Annual report 2025



Women's Hope International

Who we are

Every woman should have the chance to give birth to her child safely. Yet globally more than 700 women die every day due to complications during pregnancy or childbirth. 95% of these deaths occur in low and middle-income countries. The majority of them could be prevented. This is where the work of Women's Hope International comes in.

Our work

We are committed to ensuring that all women can exercise their right to a healthy and self-determined life. Together with local organizations, institutions and communities, we promote structures that strengthen the sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls and women.

- We strengthen local sexual and reproductive healthcare systems to enable employees to deliver high-quality services.
- We are committed to the elimination of gender-based violence, particularly forced marriage, child marriage and female genital cutting.
- We provide girls and women with obstetric injuries and other medical conditions related to the birth of a child with access to specialised gynaecological treatment, preventive care and social integration measures.

Our approach

Societies can only be stable and peaceful when everyone participates equally in political, economic and social life. No country in the world has yet achieved genuine equality – even though it is a human right. Through our work, we aim at equal rights and equal access to resources – especially medical resources – for everyone. In order to achieve this objective, women must be empowered as knowledge-bearers and decision-makers. We actively involve them and their social environment in project planning, implementation and evaluation. Women in particular and all members of the population in our partner countries know what is needed and how sustainable solutions look like. Working closely with local partners, we promote knowledge-sharing and joint learning, strengthening interaction between local people and health services.

Our work aims at enabling local communities to implement measures independently in the long term. Our work contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals 3 (health and well-being) and 5 (gender equality).



Our team

The work of Women's Hope is supported by six board members, twelve staff members and several dozen people involved in our nine partner organisations.

The staff at the Bern office. From left to right: Maxence Couche-Franquet, Corinne Bächtold, Sandra Ege, Noemi Grossen, Judith Auer, Selina Leu.
Front row: Muriel Weyermann, Daniela Bandi.

COVER IMAGE

Distribution of blankets for more humane conditions in the camp: Supporting Sudanese refugees remained a key priority for us in 2025.

REVIEW 2025

Waning solidarity – but not everywhere

Governments worldwide are investing more in military build-up – at the expense of development cooperation. For people in our partner countries, these cuts have direct consequences. Nevertheless, there is hope.

Women in labour, children with diarrhea, elderly people with fever: in 2025, they increasingly found themselves facing closed doors of healthcare facilities. In Afghanistan alone, 422 health centres were forced to close after governments around the globe had cut their development funding. Today, one in three people in the country no longer has access to basic healthcare.

In Ethiopia, the Ministry of Health had to lay off around 5,000 staff. Around 200 local non-governmental organisations that previously received US funding were forced to adapt their programmes or cease operations altogether. Our partner organisation, the Organization for Welfare and Development in Action (OWDA), is also affected: it estimates that, due to the cuts, it can no longer reach around 80,000 particularly vulnerable people.



An uncertain future: Refugees in the camp in Abougoudam, Chad.

Enormous need – with consequences

Whilst international aid is declining, crises are intensifying: the civil war in Sudan, for example, in which the warring parties are committing horrific massacres against the civilian population, has driven millions of people to flee – many of them to our partner country Chad. The need for support is enormous, yet so far only just under a third has been met by humanitarian aid. There is a lack of drinking water, sanitation facilities and health services.



It is hard to believe: one in three people in Afghanistan no longer has access to healthcare.

In Bangladesh, the government has restricted the distribution of medicines and medical equipment in our project region – with drastic consequences for pregnant women, mothers and newborns.

Furthermore, economic and climate-related crises are exacerbating the situation for people in all our partner countries: harvests or incomes are often barely enough to survive on. Political instability – such as ethnic conflicts in Ethiopia or the controversial transitional government in Bangladesh – exposes people to further uncertainty.

Institutions and private individuals step in

Despite dwindling state solidarity, support from institutions and private individuals remains consistently high. This solidarity strengthens us and enables us to continue standing alongside the most vulnerable.

Regardless of the nature of the crisis, women and girls are always directly affected. Their risk of forced marriage and sexual exploitation increases, and they are often the first to lose access to medical care. Knowing that countless people – whether private individuals or decision-makers in foundations and institutions – refuse to accept these developments gives us hope. We therefore remain committed to strengthening the health and self-determination of girls and women – together with our local partner organisations, our institutional and private supporters, and with full conviction.

