



# Letter from the Founder



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Let's build the future  
we all deserve, together.

**Yann Borgstedt**

Founder, Womanity

In 2025, Womanity will celebrate 20 years of working to advance the rights of women and girls across the world. When I reflect on this incredible milestone, I'm filled with both pride and gratitude.

When I founded Womanity in 2005, the vision was clear: giving women and girls the same rights and opportunities that men enjoyed was the surest way to build stronger, more just societies.

But this was never about women versus men—it has always been about working together to create a world where everyone can thrive. The journey has been both humbling and inspiring. We took risks, ventured into uncharted territory, and challenged norms that seemed immovable. Some ideas flourished, while others taught us invaluable lessons. That is the ethos of Womanity—an entrepreneurial nonprofit that dares to push boundaries, to test, to innovate, and to evolve.

We have always believed that real change comes from taking action, from trying, and from learning along the way.

Over the years, we have worked alongside incredible individuals and organisations. It has been deeply profound to witness the strength and resilience of the women and communities we support, as well as the unwavering commitment of our partners on the ground. Their work is not easy. The challenges are often more complex than we anticipate. Yet, through perseverance, collaboration, and a shared vision, we have seen remarkable transformations take place.

I'm immensely proud of the team that has moved Womanity forward, of the programmes we have built, and of the impact we have made. We have seen young girls denied education go on to persevere in their careers, we have supported women entrepreneurs in breaking barriers, and we have worked with communities to shift deeply ingrained harmful and stereotypical perceptions of gender roles. These wins — big and small — remind us why we do this work and reaffirm our belief that change is not only possible but inevitable.

It's also heartening to see how the conversation around gender equality has evolved. It is no longer confined to advocacy, policy, and activism but has become a key consideration across multiple sectors in society and from many different angles —from gender-lens investing to climate action and economic development. The recognition that gender equality is essential to solving global challenges is growing, and Womanity is determined to keep driving this momentum forward.

The fight for gender equality is not just about women and girls—it's about all of us. When women are held back, societies remain trapped in cycles of poverty, instability, and unrealised potential. But when women and girls thrive, economies grow, communities become stronger, and the world evolves. This is not just Womanity's fight; it is everyone's fight. The question is whether we are willing to stand up, take action, and be part of the solution. The time is now — especially as backlashes against equality continue to rise across the world. Womanity's story is still being written, and our commitment to advancing the rights of women and girls is stronger than ever.



# Letter from the Co-CEOs

When we stepped into our roles as Co-CEOs in 2022, we inherited the leadership of a 17-year-old adolescent organisation full of energy, ambition and bold ideas about how to build a more just world for women and girls in all their diversity. Over the past three years, we have learned not only about the depth and impact of Womanity's work in some of the world's most challenging places to be a woman, but also about what it takes to remain relevant in a rapidly shifting landscape.

Guiding Womanity through this pivotal stage has meant embracing the nuances of shared leadership—listening deeply, navigating differences with empathy, and trusting each other's strengths.

It has meant recognising when to step forward and when to step back, and learning that our feminist co-leadership is at its strongest when we find common ground.

Now, as Womanity approaches its 20th birthday, we feel more certain than ever of the organisation's vital role in the world. Even as this milestone comes at a time of deep uncertainty. The hard-won gains of women and girls can no longer be taken for granted; a rising anti-rights movement threatens the progress so many have fought for.

This time of flux demands even greater urgency. The support we provide to organisations driving transformative solutions for gender equality has never been more critical. As the African feminist scholar Ololade Faniyi reminds us: *"The anti-rights movement stands in opposition to any push for equality—from feminism to reproductive rights; from environmental activism to indigenous rights; from sexuality rights to combating domestic violence; and from advancing girl child education, political representation to equal work opportunity."*

As Co-CEOs, we share the responsibility of stepping up and holding space—for our team, our partners, and ourselves—as we navigate these challenging times. It means acknowledging the anger and grief that comes with increasing resistance to gender justice and fundamental freedoms while also channeling our energy and solidarity to keep pushing boundaries and challenging harmful norms, even when true equality feels increasingly out of reach.

What gives us hope? The incredible people we stand and work alongside—our dedicated team, fierce partners across the globe, our founder, board members, practitioners, researchers, and funders. Together, we are part of a movement determined to shift the arc of history once more. As we step into this next decade, we carry forward Womanity's legacy of bold action and deep collaboration. The road ahead will demand courage, commitment and collective action—and we invite you to walk it with us.

**Laura Somoggi & Shivani Gupta**

Co-CEOs, Womanity





## 2005

Smiling Children Foundation created in June, started with a programme called Little Maids in Morocco



## 2007

Rehabilitated Al Fatah School in Kabul in partnership with British Council to turn it into a model school

Womanity is registered as a charity in the UK to expand our network of support

## 2010

Launched Radio Nisaa in Palestine

Partnered with Global Fund for Women and disbursed emergency funds specifically in support of women after the Haiti earthquake

First CEO appointed

## 2012

Smiling Children Foundation becomes Womanity



Launched the radio series B100Ragl aimed at a pan-Arab audience

Launched 'WomenChangemakers' programme in India

## 2014

Announced the first winners of Womanity Award — Equimundo (formerly Promundo) (Brazil) & ABAAD (Lebanon)



## 2006

Hosted the first charity gala in Geneva with 650 attendees, raised USD 910,900



## 2008

Organised leadership training workshops to help Palestinian women integrate into Israeli society, offered scholarships to 20 women in Palestine to study in university

## 2011



Launched 'WomenChangeMakers' programme in Brazil

Launched 'School-in-a-Box' in Afghanistan



## 2013

Launched Womanity Award focused on prevention of violence against women and girls



The Founder gives a TED talk: 'Why men should invest in women'

# 20 years of Womanity





## 2016

- Launched 'Girls Can Code' in 2 schools in Afghanistan
- Our Founder was awarded the BNP Paribas Prize for Individual Philanthropy

## 2019

- Consolidated our various media initiatives under the 'Disruptive Media' programme in the Middle East and North Africa



