



Empowering Women, Transforming Communities: Wfac's 2024 Impact Report





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About WFAC

Women for a Change, Cameroon is a subregional feminist advocacy, research, and awareness-raising organization working with and for women and girls sexual and reproductive health, leadership and development within the context of climate justice, peace and security across Central Africa. Rooted in feminist principles, we are dedicated to creating a world where women and girls can live fulfilling lives, free from systemic inequalities, violence, and discrimination.



Through our work, we have supported over 500,000 young people and students in Cameroon by promoting comprehensive sexuality education and empowering them with knowledge about their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Our flagship gShe program continues to create safe spaces for adolescents to access accurate information while equipping them with life-changing skills. Beyond education, we actively engage in climate justice initiatives, youth leadership development, and gender-responsive peacebuilding efforts, ensuring women and girls are at the forefront of transformative action in their communities.

Mission and Vision

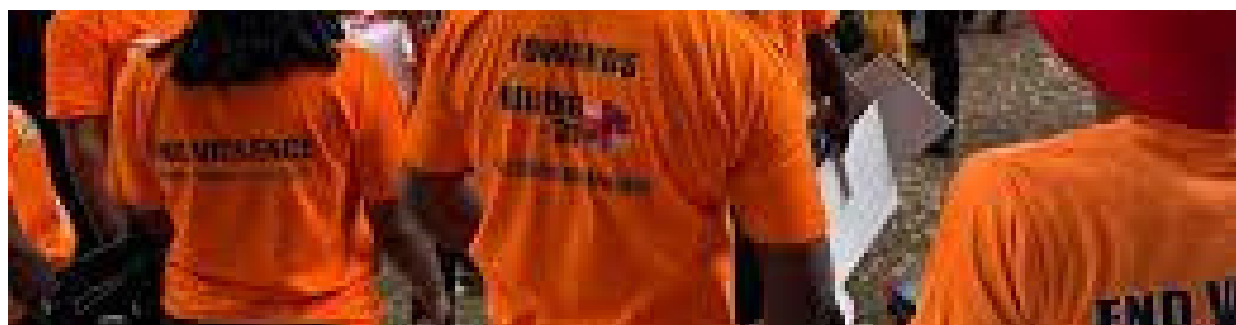
Our Mission

Wfac's work is anchored around advancing women and girls SRHR, gender equality and climate justice through advocacy, feminist mentorship, research and movement building.



Our Vision

To see a society where women and girls sexual and reproductive health and rights are respected, promoted and protected.



Our Core Objectives

Grounded within feminist principles of equal opportunities and justice for all, and the respect of the autonomy of women's bodily integrity, Wfac seeks to:

01

Champion Gender Equality

We advocate for the eradication of gender-based violence and discriminatory practices, including gender inequalities resulting from climate crises, armed conflict and social biases through capacity enhancement, collective activism programs and education, policy reforms, and activism.

02

Promote SRHR

We promote Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in and out of schools and ensure young people and women's SRHR are safeguarded

03

Foster Feminist Climate Action

We address issues related to climate justice from a gender lens, ensuring that women and young people locally led climate solutions and experiences be captured in climate discussions both nationally and globally.

04

Amplify the voices of women

Facilitate and Amplify the voices of women, young people, and girls from central Africa women in critical spaces through intergenerational co-leadership and movement building approach informed by feminist realities

05

Institutional strengthening and capacity dev't.

We strengthen Wfac's institutional capacity, leadership and adopt a culture of a learning staff and board who are compassionate, dedicated and commitment to the feminist journey and work of the organisation

Message from Board Chair

We founded Women for a Change in 2009 as a grassroots volunteer-led initiative grounded within feminist principles with the aim to advance SRHR among young people, particularly women and girls. In 2013, we got registered with the government as a legal entity. Over the years, we have expanded our focus to tackle gender-based violence, advocate for feminist climate justice, and champion youth leadership through movement-building and feminist mentorship opportunities.

Through strategic collaborations and innovative programs, we have significantly broadened our impact, empowering thousands of young women and girls while influencing both regional and global dialogues. Thanks to our United Nations accreditations such as ECOSOC (2020), UNEP (2023) and UNFCCC Observer status (2023), we have actively participated in global advocacy and intergovernmental meetings, such as the UNFCCC Conferences of Parties (COPs), UNEP Intergovernmental Negotiating Committees (INC2, INC3 & INC4), Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Commission on Population and Development (CPD) including facilitated the involvement of grassroots women in these critical spaces.

This 2024, we have grown into a leading feminist organization in Central Africa, renowned for our transformative work in creating inclusive, resilient, and empowered communities. Introducing and facilitating meaningful participation and engagement of young women and adolescents in these spaces, leading to over 300 feminist activists across the central Africa subregion of attending, engaging and knowing about these processes - be it either CSW, CPD, COP etc.



Ms. Frida Brown,
Board Chair - Wfac

Message from the Executive Director



**Dr. Zoneziwoh mbondgulo-
Wondieh,**
Executive Director - Wfac

This year, our work reached thousands of women, girls, and young people, from global stages like CSW68, UNGA, and COP29 to grassroots initiatives like SDGsFootVacance. These efforts empowered individuals with the knowledge and skills to challenge inequality and bring meaningful change in the lives of women and girls.

One of the main highlights of my year was serving as the co-convenor of the Central African Feminists' Forum, where we brought together feminist leaders and organizations from across the region. It was truly inspiring to witness the exchange of ideas and the collective vision for tackling shared challenges and driving feminist solidarity forward.

I was also honoured to join the Afrifem Macroeconomics Collective for the Pan-African Feminist Convening on Trade in Africa. It was exciting to unpack the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement from a feminist perspective and to explore how trade intersects with critical issues like labour rights, health, climate justice, and gender-based violence. Contributing to such a process was a proud moment, and it reaffirmed the importance of embedding feminist principles into policies that shape our future.

As we head into 2025, I feel incredibly inspired by the passion of our team, the resilience of the people we serve, and the steadfast support of our partners. Together, I believe we'll continue to break barriers, challenge the status quo, and create a fairer, more equitable world.

Ending the year with the honour of being invited as a guest speaker at the L'Oréal Paris Foundation Women in Science award ceremony was a humbling and empowering moment for me. It's a reminder that the work we do at WFAC resonates far beyond borders, inspiring us to keep pushing for meaningful change.

2024 has been an unforgettable year for WFAC as we celebrated 15 years of championing feminist values and youth leadership. This milestone gave us a chance to look back on how far we've come, celebrate what we've achieved, and renew our promise to continue building a strong and resilient feminist society.

Key milestones attained in Timeline

January

A Month of Preparation, Collaboration, and Feminist Action

- Initiation of regional consultations for CSW68 with GenEgaliteECCAS and other organizations.
- Co-convening Africa Disrupts CSW68 in Yaounde, Cameroon which brought in a total of 100 African women's rights activists and leaders in person in Yaounde and over 300 virtual participants
- Strengthened regional collaboration with Central African feminists to support discussions on poverty, institutions, and finance from a gender perspective.
- Reflective engagements on COP28 and strategic planning for COP29 in Azerbaijan

Reclaiming the Dignity of African Women and Girls

- Hosting the 3rd Regional Africa Disrupt CSW Consultations, the first in Central Africa, with the theme Reclaiming the Dignity of Women and Girls in Africa.
- 100 women and girls from 40 African countries participated, fostering dialogue on critical issues like poverty and institutional reform.
- Inclusion of Central African countries such as Equatorial Guinea, São Tomé and Príncipe, Central African Republic, and Chad for the first time.
- Engagement opportunities for both in-person and virtual attendees to ensure inclusivity.
- Insightful contributions from Professor Marie Therese Abena Ondo added valuable perspectives to the discussions.

February

March

Advocating for Grassroots Women and Girls at CSW68

- Successfully communicated the demands and declarations from Central African and pan-African consultations to global leaders.
- Showcased WFAC's local initiatives as scalable models for empowering women and girls.
- Strengthened partnerships with international organizations and networks to support ongoing feminist advocacy.
- Elevated youth voices through platforms like the CSW68 Youth Forum, ensuring intergenerational collaboration in feminist movements.

Grassroots Advocacy at Global Plastic Treaty Talks, Canada

- Advocated for the inclusion of health and gender considerations in the revised zero draft of the Global Plastic Treaty at INC4 in Ottawa, Canada.
- Collaborated with Women's Major Groups and engaged with Party delegates to amplify grassroots perspectives in the treaty negotiations.
- Highlighted the importance of meaningful participation by grassroots women, girls, and marginalized communities directly impacted by plastic pollution.
- Strengthened Wfac's presence in global environmental policy discussions, setting the stage for continued advocacy at the upcoming INC session in Busan, South Korea.

April

May

Recognizing Significant Days and Advocating for Menstrual Hygiene

- Successfully organized a Twitter conversation for Menstrual Hygiene Day, engaging a global audience on menstrual health, stigma, and advocacy.
- Highlighted menstrual health challenges specific to Cameroon, including cultural taboos, limited access to resources, and infrastructural gaps.
- Promoted knowledge-sharing and challenged misconceptions through targeted and reflective discussion prompts.
- Advocated for integrating menstrual health into public health policies and sustainable development initiatives.

Global Climate Conversations at SBI/SBSTA in Bonn, Germany

- Represented Wfac and grassroots communities at SBI60 in Bonn, advocating for gender, sexual and reproductive health in climate negotiations.
- Engaged in discussions on climate finance, loss and damage, just transitions, and the role of intersectionality in climate policies.
- Worked alongside other civil society organizations, NGOs, and stakeholders to emphasize the need for stronger grassroots representation in climate decision-making spaces.
- Amplified the role of women and girls in climate justice, ensuring their voices are heard in shaping the future of climate policy, particularly in preparation for COP29 in Baku.

June

July

Recognition and Engagement

- Honored with the prestigious German Africa Prize 2023 for outstanding contributions to peace, democracy, and human rights, recognizing Wfac's role in the 1st National Women's Convention for Peace in Cameroon.
- Celebrated as a vital partner in peacebuilding efforts amid the ongoing Anglophone crisis, enhancing the visibility of women-led initiatives in Cameroon.
- Participated in the African Continental Free Trade Alliance (AfCFTA) Training in Nairobi, Kenya, advocating for gender-responsive trade policies within the AfCFTA framework.
- Contributed insights from grassroots initiatives addressing economic challenges faced by women, pushing for gender equity provisions in trade agreements.

Empowerment, Education, and Preparation

- Strategic preparations for the Beijing+30 Central African Feminists' Forum (October 2024).
- Successful organization of the #SDGsFootVacance, promoting Sustainable Development Goals through sports, with support from the Global Fund for Women.
- Conducted the gShe Facilitators Training and Volunteers' Capacity Strengthening Retreat, equipping 30 change champions with skills to deliver impactful SRHR education.

