

2020 – 3 anniversaries and 1 virus

There would have been good reasons to celebrate in 2020: 25 years of the Beijing Platform for Action on Women's Rights, Peace and Gender Equality; 20 years of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on "Women, Peace and Security"; and 15 years of PeaceWomen Across the Globe. Then the corona virus struck and put an end to the celebratory mood.

But would it in any case have been justified to celebrate the anniversaries of these two major human rights instruments? We don't think so. For every step forward in the past few decades, there has been half a step back.

At the Fourth Beijing World Conference on Women, women's care work was recognised as a critical factor for peace and development. The pandemic has shown that care work remains primarily women's work and that it is still undervalued.

The UN resolution calls for the equal participation of women in peace processes but we are still a long way from 50:50 participation. The virus has brought

peace negotiations to a standstill and has also slowed down peace work.

The pandemic has cast a spotlight on existing inequalities. Violence against women has increased markedly in many places. Billionaires have become richer while their employees continue to toil in precarious employment. It was mothers, not fathers, who adjusted their workload to their children's distance learning.

At the same time, the pandemic has caused the world to shrink. Thanks to new technologies, activists have been connecting around the globe, including in our own webinars. The Colombian Truth Commission has been able to continue its work on dealing with the past by gathering the experiences of conflict-affected women, albeit at a slower pace.

The coronavirus has slowed down peace work, but did not bring it to a complete standstill. It has reminded us of the necessity of solidarity. In 2020, our global network was solidarity in action. In 2021, it will build peace with more vigour.



Annual Report 2020



Highlights 2020



Sustainable development
Our Director Flurina Derungs gives a presentation about gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at an event for Swiss civil society organisations working to implement the Agenda.



Corona Emergency Fund 1
In the Democratic Republic of Congo, 18 people were trained to sensitise the population in Goma about protective measures against Covid-19. Face masks and money baskets on long poles were distributed in the markets to reduce the contact between seller and customer.



Corona Emergency Fund 2
The "Stitching Hope" project trained women in Delhi, Mumbai and northern India to sew reusable cloth sanitary towels, the sale of which provides them with an income. In a poor district of Delhi, an urban gardening project helped 80 households, predominantly headed by women, to earn an income and grow nutritious vegetables.



A virtual Board
Our International Board also used virtual platforms for its meetings in 2020. Co-President Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold (centre), Margo Okazawa-Rey, Christine Menz, Kin Chi Lau, Sandy Fong and Margret Kiener Nellen (top from left to right).



Podcast series
Yasmin Busran-Lao (Philippines), Sima Samar (Afghanistan), Susan Risal (Nepal) and PeaceWoman Mandy Carter (USA) (clockwise from left) speak about the motivation behind their commitment to women's rights and peace work. The podcasts are available on our website under Publications.

CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY FUND

Standing in solidarity with our project partners

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic hit almost every country worldwide – but it did not affect everyone equally. We and our partner organisations were quickly confronted with hard facts: given the realities on the ground, it would not be possible to carry out all our project activities as we had planned. In this difficult situation, it became a priority to back our partner organisations and to support the project participants in their struggle for survival.

In solidarity with particularly affected women, we launched a Coronavirus Emergency Fund in the spring. In co-operation with our partner organisations, we created targeted projects to support these women and their families and to make an important contribution to their livelihoods during this challenging time.

In Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan and the

Philippines, we financed projects that provided food and income in a timely and uncomplicated manner for women and their families. Around 3,000 people benefited directly.

For example, in Colombia, food and hygiene kits were distributed and in addition, around 50 women affected by domestic violence received psychosocial and legal support. During the pandemic, violence against women in Colombia increased by an estimated 70%. In Nepal, women-headed households received food parcels or cash as part of the cash-based approach that lets recipients decide for themselves what they and their families need.

Find out more about the coronavirus emergency projects on our website under Publications – Coronavirus pandemic. There you will also find further texts and videos on the pandemic and its effects.

Feminist peace policy

Advocacy and political work are focal points of our work, both in Switzerland and worldwide.

In Switzerland, our focus was on the Responsible Business Initiative and the Arms Investment Ban Initiative. As a member of the alliances behind these initiatives, we brought feminist peace policy and human rights standpoints into the referendum campaign. At an event on the Responsible Business Initiative, which we organised with cfd, experts described how women are affected by human rights violations committed by large Swiss corporations abroad. Using our communications channels, we argued that women are affected in multiple ways by armed conflicts that are supported by investments of the Swiss National Bank and state pension funds in war material. Both initiatives were rejected, the Responsible Business Initiative just by the cantonal majority.

In the Swiss TV discussion programme "Club" on the procurement of fighter jets, our Co-President Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold made it clear that investments

in war material do not lead to more security. The fighter jets purchase passed with a 0.2% margin.