## 2021

- Launched the 'Women Land Rights' programme in India across 7 states



## 2023

- Launched Community-Based Education programme in Afghanistan

## 2015

- Established Friends of Womanity in the United States of America to facilitate support from US-based donors
- Hosted an event in London with Women Moving Millions to build strategic relationships in the UK

## 2018

- Our Founder was awarded the Global Philanthropic Philanthropy Prize for his innovative work with women and the YPO 2018 SEN (Social Enterprise Network) Sustainability Award for Equality

## 2020



- Launched a COVID fund to help our partners working on VAWG prevention across the world
- Launched Season 1 of *Sma'touha Minni* and incubated Khateera
- Hosted a gala to celebrate Womanity's 15th anniversary, raising a record USD 2.8 million

## 2022

- Switched to a co-leadership model with two Co-CEOs assuming leadership of Womanity

## 2024



- Womanity released their report on 'Accelerating Innovation & Impact in International Development' in partnership with Center on Gender Equity and Health, UC San Diego
- Expanded our Disruptive Media portfolio by partnering with Righters House, Saudi Arabia and SOWT, Jordan





Afghan girls in a makeshift classroom as part of our primary education initiative.

📷 Aman Sadat

# When women have power, the world changes.

Across the globe, hard-won rights for women and girls are being challenged, dismantled, and denied. From rollbacks on reproductive freedoms to restrictions on education, political participation, and economic opportunities, the spaces where women can exercise their agency are shrinking. Gender-based violence remains endemic, and discriminatory laws and norms continue to limit women's choices and futures. The consequences of these setbacks extend far beyond individuals—they weaken entire societies, stifling progress for everyone.

Yet, history has shown us that when women rise, communities, economies, and nations thrive. Women are not passive victims of these injustices; they are at the forefront of movements for change. They are challenging systems, demanding accountability, and leading solutions. But their fight is often underfunded, unsupported, and dismissed.

This is why our focus remains steadfast: we invest in women and girls because their autonomy is fundamental to a just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

At Womanity, we don't just address symptoms of inequality—we tackle its root causes. We work with grassroots organisations and local changemakers who understand the specific barriers in their communities.

The global struggle for women's rights is interconnected, and progress requires collective action.

Our programmes unlock opportunities for women and girls to access education, economic independence, and leadership roles. By removing obstacles and amplifying their voices, we enable women to build futures on their own terms.

A gender-equal world is not an abstract ideal—it's a necessity. Without it, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will remain out of reach, and the promise of a fairer future will remain unfulfilled. Here's how we are supporting the SDGs:



We cannot afford to move backward. We must act with urgency, invest with intention, and continue to work alongside the women who are shaping a better tomorrow.

Because when women win, the world wins.

## How we advance gender equality:

Create new pathways  
to end violence against  
women and girls

Empower women  
through access to,  
and ownership of, land

Incubate and support  
media platforms  
to shift gender  
stereotypes

Increase access to  
education — including  
STEM — for women  
and girls



# We invest in ambitious, unconventional, and sustainable approaches that drive gender equality at scale.

At Womanity, we believe philanthropy should be bold, equitable, and rooted in trust. That's why we act as catalysts — providing the resources, networks, and sustained support that locally-led initiatives need to break down barriers to gender equality.

Since 2005, we have been investing in innovative, and scalable solutions in underfunded and overlooked geographies, ensuring that women and girls in all their diversity have the opportunities and resources they need to lead progress.

Systemic change must be driven by those closest to the challenges.

Rather than acting as gatekeepers, we channel flexible, long-term funding to grassroots organisations, women's rights groups, and social entrepreneurs. Our approach centers decolonising development by shifting power and resources directly to those with lived experiences, challenging top-down development models that have historically excluded them from decision-making.

Instead of adopting a traditional philanthropic model, we take smart risks—incubating and funding pioneering initiatives that reimagine how gender inequality is addressed, from the ground up—from preventing violence against women and girls to championing girls' education, advancing women's land rights, and reshaping gender narratives through media.

But transforming systems requires more than just direct interventions. To shift mindsets and disrupt paradigms of inequality, we also invest in narrative transformation—leveraging media, research, and storytelling to challenge harmful gender norms and reframe public discourse.

Gender inequality is deeply entrenched and incremental solutions aren't enough. To truly challenge the status quo, we need bold investments that don't just alleviate symptoms but create lasting structural shifts. By driving resources, knowledge, and funding to where they are needed most, we are not just responding to immediate needs—we are laying the foundation for game-changing impact that will benefit women, girls, and entire communities for generations to come.

## Our Strategic Objectives:

### ADVANCE

gender equality indicators for women and girls in underserved communities

### INCREASE

and leverage funding to deepen impact

### BUILD

capacities and resilience of partners advancing gender equality

### CREATE

and disseminate content, evidence, and narratives to inspire and impact transformational change

### FORGE

synergetic partnerships for effective and sustainable impact

# Snapshot of our programmes



## She Learns AFGHANISTAN

Expanding educational opportunities for Afghan women and girls through vocational training, including our Girls Can Code (GCC) initiative, which builds skills in coding, web development, computer literacy, and English. We support primary education for marginalised girls in public schools and Community-Based Education (CBE) classes in underserved areas. Additionally, we strengthen education systems by training teachers in science instruction and modern teaching methodologies, ensuring lasting impact on learning outcomes.

**Since 2007, we have supported ~38,000 girls and young women through educational projects and have trained 1,300 teachers.**



## Land for Women INDIA

A transformative programme addressing systemic gender inequality and the economic marginalisation of rural women in India. Developed in collaboration with experts and grassroots partners, it enables women to access land rights and ownership, fostering independence, self-reliance, and financial security.

**Since 2022, 264,676 marginalised women have been made aware of their land rights. 79,004 of them have got land rights, and \$2.52m in government funds have been unlocked.**



## Disruptive Media MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Supporting progressive media platforms by partnering with trailblazing content creators to drive gender-inclusive storytelling and social change across the Middle East and North Africa. Our flagship initiatives include Radio Nisaa, Palestine's women-led community radio station; Khateera, a digital platform challenging gender norms through content like its YouTube series *Sma'touha Minni* (You Heard It From Me); SOWT—expanding feminist narratives through podcasting; and Saudiaat—facilitating greater workforce participation for women in Saudi Arabia.

