

# SETTING NEW STORIES

*in Motion*

FEMINIST VOICES FOR CHANGE

2023 FALL IMPACT REPORT



GLOBAL FUND FOR  
WOMEN

**The stories feminists tell make a difference.** They can help us envision new versions of the world, change hearts and minds, and create space for joy and solidarity. Too often, the stories of gender justice movements go unheard. But if we listen, they are shaping our present and our future.

Every day, feminist activists around the world are fighting back against violence and discrimination—and standing up to those who wish to deny their right to speak out. **These leaders are creating their own stories every day, finding ways to speak truth to power and refusing to be silenced.**

Over the past year, these incredible activists have worked to create new stories for today and tomorrow—for a more just and equitable world for all. These stories aren't always linear. They have twists and turns and setbacks. **But together, as a global feminist community, we'll keep turning the pages toward a brighter future.**

# YEAR IN REVIEW

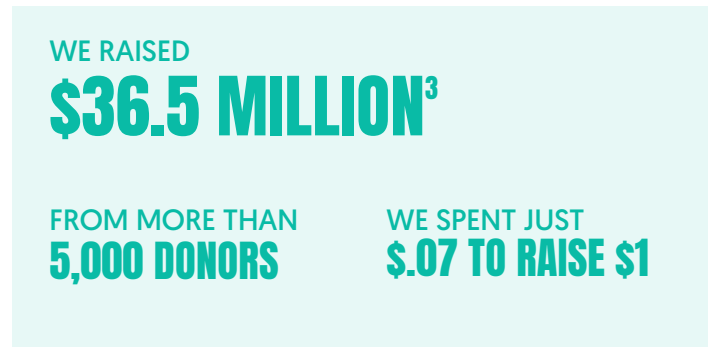
## GRANTMAKING

With your support during fiscal year 2023<sup>1</sup>, we doubled down on our support for gender justice movements globally. And we grew our **fiscal sponsorship program**, championing feminist organizations otherwise ineligible for tax-deductible donations in the United States. Now, we continue to share power with movements so they lead the way on all strategy and funding decisions.

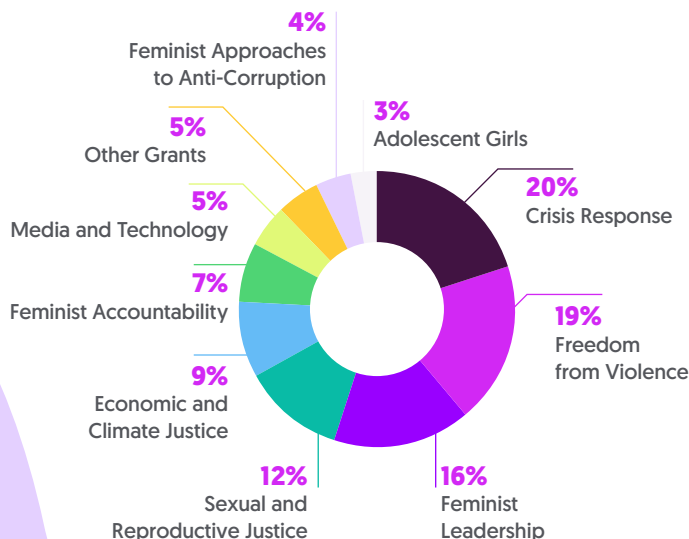


## FUNDRAISING

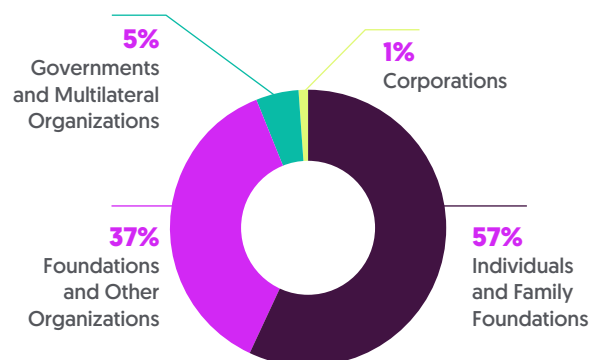
During fiscal year 2023, your contributions shifted power and resources to movements for gender justice. Most of our funds raised came from family foundations and individual donors like you, reminding us that the collective power of everyday people can create huge waves of change.