An overview of our work

New strength instead of isolation: fistula survivors create new perspectives



Enhanced mother-and-child healthcare through the involvement of village communities





Women empower women in Kabul and Scheberghan

Fistula survivors in Rangpur and Rajshashi Division, Bangladesh, regain strength and reintegrate into their communities



Improving basic living conditions of the most vulnerable Sudanese refugees in Ouaddaï Province, Chad



Breaking menstruation-related barriers to education: de-stigmatization and practical support for girls in Chad



Afghanistan

Bangladesh

Chad

Ethiopia

Midwives for Parbatipur





Ending Child Marriage



A midwife for every mother – promoting the quality of training at St. Luke Hospital



A new start for women in Wolayita: fistula survivors create prospects for themselves



Community Action for Reproductive Health – CARE



Say No! – fighting female genital cutting together



Safe births, safe operations: strengthening the local health system in the Cheha district

- Strengthening health systems
- Eliminating gender-based violence
- Treatment of obstetric injuries
- Emergency aid



One of the highlights of the year: a meeting of all Ethiopian partner organisations and representatives of Women's Hope's country office and head office in Addis Ababa.

Organisation

Board of Directors

Manuela Bracale, Business Economist and Paramedic, Wilen (Co-President)
Dr. Rebecca Zachariah, Specialist in Gynaecology, Seuzach (Co-President)
Eva Fischer, HR Specialist, Kloten (new)
Matthias Lüscher, Head of Public Relations, lic. phil. hist., Bern
Klaus Thieme, Head of International Programmes Solidar Suisse, Lucerne
Christian Zysset, Finance and ICT Consultant, Board Member of Women Climate Entrepreneurs, Oberwil BL

Head Office and Country Offices

At the end of 2025, eight permanent part-time staff members were working at the Women's Hope International head office. Including the country offices in Ethiopia and Chad, a total of twelve people were working for Women's Hope in the equivalent of 9.25 full-time positions.

Director

Noemi Grossen

Local partner organisations

Afghanistan
Women's Hope Social Association (WHSA)

Bangladesh
Lutheran Aid to Medicine in Bangladesh (LAMB)

Chad
Bureau d'Appui Santé et Environnement (BASE)
Bureau National de Recherche en Genre et Développement (BUNARGED)
Ensemble Sawa

Ethiopia
Attat Catholic Hospital, with temporary support of Lifebox
St. Luke Catholic Hospital
Organization for Welfare and Development in Action (OWDA)
Healing Hands of Joy (HHoJ)

Gender Equality & Health Alliance

Together with the feminist peace organisation Frieda, IAMANEH Switzerland and Médecins du Monde Suisse, Women's Hope forms the Gender Equality & Health Alliance, which receives financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Memberships

Medicus Mundi Suisse
Girls Not Brides
Campaign to End Fistula, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
International Obstetric Fistula Working Group (IOFWG)

Zewo certification

The Women's Hope association is Zewo-certified. The seal of approval is a mark of quality for charitable organisations in Switzerland and confirms the purposeful, economical and effective use of donations. It stands for transparency and ethical fundraising. Compliance with the standards is regularly reviewed.

Thank you!

Women's Hope would like to express its utmost gratitude to everyone who has supported our projects and thereby helped to give more girls and women the chance of a healthy and self-determined life. We would like to give particular thanks to:

- Our donors and members for their commitment
- Foundations, parishes, and companies for their generous support
- Cantons and municipalities for their project contributions
- The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- Our volunteers for all their hard work

2025: Our impact in figures

This is what we achieved together in 2025:

17,424 women gave birth with adequate medical support.

16,257 pregnant women accessed at least one antenatal care consultation, and **11,067** received professional support after giving birth.



20,407 people in emergency situations received support, for example through the provision of protein-rich food for pregnant women or through psychosocial support.







56 health centres and health posts and **4** hospitals were supported in providing women-centred healthcare.

1,321 professionals received training and further education on women's health issues.

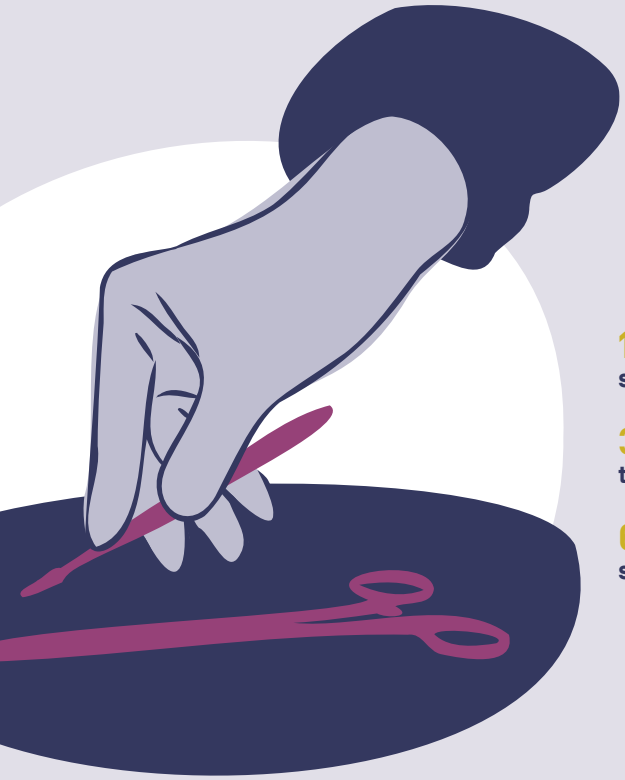
131 women attended a midwifery education program.