**Since 2009, we have incubated 2 impactful initiatives and supported 5 series on our partners' radio and digital media channels, amassing 41 million listens/views and challenging gender stereotypes.**



## Womanity Award BRAZIL, CAPE VERDE, INDIA, LEBANON, MEXICO, SOUTH AFRICA

Womanity Award focuses on the power of collaboration by catalysing transnational partnerships between organisations across different countries in the Global South. The organisations work together to adapt initiatives to address the root causes of violence against women and girls (VAWG). It's a funding and organisational development programme that supports innovative, evidence-based solutions to prevent VAWG.

**Since 2014, we have supported 9 organisations in adapting programmes focused on VAWG prevention, including online and domestic violence, safer cities through technology, and engaging boys in challenging harmful social norms.**

# Fuelling the dreams of Afghan girls through education

Three years after the Taliban's return to power, Afghanistan remains the only country in the world where girls are systematically denied access to secondary and higher education. Women are barred from most forms of employment, with few exceptions in healthcare, nutrition, and primary education. The restrictions imposed on international NGOs have intensified, requiring many to hand over programme implementation to local organisations. However, the enforcement of these bans remains inconsistent, creating openings for organisations like Womanity to continue operating in a low-profile but impactful manner.

Amidst these volatile conditions, our 'She Learns' programme has not only sustained its work but also expanded its reach in 2024.

By adapting our strategy to align with local realities, we have broadened access to primary education, enhanced teacher training, and strengthened our online education offerings, including the introduction of English courses. Our approach is guided by a clear commitment: where opportunities exist, however small, we will seize them to ensure Afghan girls and young women continue to learn.

## Expanding access to education

In 2024, our primary education programme underwent a critical transformation. Initially, our goal was to expand Community-Based Education (CBE) classes. However, the Ministry of Education did not permit INGOs to launch new CBE initiatives. Recognising an alternative route, we secured approval to work within public primary schools, hiring, training and supervising the work of 70 female teachers who would primarily teach in girls' classrooms.

This shift has allowed us to support a significantly larger number of students than before, with at least 80% of those reached being girls.

A major challenge in Afghan public schools is severe understaffing. Schools are overwhelmed with students, yet the authorities lack the resources to recruit and pay enough teachers. To address this, we began directly recruiting and paying teachers' salaries, ensuring more classrooms remain functional. This approach not only strengthens the education system but also provides a rare and valuable employment opportunity for Afghan women, who remain largely excluded from the workforce.

## IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

**220** female participants completed courses in coding, web development, and English.

**3,306** children (80% girls) received support in our primary education programme.

**278** teachers trained in science education or teaching methodologies – 69% are women.







## Elevating teaching standards

Quality education depends on well-trained teachers, yet Afghanistan faces a chronic shortage. Many, especially in public schools, lack formal training in pedagogy and subject knowledge. To bridge this gap, we provide pedagogical training to all 78 teachers we hire for CBE and public schools. In 2024, we further expanded our efforts, partnering with the National Science Center to provide specialised training in science education to an additional 200 teachers.

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*“Despite having three years of teaching experience in private schools, I still faced many challenges. Womanity’s 12-day seminar provided me with valuable insights and practical strategies to improve my skills. I learned about innovative teaching methods, student motivation techniques, effective time management, and structured lesson planning.”* — **Teacher** who attended the seminar

By equipping teachers with better tools and methodologies, we ensure that Afghan students receive a more engaging and effective education, despite the country’s difficult circumstances.

## Strengthening online education

Online learning remains a vital pathway for Afghan women and girls who are barred from traditional education. In 2024, we expanded our online training offerings, introducing English language courses alongside existing modules in coding and web development. These courses, discreetly delivered in partnership with established private training institutions, provide essential skills that can translate into remote work and future economic opportunities. This collaboration has improved the learning experience, allowing students to progress through structured modules from basic to advanced levels. Many of them have chosen to pursue multiple courses, deepening their knowledge and skill sets over time.

Additionally, we partnered with an educational technology platform to digitise and enhance our coding and web development training materials, making them more interactive and accessible allowing students to enroll in self-paced courses.

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*“Providing practical opportunities allowed us to implement everything we learned. The active interaction and exchange of ideas in the classroom, combined with our inspiring teacher and a supportive environment, made the course both pleasant and useful.”*

— **Student** from our online coding programme

## Navigating a shifting landscape

Operating in Afghanistan requires constant adaptation. Our ability to sustain and scale our work hinges on maintaining a broad network of stakeholders who provide insights and support. By keeping a low profile, engaging with local authorities, and responding to community needs, we continue to find ways to deliver education where it is needed most.

One of the most profound lessons from the past three years is that while the landscape is increasingly restricted, it is not entirely closed.

Whether through direct engagement in public schools, expanded teacher training, or strengthening online learning, we will continue to adapt and evolve, ensuring education remains within reach for the most marginalised communities.

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*“Now I can read and write very well. I can even read shop names and magazines. I want this class to continue. I will keep studying and become a doctor in the future.”*

— **Student**, Bagrami

Her words embody the resilience and hope that fuel our work. In a country where girls are being systematically erased from public life, education is more than just learning—it is an act of defiance, a step toward reclaiming their futures. And as long as there is a way, we will continue to walk this path with them.

# Shaping change with disruptive media

2024 was a 'thinking' year for 'Disruptive Media'. We reflected on the conversations we had in late 2023, discussed and debated the relevance of our programme in today's evolving context, and refined our focus. We are dedicated to remaining adaptable, responsive, and true to our mission.

The ongoing conflicts in Gaza, Lebanon, and the West Bank cast a shadow over the region, bringing devastating consequences for civilian populations, including our partners. Radio Nisaa, a long-time champion of independent and gender-inclusive media, faced severe funding challenges but is finding ways to remain operative and effective.

As we celebrate our achievements, we also pause to acknowledge the immense hardships endured by those on the ground.

Our commitment to supporting our partners remains unwavering, as does our belief in the vital need for independent media to counteract disinformation and uphold diverse, inclusive narratives.