August

September

Advocacy, Global Engagement, and Cameroon's Leadership on the World Stage

- Advocated for inclusive participation at COP29 by addressing transit visa barriers and high travel costs through direct engagement with the COP29 Presidency.
- Participated in the Summit of the Future and the 79th UN General Assembly in New York, contributing to global dialogues on sustainable development and peace.
- Hosted UNGA watch parties in Cameroon, enabling young people, women, and girls to engage in international discussions without barriers.

Central African Feminists' Forum on Beijing30

- Hosted the Central African Feminists' Forum on Beijing+30, gathering over 150 delegates from ECCAS countries to reflect on 30 years of progress since the 1995 Beijing Declaration.
- Focused on safeguarding gender equality gains, amplifying grassroots voices, linking climate justice to gender equality, and fostering intergenerational collaboration within feminist movements.
- Adopted a unifying declaration reaffirming the region's commitment to gender equality, resilience, and solidarity.

October

November

Beijing+30 Regional Consultations, COP29, 16 Days of Activism, and Wfac's 15th Anniversary

- COP29 in Baku Azerbaijan Wfac delegation led discussions on Gender Day African Day and Indigenous Peoples Day focusing on climate justice for Africa
- High-Level Regional Dialogue HLRD webinar on gender equality and countering anti-rights movements during 16 Days of Activism against GBV.
- Dr. Zoneziwoh Mbangu, Executive Director of Wfac, moderated the High-Level Regional Dialogue webinar during 16 Days of Activism against GBV.
- Agricultural Innovations & Coastal Resilience co-hosted a side event at COP29 on grassroots climate solutions in Cameroon and coastal erosion in the Loango Republic of Congo.
- Wfac's 15th Anniversary celebrated 15 years of advocacy for gender equality and climate justice

Empowerment, Education, and Preparation

- Women for a Change, in collaboration with the University of Buea, hosted a hybrid hub during the 15th AWID International Forum to engage over 100 grassroots communities.
- Advocacy match at the University of Buea to raise awareness against sex for marks and call out GBV on students, especially females
- Invited to Paris, Dr Zoneziwoh Mbongdulo-Wondieh emphasized the role of African women scientists at the L'Oreal UNESCO Women in Science award ceremony, advocating for investment in science and female scientists for Africa's growth.

December



I. JANUARY 2024

1.1 A Month of Preparation, Collaboration, and Feminist Action

As the year began, Women for a Change (WFAC) set the tone for 2024 with a strong focus on preparation and collaboration, highlighting our commitment to collective feminist action. January was a pivotal month as we laid the groundwork for key events and strengthened regional and global partnerships.

1.2 Preparing for CSW68: Central Africa Leads the Change



In anticipation of the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (**CSW68**) in New York, Wfac spearheaded consultations at the regional level. Partnering with Génération Égalité ECCAS (**GenEgaliteECCAS**) and other organizations across Central Africa, we were also honoured to embrace our role as co-conveners for the 3rd regional Africa Disrupts convening - **Africa Disrupts CSW68**. This marked the first time the Central Africa subregion hosted the pan-African feminist gathering, which is a platform that seeks to co-develop a concrete common position for African women and girls to inform the agreed conclusions on the annual UN Women Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) convening. This, in turn, shows our leadership in advancing feminist dialogue in Central Africa.

Building on the belief that feminist work thrives on teamwork, collaboration, care, and transformation, we assembled a dedicated team of Central African feminists to ensure that women and girls travelling from across the continent felt welcomed and supported. Together, we set the stage for critical conversations addressing poverty, institutional reform, and financial justice.

1.3 Reflecting on COP28 and Planning for COP29

January also offered a moment for reflection and forward-thinking as we collaborated with Femnet and other partners to evaluate our engagement at COP28 in December 2023 Dubai and strategize for the upcoming COP29 in Azerbaijan in November 2024.

Joining partners and allies from the region and beyond, our discussions explored lessons learned, areas for improvement, and the importance of amplifying African feminist voices in global climate policy. As part of this effort, our Executive Director, Dr. Zoneziwoh Mbongdulo-Wondieh, made a strong remark about the unequal gender representation at COP28 and calling for better, capturing the attention of participants and reinforcing the role of feminist leadership in climate justice.



January 2024 was indeed a month of profound preparations, setting the foundation for Wfac's impactful year ahead. With a focus on collaboration and strategic engagement, we began 2024 with renewed energy and commitment to advancing feminist leadership in Central Africa and beyond.

II. February 2024

2.1 Reclaiming the Dignity of African Women and Girls

February marked a historic moment for Women for a Change (WFAC) Cameroon as we co-convened the 3rd Regional Africa Disrupt CSW Consultations under the theme: **Reclaiming the Dignity of Women and Girls in Africa**. This event was the first of its kind in the Central African subregion, solidifying our commitment to amplifying the voices of African women and girls and ensuring no region is left behind in global feminist dialogues.



2.2 #AfricaDisruptCSW68 in Yaoundé: A Milestone for Central Africa

Excitement filled the air as **#AfricaDisruptCSW68** kicked off in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from **February 20–22**. This groundbreaking event brought together 100 women and girls from 40 African countries, creating an empowering space for transformative discussions on poverty, institutional reform, and financial justice.



For the first time, we witnessed the active participation of women's rights leaders from historically underrepresented Central African countries such as **Equatorial Guinea, São Tomé and Príncipe, Central African Republic, and Chad**. This milestone signals the gradual but vital inclusion of our subregion in global feminist movements and decision-making spaces.



The **#AfricaDisruptCSW** was also an opportunity for participants coming from various countries to meet with their leaders and share their engagement, bringing them on board their decision-makers as they geared towards making key decisions in NY.

We were especially happy to see the delegation from Equatorial Guinea meeting with their ambassador in Cameroon.



Delegation of Equatorial Guinea with their Ambassador

2.3 Virtual Inclusivity and Expanding Reach

Understanding the barriers faced by many women in attending such events physically, we ensured inclusivity by offering online participation options. This hybrid approach allowed us to engage a wider audience, reaffirming our dedication to making feminist advocacy accessible to all.



2.4 A Collaborative Platform for Change

We were honoured to welcome **Professor Marie Therese Abena Ondoa, Cameroon's Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family (Minprof)**, whose presence and insights enriched the discourse. Her contributions underscored the importance of leadership in challenging societal norms and advancing gender equality.



The consultations also highlighted the collective strength of African feminists and women's rights leaders. Together, we disrupted the status quo, creating a roadmap for a brighter and more equitable future for women and girls across the continent.



The success of **#AfricaDisruptCSW68** in Yaoundé was a testament to the power of collaboration and collective action. By creating an inclusive and dynamic platform, we took a significant step towards ensuring that the Central African subregion is no longer the "*forgotten region*" in global feminist dialogues.

III. MARCH 2024



3.1 Advocating for Grassroots Women and Girls at CSW68

March ushered in a defining moment for our advocacy efforts as we participated in the **68th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68)** at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This year's priority theme, *"Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective,"* resonated deeply with our mission. It underscored the interconnectedness of gender equality with development goals, highlighting the urgent need for systemic change.

**From
AfricaDisruptCSW68 to
New York, we carried
the voices of African
youth and feminists to
the global stage,
championing
transformative policies
and intersectional
advocacy at the 68th
Commission on the
Status of Women.**



3.2 A Platform for Change

Months of intensive preparations and consultations across Central Africa with the #AfricaDisruptCSW68 and the broader African continent culminated in our delegation's readiness to amplify the voices of women and girls at the grassroots. These voices, often excluded from high-level decision-making, carried clear demands and declarations crafted during regional consultations.



Our presence at CSW68 was an opportunity to ensure that these demands were communicated directly to global leaders and decision-makers. We advocated, lobbied, and shared our work at the local level, showcasing the impact of the consultations and calling for collective action.

3.3 Speaking Engagements and Events

Our delegation actively participated in several key events, where we shared our insights and commitments to advancing gender equality:

A. HerPower: Education to Advance Gender Equality

Co-hosted by the EU Youth Delegates in the margins of CSW, the event highlighted innovative approaches to integrating intersectionality into educational policies and programs, recognizing the unique challenges faced by different groups of women and girls and tailoring interventions accordingly. It provided a space for diverse voices, including youth perspectives, to engage in an intergenerational dialogue aimed at analyzing, describing, and discussing experiences in the education system, evaluating changes over time, and formulating best practices.



HerPower: Education to Advance Gender Equality

CSW68 Side event
14 March 2024, 1.00 PM - 2.15 PM
EU Delegation to the UN
666 Third Ave, 31st fl



Speakers at the event included Ayshka Najib (India), Elias Fjellander (Sweden), Greet Vermeylen (EU Gender expert), Hilux Fokou Ngoumo (Women for a Change, Cameroon), and Şehnaz Kıymaz Bahçeci (Women's Major Group). Each speaker provided valuable insights into various aspects of education, gender equality, and poverty alleviation.

This event explored innovative approaches to tackling poverty and education through a gender lens. We highlighted the importance using new educational strategies taking our gShe Platform as a case study and of intersectional strategies to empower women and girls, addressing systemic barriers that perpetuate inequality.

B. Linking Agendas, Bridging Silos: Comprehensive Sexuality Education and the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence



Speaking at this event in partnership with UNFPA, Fos Feminista, and other collaborators, Wfac gShe coordinator, Emmanuel Ndabombi discussed the critical role of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in preventing gender-based violence (GBV). Our contributions emphasized the need for a holistic approach to tackle GBV at its root. We highlighted the fact that The gShe platform as well as the non-credit courses introduced in over 10 schools across Cameroon, directly reached over 500000 students and indirectly over a million.

C. CSW68 Youth Forum

One of our mentees from Mifali, Hilux Fokou Ngoumo, was a speaker during the Youth Forum's Opening Ceremony, sharing the stage with prominent leaders such as UN Women Executive Director. His address on the power of tech in fighting against GBV, empowering institutions and more was indeed great and cherishing. He showed the power of young voices in shaping a gender-equal future and spotlighted the role of youth-led movements in advancing feminist advocacy.



3.4 Beyond the Podium

In addition to speaking engagements, our delegation engaged in meaningful dialogues with negotiators, lobbied for gender-responsive policies, and networked with leaders and advocates from diverse sectors. Each interaction was an opportunity to push for systemic reforms that prioritize the needs of grassroots women and girls.

CSW68 was more than a moment to reflect on past progress—it was a call to action to address persistent inequalities through poverty alleviation, institutional reform, and gender-responsive financing. We left New York with renewed determination to continue advocating for a world where women and girls in all their diversity can thrive.