325 women who had experienced sexual or gender-based violence received medical, psychosocial or legal support.

252 boys and men were mobilized to advocate for health and rights for girls and women and against gender-based violence.

30 «Safe Spaces» provided **14,900** people with a safe space to discuss sensitive topics such as traditional gender roles, the consequences of child marriage or female genital cutting.





526 girls and women were able to develop a new source of income through courses and vocational training.



1,068 women with obstetric injuries underwent surgical treatment.

3,144 healthcare workers were informed and trained on obstetric fistula.

66,530 people were sensitized to the causes, symptoms and consequences of obstetric fistula.



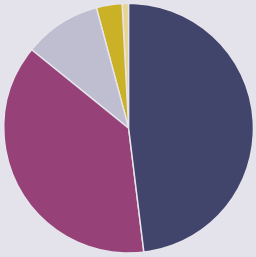
3,409 relevant government stakeholders took part in events on health promotion, gender equality and violence prevention.

134,900 people discussed gender-based violence, health issues and women's rights, whilst **72,393** were reached through campaigns.

BALANCE SHEET

	31.12.2025 CHF	%
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,236,654	89.6
Receivables	143	0.0
Accrued income	247,940	9.9
Current assets	**2,484,737**	**99.5**
Financial assets	12,557	0.5
Intangible assets	0	0.0
Fixed assets	**12,557**	**0.5**
TOTAL ASSETS	**2,497,294**	**100.0**
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities	395,860	15.9
Ring-fenced fund capital	715,068	28.6
Total organisational capital	1,386,366	55.5
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**2,497,294**	**100.0**

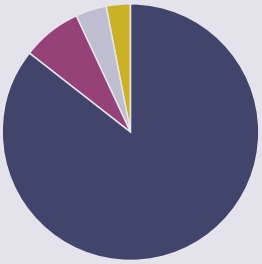
Revenue by origin



- 48,1% Public Funds
- 37,9% Foundations, companies
- 10,0% Private donors
- 3,4% Churches
- 0,6% Other revenues

Total 3,213,257 CHF

Expenditure by purpose



- 85,6% Projects international cooperation
- 7,6% Fundraising
- 3,9% Administration
- 2,9% Projects in Switzerland

Total 2,816,825 CHF

OPERATING STATEMENT

	1.1.–31.12.2025 CHF	%
INCOME		
Donations from natural persons	320,028	10.0
Donations from legal entities	1,218,036	37.9
Contributions from churches	110,005	3.4
Public funds	1,546,920	48.1
thereof SDC	*568,000*	
Total donations and contributions	**3,194,989**	**99.4**
thereof restricted	*2,567,456*	
Other income	18,268	0.6
TOTAL INCOME	**3,213,257**	**100.0**
EXPENDITURE		
Projects international cooperation	2,411,086	85.6
Projects Switzerland	82,702	2.9
Fundraising	213,088	7.6
Administration	109,949	3.9
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**2,816,825**	**100.0**
Operating result	396,432	
Financial result	1,921	
Annual result before fund result	**398,353**	
Allocation of restricted funds	–2,567,456	
Withdrawal from restricted funds	2,411,086	
Fund result	**–156,371**	
Annual result before changes in organisation capital	**241,982**	
Increase/decrease in organisation capital	–241,982	
TOTAL CHANGE IN ORGANISATION CAPITAL	**–241,982**	
	0	

The financial report has been audited by Von Graffenried AG Treuhand. The full annual financial statements can be ordered from our secretariat by e-mail: info@womenshope.ch.

Women's Hope International
Looslistrasse 15 | 3027 Bern | Switzerland
womenshope.ch

IBAN: CH77 0900 0000 6052 2618 6

Women's Hope International

IMPRINT **Publisher** Women's Hope International (WHI) **Editor** Selina Leu **Layout** Karin Hutter, fundtastic.ch **Printed by** Printzessin, Belp **Edition** 50 **Pictures credits** Afghanistan: Nava Jamshidi/WHI/Fairpicture, WHSA; Bangladesh: Fabeha Monir/WHI, Farhana Akther/WHI/Fairpicture; Chad: Ensemble Sawa, Kevin Doumdedje/WHI, Salomon Djekorgee Dainyoo/WHI/Fairpicture; Ethiopia: Hanspeter Bärtschi/WHI, WHI; others: Women's Hope International