Towards this, our programme expanded its reach and deepened its impact, continuing to challenge gender stereotypes and elevate women's voices in media.

While maintaining steadfast support for Khateera and Radio Nisaa, we expanded into new formats like podcasting, invested in Saudi Arabia's media workforce to enhance opportunities for women, and reinforced our support for independent feminist platforms. Through these efforts, we have strengthened our role as a catalyst for gender-inclusive storytelling while adapting to the evolving media landscape across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

## Gender, Science & Podcasts

Recognising the Middle East as a region with one of the highest proportions of regular podcast listeners—led by Saudi Arabia (59%) and Egypt (56%)—we partnered with SOWT, a leading Arabic podcasting platform, to engage this audience in gender equality discourse through the second season of *Maloom*. This six-episode series explored the intersection of science and gender, addressing topics such as brain size and intelligence, body fat beyond social stigma, and gender in sports. Hosted by Jordanian digital producer and storyteller Shahd Jihad, *Maloom* accumulated 25,341 listens and downloads, demonstrating the growing appetite for insightful, gender-conscious content.

The show resonated deeply with audiences, sparking reflections on the societal impact of gender norms.

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*“Just listening to the episode indicates that someone wants to learn more about the topic, understand its details, and deepen their knowledge. I find these concepts very important, both for myself and for my interactions with my family, society, colleagues, and future children.”*

— **Duha**, Focus group discussion participant



## Careers for women in media

Another major milestone was the launch of *Saudiaat*, an AI-powered platform designed to facilitate access to the labour market for women in Saudi Arabia, with a special focus on media. Through a partnership with Jobs for Humanity, the initiative provided coaching for over 721 women through in-person sessions, online workshops, and one-on-one training. These efforts resulted in 55 women securing job offers in media and communications—an impactful step towards greater workplace inclusion.

Building on this momentum, and after a year of deep reflection grounded in research and more than 25 conversations with stakeholders across the media ecosystem, we refined our approach for the next phase of the programme.

These insights led to four strategic priorities for 2024–26:

1. **Incubate and support four media platforms** focused on gender equality in the MENA region, with a particular emphasis on women-led initiatives.
2. **Support 1–2 content pieces or campaigns annually**, ensuring women’s perspectives challenge male-dominated narratives and inspire gender equality.
3. **Invest in training and employment initiatives**, with a goal of upskilling women for media roles and securing 300 job placements in Saudi Arabia.
4. **Promote dialogue on media’s role in gender equality**, advocating for sustained investment in gender-inclusive media.

## The power of listening and collaboration

As we look back on 2024, a defining theme of our work has been the power of listening. Our partnerships with SOWT and Jobs for Humanity deepened our understanding of how to support women in media effectively. A key challenge facing independent media today is shrinking donor space, with major funders freezing or closing their media programmes. This trend is particularly concerning in regions, like MENA, where alternative revenue models are less viable. However, we continue to actively explore ways to sustain our work, ensuring women’s voices in media are heard, represented and amplified.

With each initiative, we continue to challenge norms, open doors, and amplify the voices of women across MENA. The path ahead is filled with both challenges and opportunities, but one thing remains clear: the need for gender-inclusive media is more urgent than ever, and Womanity remains at the forefront of this transformative journey.

## IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

**7M** **Khateera:** Reached 7 million monthly cumulative views across platforms, with 1.3 million followers.

**10** **Righters House:** Trained 10 scriptwriters to develop pitch-ready content, with opportunities to present to local and regional production entities.

**25,341** **SOWT’s ‘Maloom’ Podcast:** Achieved 25,341 unique downloads and listens. Audience insights show 97% of respondents learned something new, contributing to shifts in gender perceptions for a more equitable society.

**55** **Saudiaat:** Helped 55 women secure job offers, facilitated 787 job postings from 137 employers, and coached 721 women on workplace skills.





# Land as a pathway to security and independence

The past year has reaffirmed that land is not just a legal entitlement—it is a foundation for women's agency, economic security, and dignity. By reshaping narratives, strengthening grassroots movements, and ensuring sustained engagement, 'Land for Women' remains dedicated to making land ownership a reality for more women, transforming lives and securing futures across India.

Our commitment was reinforced by the realisation that the process and act of ownership is more than just legal ownership; it has fostered a profound shift in how women are perceived and how they see themselves.

## Community-driven empowerment

Community Leaders remained at the forefront of our programme, driving awareness, supporting women in claiming land, and persistently engaging with local governance bodies and land registration authorities. Their efforts extended beyond securing land as a financial asset, creating impact in three key areas:

1. Boosting women's income
2. Social and emotional impact of women's land rights
3. Advancing women's role in governance—from participation to leadership

Land has long been seen as a male asset, but by engaging families and village leaders in discussions, we are working to reframe the land ownership narrative.

Aneshi Bai, a tribal woman from Gariaband in Jharkhand, was inspired by her sister's involvement in a women's collective. She mobilised women in her own village, worked with a local NGO to arrange training sessions, and successfully fought for land, even filing for correcting errors in official records to secure her rightful claim. In just six months, she has helped 40 women file for land ownership, proving that grassroots leadership can drive systemic change.

Similarly, Narmada Bai from Ujjain district, left destitute after her husband's death, reclaimed her land rights through legal awareness and support from Jan Sahas.

She asserted her claim, secured government benefits, and transformed her life—demonstrating how land ownership can empower women to regain control over their futures.

## New partnerships

To help our work to reframe the land ownership narrative, we collaborated with Gram Vaani to launch 'Apni Zameen Apni Awaaz' (My Land, My Voice), a information and storytelling initiative reaching 45,000+ listeners across rural Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Meanwhile, our work with Ekal Nari Shakti Sangathan (ENSS) revealed stark challenges for single women. A survey of 550+ marginalised single women highlighted systemic barriers, with only 42% owning homes and just 20% owning agricultural land despite many coming from land-owning families. Nearly 70% of those who tried to claim their property faced severe obstacles, including violence and family boycotts. These findings reinforce the urgent need for systemic reforms to make land ownership more accessible and equitable for single women.