Advocacy is an integral part of the projects we run with our partner organisations abroad. In Burundi, for example, women were encouraged in training sessions to become politically active. At a meeting with members of the government, they presented their recommendations for the effective participation of women in decision-making processes. Among them was Diane Nishimirama. The training she received, encouraged her to run for office for the first time. In May, she was elected to the municipal council.

Diane was also one of the eleven women featured in our "16 Days Against Violence Against Women" campaign on Facebook. From Burundi to Papua New Guinea, the women portrayed are activists for a world without violence.

You can find the statements and Facebook posts on our website under Activities – Campaigns.

THE NETWORK

Virtual meetings, real projects

Digital meetings and events became an integral part of our work in 2020. The exchange forums brought the widely dispersed network "Feminists Connecting for Peace" closer together, despite major challenges. For our network, 2020 presented the opportunity to break new ground and further develop our global network. The year was filled with exciting projects and virtual encounters.

A special highlight was the "7th South South Forum on Sustainability". We organised a six-part feminist discussion series with participants from all over the world on topics such as violence against women, demilitarisation or food security and ecology. The forum was organised by Kin Chi Lau and moderated by Margo Okazawa-Rey, both Board members. Our Co-President Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold opened each event.

For International Women's Day on 8 March 2020, we launched an eight-part podcast series. Activists from our network spoke about their work, the challenges for

peace in their countries and their reasons for their commitment to peace and women's rights.

Since autumn 2020, network members have been able to develop their own webinar series and workshops on topics of particular interest to them. In November, activists from various Asian countries made a start with the "PWAG Asia Feminism Forum", in workshops on the rights of indigenous women or intergenerational experiences with women's rights. In order to link the seminar topics to the practical work of the people involved, five young women are now implementing small projects in their local networks.

The findings from all the exchange forums will be summarised and published.

More about the network on our website. You can find the podcast series under Publications.

Team and Board

The International Office moved to new offices in Bern in April 2020. The team consists of 10 people with a total of 5,5 full-time equivalent positions: Flurina Derungs (Director), Mithra Akhbari (Programme Manager and Deputy Director), Andrea Filippi (Programmes and Advocacy), Annemarie Sancar (Network and Programme Manager), Carla Weymann and Caroline Morrissey (Network), Christina Stucky (Communications), Franziska Vogel (Fundraising), Christa Bader (Administration) and Wirawan Butsri (Cleaning). The International Board consists of Co-Presidents Kamla Bhasin (India) and Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold (Switzerland), Sandy Fong (Fiji), Kin Chi Lau (Hong Kong), Alejandra Miller Restrepo (Colombia), Cécile Mukarubuga (Rwanda), Margo Okazawa-Rey (USA) and Marina Pikulina (Uzbekistan) as well as Marina Carobbio Guscelli, Anna Hess, Margret Kiener Nellen, Christine Menz and Susanne Schneeberger (Switzerland). No International Board meeting took place in 2020 but members met for 25 virtual meetings; the Swiss Board also met for six additional Board meetings. The Board's work, totalling 2,400 hours, is performed on a voluntary basis.

Our partner organisations and Regional Coordinators, who maintain the interaction with our network, provided a total of some 8,000 hours of voluntary work in 2020.

Our warm thanks to you all for your great commitment!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (EXCERPT)

Statement of Operations

Income	2020	2019
Contributions from public institutions	93,604	113,243
Donations from foundations, organisations and institutions	728,750	453,750
Donations from churches	60,494	104,587
Private donations	209,089	201,088
Various income	1,368	12,705
Total Income	1,093,304	885,373

Expenditure	2020	2019
Direct project expenditure	265,995	209,246
Material costs	33,015	45,268
Project contributions	232,980	163,978
Personnel costs	592,457	405,371
Salary costs (including social insurance benefits)	490,644	346,866
Social insurance contributions	80,394	53,467
Other personnel costs	21,419	5,037
Operating costs	96,316	93,351
Office and infrastructure	47,210	26,825
Third-party services	11,806	26,418
Running costs	7,835	5,474
Fundraising	10,735	10,357
Communications	13,170	11,260
Representational and networking costs	617	3,922
Board	3,943	8,095
Depreciation and amortisation	1,000	1,000
Total Expenditure	954,768	707,968

Operating result	138,535	177,405
Financial income and exceptional revenue	-1,461	-9,309
Annual result before change in fund capital	137,075	168,096
Change in fund capital	130,000	150,000

Annual Results	7,075	18,096
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Peacebuilding during the corona pandemic

What are the requirements for peace? In Isiolo, women's and civil society organisations, as well as those affected by conflict, once again addressed this question in 2020. This region in eastern Kenya has for years been considered a conflict hotspot; the causes of the cycles of violence are manifold. The structural poverty goes back to the marginalisation of the region at the hands of the state: schools, hospitals and roads hardly exist. Conflicts arise over natural resources and land, while climate change increases tensions. Freely available firearms fuel crime and violence. Some join the Islamist Al-Shabaab militia; extreme violence is on the increase. The families left behind and the returnees are stigmatised.