### Our core program grants supported key issue areas:



### Fundraising breakdown:



1. July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.
2. Includes \$14.1 million of core program grants and \$14.4 million of Model A Fiscal Sponsorship grants.
3. Includes Model A Fiscal Sponsorships totaling \$9.35 million. Figures presented are unaudited. For a full list of audited revenue and expenses, please refer to our forthcoming 2023 Annual Report.

# HEALING WITH FOOD AND ART

## FINDING FEMINIST COMMUNITY DURING WAR

In February 2022, the world watched in horror as Russia invaded Ukraine, which sent millions fleeing for safety as Russia disregarded human rights and international law. As we have seen during other crises, **Ukrainian women immediately sprang into action—distributing aid, documenting war crimes, and providing community support.** And with many Ukrainian men aged 18 to 60 conscripted into the military, women have found themselves solely responsible for caring for their families and communities.

Grassroots organizations are responding to the war's impacts, including **Feminist Workshop, who provides psychological support, childcare, housing, and social services to internally displaced people within and outside Ukraine, all while creating space for feminist community and care.**

Their **Ukrainian Feminist Kitchen** events invite feminists around the world to build community with Ukrainian women while learning to cook traditional Ukrainian dishes. The online cooking classes and discussions have brought together activists and home cooks from Ukraine, Poland, Armenia, the United States, Zimbabwe, and more to find common ground in the global feminist struggle for justice.

And feminist groups outside Ukraine continue to show up in solidarity. Since the war began, more than 15.4 million Ukrainians have crossed into Poland.<sup>4</sup> In the immediate days after the attacks began, **Fundacja Kobięca eFKa (Women's Foundation eFKa)** converted their office in Kraków into emergency housing for those fleeing the war. **Now, eFKa continues to support displaced Ukrainians in Poland through safe spaces where they can build community, learn, and organize.**

Ukrainians in Poland receive little support for the high levels of social isolation and trauma they face. **To help fill this gap, eFKa runs feminist art programs to support displaced Ukrainians to begin their journey towards healing.** Irina, a painter from Kiev, was one of several Ukrainian women who participated in eFKa's artist's residence, where she was able to stay in a safe and quiet space surrounded by nature. Four months after fleeing Ukraine, thanks to eFKa's support, Irina was finally able to paint again.

**Your support ensures that groups like Feminist Workshop and Women's Foundation eFKa are ready to respond when disaster strikes.** With the flexible resources they need, these feminist groups can show up for their communities, offering both immediate safety and long-term recovery.

4. Polish Border Guard, 2023.



A community pottery workshop in Lviv. Photo credit: Feminist Workshop.

# UNDER ATTACK

## FIGHTING BACK AGAINST ANTI-LGBTQI+ HATE IN UGANDA



Participants in a documentary film about the experiences of rural trans and gender diverse youth in western Uganda. Photo credit: Trans Youth Initiative-Uganda.

**Around the world, LGBTQI+ rights are on the line.** Attacks on queer and trans communities are escalating, and this year, we saw one of the world's harshest anti-LGBTQI+ laws go into effect. In May, Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni signed the Anti-Homosexuality Act into law, **making LGBTQI+ relationships punishable by life in prison—and even death.**

Being LGBTQI+ was already criminalized in Uganda, but the new law goes even further, including a 20-year prison sentence for "promoting homosexuality." Individuals can be prosecuted for even renting a room to someone who is LGBTQI+. As a result, LGBTQI+ Ugandans are facing increased social isolation, losing their jobs and livelihoods, and being denied safe housing, healthcare, and education.

In response, local gender justice groups are working tirelessly for the safety and freedom of LGBTQI+ Ugandans. For example, **Women Human Rights Defenders Network Uganda** is providing relocation support and direct assistance to meet the basic needs of LGBTQI+ women human rights defenders affected by the law. They are also hosting a one-day retreat that will offer a safe space for these activists to come together for social support, connection, and healing.