# Expanding our tribe

A key milestone in 2024 was the selection of our second cohort, with a strong focus on small and mid-sized NGOs. Led by a panel of 10 experts, we inducted 6 NGOs into our programme.

- **Committee of Resource Organisations (CORO):** Strengthening grassroots leadership and advocacy for women's land rights in Maharashtra.
- **Dr. Ambedkar Agriculture Development & Research Institute (ASVSS):** Supporting Dalit and marginalised communities in gaining access to agricultural land in rural India.
- **Jan Chetna Sansthan:** Working with tribal women to formalise land ownership and access government entitlements.
- **Seba Jagat:** Addressing land insecurity among indigenous women in Odisha by ensuring tenure security and sustainable land use practices.
- **Association for Rural Planning and Action (ARPAN):** Advocating for land inheritance rights for women, particularly widows and single mothers.
- **Ekta Parishad Trust:** Mobilising communities in Odisha to claim collective and individual land rights, with a focus on forest land.



Selvaprakash Lakshmanan

Through these partnerships, we are fostering a broader movement for women's land rights, ensuring a deeper and more sustained impact at the grassroots level. We continue to support 4 NGOs from our first cohort, deepening long-term engagement and amplifying impact where it has already taken root.



*"Thanks to Womanity's support, we've seen women go from knowing little about land ownership to leading the fight for their rights. Having land in their names has given them access to government schemes, strengthened their family's finances, and helped them invest in their children's education and healthcare. This shift is challenging patriarchal norms, reducing domestic violence, and fostering gender equality – with growing support from men. The programme has also spurred organisational growth, shaping new policies."*

— **Lata Netam**, Chief Functionary, Lok Astha Sewa Sansthan

## IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

69,092

Multiple Marginalised Women (MMW) made aware of their land rights

47,583

MMW with access/control/ tenure security and/or ownership of land

38,352

women linked to government entitlements

USD 572K

value in funding unlocked via government schemes for women and their households

# Strengthening communities to prevent violence against women & girls

For over a decade, our 'Womanity Award' Programme has been fostering cross-country collaborations in the Global South to adapt and scale effective interventions that prevent Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). The programme supports a mutual learning and cooperation process between an innovation partner—an organisation with an evidence-based intervention—with a scale-up partner, who brings contextual knowledge and community relationships to adapt and implement the intervention in a new setting.

The ultimate goal is to ensure long-term sustainability, enabling partners to continue scaling their impact beyond our support while fostering lasting change at the community level.

In 2024, we continued to support the fourth edition of the Womanity Award (WA4) through the 'Fla Sim pa Mudjer' (Say Yes to Women) project in Cape Verde. This initiative, a partnership between Themis Gender Justice and Human Rights (Themis) from Brazil and Associação Cabo-Verdiana de Luta Contra a Violência Baseada no Género (ACLCVBG) from Cape Verde, aims to reduce domestic violence against women and girls by strengthening legal empowerment and community care approaches. Through this partnership, Themis' access to justice methodology was successfully adapted to Cape Verde.

## Expanding women leadership

The 'Fla Sim pa Mudjer' project deepened its reach by training an additional 31 Women Multipliers of Citizenship (MMCs, from the acronym in Portuguese), bringing the total to 65 community leaders actively working to raise awareness, support survivors, and influence attitudes in Praia and Santa Cruz—two communities on Santiago Island, Cape Verde.



*"2024 was both a challenging and productive year for the project. The women's community work in Praia was a highlight, allowing us to better understand the strengths of the MMCs—who excel at supporting women, who are comfortable leading public discussions, and who are best at mobilising communities. Though still in its early stages, this work is already making a difference in schools and communities, building trust and shifting attitudes. With this experience, we are convinced that this programme is a powerful tool for preventing violence against women."*

— **Eveline Nair Tavares**, Project Coordinator, ACLCVBG





## IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

# 90%

of MMCs initiated conversations on VAWG prevention within their own families, fostering awareness at the household level.

# 53

VAWG survivors received vital counseling and legal assistance through a newly established GBV Information Service Center operated by MMCs in Praia.

# 1,058

students and teachers from six schools were educated on VAWG prevention and response strategies.

# 585

women and men from different communities in Praia participated in discussions on VAWG prevention, contributing to a broader cultural shift.

## Voices from the community

One of the most powerful measures of impact is the transformation experienced by the women engaged in the project in Cape Verde and the communities they are serving.



*"I learned so much about VAWG. I held a session with 5th and 6th-grade students, and the principal kept asking when we would do more sessions because there was so much interest. I also provided informal assistance to a woman in distress while taking a taxi. She later reached out to me for support. At school, I've been able to help colleagues facing difficulties at home by sharing the knowledge I gained."*

— **Hondina Mafalda Moreno**, MMC Praia

As the 'Fla Sim pa Mudjer' project enters its next phase, the focus remains on deepening impact through sustained community engagement, expanding the network of trained MMCs, and strengthening institutional responses to VAWG.

Through strategic partnerships, knowledge generation, and grassroots leadership, Womanity Award is not just supporting initiatives—it's helping build a global movement to end violence against women and girls.

## Building evidence & shaping dialogue

We go beyond direct support to women's rights organisations, by strengthening the VAWG prevention field—building evidence, sharing knowledge, and driving advocacy. Our commitment to this was reflected in key contributions to research and key stakeholder discussions.

- Our research report '*Accelerating Innovation and Impact in International Development: Insights for practitioners, funders and researchers*' was launched in September in collaboration with the Center on Gender Equity and Health (GEH) at UCSD, followed by a presentation at the SVRI Forum 2024.
- We co-hosted two events at the SVRI Forum 2024 in Cape Town, South Africa, engaging over 200 researchers, practitioners, and funders in discussions on scaling VAWG prevention interventions.
- We presented at thought leadership discussions and knowledge-sharing sessions organised by key stakeholders in the field of VAWG prevention: Community for Understanding Scaling Processes (CUSP), What Works 2, and the Prevention Collaborative. We shared our research insights on feminist approaches to equitable partnerships and funding with 350+ stakeholders.



The Khateera team enjoying a moment of levity on the sets of a new podcast.

