



377 Current direct beneficiaries



99% Percentage who are female



63% Percentage who are girls



www.nigee.org

CHALLENGE

Nyanza in western Kenya has the worst indicators for girls and women across the country. Girls marry young, some as young as 12. They are vulnerable to violence, HIV, abuse and exploitation. Study after study has shown that education is key to empowering young girls to take charge of their lives, yet girls are continually forced to drop out of school due to early marriage.

Early marriage is perceived to reduce the chances of extra-marital sex and pregnancy, which would bring shame to the family. National surveys show that the Nyanza region has the highest incidence of teenage pregnancy in the country. There is also a high prevalence of HIV in girls aged 15-19, and physical and sexual violence against girls is widespread.

With little education, girls are ignorant of their rights and underestimate their own value to society.

RESPONSE

Nyanza Initiative for Girls' Education & Empowerment (NIGEE) was set up to help girls who dropped out of school, mainly due to early marriage and pregnancy, to get a second chance at education and improve their chances for a better future.

NIGEE has supported 377 girls to enrol in school since its school programme began in 2013. Out of 66 girls who completed their secondary education since 2015, 21 were qualified for university entry. It also provides vocational training and offers a career advice service. It established a Girls Empowerment Centre run by girls that offers computer skills training, hairdressing and dressmaking classes.

The organisation has also stepped in to help those who are unable to return to school due to lack of available childcare by running Bridge Centres in informal slums where the girls can attend classes with their children.

NIGEE runs retreats during the school holidays that offer information on HIV/AIDS, reproductive health and family planning, while providing support to those who have suffered sexual violence. The organisation works closely with authorities in the four counties of Nyanza to help support fundraising events and to prioritise girls' education in their budgets.



PASTORALIST GIRLS INITIATIVE

Pastoralist Girls Initiative was set up to support ethnic Somali girls and women in the North Eastern province of Kenya where access to education is limited and gender-based violence is widespread.

Based
in **Kenya**



 **4100** Current direct beneficiaries

 **85%** Percentage who are female

 **95%** Percentage who are girls

 www.pastoralistgirls.org

CHALLENGE

Residents of Kenya's North Eastern Province are an ethnic Somali community who rely on livestock for their livelihood. Chronic poverty has left many hungry and the region's vulnerability to climate change means food insecurity continues unabated. The region has the lowest school enrollment rate in the country, the highest poverty levels and the highest infant mortality rate, according to government figures.

Rampant poverty and the community's adoption of traditional gender roles mean girls face numerous barriers to learning. Education is seen as delaying marriage. Even families who support girls' education face several obstacles, including raising enough money for school fees, uniforms and books. Infrastructure is also among the most underdeveloped in Kenya making physical access to schools an additional challenge.

Without an education, girls are stripped of the power to make their own life choices.

RESPONSE

Pastoralist Girls Initiative (PGI) works to remove the obstacles encountered by pastoralist girls seeking a dignified life. PGI has built classrooms, health centres, science labs, and water and sanitation facilities. It has also set up a training and mentorship programme on leadership to help girls become more independent within their communities and raise their level of political participation.

PGI has initiated girls' forums and holiday camps in schools to build the confidence and self esteem of the girls. This enables them to advocate for their rights and fight against cultural beliefs such as early marriage, female genital mutilation and boy child preference over the girl child.

The livelihood development programme has helped the community learn about livestock diversification in order to meet the challenges faced as a result of climate change and recurrent drought. PGI also teaches community members about resource management, helping them access water through the creation of water pans, connecting piped water to the villages, and developing water catchment for schools in order to harvest rain water.

PGI has directly benefitted 4,100 people, 85 per cent of whom are female.



ROCK GIRL

Rock Girl seeks to create safe spaces for girls in South Africa and provide them with the skills and tools needed to break free from a life of violence



www.rockgirls.org

CHALLENGE

In the gang-ridden township of Manenberg, Cape Town, children are witness to the horrors of violence and daylight shootings on a daily basis. Chances are high that by the time they are teenagers, they will have joined a gang or been a victim of gang violence.

In addition to the dangers such violence poses to children in general, South Africa has one of the highest rates of rape and sexual violence on the continent, putting girls at higher risk. The lack of access to reproductive health care and counselling leaves girls further isolated and scared.

RESPONSE

Rock Girl's first project was the design of a "safe bench" in collaboration with artists and designers. The colourful bench was placed in a school as a violence-free spot where the girls could gather safely. This inspired the Safe Spaces campaign which created real and symbolic art spaces in some of the most dangerous places in Cape Town and Johannesburg in a bid to raise awareness about violence.