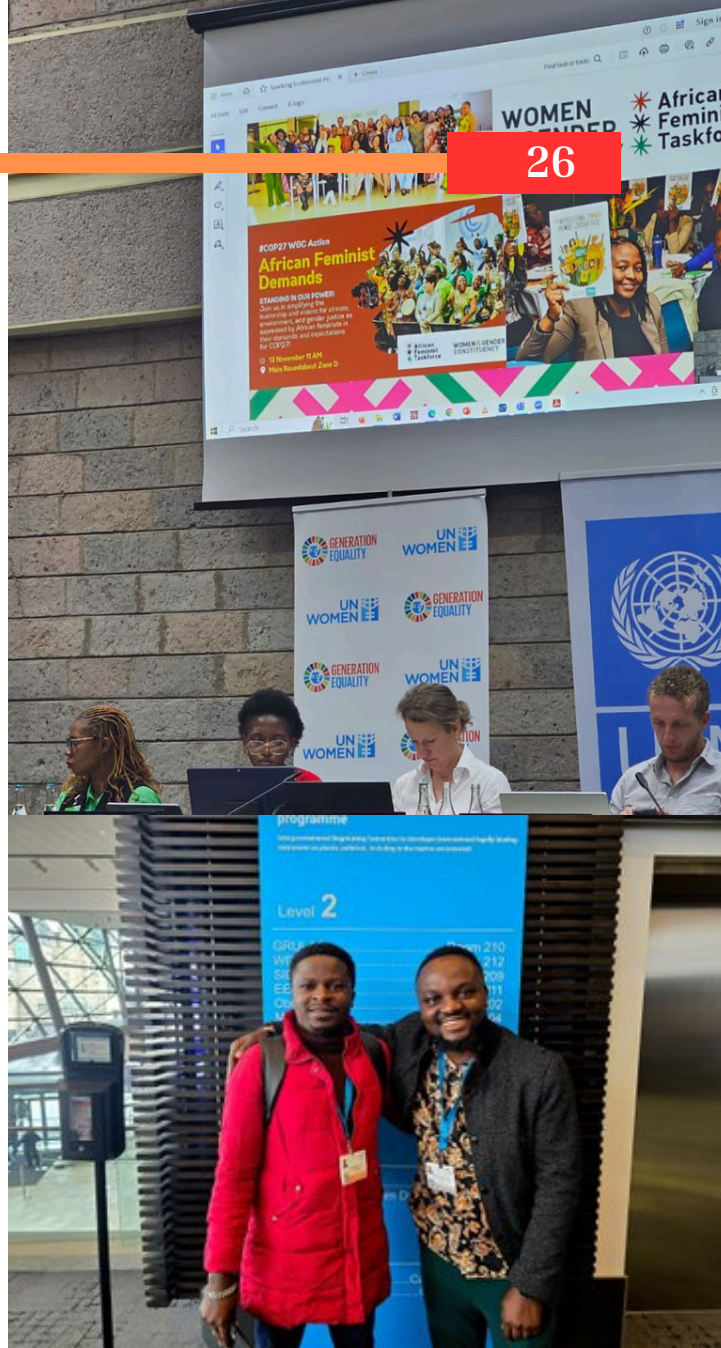
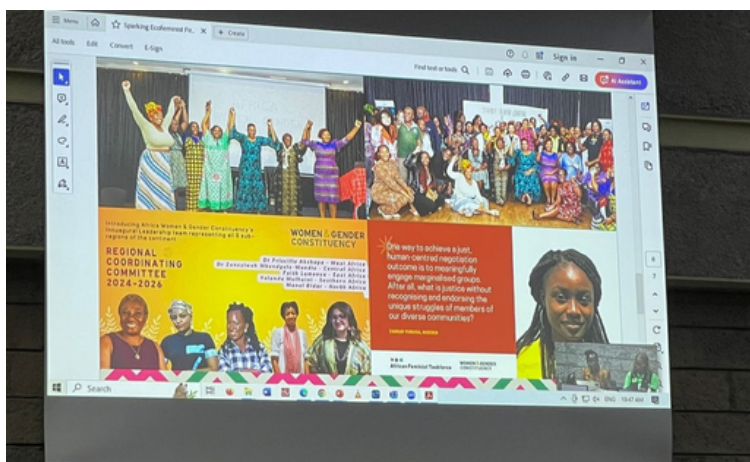
IV. APRIL 2024

4.1 Wfac at the Negotiations on the Global Plastic Treaty in Ottawa, Canada

Women for a Change, Cameroon joined over 2000 delegates in Ottawa, Canada, for the fourth session of the intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on developing a legally binding instrument against plastic pollution, including the marine environment, held in Ottawa, Canada, from April 23 - 29th, 2024. This global conversation pursued previous INC sessions from Nairobi, Paris and Punta del Este held in 2022 and 2023 respectively.



The need for a meaningful engagement and participation of grassroots women and girls and indigenous people, including waste pickers and the nexus of gender and health underscored civil society organization's engagements at the INC4. With a huge focus of the negotiations geared towards finalizing on the revised zero draft from INC3 in Nairobi, the INC4 was yet another global gathering that though did not fully reflect the concerns of civil society organization, however, made strides towards finalizing on the development of a legally binding instrument to fight plastic pollution on lands and in waters.



Women for a Change, Cameroon, at the fourth session of the INC, worked closely with the Women's Major Groups and party delegates, engaging in partnered side events to share insights and make meaningful contributions to the revised zero draft, especially as it made minimal comments on health which was considered a huge left out in the conversations from INC3 to INC4 and beyond; giving that we are negotiating a treaty that seeks to safeguard one's health and that of our planet, members of the civil society found this mouthwatering as little emphasis was made on health and gender.

However, the INC4 made remarkable strides in accelerating the negotiations on developing the global treaty as convergence was reached pursuant to the negotiations ahead of Busan, South Korea, in November 2024. The INC4 was yet another opportunity for Wfac to engage global policymakers and stakeholders, alongside the country government, on the state and inclusion of gender and health in the global treaty negotiations and the need for an active and meaningful engagement and representation of grassroots women and girls who suffer the most, the direct impact and effect of plastic pollution in their communities, to be present at these global negotiations that mark turning points in their lives and those of their communities.

5.1 Recognizing Significant Days and Advocating for Menstrual Hygiene

May marked important global and national observances, such as Labor Day on May 1st and Mother's Day later in the month. While we did not carry out specific activities for these commemorations, we took time to reflect on their significance. Labor Day celebrates the contributions of workers, while Mother's Day highlights the invaluable role of mothers in nurturing families and communities.



Our key activity for the month was Menstrual Hygiene Day, observed globally on May 28th, where we used digital platforms to engage in a vital conversation about menstrual health and its broader implications for gender equality.

5.2 Menstrual Health Challenges in Cameroon

In Cameroon, menstruation remains a topic shrouded in stigma and misinformation. Many menstruators face challenges, including:

- **Cultural Taboos:** Persistent myths and stereotypes make open conversations about menstruation difficult.
- **Limited Access to Resources:** Sanitary products are often unaffordable for many, particularly in underserved communities mainly due to the high tax rates on these products.
- **Infrastructural Gaps:** Schools and public spaces often lack adequate facilities to support menstrual hygiene.

These realities underscore the need for ongoing advocacy to normalize menstruation as a natural process and to address the systemic barriers menstruators face daily. Recognizing this, WFAC organized a Twitter conversation to spark dialogue and raise awareness.

5.3 Our Online Engagement: Demystifying Menstruation

To commemorate Menstrual Hygiene Day, WFAC facilitated a Twitter conversation with the aim of:

1. **Raising Awareness:** Challenging misconceptions and reducing stigma around menstruation.
2. **Fostering Knowledge Sharing:** Encouraging discussions on best practices for menstrual hygiene.
3. **Advocacy:** Highlighting the importance of addressing menstrual health in public health policies.

OUR QUESTIONS ENCOURAGED PARTICIPANTS TO REFLECT ON KEY ASPECTS OF MENSTRUATION:

- What stereotypes do you have about menstruation?
- How have these stereotypes affected your perception of menstruation?
- Do you think it is important for menstrual health to be promoted, respected, and enjoyed?
- What can you do to advance and ensure the safety of your health?
- What recommendations do you have for world leaders and stakeholders regarding menstruation?

LOOKING AHEAD

Menstrual Hygiene Day reminded us of the importance of continuing advocacy for menstrual equity. We remain committed to engaging stakeholders, challenging harmful narratives, and promoting sustainable solutions to ensure that menstrual health becomes a priority for all.

Bonn Climate Change Conference – June 2024

Bonn takes Center Stage in Climate Change Conversations



Every year, world leaders and decision makers convene around the world to deliberate on the challenges and opportunities in addressing climate change worldwide. These meetings are usually led by a chair, whose responsibility is to guide conversations and lead negotiations on the state of the climate. At the end of every meeting, the chair announces the decision or the adoption of a new treaty; employing negotiation materials that are based on government proposals.

Every June, the world gathers in Bonn, Germany for the **SBI and SBSTA**.

These are two subsidiary bodies to the **UNFCCC** charged with the development of recommendations to assist the COP in the review and assessment of the implementation of the Convention and in the preparation and implementation of its decisions.

The highest decision-making body in the climate change process is the Conference of the Parties (COP). In order to decide how to carry out the treaty and advance climate action, it convenes all of the "Parties" to the UNFCCC, which are the states that have formally accepted the agreement. At least twice a year, in various places throughout the world, climate change negotiators convene to examine the progress made thus far and make choices on the most effective ways to address the issue.



In June 2024, over 6400 delegates travel to Bonn for a two weeks global discussion on the current and future state of the planet's climate.

Women for a change, Cameroon(Wfac) as an accredited organization to the UNFCCC and a commitment maker to climate justice, was present in these negotiations, and as part of the Women's Major Groups who make up one of the 9 major groups of the UNFCCC, Wfac engaged in the different conversations and negotiations at the global meeting; to review and appraise the current implementation of the COP agreements, underscore the role and importance of nexusing climate change with gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights. Wfac delegates engaged in open plenary discussions mandated side events and closed negotiations to inform and advance the climate agenda ahead of COP29.



The discussions at the SBI60 evaluated the current events and state of things related to, but not limited to, climate finance, loss and damage, just transitions, health, gender, technology, adaptation and mitigation, and many other climate-related issues. In these discussions, Wfac delegates joined colleagues from civil society, NGOs and INGOs, party representatives and other observers to brainstorm and inform on the need for grassroots representation, gender mainstreaming, inclusivity and intersectionality in the design, implementation and evaluation of climate policies.

As parties geared up to COP29 in Baku, Wfac's commitments to promoting the global climate agenda remained unmatched as her continuous efforts in creating spaces and access for meaningful engagements and participation of grassroots women and girls, climate champions and key community actors in decision-making spaces amplified the need for an intergenerational and intersectional approach in promoting climate justice for all.



7.1 Recognition and Engagement

7.2 German Africa Peace Award 2023

In July 2024, Women for a Change (WFAC) was honored to be among the organizations recognized as part of the 1st National Women's Convention for Peace in Cameroon, which received the prestigious German Africa Prize 2023. This accolade, awarded by the non-partisan German Africa Foundation, acknowledges exceptional contributions to peace, democracy, human rights, and development in Africa.



The 1st National Women's Convention for Peace in Cameroon is an umbrella platform comprising nearly 80 women's organizations dedicated to promoting dialogue, peace, and reconciliation amidst the ongoing Anglophone crisis in the country. Their efforts have been instrumental in fostering negotiations and encouraging peaceful resolutions to conflicts affecting the region.