📷 Rehab Eldalil



# Making headlines, shaping conversations

In 2024, we strengthened our presence as thought leaders, shaping critical conversations on gender and land justice across global and local platforms. From international conferences and feminist podcasts to grassroots campaigns, our engagement amplified community voices, highlighted our partners' work, and pushed for lasting systemic change.

## Conferences

**13–17 MAY, 2024**

**Land Conference 2024, The World Bank, Washington, DC, United States** We engaged in global policy dialogues on land tenure, advocating for gender-responsive land governance and the critical need to invest in women-led local initiatives.

**27 AUGUST, 2024**

**Commons Convening, New Delhi, India**

In the 'Women's Leadership for Commons' session, we explored how women lead in community conservation and land stewardship.



**21–25 OCTOBER, 2024**

**SVRI Forum, Cape Town, South Africa**

We launched our research '*Accelerating Innovation and Impact in International Development: Insights for practitioners, funders and researchers*' as part of the official programme of the conference and co-hosted two other events with the Center on Gender Equity and Health (GEH) on scaling VAWG prevention through equity-centered adaptation and funding approaches.

**20 AUGUST, 2024**

**Charcha 2024, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India** Shivani Gupta — Co-CEO, Womanity — shared insights during the 'Climate and Equity' panel, connecting women's land rights to broader strategies for climate resilience and community empowerment.

**15 OCTOBER, 2024**

**Empowering National Development Conference, CEPT University, Ahmedabad, India**

We joined an expert panel on '*Earth Observation for Enabling Efficient Land Administration*', highlighting the importance of gender inclusion in tech-enabled systems.



**5–7 NOVEMBER, 2024**

**India Land Development Conference, Pune, India**

Co-hosted with Landstack and FLAME University, the 8th edition of ILDC spotlighted land security as central to resilience and climate action. We convened critical dialogues on gender and land, including a session on '*Land for Women*'.



Articles authored by Womanity



**Accessible social media comedy series breaks gender stereotypes in the Middle East** by Aparna Subramanyam | Global Cause



**Why Funders Must Prioritise Land Rights for Women: Catalysing Economic Empowerment and Gender Equality in India** by Shivani Gupta & Aparna Subramanyam | Land Portal



**Shifting the Global North/South Power Imbalance in the Fight Against GBV** by Laura Somoggi | Girls' Globe

Podcasts



**Hey Changemaker!**  
Girls' Globe interview with Laura Somoggi on feminist leadership and trust-based philanthropy

Featured Media & Partner Highlights



**Animated Story: Sevati Bai's Journey** Prindex Report on Tenure Security 2024



**Womanity's Womanifesto** spotlighted in Design Exchange Magazine



**I Want to Help Rural Women in India Own the Land They Work On** Rachna Bagwan | Girls' Globe



**SVRI Podcast**  
Adapting IPV Prevention Programmes: Key Insights and Best Practices with Laura Somoggi and Vandana Sharma

Newsletters featuring Womanity



**TIME'S UP UK Newsletter**  
Featured our article titled '*Beyond the Boardroom: Confronting Gender Bias in Non-Traditional Workplaces*'



**SVRI Newsletter**  
Shared our 'Womanifesto' campaign for International Women's Day



**TIME'S UP UK Newsletter**  
Shared our 'Womanifesto' campaign for International Women's Day



**SVRI Newsletter**  
Featured our research '*Accelerating Innovation & Impact in International Development*' done in collaboration with the Center on Gender Equity and Health (GEH) on scaling effective approaches to prevent violence against women and girls.

Webinar Series



**Meri Zameen, Meri Pehchaan Webinar Series**  
In collaboration with Khabar Lahariya, we co-launched a web series highlighting how land ownership enhances women's economic security and social standing in rural India. These episodes offered lived experiences and regional perspectives from women farmers and leaders.

## Knowledge



### Women Land Rights 102 – Advanced Training for Chhattisgarh

Responding to demand from grassroots partners in Chhattisgarh, we conducted an intensive four-day advanced training, facilitated by GWLO (Working Group for Women and Land Ownership), for 21 participants from 12 organisations. Post-classroom training, NGOs worked closely with GWLO to develop action plans focused on assessing women's land ownership and mapping available land for distribution. With Womanity's support, they will survey 900+ women across 12 districts, generating crucial data to inform future interventions.



### Women Land Rights 102 – Advanced Training on Forest Rights ACT (FRA)

To strengthen women's access to forest land in Rajasthan, we conducted a three-day residential training in Jodhpur in partnership with FES and Jan Chetna Sansthan. The training brought together 24 participants from 12 nonprofits to deepen their understanding of FRA claim processes, documentation, and government structures. To ensure long-term impact, participants received six months of mentoring, equipping them to navigate challenges and drive independent advocacy.



### Developing Land Champions in Maharashtra

In partnership with CORO, we launched a 10-month leadership programme in Marathi to train 30 community leaders—women, men, and transgender individuals—on women's land rights. Through quarterly in-person trainings, assignments, and fieldwork, these leaders mobilised communities, forming support groups with 500+ members including village leaders and elected representatives. Their impact is already visible:

- 80 villages across 16 districts engaged
- 250+ women secured joint house titles
- 43 families gained housing rights
- 500+ women registered marriages, strengthening legal identity and property claims

### Accelerating Innovation & Impact in International Development

*A case study on effective approaches to adapt and scale violence prevention innovations*



Published in partnership with the Center on Gender Equity and Health (GEH), this comprehensive research report documents 10 years of learning from the 'Womanity Award' programme. It shares insights for donors, practitioners, and researchers on the key elements of successful programme adaptation, on how to foster partnership-based funding models rooted in feminist principles that challenge power asymmetries, and enable effective adaptation and scale-up of proven approaches to prevent violence against women and girls.



# Our Donors

We are deeply grateful to all our incredible donors—individuals, organisations, and anonymous contributors—whose generosity and support make it possible to drive meaningful change and work towards a more inclusive and equal future for women and girls.



