

2017  
ANNUAL REPORT

Global Fund For Widows

GLOBAL FUND FOR WIDOWS ANNUAL REPORT 2017

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we close out 2017, we reflect on the tremendous support that the issue of widowhood has received in our last 9 years of grass roots intervention and high-level international advocacy. It is clear to us that this once invisible root cause of poverty is beginning to exhibit recognition and endorsement on the world stage. This little glimmer of hope further ignites our efforts to bring Widowhood – and its implications on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals – to global consciousness.

In January, the GFW was granted Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Security Council of the United Nations, confirming our place as a world authority on widowhood. In March, Secretary General Antonio Guterres accepted our letter on the importance of supporting widows and its significance in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Not only did he accept our contentions, but he used them in HIS letter to the Commission on the Status of Women, thereby setting the framework for the Commission on the Status of Women's 62nd global summit.

In June, we launched our first program in India, training widows in the art of embroidery. In three short months, 70% of our widows graduated with government issued Artisan Cards, a valuable vocational diploma, and nearly 50% of them have already been placed in full time employment the salaries for which exceeded our targets. And in October, we offered an important intervention on the UN about widows in the context of migration, and how they constitute 50% of refugees and migrants. The President of the 72nd General Assembly, was alarmed and distressed to hear our remarks, and invited us to participate in the drafting of the world's first Global Compact on Migration and we are honored to have a seat at that table. These are all small but important victories in this fight for widows' rights.

But while we celebrate small victories, the larger battle looms ahead. From the chambers of the United Nations to university campuses, we continue to advocate for widows. We continue to advocate against the human rights violations widows endure, such as violent traditional practices, the widows' inability to inherit, not only her rightful estate, but her own nationality, her own identity, and horrifically, even her own children. We maintain that widows are not property, and cannot be inherited as part of her husband's estate or forcibly married to his next of kin. And we advocate that the child widow, the 15, 13, and 10-year old child widow must never ever be a "thing".

We continued to assert that a widow's inability to inherit inevitably results in extreme impoverishment, not only for her, but for her children. Unable to afford their education, a widow's children are forced to leave school, leaving her sons vulnerable to radicalized indoctrination for which we now have proof, and her daughters to be married off too young. We had the hope, that if we kept speaking, one day, we would be heard.

The year, we were indeed heard. Led by the intrepid Bethany Brown, Human Rights Watch, became a voice for over 300 million silenced widows and 750mm of their lost children, publishing their first ever report on widowhood. Presenting her findings in Zimbabwe, she issued notice to the world, that the violations against widows' rights were violations of women's rights, and human rights and that the world could no longer tolerate it.

Internally GFW has taken the decision to migrate to impact investing, seeking a fair and sustainable financial return on our investments, which will inform our programming ethos going forward. We are engaging more deliberately with our government partners and working with granting organizations that are deeply invested in our mission.

As we look toward 2018, our 10th Anniversary year, we commit to making it a pivotal moment in the quest for widows' rights.

On behalf of our 300 million widows, we are grateful for the support of our patrons, donors, and investors.

Gratefully,

Heather Ibrahim-Leathers

EPIDEMIC OF WIDOWHOOD

OUR MISSION

The Global Fund for Widows is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering widows and female heads of households to overcome poverty through skills-based training, job creation, and micro-finance. Ultimately, our goal is to help widows achieve financial stability, self-sufficiency, accountability, and importantly, become a role model to her own children and to others.

The Global Fund for Widows applies its programs throughout the developing world by forming strategic partnerships with local NGOs, which are dedicated to the empowerment of widows. These local NGOs work in close collaboration with the Global Fund for Widows to develop unique solutions for empowering widows that are culturally and socially appropriate, and most importantly—SUSTAINABLE.

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INDIA

In partnership with the Guild of Service, a veteran pioneer of widows' empowerment, the Global Fund for Widows launched the Sana project in India in 2017. Centered on the war-torn regions of Jammu and Kashmir, Sana aims to train women widowed by conflict - most of whom care for young children - in the delicate art of Kashmiri embroidery. More than 50 widows received 36 days of training upon which 70 % of participants received a government Artisan Card - a critical certification that readily enables card holders to work in both private and public sector jobs. The Global Fund for Widows connected project graduates with industry designers, which has allowed graduates to work from home and earn a sustainable income.