7.3 African Continental Free Trade Alliance Training

From July 15–17, 2024, Women for a Change, Cameroon, participated in the African Continental Free Trade Alliance Training in Nairobi, Kenya. Organized by the NaWi Collective, this event focused on examining the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) through a Pan-African feminist perspective.



TRAINING OBJECTIVES

- To analyze trade agreements from a feminist lens.
- To discuss how AfCFTA impacts women and girls across Africa.
- To identify pathways for gender-responsive trade policies.

OUR CONTRIBUTIONS

- Advocating for the inclusion of gender equity provisions in AfCFTA frameworks.
- Sharing insights from grassroots initiatives addressing economic challenges faced by women.

Acknowledgment

We extend our sincere gratitude to the **NaWi Collective** for their invitation and leadership in convening this vital dialogue.

8.1 Empowerment, Education, and Preparation

8.2 Preparations for the Beijing+30 Central African Feminist Forum

August marked a significant step forward as we prepared for the Beijing+30 Central African Feminist Forum, an event set to bring feminists and activists from across the region to Yaoundé. This forum, happening for the first time in Central Africa, aims to amplify feminist voices and advance gender equality.

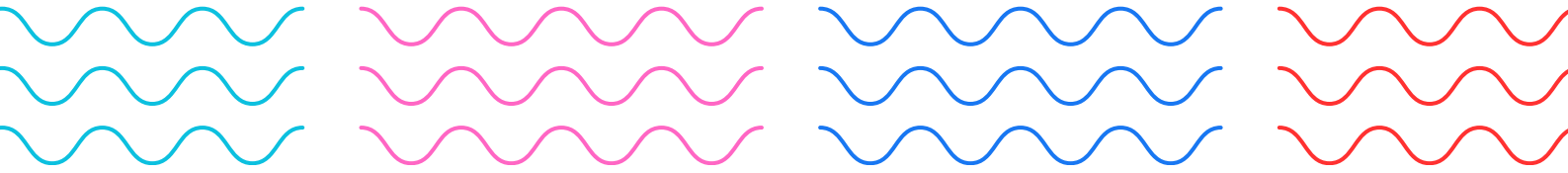
Our efforts in August focused on:

- **Mobilizing participants:** Engaging feminists, organizations, and allies across Cameroon and all neighbouring Central African countries to ensure robust representation.
- **We aimed at outreach and awareness campaigns:** Highlighting the forum's importance in promoting feminist leadership and advocacy in our sub-region, which is always left behind.
- **Logistics planning:** Coordinating resources to ensure a seamless experience for participants.



8.3 SDGSFOOTVACANCES:

Fostering Awareness of the SDGs Through Sports



*With the kind support of our partner, **Global Fund for Women**, we organized the **#SDGsFootVacances**, an innovative initiative that blends sports and education to promote sustainable development goals (SDGs).*

This football tournament brought together young girls from various communities, forming teams aligned with different SDG themes. Each team represented a specific goal, such as quality education (**SDG 4**), gender equality (**SDG 5**), or climate action (**SDG 13**).

The event achieved several objectives which we at Wfac are proud of:

- **Raising awareness:** Through interactive discussions, participants learned the importance of the SDGs and how they can contribute to achieving them.
- **Empowering girls:** The tournament provided a platform for young girls to showcase their talents, build confidence, and foster a sense of community.
- **Promoting advocacy:** By connecting sports and SDGs, the initiative showcased the power of collective action in addressing global challenges.

Through this event/tournament, we successfully blended recreation with education, leaving participants inspired and better informed about the goals shaping our world.



8.4 gShe Facilitators Training and Volunteers' Retreat

In line with our commitment to empowering young change-makers, we hosted the annual gShe Facilitators Training and Volunteers' Capacity Strengthening Retreat in Yaoundé.



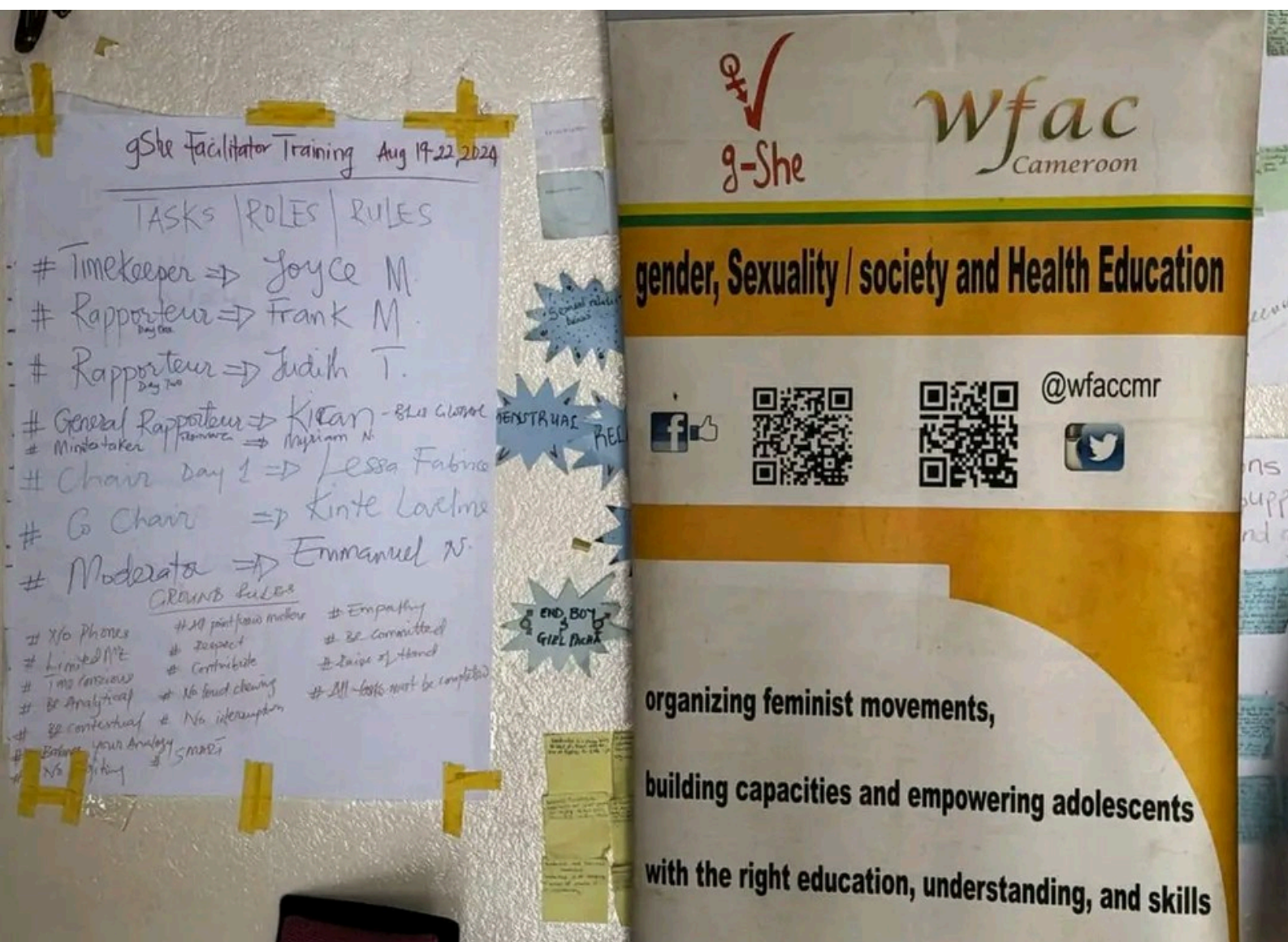
This retreat brought together 30 dynamic volunteers and focused on equipping them to deliver impactful sessions as part of our flagship gShe program, which has been a pillar of SRHR education for over a decade. Established in 2016, the gShe program is a flagship program that seeks to empower adolescents and young people in and out of schools with the right education, understanding, and skills to make informed decisions about their SRHR, and access services and career opportunities for their personal and leadership development.

It was hosted under the theme: ***“Moving Beyond Boundaries with a New Purpose and Drive in Transforming How Adolescents and Young People Access Comprehensive Sexuality Education.”***



- **Capacity building:** Facilitators received training on effective communication, comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) methodologies, and community engagement strategies.
- **Networking and teamwork:** Participants shared experiences, built connections, and strengthened their sense of purpose in advancing SRHR among adolescents and youth.

The retreat reinforced our volunteers' abilities to support the weekly Wfac gShe outreach activities in and out of schools, ensuring that adolescents receive the accurate information and resources they need to make informed decisions about their SRHR.





Advocacy, Global Engagement, and Cameroon's Leadership on the World Stage

9.2 Advocacy and Preparations for COP29 in Azerbaijan

In September, Women for a Change (Wfac) focused on ensuring meaningful participation for women, youth, and marginalized groups at the upcoming COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Our advocacy centred on breaking the barriers to access, especially for delegates from countries like Cameroon, where obtaining transit visas to reach the host city remains challenging.

One of our key campaigns called for the COP29 Presidency to collaborate with COP28 organizers in the UAE to address these logistical barriers. We highlighted issues such as the lack of access to transit e-visas for Dubai, which could prevent many youth delegates and grassroots leaders from attending the conference. Our team underscored how such barriers undermine inclusivity, particularly for representatives from the Global South.

Through our social media platforms, we amplified these concerns and called for solutions, including the possibility of waiving transit visa requirements for such cases. This advocacy forms part of our broader efforts to ensure that no voice is left behind in climate negotiations and that youth and women can fully participate in these critical discussions shaping global climate action.



9.3 Participation in the Summit of the Future



SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE - ACTION DAYS
ADVANCING FEMINIST CLIMATE JUSTICE AND THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA TO BUILD RESILIENT SOCIETIES

In Person Roundtable & Audience Discussion
Friday, September 20, 2024 | 3:30 pm - 5 pm EST
UN Women Headquarters, 220 East 42nd Street, NYC

Speakers:

- Danielle Amaral**
Executive Director, Engajamundo Youth Association
- Zoneziwoh Mbongulo-Wondieh**
Executive Director, Women for a Change
- Mavic Cabrera-Balleza**
CEO, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), Board Co-Chair, WPS-HA Compact
- Sunil Pal**
Advocacy Specialist, International Development Law Organization (IDLO)
- Tatyana Jiteneva**
Policy Specialist, UN Women

MODERATOR
Harriette Williams Bright
 Compact for Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Lead, UN Women

Registration Required by September 19 at 12pm EST:

Logos: UN WOMEN, GENERATION EQUALITY, FEMINIST ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE ACTION COALITION, THE COMPACT, WOMEN, PEACE & SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION, WPS-HA COMPACT

During the same month, Wfac participated in the Summit of the Future, held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The summit, themed ***"Reforming Multilateralism to Secure a Better Future,"*** brought together global leaders, civil society organizations, and youth representatives to discuss critical global governance reforms.

Our team engaged in high-level conversations and dialogues that addressed issues such as the global digital compact, climate justice, and gender equity. Wfac representatives also contributed to panel discussions and roundtable forums, sharing insights on how grassroots and youth-led movements can shape global policies.