*“The Avery Dennison Foundation is proud to support Womanity’s courageous work to ensure Afghan girls and young women can access education and gain vital skills to build a better future for themselves. Their innovative programmes align powerfully with our mission to address inequities through access to education and opportunity.”*

— **Janet Sandoval**, Director, Global Corporate Social Responsibility & Avery Dennison Foundation, Avery Dennison

## Donor Foundations + Institutions

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Wellspring  
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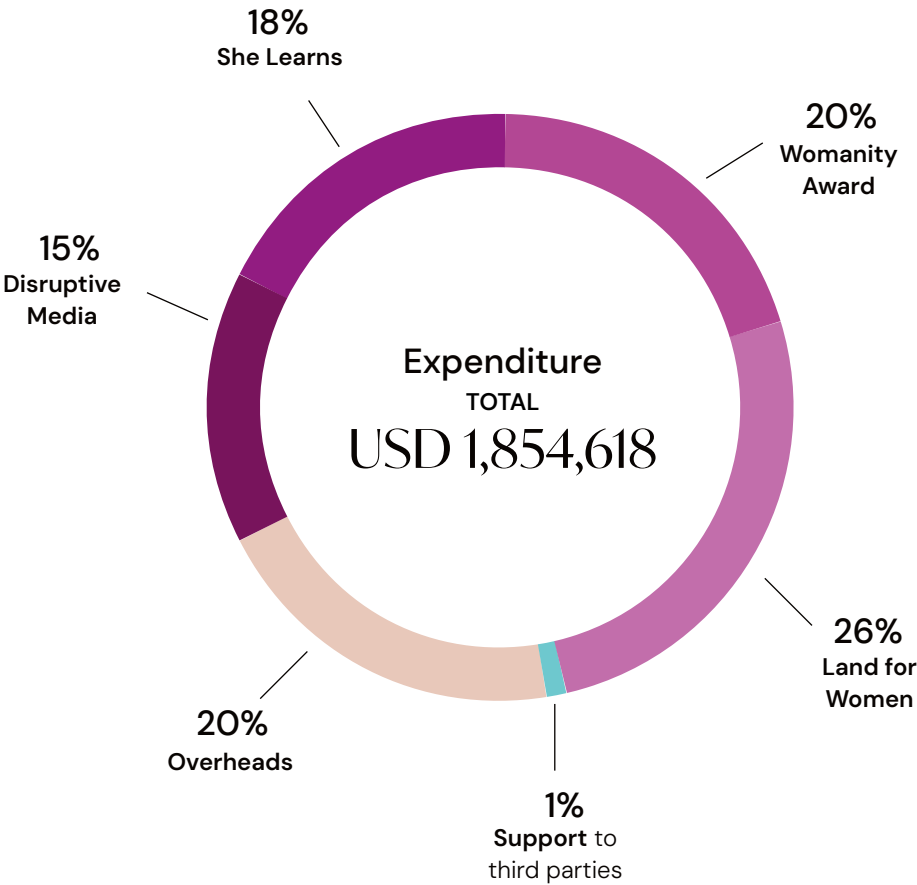
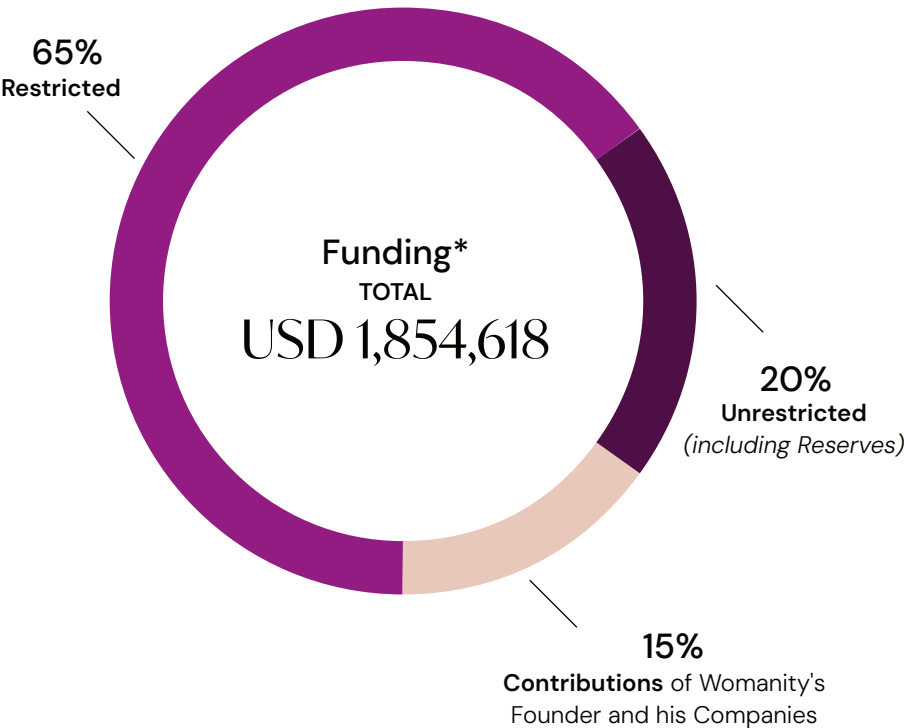


*Bhunjiya* women in Chhattisgarh resting in between work.

📷 Selvaprakash Lakshmanan



# Funding & Expenditure



Figures are not audited. If you wish to receive a copy of the audited accounts, please contact Aurelia Ovan at [aurelia@womanity.org](mailto:aurelia@womanity.org).

\*This includes all the funding received in 2024 or multi-year funding which has partly been allocated to 2024, and the funds received in our UK accounts in 2024.