In 2015, Rock Girl on the Road began taking high school girls on road trips across South Africa where they are trained as reporters and photographers in partnership with the Children's Radio Foundation and Iliso Labantu Photography Cooperative. The aim is to create a new generation of female journalists, advocates, and adventurers who are equipped with the skills and knowledge to speak out about the injustices they face. Girls discover their country, share their stories, and advocate for solutions to the common challenges they face. Their experiences are documented on social media channels and blogs, as well as in print and digital publications.

Girls are at the heart of the decision-making process at Rock Girl, with the Rock Girl Charter guiding all the organisation's activities and reviewed yearly. Rock Girl has had an impact on 10,000 people since it was set up in 2011.



ASOCIACIÓN AMA

Asociación AMA seeks to promote the sexual and reproductive rights of young women in Guatemala's south Petén region in order to bring down the numbers of unplanned pregnancies in the region and address their root causes.



 **2834** Current direct beneficiaries

 **70%** Percentage who are female

 **80%** Percentage who are girls

 www.asociacionama.org.gt

CHALLENGE

In Guatemala, nearly 44 per cent of young women become mothers before the age of 20, with that proportion rising among indigenous communities. Population growth in the south Petén region has put a great deal of pressure on this agricultural community, as land becomes increasingly scarce and farmer communities struggle to make a living. In south Petén, as in many other parts of Guatemala, there is no comprehensive sex education at school or access to information about family planning.

The church's ban on contraceptive methods coupled with conservative norms have left many girls with no knowledge of how their bodies work. As a result, many young girls end up pregnant. The high rates of rape compound the problem.

Physically and emotionally unprepared, girls who get pregnant are left with the huge responsibility of caring for a child when they are in fact still children themselves. The stigma and discrimination attached to the issue leaves the girls more vulnerable, trapped in a cycle of poverty and dependency.

RESPONSE

Asociación AMA (AMA) offers a comprehensive sex education programme in primary schools in order to reduce the high rate of adolescent pregnancies in the region. AMA also seeks to promote access to modern contraceptive methods and raise awareness about HIV/AIDS, other sexually transmitted diseases and early pregnancy.

The organisation conducts training sessions for community leaders, primary school teachers in rural communities and marginalised Q'eqchi Mayan and Ladino urban areas in south Petén.

A mentoring scheme exists whereby the skills and knowledge acquired by the members of AMA are then transferred to adolescents in their own communities.

With areas that are difficult to reach, AMA works on disseminating information through the bilingual Spanish-Q'eqchi radio programme "The ABC of Sexuality" which airs for one hour on a community radio channel that reaches rural areas in their native language.



ASOCIACIÓN MOVIMIENTO DE JÓVENES DE LA ISLA DE OMETEPE

Asociación Movimiento de Jóvenes de la Isla de Ometepe works to empower girls on Ometepe Island, a poor farming community in Nicaragua. It uses sport as a tool for change for girls, giving them confidence and hope for a brighter future.

Based in
Nicaragua



445 Current direct beneficiaries



50% Percentage who are female



60% Percentage who are girls



**amoometepe.
blogspot.com**

CHALLENGE

The lush green of Ometepe is not quite the paradise it seems. Extreme poverty means that many residents are living on survival mode day in, day out. The economic challenges have driven large numbers to alcoholism and substance abuse, which has in turn fuelled a rise in crime, violence, aggressive behaviour and the breakdown of families.

In this environment, young people are left hopeless and young girls in particular feel powerless and marginalised. The island struggles with early marriage, unplanned pregnancies, sexual violence and intra-family violence.

Rape cases are too often ignored and offenders are rarely convicted. The girls who manage to speak up and take their case to court are often faced with an under-resourced justice system, which leads to the collapse of many cases.

RESPONSE

Asociación Movimiento de Jóvenes de la Isla de Ometepe (AMOJO) gives girls and young women access to education, work, recreation and sport with an aim to pave the way for more gender equality in Ometepe. AMOJO has set up workshops on caring for the environment, violence prevention campaigns, and awareness raising on the issues of HIV/AIDS and early pregnancy.

AMOJO also uses football as a medium to keep girls engaged. It organises football tournaments and sports activities as a tool to empower the girls and young women.

Before AMOJO, sports were considered a male-only field. Today the girls say the tournaments have changed their lives. They report feeling more hopeful. Young pregnancies among the female football players have dropped to zero. Sports have given the girls an incentive to stay away from alcohol and drugs, giving them the confidence they need to build a healthy life for themselves.