This engagement allowed us to forge meaningful collaborations and bring the perspectives of African youth and women into the global arena with our partners Fos Feminsta & Global Fund for Women.

9.4 The 79th United Nations General Assembly and Local Initiatives

September also marked the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), presided over by Philémon Yang, former Prime Minister of Cameroon. The theme for this year's General Assembly was ***"Leaving no one behind: acting together for the advancement of peace, sustainable development and human dignity for present and future generations."***

To foster inclusivity and ensure the voices of women, youth, and marginalized groups were not left out, Wfac hosted watch parties across Cameroon. These watch parties created an opportunity for young people, women, and girls to follow the proceedings in real-time, engage with the key discussions, and connect with global initiatives from their local contexts. By reducing barriers to access, these engagements empowered communities to learn, share ideas, and develop localized actions inspired by the General Assembly's agenda.





X. OCTOBER 2024

10.1 A Month of Feminist Solidarity and Strategic Action

October 2024 was a significant and intense month for us, filled with dynamic engagements and pivotal milestones in our pursuit of gender equality and feminist solidarity across Central Africa. The highlight of the month was the Central Africa Feminists' Forum on Beijing+30, which took place from October 16–18 in Yaoundé, Cameroon.



This historic forum, supported by **AWDF** and co-convened with key partners such as **ODAS** and **Femnet**, brought together a diverse assembly of delegates from across the ECCAS region. Participants included grassroots women, civil society representatives, feminist leaders, diplomats, former ministers, journalists, and UN representatives, representing countries such as **Chad**, **Cameroon**, **Gabon**, **Equatorial Guinea**, **Sao Tome et Principe**, **Central African Republic**, **Congo Republic**, and the **Democratic Republic of Congo**.

10.2 A Space of Energy, Reflection, and Vision

The atmosphere of the forum was electric, filled with excitement, knowledge-sharing, and collective determination. Under the theme *"Beijing+30 - Uniting in Solidarity, Safeguarding Our Gains, Amplifying Our Voices"*, the forum revisited three decades of progress since the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA). It also aligned with the broader CSW69 priority theme of reviewing the implementation of the BPfA and strategizing for the future.

The sessions were marked by critical reflections on the gains achieved in gender equality within the region, candid discussions on ongoing challenges, and powerful declarations to protect and build on progress. There was particular emphasis on amplifying the voices of women and girls in Central Africa, especially those in grassroots and marginalized communities.



10.3 Highlights

Strategic Highlights:

- Deliberations on safeguarding gains in gender equality in light of emerging global and regional challenges.
- Recognition of the interconnectedness of climate justice, gender equality, and sustainable development.
- Discussions on leveraging feminist leadership and innovation to counter violence against women and girls.
- Commitments to fostering greater intergenerational collaboration within feminist movements in Central Africa.



10.4 Virtual Inclusivity

To ensure no voice was left unheard, the forum also provided virtual participation, allowing activists, organizations, and stakeholders unable to attend in person to engage meaningfully in the discussions and contribute to the outcomes.

10.5 Momentum Beyond Yaoundé

October was also marked by our active participation in the African regional consultations in Ethiopia, a preparatory step towards Beijing+30. Co-hosted by organizations such as UN Women, Femnet, and others, this consultation served as a critical moment to align strategies across the continent. It highlighted the importance of collective advocacy, amplifying diverse African voices, and reaffirming a commitment to achieving gender equality.



10.6 A Declaration of Hope

One of the most profound outcomes of the month's engagements was the adoption of "**Our Declaration of Hope**", a shared vision that unites the region in solidarity, resilience, and unwavering dedication to achieving equality. It reaffirms our collective responsibility to safeguard the rights and dignity of women and girls across Central Africa and beyond.

October was not merely a month of events; it was a month of purpose, strategy, and impact, keeping the momentum alive as we move forward in shaping a just and equal future for all.

Central African Feminists' Forum

ON BEIJING+30

Our Declaration of Hope

I am Esperanza
Yo soy Esperencia
Je suis Espoir
I am Hope

My name is Esperanza. I was born in Malabo, and my parents were migrants from Rwanda and DRC; they were survivors of the genocide and conflict. I heard I was born in 1995. Fortunately, the same year, women gathered in Beijing to discuss and fight for my rights. It's 30 years now and I am still seen as a foreigner in the country where I was born. I cannot claim my birthright because my parents were immigrants from DRC and Rwanda.

Growing up, I had to walk several miles to fetch water and firewood and helped my mother cook in the kitchen while my brother went to school and played football with his peers in his leisure time.

My father had always nursed the fear of me not getting pregnant at home, so he finally found a suitor for me, a 75-year-old successful cattle owner. Inasmuch as I wasn't happy being the only person doing most of the house chores, I still enjoy playing with my friends while going to the stream to fetch water. I loved and enjoyed the stories told by my mother and watching my brother do his math homework. I don't feel ready to get married at the moment. I just started seeing my period, and it feels awful as nobody talks about it. I still find it hard to go to the market or the stream on days when I am bleeding, as I had no sanitary towels to pad myself from the menstrual flow and preserve my dignity.



Men kept making hissings when I walk across the streets. One day, my neighbour's son was bold enough to tell me he likes my curves, hips, thighs and buttocks. He says my breasts are as firm as a well-developed avocado. I do not feel safe any time I walk past their house to the forest for firewood.

One day my dad shamelessly told my mum and I that my husband's family will be coming to take me the next day. He says this is the most dignifying thing he can do as a father: to ensure that I am safe and to ensure I do not bring shame to the family. I was betrothed to a 75-year-old man from a remote village in the Central African Republic.

I had to move over with my husband to the Central African Republic. I went through so much hardship in my husband's home. I was deprived of every opportunity to do business. Some days were so violent. It got worse when I had menstrual cramps. I gave birth to six children at the age of 20 and was denied access to modern family planning methods by my husband. Some years after, war erupted in the Central Africa Republic; women in my village were raped, beaten and killed by some non-state armed forces. I decided to run away with my children to Cameroon. Running for our safety, from oppression, from torture with my six children, all we had was hope for a better life. We moved in the bush for several months, eating wild fruits until we arrived in Cameroon.

We finally arrived at Cameroon, our intended destination. Life was hard. I had to get involved in small trading to take care of my children. I was involved in selling firewood and farming to take care of my family. I used to sell across the Cameroon-Gabon borders, buying from Cameroon and selling in Gabon. Shortly after, COVID-19 happened, and the borders were closed. I learned that my husband was killed during the war. My children and I mourned for months, but my grieving period could not last because I had to continue hustling to feed my children. My children went to government primary schools for free. This reduced the burden on me to cater for their school fees. I resorted to online marketing. I started using the media to sell and also share my story to empower other women. The media took an interest in my story, and I was invited to participate in several entrepreneurship and women empowerment sessions to motivate the population, especially inspiring other young women like me to not give up and stay empowered.



At the age of thirty, I took an interest in politics and decided to contest for elections. I was well known because of my story; I was well-loved by the public, and so many other women related to my story and saw me as a beacon of hope. It was difficult for me to register my candidature for the elections. The fees were huge, and the barriers were enormous: from cultural to socioeconomic to religious and linguistic. I was even laughed at and mocked by some male political figures and fans who told me that my place as a woman was not in the public sphere but in private. These were exacerbated by the multiple barriers faced to securing signatures from first-class chiefs (who were all males) to grant me their approval to run for an elective position. After three attempts, I was able to raise the money amidst the multiple barriers that prevented my participation just because I am a woman. Today, I am a public figure.

Through my political initiatives, I was able to push for laws advocating for affirmative action and positive discrimination for women in both public and private spaces. I advocated for policies centred around equal participation of women in decision-making spaces in all sectors, the need for gender education at all levels, the need to ensure that its gender policy includes mechanisms for the collection of valid, reliable, and gender-disaggregated data in the area of women's protection, Strengthen accountability mechanisms for human rights violations, Increase funding for women-focused interventions across all sectors, Address root causes of the conflict through inclusive dialogue; Strengthen legal and policy frameworks, Enhance women's meaningful participation and a 50:50 representation in decision-making processes at all levels, including national delegations attending international and regional meetings. Improve access to justice and support services for all women and girls, including survivors of Gender-Based Violence. Adoption of a gender action plan on climate change and gender-responsive budgeting to climate finance. To create, and it does not exist and disassociate where it exists from marginalizing the Ministry of Gender with youths, children and the family. Ensure the protection of women against Cyberbullying and cyber gender-based violence. Allocate adequate resources and ensure that state budgeting is gender-responsive.

I am Esperanza,

Yo soy Esperanza

Je suis Espoire,

I am the hope of Women and girls in the Central African Region



XI. NOVEMBER 2024

Holding the Line for Feminist Climate Justice at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan



In Baku, Azerbaijan, Women for a Change, Cameroon led a four-person delegation for the 29th session of the UNFCCC Climate Change Conference, where they spoke on several panel sessions including press conferences and thematic day events such as Development and Climate Days, Gender Day, African Day, as well as the indigenous peoples day.

The two-week event, termed by the COP29 Presidency as the Climate Finance COP, received over 70,000 delegates from 200 countries, including civil societies, with less than 1% being feminist organisations from Africa.

In collaboration with our partners such as Africa Women and Gender Constituencies (WGC), FEMNET, we held a press conference on the Gender Day at COP29 on November 20th calling on Africa member states to act urgently for climate justice. Recognising the role of the continent in mitigating climate change, though they remain the least contributors of global greenhouse gas emission and pollution, their contributions and small efforts will also go a long way to help in climate mitigation and adaptation.

As noted in the joint African women's Statement at COP29, Africa is grappling with escalating conflicts, the emergence of anti-gender movements and fundamentalism and the relentless onslaught of climate change. The economic landscape has been equally turbulent, with the Global South facing a mounting debt crisis, particularly in Africa. In the Central Africa subregion, the situation is far worse. Climate change is one of several risks to resources, livelihoods, economies, and ecosystems. Central Africa constitutes part of the rich biodiversity of the Congo basin, with rapid population growth, urbanization, and economic transformation. The subregion is home to 1/3rd of the continent's population, with agriculture being one of the major sources of livelihood for the people. Faced with the daily risks to crops and livestock due to rising temperatures and heat extremes, water stress, and heavy precipitation events. Women make up 70% of the agrarian population.



11.2 High-Level Regional Dialogue: UNiTE to Push Forward for Rights, Equality & Justice (Webinar)

On November 28, the Executive Director of Wfac moderated a High-Level Regional Dialogue (HLRD) webinar under the theme: UNiTE to Push Forward for Rights, Equality, and Justice. The HLRD webinar was part of the joint UN Women Women and UNHRC 16 Days of Activism campaign, focusing on advancing gender equality and countering anti-rights movements. Esteemed panellists included HRH Dr. Haliru Yahaya, founder and Convenor General of the Council of Traditional Leaders (COTLA), as well as the Emir of Shonga in Kwara State Nigeria; Dr. Ibrahima Salama, Former Chief of the Human Rights Treaties Branch at the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Ms. Sharon Mukwawaya, Togolese feminist activists and National Coordinator Le Mouvement GirlsMotion.