Young LGBTQI+ people in Uganda have been hit especially hard by the new law. Many of Uganda's queer and trans youth live in LGBTQI+ youth shelters after being kicked out by their families, but under the new law, these shelters are subject to raids and arrests. As one trans youth shared:

“When the Ugandan government passed the Anti-LGBTQI+ Act, the shelter shut down and I rented a room. The landlord started asking me who truly I was, and he didn't stop there, he told my neighbors and I was chased away.”

**Trans Youth Initiative-Uganda** and **Youth Fraternity for Change** are two groups offering wraparound support for queer and trans youth in Uganda, including through hotlines and mental health services. They have also set up crisis funds for emergency shelter, medical costs, and legal support in case of arrests.

In this pivotal moment, it's more critical than ever to support those fighting back against hate and discrimination. With your support, global gender justice movements will continue fighting for a world where all LGBTQI+ people can thrive with dignity and freedom.



Activists at a convening to end violence against rural trans and gender non-conforming communities. Photo credit: Trans Youth Initiative-Uganda.

# YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE FRONTLINES

## THE STRUGGLE FOR A CLIMATE RESILIENT FUTURE

We are at a tipping point in the climate crisis. From heatwaves to heavy precipitation, droughts, and tropical cyclones, we see weather and climate extremes increasing in every region across the globe. Youth activists are standing up to shout what we all know is true: **this is our now or never moment to act on climate change**. But these young people are often left out of conversations about the very issue that will affect them most—the future of our planet.

Global Fund for Women is proud to be partnering with 25 feminist organizations who are working to hold powerful governments, institutions, and foundations accountable for the promises they made at the United Nation's Generation Equality Forum in 2021. **A close look at the 2,500+ commitments made—representing \$40 billion—shows that the Feminist Action for Climate Justice Action Coalition has the least amount of funds promised.** The Feminist Accountability Framework aims to change the future of the climate crisis by centering those most affected.

One of these partners is **Girls for Climate Action** in Uganda, who is building a movement of young stewards for the earth standing up for climate justice. They are calling for meaningful youth engagement, including providing more space and opportunities for young leaders to participate in the internal processes of the United Nations.



Deepshikha Ghosh of the YP Foundation at the Feminist Accountability Convening in Rwanda.



“ This space is centered around care. We care for each other, we care about bringing positive change, we care enough to speak truth to power. Being together in solidarity allows us to validate our feelings and lived experiences, grieve, and celebrate our journeys while helping each other look at the bigger picture.

—Deepshikha Ghosh, Director of Programs and Policy Engagement at the YP Foundation

In July 2023, Feminist Accountability partners gathered in Rwanda to check in on their progress, celebrate wins, and strategize together for even deeper impact. Deepshikha Ghosh was one of the youth activists who attended. She is the Director of Programs and Policy Engagement at the **YP Foundation**, which mobilizes young people to build their own movements for transformative change.

“ There's nothing we can do for young people without young people in the room. ”

—Joanita Babirye, co-founder of Girls for Climate Action

**JOIN 1.9 RISING WITH A MONTHLY GIFT**

Did you know that only 1.9% of US charitable giving is directed to women and girls? We're changing that—and you can, too. By joining our monthly program, **1.9 Rising**, you'll be a critical part of rewriting the story for global gender justice. Your dependable funding every month means activists can spend their time creating change instead of raising money. As a part of 1.9 Rising, you'll also learn about feminist leaders through books, videos, articles, events, and more. **Learn more at [globalfundforwomen.org/rising](https://globalfundforwomen.org/rising).**



Distributing hygiene kits to communities displaced by the conflict in North Kivu.  
Photo credit: ACNDC.

# CRISIS UPON CRISIS

## COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS FOR CLIMATE AND PEACEBUILDING IN THE DRC

We live in an age of compounding emergencies, with one disaster accelerating the next. The overlapping threats of extreme weather, rising authoritarianism, epidemics, and other growing risks have made crises more frequent and more severe. **Feminist activists around the world are responding to crises every day—and more often than not, they're responding to multiple, intersecting crises at once.**

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), for example, decades of armed conflict have created a simultaneous humanitarian, economic, climate, and health emergency. In North Kivu, where violent conflict is a daily reality, thousands of people live in makeshift shelters at Rusayo camp. **Women and girls make up the majority of those displaced**, and without access to safe drinking water or hygienic facilities, they face malnutrition and outbreaks of cholera, measles, and Ebola.