Encouraged by the initiative's success, the municipality has donated kits and equipment for the sports teams and the girls' families are becoming increasingly supportive of their involvement in football and other sports, having witnessed the incredible transformation in their daughters.



A BREEZE OF HOPE BOLIVIA

A Breeze of Hope Bolivia works to help combat sexual violence against children in the province of Cochabamba. The organisation provides free holistic support to victims of assault while advocating for legal reforms that will protect children's rights.

Based in **Bolivia**



 **422** Current direct beneficiaries

 **96%** Percentage who are female

 **65%** Percentage who are girls

 www.brisaesperanza.org

CHALLENGE

According to research conducted by the Pan American Health Organization & Centers for Disease Control, Bolivia has the highest rate of gender-based violence in Latin America. Studies suggest that 70 per cent of all Bolivian women suffer sexual violence, with more than half undergoing assault as children.

A myriad of reasons have led to these staggering numbers, including a weak interpretation of the law and a culture of machismo. Moreover, many women – particularly those from poor or indigenous communities – have little knowledge of their rights, perpetuating a patriarchal system that leaves them vulnerable. In many cases, the victim herself is blamed and pushed into not reporting the crime.

The high rate of violence in the Cochabamba communities continues to lead to significant psychological, medical and social problems including depression, unplanned pregnancies and even death.

RESPONSE

A Breeze of Hope Bolivia was established to address the severe problem of sexual assault and violence against children. The organisation focuses on child and adolescent survivors, primarily girls aged between three months and 18 years. They come from a variety of marginalised indigenous groups including the Aymara, Quecha, Guarani and Mestizo. The organisation provides free, holistic support, offering services the girls would otherwise be unable to access. Lawyers, psychologists, social workers, nurses and physicians work together to form a comprehensive plan to ensure the victims' protection and recovery. The organisation offers therapy services including trauma focused cognitive behavioural therapy, dance therapy, as well as music and art therapy.

A Breeze of Hope Bolivia has provided services to 1,503 girls and educated over 85,000 people including professionals, government officials, students and parents. In 2015, A Breeze of Hope Bolivia helped secure 52 convictions of offenders out of 52 trials – a 100 per cent conviction rate compared to the government's two per cent rate.



GLOBALGIRL MEDIA

GlobalGirl Media helps develop the media literacy of American girls and young women aged 14-22 through mentoring, training and access to a worldwide network of media partners. GGM works to balance the media landscape so it is more equal and representative.

Based in USA



 **120** Current direct beneficiaries

 **100%** Percentage who are female

 **75%** Percentage who are girls

 www.globalgirlmedia.org

CHALLENGE

Inequality defines our media. Women are half the population but still write only a third of our stories. There are more male by-lines on news stories, more men quoted in the media and unequal pay remains an issue for female media professionals. As a result, women and issues affecting women have been highly under-represented or misrepresented in news, film, television, advertising and social media.

The existing gender parity has meant that vast numbers of girls and young women find themselves on the side-lines of the decision making process, unable to influence change over the issues that concern them most. Girls and young women from poorer backgrounds are even less likely to become part of the conversation due to the digital divide and a lack of access to education and training.

RESPONSE

GlobalGirl Media's (GGM) objective is to diversify the media landscape by providing girls and young women with 21st-century media skills which include writing and oral communication, critical thinking, web literacy and journalism proficiency. GGM works exclusively with girls to provide a safe, nurturing environment where they can lead, speak their minds, and learn how to close the gender/technology divide.

Through the GlobalGirl Media Academy, girls receive 4-8 week training sessions with a curriculum developed by award-winning media professionals.

After graduation the girls continue to meet on a weekly basis and some are placed in a mentorship programme where they are paired with media professionals. GGM supports girls to create their own income-generating projects, produce videos and news stories and start their own small production companies.

GGM has reached around 10,000 young people through its media campaigns. Graduation rates of girls who participate in GGM training are 100 per cent, and 80 per cent have gone on to college, with more than half pursuing degrees in media. GGM has girls represented on its Board of Trustees.



AL-BIR CULTIVATING CULTURE & COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

Palestinian women living in Israel face daily discrimination due to their ethnicity and their gender. Al-Bir works to redress this exclusion by using art to give them a voice. It gives the women of Wadi Ara a community centre that serves as a space for self-expression, where they can foster relationships and engage in dialogue.

Based in **Israel**



 **2,600** Current direct beneficiaries

 **50%** Percentage who are female

 **10%** Percentage who are girls

 **Contact via Stars Foundation**

CHALLENGE

Wadi Ara is a valley in the Haifa district of Northern Israel mainly populated by Arab citizens who have experienced discrimination and marginalisation for decades. Their daily reality is shaped by the on-going conflict between Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. They face threats of eviction, political tension and economic exclusion.