GFW is currently expanding activities by sponsoring value chains in support of the now established embroidery enterprise. Widows are recruited to become vendors of essential tools and materials, such as threads, needles and textiles, for widows in the embroidery trade. Others as vendors of solar powered lanterns and operators of solar charging stations. Such efforts increase productivity of multiple stakeholders not limited to program participants, but which include beneficiaries such as students in need of inexpensive lighting solutions to study at night. With these initiatives, GFW expects to cultivate a well-integrated value chain that offers widows a highly visible, and highly sustainable means of income.

EGYPT

In 2012, the Global Fund for Widows launched the Amal ('hope' in Arabic) Project in rural Egypt. Amal started as a humble effort to economically empower widows and female breadwinners through vocational and financial literacy training, micro-finance, micro social savings and lending groups. The Amal project provides the financial framework to establish micro-enterprises, and sets up social funds that act as collective knowledge bases for program participants to share experiences and become an integrated network of mutual benefit. These funds serve an essential psychological support function while increasing the probability of success for the businesses these widows create, which ultimately advances the goal of self-sustainability for themselves and their families.

To date, the Amal Project has empowered 7,000 widows for whom it aims to provide the necessary infrastructure by which they can organize into farming cooperatives. GFW believes this will allow these widows to unite in leveraging real pricing power in the marketplace as a key stepping stone toward the development of economic value chains. The successful implementation of this strategy will bring about sustainable economic growth and allow Amal Project

IMPACT PROJECTS

2011

In Bolivia, the Global Fund for Widows partnered with a local NGO and launched a micro-social capital program to provide small capital investments for entrepreneurial widows to found micro-enterprises. In return, participating widows enter into a social contract with GFW in which they promise to facilitate program expansion by directing profits toward the gradual hiring of other widows as their businesses grow. Participants have built home kiosks, expanded home foodservice businesses, and have advanced to hiring widows to keep up with demand. By virtue of the multiplier effect, GFW thus ensures maximum impact with minimal investment.

In 2011, GFW helped finance a small pig farm and the establishment of the economic linkages necessary to develop self-sustaining, vertically integrated value chains. Consequently, widow employment has expanded to include backward linkages to vendors of pig feedstock and forward linkages to foodservice vendors specialized in the curing and cooking of meat. By actively stimulating key linkages, GFW takes important steps in safeguarding income streams and empower widows to achieve economic independence.

2010

The activities of the Global Fund for Widows in the Dominican Republic were triggered by the sudden and devastating impact of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Children orphaned by the disaster were relocated to orphanages in the Dominican Republic, which strained their already limited operating budgets as orphanages doubled in occupancy without being met with additional government funding. In recognizing this tragic need, GFW partnered with critically underfunded orphanages to finance employment opportunities for widows as caregivers, nurses, teachers and kitchen staff. The program is currently ongoing and continues to successfully bring together widows, children, the orphanages and the wider Dominican community.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

September 1st, 2018

To the Board of Directors of:

Global Funds for Widows Inc  
New York, NY

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Global Funds for Widows Inc. (a non-profit corporation) as of December 31, 2017, and the related statements of activities for the calendar year 2017. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Global Funds for Widows Inc. as of December 31, 2017, and the change in its net assets for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America

TWK CPA, LLC,  
NJ License #: 20CC03204100

INVESTOR RELATIONS

GLOBAL FUNDS FOR WIDOWS INC  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
For the Calendar Year Ended December 31, 2017

<b>INCOME</b>		
Contributions and grants	\$ 106,235	
Fund raising	\$ 46,750	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>152,985</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program services	76,749	
Fund raising	14,443	
Professional fees	750	
Print and publication	1,405	
License and fees	405	
Credit card fees	2,980	
Office and admin expence	3,724	
<b>Total Expences</b>	<b>100,456</b>	
Change in net assets	52,529	
Net assets at the beginning of year	128,034	
Net assets at end of year	\$ 180,563	

GLOBAL FUNDS FOR WIDOWS INC  
COMPARTIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
As of December 31, 2017

Assets :	As of Dec. 31, 2017	As of Dec. 31, 2016
Cash and cash equivalents-unrestricted	\$ 180,563	\$ 128,034
Cash and cash equivalents-temporary restricted	-	-
<b>Total Assets :</b>	<b>180,563</b>	<b>128,034</b>
<b>Liabilities :</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Assets :</b>	<b>180,563</b>	<b>128,034</b>
Unrestricted :	-	-
<b>Total liabilities and net Assets :</b>	<b>180,563</b>	<b>128,034</b>

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