Panelists each shared how, in their respective roles, they are fostering dialogue and amplifying regional commitments to women's and girls' rights and gender equality, including promoting awareness of current pushback challenges and collaborative solutions. Panelists also shared impactful practices attained over the years, such as successful partnership creation and alliance building. In conclusion, each one of the panelists strongly suggested that in advancing gender justice and making it a reality, we need strong movements and work in collective efforts and not silos.



11.3 Agricultural Innovations in Cameroon and Resilience to Coastal Erosion in Loango, Republic of Congo

Climate Mobility co-led and hosted a side event at the just ended COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Women, Land and the Oceans to highlight grassroots innovations adopted by local communities in Cameroon to adapt to climate change and the resilience to the coastal erosion in the Loango Bay in the Republic of Congo.

Climate Mobility Pavilion

Global Centre for Climate Mobility
Enabling People Positive Adaptation Journeys

COP29 Baku Azerbaijan

NOVEMBER 20TH, 2024 @18H30 | GLOBAL CENTER FOR CLIMATE MOBILITY PAVILION (B13)

WOMEN, LAND AND THE OCEANS:
AGRICULTURAL INNOVATIONS IN CAMEROON AND RESILIENCE TO COASTAL EROSION IN LOANGO, REPUBLIC OF CONGO.

DATE
20/11/24

TIME
@18H30

MODERATOR
EMMANUEL NDABOMBI
WOMEN FOR A CHANGE, CAMEROON

PANELIST
ANN TEK
REP. FEMNET

PANELIST
MARIE DOROTHEE LISENGA
PRÉSIDENTE EXÉCUTIF
FACID

PANELIST
VANESSA MAVILA
PRÉSIDENTE, FONDATION EBOKO

PANELIST
TANDA GODWIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATION (EPDA)



The event hosted at the Global Centre for Climate Mobility Pavilion at COP29 brought together panellists with rich knowledge and experiences in agriculture, women's rights, climate justice, gender and SRHR. The speakers included Emmanuel Ndabombi from Women for Change, Cameroon, who moderated the interactive discussion; Tanda Godwin, Executive Director of EPDA; Anne Tek from Femnet; Marie Dorothée Lisenga, President of Indigenous Women and Local Communities for Sustainable and Participatory Development; and Vanessa Mavila, Executive Director of the Eboko Foundation. The panel discussions focused on the exacerbating effects of climate change in our communities and the lives and health of grassroots women in Cameroon and Africa. With the COP being a central space for negotiations and showcasing climate-friendly, innovative and transformative solutions, panellists at the event shared in-depth insights on climate adaptation and solutions led by grassroots women in Africa, with Tanda Godwin highlighting additional innovations such as mixed farming methods and multi-crop techniques which women farmers in Cameroon practice as adaptation techniques to the changing climatic conditions; recommending scaling through adequate agro and climate finance availability and accessibility.

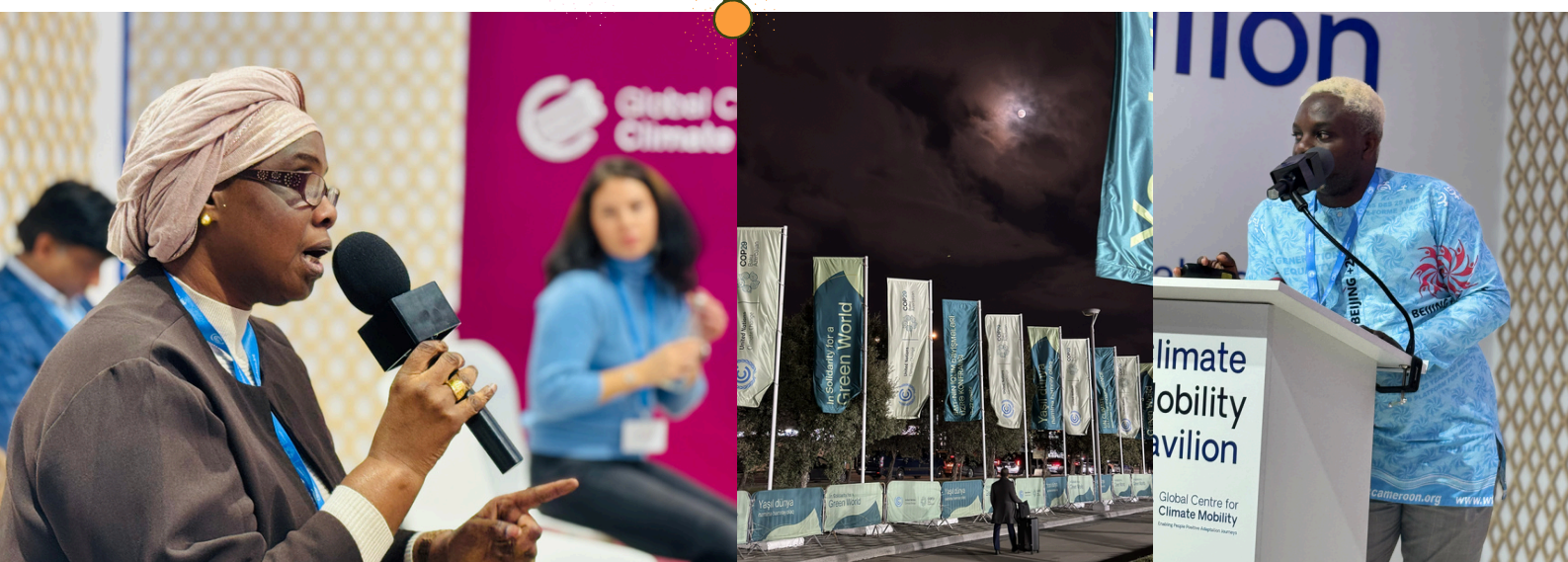


As the exchange pursued, conversations pertaining to women and land tenure and its connection to climate change emerged. This continues to be one of the underlying factors in women's subordination in Africa; access to land rights. Marie Dorothée from the Democratic Republic of Congo underscored this constraint exacerbating women's vulnerabilities amidst climate change. She shared with participants how women in the Democratic Republic of Congo managed to mobilize with parliament to influence policies that advanced women's access to land as owners and also promote access to sustainable credit facilities for women farmers to engage in multiple crop production and implore new technologies to farm; encouraging cross-border feminist solidarity and organizing in advocacy at both grassroots and national levels. In addition, interventions from Vanessa Mavila highlighted the issues facing the Loango Bay in the Republic of Congo, with coastal erosion and potential loss of the cultural heritage of the people heightened due to lack of adequate support and finance to combat these rapid changes and how this increased poverty, loss of livelihoods and degradable living conditions in area of significance to the local, indigenous people of the Eboko tribe. Through this, she called for intentional funding and government commitment towards safeguarding and preserving one of the world's heritage sites, Loango Bay.

The interactive event lasted for just over 90 minutes, with participants joining in on the conversation to share their experiences and make in-line contributions to the interventions, calling for member states and donor agencies to restrengthen commitments to climate finance, and ensure equitable access and distribution of resources to grassroots communities and women in particular who suffer the most in the context of climate change.



In november, Wfac's 15th Anniversary celebrated 15 years of advocacy for gender equality and climate justice



12.1 Empowerment, Education, and Preparation

12.2 Rising together to end Gender Based Violence against women and girls in Cameroon

As part of our 16 days of activism actions, Women for a Change, in collaboration with the University of Buea, Department of Women and Gender Studies (WGS) AISCW association, hosted a hybrid hub concurrently during the 15th AWID International Forum slated for Dec 2- 5, 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand. This virtual and Cross Border Regional engagement, also known as the Hubs, sought to enhance localised engagement and ensure the intentional participation of over 100+ grassroots communities and groups that could not be physically present in Bangkok to experience firsthand the 15th AWID forum.



Women for a Change
is attending

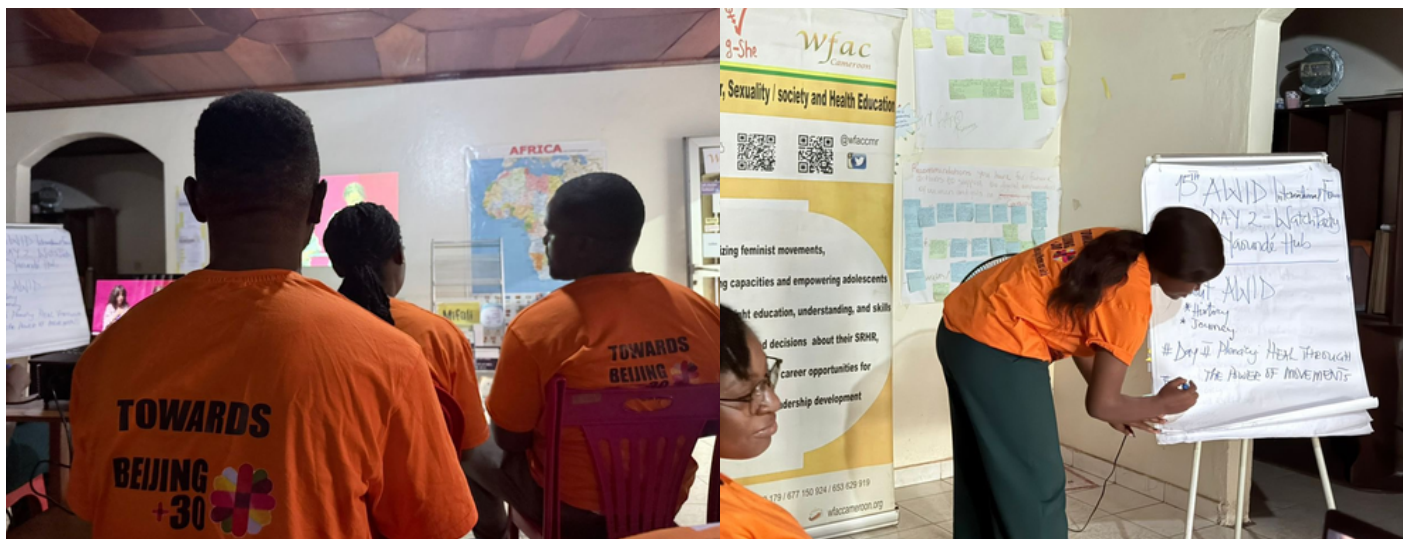
RISING TOGETHER | 15th AWID INTERNATIONAL FORUM