In Isiolo, women's and peace organisations speak of an overall social trauma. Until these causes are addressed and the wounds healed, there will be no sustainable peace.

Building on the recommendations of an earlier Women's Peace Table, we developed a follow-up project with our partner Coalition for Peace in Africa, "Strengthening Local Capacities for Peace". The training cycle consisted of two thematic blocks: processing trauma and seminars on the local implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on "Women, Peace and Security".

Over four days, individuals who had been directly affected and representatives of 13 organisations discussed their traumatic experiences, learning to recognise trauma and to understand the link between trauma and cycles of violence, and developing strategies that empower communities to break free from these cycles. "I now understand that healing from trauma is a deliberate act," said one participant. "In order for us to heal, we have to be ready to talk."

The second part was attended by 27 people from 22 organisations, including staff from the National Police Service who assist families of Al-Shabaab returnees. The focus was on how the participants can use Resolution 1325, a milestone in international peace policy, for their local and national demands. The training also focused on strengthening concrete skills: writing project proposals and reports, conducting needs assessments and the inclusion of gender aspects in project planning.

Further projects

In several partner countries, face-to-face meetings have not been possible due to the pandemic. In Colombia, Nepal and the Philippines however, we were able to continue our projects with the help of virtual platforms, even including participants from remote areas.

In Afghanistan, participants in a "Gender and Peace" course at Gawharshad University in Kabul (see cover picture) expanded their knowledge of this topic and planned campaigns as part of the peace negotiations.

In Burundi (picture), participants in a workshop run by our partner organisation, Centre Giriteka, developed strategies for the effective participation of women in elections, learned about national and international instruments for the promotion and protection of women's rights and addressed violence against women as an obstacle to women's development.

So what is required, among other things, for peace? Healing processes, civil society strategies and co-operation, and active, networked women as catalysts for peace, both locally and nationally.

Read more about our projects on our website under Activities.



A participant reports back from a group work during the workshop in Burundi.

Balance Sheet

Assets	2020	2019
Liquid assets	802,231	605,501
Cash	800,631	583,737
Receivables from goods and services	0	0
Accrued income	1,600	21,764
Fixed assets	12,892	1,002
Tangible fixed assets	12,892	1,002
Total Assets	815,123	606,503

Liabilities	2020	2019
Current liabilities	105,799	34,254
Payables from goods and services	28,953	20,999
Accrued liabilities	76,846	13,255
Organisational capital	709,324	572,249
Free capital	422,249	404,152
Tied capital	280,000	150,000
Annual profit	7,075	18,097
Total Liabilities and Equity	815,123	606,503

Commentary

The 2020 financial statement has been duly audited by the independent auditors BDO AG. It complies with Swiss law and our bylaws. The financial statement has been prepared in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER 21 accounting recommendations and the Swiss Code of Obligations and are presented in Swiss francs.

The annual financial statements are positive with a profit of CHF 7,075. **67% of the total expenditure directly benefits our projects – a great deal of work is also done voluntarily.** Some activities had to be postponed due to the corona pandemic.

Thanks to stable partnerships with institutional and private donors, it has been possible to increase income. This allows for the further development of peacebuilding projects and of our worldwide network of peace activists.

Since 2013, PeaceWomen Across the Globe has held the ZEWO quality seal and is certified as a reputable organisation that uses its donations purposefully, effectively and in an impact-oriented manner, earning the trust of its donors.

The revised annual financial statement can be found on our website under Publications – Annual Report.

Our sincere thanks!

Without the cooperation of long-standing funding partners and generous private donors, our work for a more peaceful world would not be possible – our heartfelt thanks! Thanks to your support, together with our partner organisations around the world, we can ensure that women have a voice in peace and conflict transformation processes and help to shape them. We are also able to ensure that the knowledge of women peace activists is shared within the network and that women's peace work becomes visible.

In particular, we would like to thank the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (Human Security Division and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), the Wyss Foundation and the following foundations for their substantial institutional contributions: CARITATIS, FOKUS FRAUEN and Co-rymbo. We would also like to thank Bread for the World, Protestant Women Switzerland World Day of Prayer Fund, the Roman Catholic Parish of Münsingen and the Reformed Churches of Nidwalden and Worb for their valued contributions.

Your donation in good hands.

AUTHORS Flurina Derungs, Christina Stucky, Carla Weymann
EDITORS Mithra Akhbari, Flurina Derungs, Andrea Filippi, Christina Stucky, Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold
TRANSLATIONS Caroline Morrissey, Christina Stucky
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