With your support, groups like **Solidarité Féminine pour la Paix et le Développement Intégral (SOFEPADI)** are working directly with their community in the Rusayo camp by building safe spaces, providing critical psychosocial support, and distributing food and hygiene kits. **This year, SOFEPADI built showers and toilets to promote the health and safety of women and girls and stop the spread of illness.**

And armed conflict isn't the only crisis forcing people from their homes in the eastern DRC. **In May 2021, the deadly and sudden eruption of Mount Nyiragongo volcano displaced hundreds of thousands more people.** As the camps grow, displaced communities must clear more and more trees to create room for shelters and collect firewood. Together with the destruction from the volcanic eruption, the DRC now faces a crisis of deforestation and an accelerating climate emergency.

But local groups like **Actions pour la Conservation de la Nature et le Développement Communautaire (ACNDC)** are working to ensure a resilient future for women and girls in the DRC. **Over the past year, ACNDC provided families with improved stoves and organized trainings for local women and girls on more efficient ways to gather and use fuel.** ACNDC is also mobilizing local women around reforestation, including teaching them how to plant and grow seedlings, and advocating against methane and carbon gas emissions.

To continue to do their transformative work, feminist groups like SOFEPADI and ACNDC need flexible resources they can count on for the long term. **That's where our community of generous partners like you comes in.** Together, we can rise to the challenges facing our world today and create a more resilient tomorrow.

# GENDER JUSTICE WINS

The past year hasn't been easy. We've seen many challenges and setbacks along the way. But we also recorded monumental wins into the history books. Join us in celebrating recent triumphs for gender justice around the world.

## TAKING CLIMATE INJUSTICE TO THE WORLD'S HIGHEST COURT

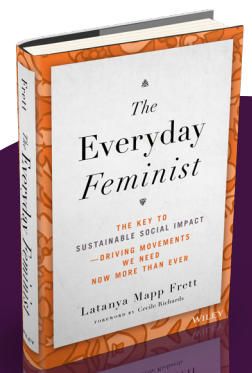
Pacific Island climate justice activists, and especially young people, are calling for a global solution to the climate crisis. With support from grassroots groups, the Pacific Island nation of Vanuatu has called on the United Nations to take a firmer stance on the responsibilities of wealthy nations to protect those most affected by climate change. In March of this year, United Nations member states unanimously approved the **Resolution for an International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion (ICJ-AO) on Climate Change and Human Rights**, paving the way for transformative climate action globally. This victory was possible thanks to the relentless advocacy of Pacific Island feminists, students, and climate activists, including members of the **Pacific Island Feminist Alliance for Climate Justice (PIFA4CJ)**.

Members of the Pacific Island Feminist Alliance for Climate Justice.  
Photo credit: PIFA4CJ.



## ADVANCING DISABILITY JUSTICE IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

In the Solomon Islands, roughly 16% of people have a disability. But Solomon Islanders with disabilities face discrimination and lack of legal protections in the workplace, schools, and healthcare system, starting from a young age—only 2% of children with disabilities attend primary school, compared to 66% of children overall. A cohort of feminist groups is working to transform the landscape for disability rights in the Solomon Islands and globally. Since 2008, the **Disability Rights Fund (DRF)** has supported disability rights organizations around the world to participate in the ratification, implementation, and monitoring of the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**, an international treaty that promotes, protects, and respects the rights of persons with disabilities and creates stronger protections against violence and discrimination. **Thanks partly to the DRF's support, in June 2023, the Solomon Islands became the 187th country to ratify the CRPD.** Now, local disability rights groups are continuing their advocacy to ensure the treaty translates into meaningful change for Solomon Islanders with disabilities.