Dec 2 - 5, 2024

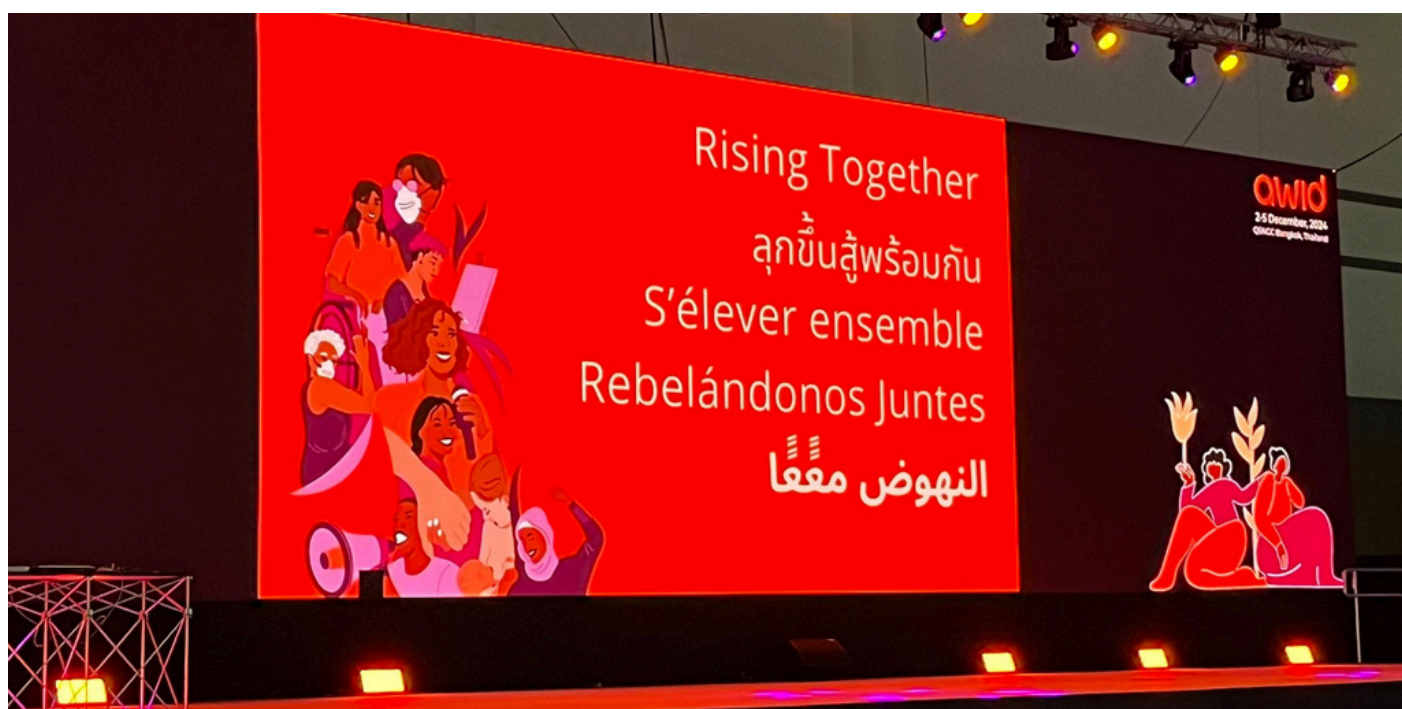
Bangkok (Hybrid Hub)

More Information
comms.wfac@gmail.com

Anchored on AWID Forum's 2025 theme: Connect, Health and Thrive, the hybrid hub successfully convened over 100 women human rights activists, leaders, adolescents, group leaders, eco-feminists, academics and others from diverse work of life for a hybrid hub across three regions/cities of Cameroon. Notably, Centre (Yaounde), Littoral (Douala) and Southwest (Buea and University of Buea). Over 10 watch parties were held, including during the opening and closing sessions of the AWID Forum, two cross-hub sessions that brought together all the global hubs from Mexico, Kenya, Nigeria, Brazil, and Ghana to exchange experiences and share key learnings.



Key takeaways from participants at these watch parties included the need for more awareness and commitment to pushing for intersectional and inclusive feminist spaces. As purported by disability rights activist, Mme. Amshatu Verbe shared her experiences of how, even with her education, the fact that she is a woman with a disability (visual) exposes her to multiple forms of inequalities. The first being that she is a woman and the second being a woman with a disability. These challenges are as basic as taking a taxi or crossing the road which is often “easy”, she said. Most times, she spent hours at the roadside just to take a taxi. Despite the fact that she raises the cane, which is a sign that she needs help. The driver will just think of the time that she might use to get in/out of the Taxi. A trouble many taxis do not want. This intent puts her in a very uncomfortable position and causes her to run late to her daily engagements. In conclusion, ending GBV and VAWG is a collective effort, and together, we can all rise to end these global injustices and inequalities.



12.3 Advocacy Match to Towards Beijing30: No Excuse. Unite to End GBV on women and girls

Together with the students of the University of Buea alongside AISCAW and Lecturers from the Department of Women and Gender Studies (WGS), they did a one-hour advocacy match on campus to raise awareness and call out against sexually transmitted marks, which continues to be a prevailing issue on campus. Sadly, the sex for marks is now a norm across university campuses and grounds for GBV on students, especially female students. Condemned by many as an act of academic dishonesty and lack of integrity.



The 16 Days of Activism Campaign walk at the University of Buea, Cameroon



A Heartfelt Tribute



We cannot complete this report without pausing to honor one of our own—a young girl whose passion and dedication to our cause were evident in all she did. Her last activity with us, during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence at the University of Buea, showcased her commitment to creating a better world.

Though she is no longer with us, her efforts and spirit continue to inspire our work. We dedicate this space to celebrate her contributions and reaffirm our resolve to carry forward the vision she so deeply believed in.

Rest in Peace

Finila Quincy

MSc Student of Women and Gender Studies; UB

12.5 Science needs African women and africa needs female scientists

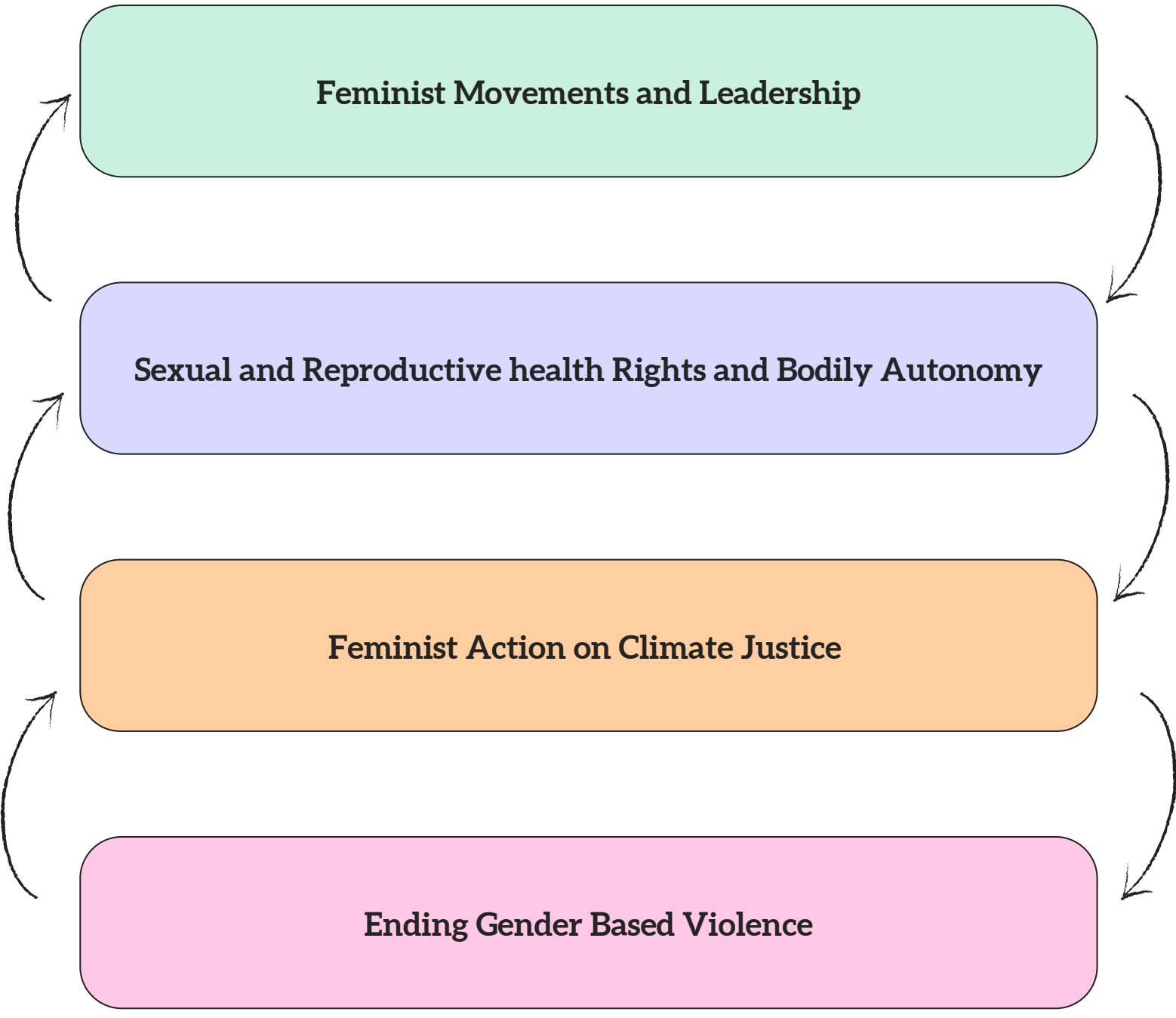
December 10, in commemoration of International Human Rights Day, the Executive Director of Women joined the L'Oreal Foundation and UNESCO for its 15th “For Women in Science (FWIS) award ceremony in Cotonou, Benin. In celebrating some 30 FWIS laureates working on cross-cutting issues, from addressing maternal mortalities to in astronomy findings of how the earth is shifting further at the speed of 200 million/hr to robotics AI telemedicine to finding alternative and safe ways to ending food insecurity and poverty, climate insecurities. With science changing the world. It is worth noting that Africa stands at a critical juncture. The continent currently has a population of 1.5 billion, and an additional billion is expected by 2050. This population holds immense potential but also faces significant challenges in terms of public health, climate change, etc.

To face these challenges, Africa needs research, technology and innovation to realise its full potential. An African woman must be amongst those solution providers. As purported by our ED, Dr Zoneziwoh Mbongdulo-Wondieh, the African woman is one of the greatest scientists who ever lived on this planet and though Africa constitutes less than 3% of scientists/researchers globally, with less than 32% of the 3% being women, the African woman has been an important contributor to global science from her ancient medical methods where there is no hospitals. Therefore, empowering African women scientists also implies the decolonization of knowledge production, including in STEM, and the need intentionality of Africa to invest in science and female scientists because we need science, and science needs women.



