



Global Fund for Widows

2020

We Build Banks!

Our innovation in financial inclusion

Global Fund for Widows is proud to introduce our award winning WISALA (Widows' Savings and Loan Associations), bringing innovative community banking solutions to the world's most marginalized, widows. Through WISALAs, widows can gain access to CAPITAL, CREDIT and SAVINGS, and earn lucrative returns on their initial investment. In addition, through their ownership of the WISALA, widows are able to enjoy full agency of their financial futures.

Created specifically to offer financial access to previously unbanked widows, the WISALA includes a small capital investment from widows, representing their purchase of shares in their own bank. Importantly, GFW co-capitalizes the WISALA, offering each widow a 2:1 grant. This investment from GFW allows the WISALA and its owners to enjoy a large capital base from which the widows are able access for their micro-enterprise capital needs. The WISALA's structure also provides opportunities for bank and share growth, as well as increased opportunities for re-investment.





Our Impact

17,129

**Widows
Empowered**

49

**Micro-Banks
Built**

40,495

**Children
Impacted**

5,320,000

**Meals
Served**



COVID-19 Response

GFW implemented 2 emergency response programs to address the unique needs of widows during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our #FeedToday_EatTomorrow campaign fed over 150,000 meals to widows in Kenya and Cameroon and launched over 1000 poultry farms to economically support them. Our #FeedIndia partnership with Global Goodwill Ambassador for Widows Vikas Khanna to feed over 5.1 million meals to widows in India.



Egypt

In Egypt, GFW has empowered over 15,000 widows and sustained over 40,000 of their children.

What started as a humble effort to economically empower widows through micro-finance, and micro-social savings and lending groups. Currently, the Amal Project is organizing these widows into farming cooperatives, allowing them to achieve pricing power in the marketplace and build lucrative economic value. With this strategy, Amal Project widows can truly achieve sustainability.





Kenya

Since pioneering the Brookbank Project in 2019, GFW has opened 30 banks, empowering 750 widows and 3,750 of their children.

Widows participating in Brookbanks have not only launched successful businesses, but have increased their wealth exponentially, earning a 550% return on their initial investment nearly doubling GFW's expectations! Because of its great success, nearly 15,000 widows in Kenya in have placed themselves on the Brookbank waitlist.

In a tremendous vote of confidence, GFW and our implementing partner CTWOO have received the endorsement of Kenya's Ministry of Public Service and Gender, with the Honorable Cabinet Secretary Professor Margaret Kobia offering us her unwavering support.



Tanzania

GFW has built 11 WISALAs – Sarabanks – empowering 275 Maasai widows in rural Tanzania.

With loans from the WISALAs, the widows borrowed collectively, and launched co-operative goat and cattle raising business collectively, building corrals, and purchasing goats and cattle which they continue to fatten and sell.

Not only have widows participating in the Sarabanks enjoyed strong wealth creation, but they have gained the respect of their community and its leadership. Importantly, widows have been so empowered, that 3 chose to run for local district council in 2020 with one of them successful in her bid for government office!



Malawi

GFW launched 3 pilot WISALAs – Samibanks! – in Malawi in 2020.

Despite challenges presented by COVID, Malawi's widows have been quietly expanding their micro-enterprises, freezing fish, grinding maize, producing peanut butter, and poultry farming. Other widows started sewing ventures and are now sewing uniforms for local schools. Widows even responded to COVID mask requirements, producing and even exporting exquisite masks for global use.





India

GFW is piloting 6 Sanabanks in India, aiming to provides financial inclusion to 150 widows, allowing them access to critical funds, and legal training which will facilitate their launch of micro-enterprises.



Cameroon

In 2020, GFW offered widows 25,000 meals and funded the launch of poultry farms for 240 widows.

This emergency nutritional aid was critical, as the global relief effort in Cameroon remains tragically underfunded and neglected.



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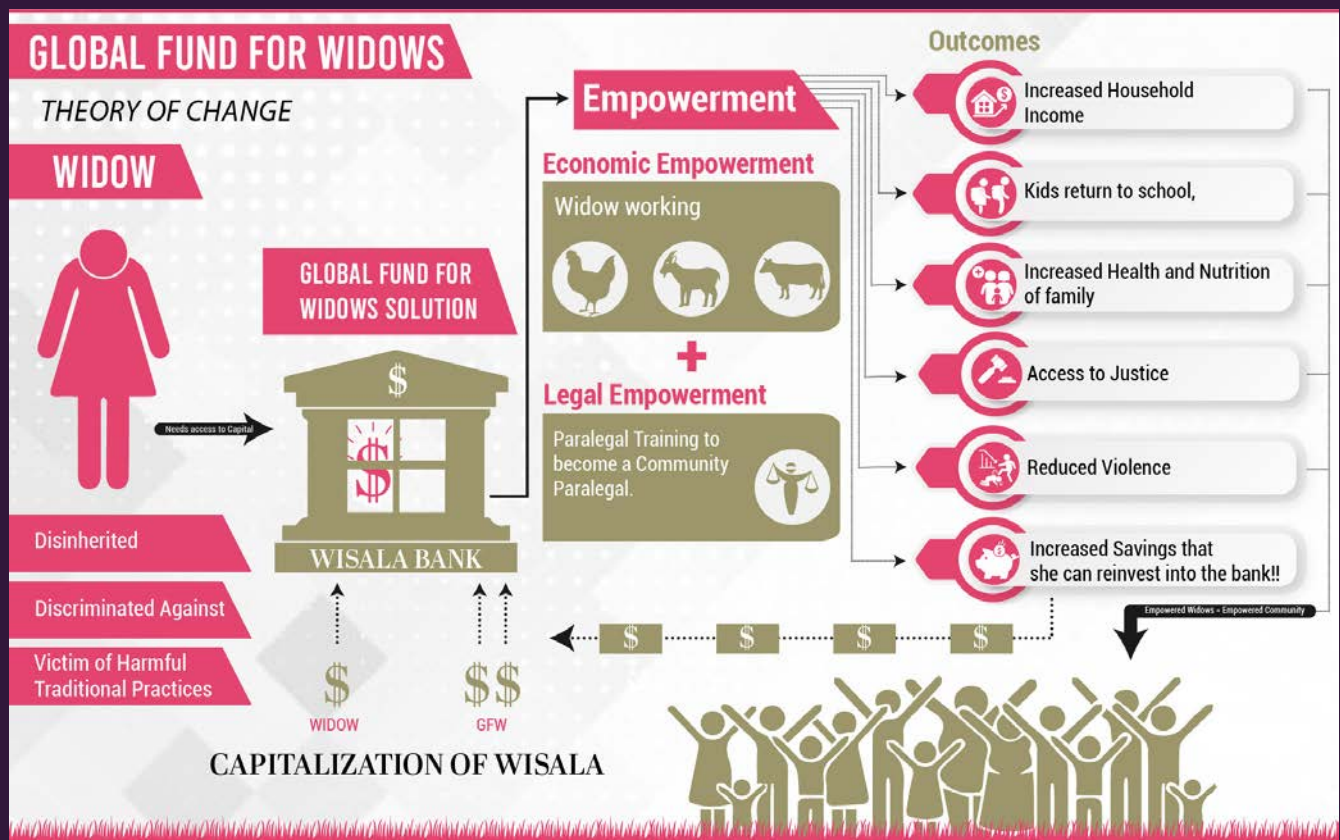


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Effects of Widowhood





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