## CELEBRATING STORIES OF EVERYDAY FEMINISTS

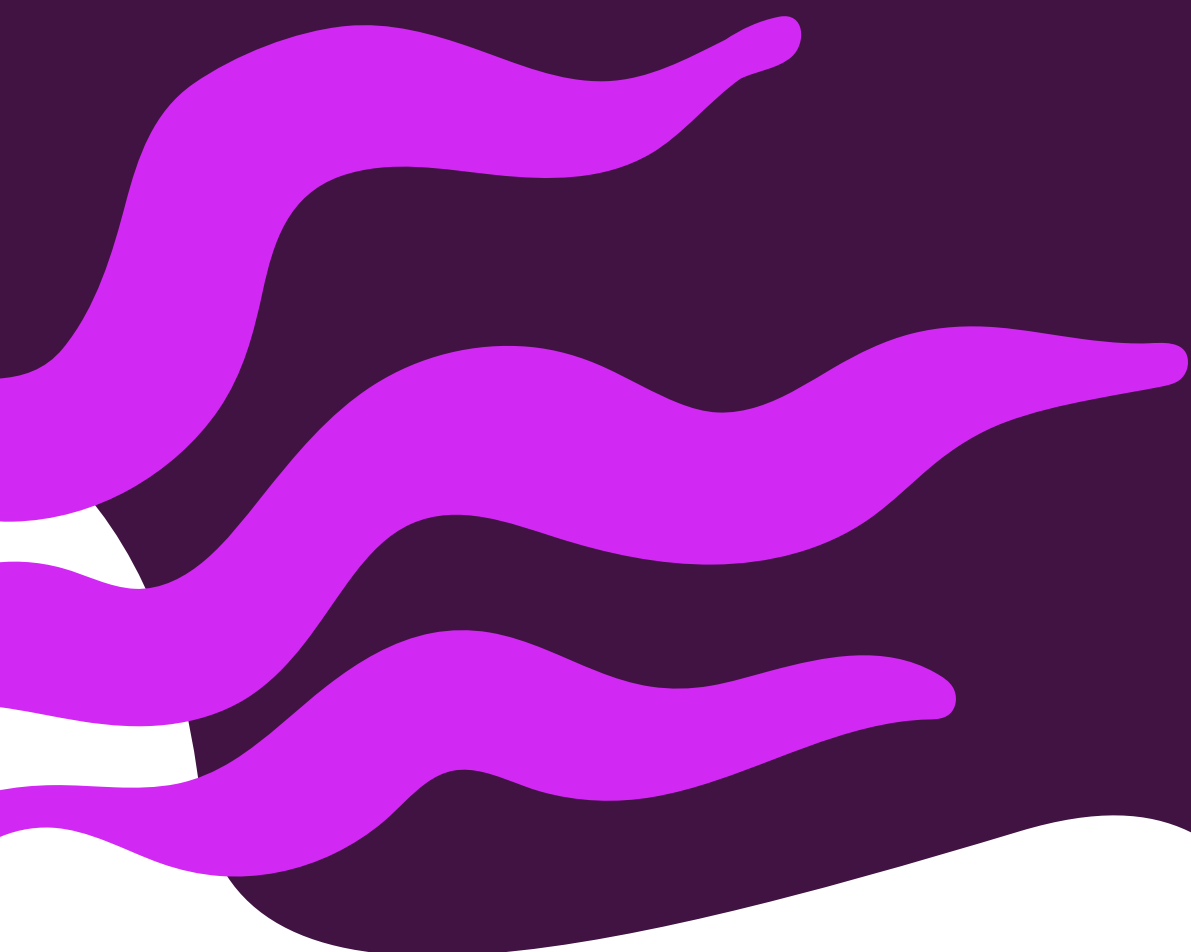
In March 2023, Global Fund for Women President and CEO Latanya Mapp Frett released **The Everyday Feminist: The Key to Sustainable Social Impact—Driving Movements We Need Now More than Ever**. It's full of stories of the grassroots feminists changing the world—and how we can all be part of writing the story of a better tomorrow. Proceeds benefit Global Fund for Women. Order your copy at [globalfundforwomen.org/the-everyday-feminist](https://globalfundforwomen.org/the-everyday-feminist).

**Join us today in celebrating the voices, creativity, and vision of intersectional feminists around the world.**

Your gift will power courageous activists who are setting new stories in motion.

[globalfundforwomen.org/donate](https://globalfundforwomen.org/donate)

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