In this context, women feel more vulnerable. As a minority within a minority, their personal and economic security is at risk. Arab women in Israel have reported feeling humiliated and frightened when dealing with state institutions. Some will not seek services to which they are entitled in order to avoid such situations.

RESPONSE

Al-Bir, which means “The Well” in Arabic, seeks to promote critical and creative voices that will provoke dialogue in order to raise awareness and enhance solidarity among communities, through art workshops, poetry readings, film screenings and other cultural events.

The organisation offers parenting courses for girls and women and works with volunteers in the Wadi Ara area to train local students in leadership skills. Al-Bir also runs workshops for girls to discuss themes such as identity and sexuality.

The organisation has established a “Girls’ Council”, made up of nine girls with leadership skills aged 12 to 18 who are dedicated to identifying the needs of their peers in the community. Guided by five female adults, the Girls’ Council members help plan and monitor the organisation’s programming. Their input on design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation gives a unique perspective on the requirements of girls in their age group.

Al-Bir has offered a much-needed reprieve from the daily tensions to the women and girls of Wadi Ara. Its board is made up of seven women who meet regularly to oversee organisational matters and regularly review the organisation’s direction and sustainability. Al-Bir has directly benefited 2,600 people, half of whom are female.



FONDATION YTTO POUR L'HÉBERGEMENT ET LA RÉHABILITATION DES FEMMES VICTIMES DE VIOLENCE

Fondation YTTO pour L'hébergement et la Réhabilitation des Femmes Victimes de Violence works to end the practice of child marriage in Morocco's rural areas.

Based in **Morocco**



3500 Current direct beneficiaries

70% Percentage who are female

75% Percentage who are girls

Contact via **Stars Foundation**

CHALLENGE

Child marriage is a complex issue rooted in poverty, lack of education, cultural norms and gender inequality. Once a girl is married, she is the responsibility of her husband, and therefore some families see child marriage as a way to secure a daughter's economic future while relieving the financial burden on her family.

Child marriages have devastating consequences on girls at a physical, psychological and social level. They are subjected to sexual abuse, expected to bear children before they are physically ready, and obliged to work long hours in the household.

In the mountain and desert regions of Morocco girls are married off as early as seven, despite family law reforms in 2004, which raised the minimum age of marriage to 18. Alarmingly, the figures of underage marriage in Morocco continue to rise. According to the Ministry of Justice, 15,000 girls were married in 2011. By 2014, the figure had climbed to 35,000.

RESPONSE

Fondation YTTO pour L'hébergement et la Réhabilitation des Femmes Victimes de Violence (Fondation YTTO) works to educate families about the dangers of child marriage and the negative impact for the community at large. The organisation provides training and workshops mainly in the Atlas Mountain towns of Midelt, Azilal and Ouarzazate, teaching girls and young mothers to read and write, helping them with professional training and supporting them in income-generating projects. Fondation YTTO has a roving caravan that visits different towns in remote areas. The organisation also offers a rehabilitation programme for girl victims of violence to help reintegrate them in school.

Fondation YTTO's medical committee provides residents with information on adolescent girls' sexual and reproductive health. The social team is on-hand to log complaints while the justice committee addresses the residents' grievances and offers practical legal advice. An arts and culture committee is geared towards children, using paint, drawing, music and poetry to engage them in the discussion on the dangers of child marriage.



STARS OF HOPE SOCIETY

Stars of Hope is an organisation that supports women with disabilities in Palestine and is run by women with disabilities. Headquartered in Ramallah, the group's goal is to offer support and advocate for policies that protect the rights of disabled girls and women.

Based in **Palestine**

 **200** Current direct beneficiaries

 **99%** Percentage who are female

 **40%** Percentage who are girls

 www.starsofhope.org/en/

CHALLENGE

In emergency situations, people with disabilities are left behind, literally and figuratively. In the Occupied Palestinian Territories, women with disabilities face the additional challenge of gender discrimination. The community sees disabled women and girls as dependent, weak, asexual and unable to contribute constructively to society.

The on-going conflict has drained the region of resources. The limited funds available are geared towards ensuring the very basic needs of residents. Access to medical care and equipment is increasingly difficult.

Disabled women are discouraged from pursuing studies or careers. Their prospects for marriage are diminished due to the stigma associated with disability. On a practical day-to-day level, they face numerous obstacles such as the lack of ramps for wheelchairs and limited facilities for those with vision or hearing impairment.