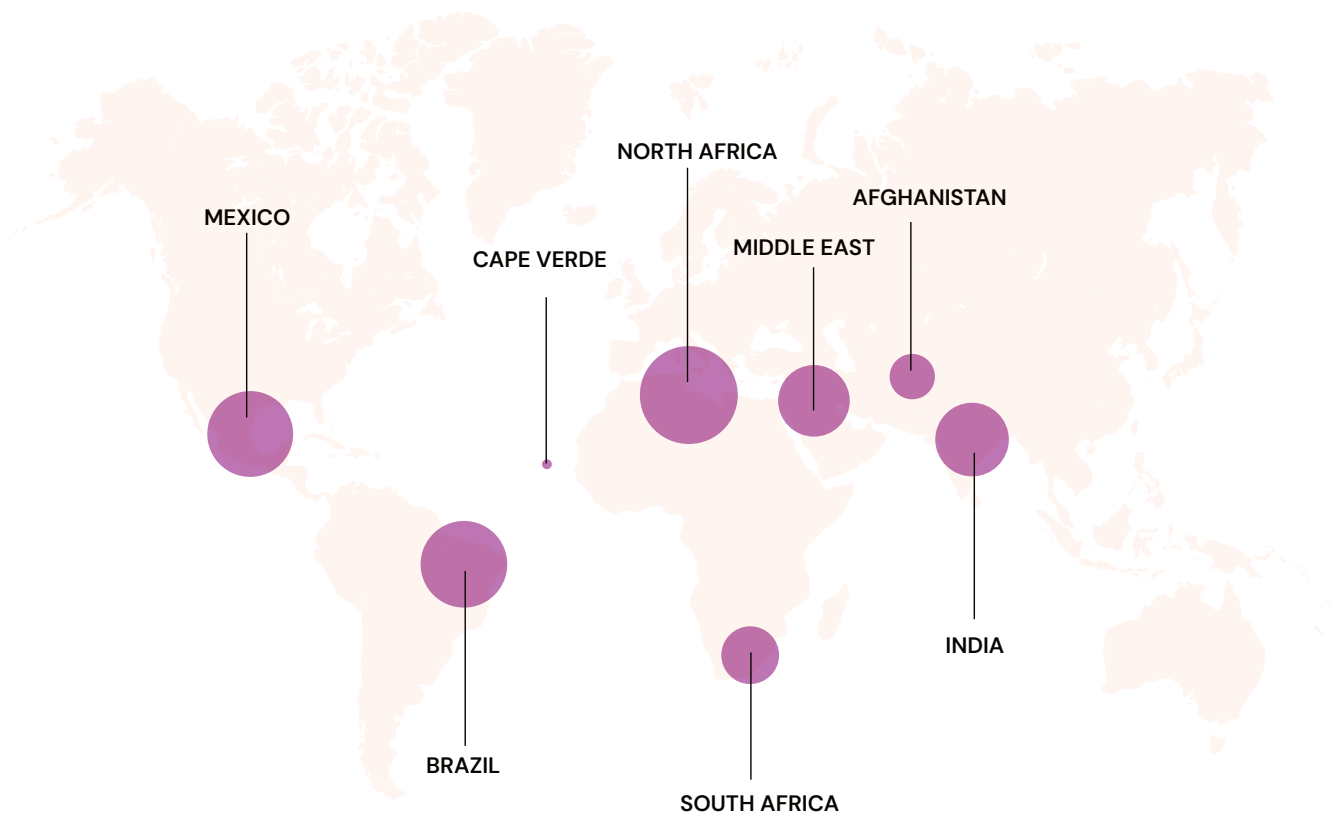
# About us

We are a Swiss-based organisation with a globally experienced team dedicated to tackling gender-based challenges. Whether designing and implementing innovative programmes or supporting grassroots movements, women's rights organisations and changemakers, we are committed to pushing boundaries and creating lasting impact to advance women's rights worldwide.

Since 2005, our long-standing focus on gender equity has helped us build a nuanced understanding of country-specific challenges and a strong global network of experts and local partners. Through strategic investments and partnerships with philanthropists, we have helped create pathways to education, economic empowerment, safety from violence, and land rights for women in Afghanistan, Brazil, Cape Verde, India, Mexico, South Africa, and the Middle East and North Africa.

→ [www.womanity.org](http://www.womanity.org)

\$19 million invested. 31 million lives impacted—most of them women and girls.



# Support our work

Our impact is made possible by the generosity and dedication of our partners, donors, and collaborators. Whether through financial support, time, expertise, or meaningful collaborations, your contributions drive our mission forward.

**We are truly grateful for your unwavering belief in a better future for women and girls. Thank you for standing with us.**

## Donate Online

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

## Swiss Bank Payment

The Womanity Foundation — Crédit Suisse, 1211 Geneva 70

**Account:** 337265-61 — **Swift code:** CRESCHZZ80A

**IBAN CHF:** CH93 0483 5033 7265 6100 0

**IBAN EUR:** CH32 0483 5033 7265 6200 1

**IBAN USD:** CH59 0483 5033 7265 6200 0

**IBAN GBP:** CH05 0483 5033 7265 6200 2

For any other currency, please use the Swiss Francs reference.

## UK Bank Payment

The Womanity Foundation — Barclays Bank Plc 1

Churchill Place, London, E14 5HP

**Account:** 03425002

**Sort code:** 20-31-52

**IBAN:** GB38 BUKB 2031 5203 4250 02

**Swift code:** BUKBGB22XXX

## United States of America

Your donation is made to Every.org, a tax-exempt US 501(c)(3) charity that grants unrestricted funds to the American Friends Fund set up for Womanity hosted by Myriad USA on our behalf.

To donate, visit <https://www.every.org/the-womanity-foundation-ch>.

## European Union

Womanity is a beneficiary of the Transnational Giving Europe Network. You can make a donation from your country and benefit from your local tax advantages in a safe and secure environment.

To make a donation, visit <https://donate.transnationalgiving.eu/landing/womanity> or contact the TGE partner in your country of tax residence at <https://www.transnationalgiving.eu/category/partner>.

*Womanity's administrative costs are mostly covered by our Founder. This ensures that the majority of your contribution goes directly to our programmes. Donations received are critical to our success and directed to the areas of greatest need. They allow us the flexibility to respond to opportunities and needs, helping us reach our objectives in each of our programmes.*

*All donations to Womanity are tax deductible in Switzerland, the USA, and most European country members of the Transnational Giving Europe Network, as per applicable laws and regulations.*




*If you would like to explore how you can get involved in our work or if you wish to make a donation, please contact Aurelia Ovan at [aurelia@womanity.org](mailto:aurelia@womanity.org).*



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#### **Registration Numbers:**

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United States: 58-2277856 T (under the auspices  
of Myriad USA — a 501(c)(3) public charity)