RESPONSE

Stars of Hope offers support to women and girls with disabilities while pushing for policies that ensure their rights are respected and guaranteed. The organisation – the only one of its kind in Palestine – offers skills training to help increase the women's prospects in the job market.

This includes regular training courses to women with disabilities on a wide range of topics including gender equality awareness, microfinance principles and leadership. The organisation also offers psychosocial support and peer counselling to those affected by disabilities as well as to their parents.

Stars of Hope has been working with other organisations to get the Ministry of Education to include students with disabilities in mainstream education. Following successful campaigns, some schools have been adapted for the requirements of people with disabilities.

Headquartered in Ramallah, the organisation has directly benefitted 200 girls and women with disabilities and had an impact on the lives of 4,000 more.



TRY CENTER FOR TRAINING & EDUCATION

Try Center for Training & Education was set up with the goal of protecting refugee girls and women in Jordan from violence and exploitation, and providing them with the education and vocational skills necessary to overcome the challenges that come with forced migration.

Based
in **Jordan**



2,500 Current direct beneficiaries



80% Percentage who are female



80% Percentage who are girls



Contact via
Stars Foundation

CHALLENGE

Jordan has the highest percentage of refugees of any country, making up more than 40% of its current population. Some have been in camps for decades, others have just escaped the trauma of war, but all share the difficulties that come with being displaced. These include living in cramped quarters, lack of privacy, unemployment, poverty and susceptibility to illness.

Most at risk in these situations are women and children, especially girls. They tend to have reduced access to social and economic resources, having often come from places where women face discrimination when it comes to education, among other things. As well as facing food insecurity, there is a high risk of sexual violence and labour exploitation.

Adolescent refugee girls are especially susceptible to violence at home, at school or in the streets. There is a culture of victim blaming, and girls who report assault are often assumed to be at fault and pulled out of school or forced into marriage.

RESPONSE

Try Center helps protect refugee girls and women in Jordan and equip them with the tools and skills to live full independent lives.

The organisation runs training courses on education, gender, human rights and democracy. It has successfully developed training manuals on girl child protection, widened the network of schools attended by Palestinian refugees, launched several awareness campaigns on gender equality and organised several art competitions on the theme of gender-based violence.

In 2014, Try Center established a steering committee for refugee girls called the Gender Working Group. The committee participated in advocacy programmes in schools to end violence against girls. Following its success, a new steering committee was formed in 2016 called Girls Leadership, which developed a work plan and a small budget to help girls exercise their power, providing them with the tools to protect themselves.

Try Center in Jordan has benefitted 2,500 people, 80 per cent of which are female. The organisation strives to be as girl-led as possible and even has girls represented on the organisation's Board of Trustees.



WITH THANKS...

REFERRAL PARTNERS

Asia and the Pacific:

Dasra, Developments in Literacy, Giving Women, iPartners India, Laureus Sport for Good, The British Council, The MATCH International Women's Fund, Thomson Reuters Foundation, Women in Business Development.

Europe and Central Asia:

God My Silent Partner Foundation, Filia, Astra, Reconstruction Women's Fund, Rosa Fund UK, Ukrainian Women's Fund, Women's Fund in Georgia, Bulgarian Fund for Women, Child Rights International Network (CRIN), The Central Asia Institute.

Sub-Saharan Africa:

Boxgirls Kenya, Urgent Action Fund- Africa, Girl Effect Rwanda, The Resource Alliance, Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises, Rise Up, Girl Child Network Worldwide, Stars Foundation, Forum for African Women Educationalists.

The Americas and the Caribbean:

CaMYfund, Canadian Women's Foundation, EMpower, Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres (FCAM), I Am a Girl Barbados, MADRE, One World Children's Fund, Semillas- Sociedad Mexicana Pro Derechos de la Mujer, The Indigenous Women's Fund AYNi, The Womanity Foundation.

The Middle East and North Africa:

International Service (UNAIS), Shoruq Association, Syrian Women's League (SWL), ABAAD (Dimensions)- Resource Center for Gender Equality, Psycho Social Counseling Center for Women, Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA), L'Union de l'Action Féminine (UAF), Kvinna till Kvinna, Mediterranean Women's Fund/Fonds pour les Femmes en Méditerranée, The Global Fund for Women.

Cross-regional:

Frida, The Global Fund for Children, ECPAT International, Women Win, Equality Now, Mama Cash, IDEX - International Development Exchange, Spark, Como Foundation, International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC), VGIF, Girls Not Brides, Fight for Peace International, HOW Fund.

GIRL-LED PANELS

DELIVERY PARTNERS:

EMpower, Insan Association, Melel Xojobal, Restless Development Tanzania, The Challenge

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