12.6 Building a Resilient Feminist Society for All - Our Commitments to the Generation Equality Action Coalitions

In 2021, we made a commitment to the Generation Equality Action Coalition's five-year campaign (2021-2026) and each year, we review our commitments and progress made. Among the six actions coalitions, here are the four actions coalitions we committed to:



Feminist Movements and Leadership

Sexual and Reproductive health Rights and Bodily Autonomy

Feminist Action on Climate Justice

Ending Gender Based Violence

Feminist Mentorship and Coaching

Mifali



Empowering the Next Generation of Feminist Leaders

MIFALI is a trailblazing feminist movement led by adolescents and young women in Cameroon. Established in December 2019, MIFALI was born from a program for young boys and girls hosted by Women for a Change (Wfac) on 05, December 2019. The movement emerged as a response to the discrimination and inequalities faced by young girls in Cameroon, aiming to empower adolescents and young women to claim their rights, lead impactful advocacy campaigns, and champion social justice. MIFALI brings together diverse voices, including girls, young women, and adolescent boys, to promote intersectional leadership and gender equality.

Milestone

MIFALI has achieved significant milestones through its dedication to feminist leadership and advocacy:

- **Capacity Building:** With coaching and mentorship from Wfac, MIFALI members have developed skills in advocacy, community mobilization, and feminist leadership.
- **Global Advocacy:** MIFALI has raised awareness on international platforms, including the use of social media to advocate for girls' education, leadership, and sexual and reproductive health rights.
- **Peer-to-Peer Training:** In partnership with the Global Fund for Women and Wfac, MIFALI participated in a participatory grantmaking training that equipped members to lead grassroots initiatives effectively.
- **Community Impact:** Through campaigns like the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, MIFALI has worked tirelessly to challenge societal norms and ensure safe spaces for women and girls.
- **NGO CSW Youth Leaders & Young Professionals (YLYP) Delegate Champions:** MIFALI members have been recognized as YLYP Delegate Champions, allowing them to engage in high-level discussions on gender equality and women's rights.
- **United Nations Conferences:** They participated in global platforms like COPs, SBs, and CSWs, amplifying youth and feminist voices from Cameroon in climate action and gender equality discussions.

Vision for the Future

MIFALI envisions a future where adolescent girls are not just beneficiaries of change but are recognized as leaders and creators of transformation. The movement aims to expand its reach, empowering more young people to address pressing issues like climate justice, SRHR, and GBVs. With the continued support of Wfac and strategic partnerships, MIFALI dreams of a Cameroon where girls' voices are amplified, their rights are safeguarded, and their leadership is celebrated globally.

GenEgaliteECCAS



A Central African Feminist Movement for Gender Equality

Established in 2019 as part of the UN Women Generation Equality Forum campaign, GenÉgalitéECCAS is one of the few feminist movements born from these forums, dedicated to amplifying local voices and driving commitments to the Generation Equality Action Coalitions. With over 100 members across 11 Central African countries—including Angola, Chad, Burundi, São Tomé and Príncipe, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo Brazzaville, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, and Rwanda—GenÉgalitéECCAS has become a key regional advocate. Over the years, the movement has engaged with 200 parliamentarians from 7 of these countries, including Heads of Government, Senators, Ministers, Gender Ministers, and women-led organizations.



Photos Gallery



Testimonials

Marie Laure Edeng



Le mariage entre maman Marie et Wfac est un témoignage mystérieux émaillé de plusieurs événements heureux. Cette merveilleuse aventure commence au début de l'année 2021 lors de la tenue en ligne du Forum de la Génération Égalité au Mexique et à Paris. À la suite de ces événements, s'est tenue une conférence africaine des femmes à Lomé, au Togo, où j'ai également participé en ligne. Je ne me souviens plus comment je me suis retrouvée dans cette aventure, mais je sais que c'était pendant mes recherches de partenaires techniques et financiers pour mon ONG, Plus de Sida dans les Familles (PSF), que j'ai découvert ce forum et décidé de m'inscrire.

Durant ces moments, ma fille ZoneZiwoh, fondatrice de Wfac, certainement aussi en quête de partenaires, a identifié mon ONG PSF à travers une mailing list. Quelques mois plus tard, alors que j'étais tranquillement assise dans mon salon après le travail, je reçois un message d'un numéro inconnu du Cameroun me demandant si c'était bien moi, EDENG Marie Laure. J'ai répondu "oui". La personne m'a demandé si elle pouvait m'appeler, ce que j'ai accepté. Elle s'est présentée et m'a expliqué comment elle avait obtenu mon contact. J'étais toute contente, car derrière la caméra, ZoneZiwoh semblait toute brune, ressemblant à une occidentale, et j'ai pensé qu'un partenaire s'intéressait à mes interventions durant les webinaires. Mais je ne comprenais pas pourquoi le numéro venait du Cameroun (rires). Était-ce une arnaque ? (rires)

ZoneZiwoh m'a présenté les objectifs de son appel et m'a demandé si je pouvais réunir quelques femmes dans un groupe pour un échange. J'ai rapidement exécuté cette demande, et ZoneZiwoh nous a partagé une vision que nous avons tout de suite embrassée : mettre en place un mouvement dans notre zone CEEAC pour promouvoir et défendre les droits des femmes, sur la base de données statistiques très faibles (3 %) de représentativité.

C'est ainsi que ma véritable aventure d'encadrement, de formation et d'engagement avec Wfac a commencé. ZoneZiwoh, à travers Wfac, m'a invité à participer à un atelier de plaidoyer et de renforcement des capacités sur la Redevabilité à Ndjamena, au Tchad. Impressionnée par cette invitation, je me suis abandonnée entre les mains de Dieu, car je partais vers l'inconnu avec une inconnue, pour un séjour tous frais payés. L'accueil fut chaleureux ; ZoneZiwoh et les autres membres de Wfac, en collaboration avec les organisateurs tchadiens, nous ont réservé des moments agréables, riches en enseignements, avec des visites auprès des autorités tchadiennes.....

.....Je me souviens même que ZoneZiwoh m'avait confié la responsabilité de poursuivre la formation sur la Redevabilité, alors que je ne maîtrisais pas vraiment le concept (rires). À la fin de l'atelier, les participants m'ont désignée pour lire le rapport final, et ils m'ont habillée comme une musulmane (rires), un moment magnifique. L'atelier a duré deux jours, avec la participation de trois pays représentés sur les onze.

De retour au Gabon, j'ai commencé à témoigner et surtout à réfléchir sur les perspectives. Nous étions déjà en 2022. ZoneZiwoh m'a envoyé une nouvelle invitation pour Nairobi, au Kenya, afin de participer à la CSW66 organisée par Femnet. Je vous assure que seule ma joie pouvait témoigner de l'honneur que je ressentais. Tous frais payés, j'ai encore pris mon vol pour participer à cet événement. Ce furent des moments inoubliables, riches en enseignements, en relations, en découvertes et... en shopping (rires).

À mon retour au Gabon, la somme de tous ces événements m'a motivée à organiser un atelier de plaidoyer, de restitution et de création d'une plateforme : la Coalition Nationale des Organisations Féministes pour la Génération Égalité au Gabon (CNOFGEG), avec l'appui technique de Wfac et de la Coalition Beijing +25 de la RDC. L'aventure ne s'arrête pas. En tant que membre de Gen GenÉgalitéECCAS, créée par Wfac, nous avons été invités à Yaoundé, au Cameroun, pour participer aux activités d'évaluation sous-régionales des douze thématiques de Beijing 1995 en préparation de l'anniversaire de Beijing+30.

Dans une ambiance chaleureuse et conviviale, cette fois-ci, je n'étais plus seule (rires). Au nom de la CNOFGEG, la délégation gabonaise a répondu favorablement aux assises de Yaoundé. Pendant deux jours, plus de 200 participants venus de huit pays sur les onze de la CEEAC ont partagé des moments inoubliables d'échanges, de partage d'expériences et de formulation de recommandations sur la base des faiblesses identifiées. L'ambiance était bon enfant. À la fin des travaux, un rapport d'évaluation a été élaboré à partir des discussions de groupes.

Alors que nous étions à Yaoundé, le Gabon a reçu une invitation pour participer aux consultations des OSC et de la jeunesse sur Beijing+30 à Addis-Abeba, en Éthiopie, toujours sous le label Wfac et GenÉgalitéECCAS. Le Gabon a encore été valablement représenté à travers la lecture du rapport de la sous-région d'Afrique centrale. Ces consultations ont été riches en échanges et parfaitement organisées par Femnet.

Je tiens à préciser que ce merveilleux processus n'est pas exempt de défis, mais j'apprends beaucoup grâce à Wfac et à tous ses membres, qui sont comme mes enfants. ZoneZiwoh, Hilux, Emmanuel, Espadine, que Dieu vous bénisse de m'appeler "maman Marie" (rires), cela me va droit au cœur.....

....Je formule quelques suggestions et recommandations. Cet élan doit continuer à grandir. Nous devons poser des actes qui renforcent nos structures nationales, sous-régionales et régionales. La zone CEEAC a commencé doucement, mais avec la détermination de tous, le mouvement prend de l'ampleur sous l'impulsion et la dynamique de Wfac. Nous devons initier des rencontres trimestrielles en ligne et semestrielles en présentiel, si possible, pour maintenir le rythme et promouvoir les droits des filles et des femmes dans notre sous-région. Nous devons créer davantage de mouvements dans nos pays respectifs pour atteindre plus de féministes. Aucun féministe ne doit rester de côté. Ensemble, nous devons élaborer et mettre en œuvre des plans d'action et des documents de plaidoyer, et mobiliser des fonds auprès des partenaires pour mener ces actions. Nous pourrions également organiser des rotations dans différents pays.

Que Wfac continue de jouer son rôle de mère en prenant soin de ses enfants. Les résultats parlent d'eux-mêmes, et ce témoignage en est la preuve. Puisse Dieu continuer de bénir les membres de Wfac afin que nos organisations nationales grandissent et que GenÉgalitéECCAS prospère. Je continue mon aventure avec Wfac. Merci beaucoup.

Marie Laure EDENG

Fondatrice de la CNOFGEG

JUANITA NCHAMA OWONO



Buenos días, soy Juanita Nchama Owono de Guinea Ecuatorial, presidenta de la ONG "Mujer Levántate Conmigo" (MLC), la cual fue creada gracias a mi primera experiencia con AFWID en 2019, donde tuve la oportunidad de trabajar con organizaciones de la subregión de África Central. Como principiante, comencé a colaborar con el proyecto Beijing+25 a través de WFAC y la organización GENEGALITEECCAS. Desde 2020, hemos estado trabajando en colaboración todos esos años.

WFAC ha sido una organización fundamental que me ha brindado ideas clave sobre la defensa, investigación y sensibilización en torno a la igualdad de género. Me he enfocado especialmente en el desarrollo de las mujeres y niñas, lo que llevó a la creación de la ONG MLC. Gracias a las conferencias y a la asistencia a sus reuniones de evaluación, me he fortalecido en el trabajo dentro del campo feminista.

Quiero felicitar al equipo piloto y expresar mi agradecimiento por el apoyo brindado y por darme la oportunidad de ser parte de esta gran organización. Esperamos contar con más financiaciones para capacitaciones y fortalecimiento de capacidades para las mujeres.

Muchas gracias y muchos ánimos para continuar con estos grandes proyectos.

Juanita Nchama Owono

Presidenta de la ONG

Binti Olga Bakari

“Oui, de mon côté, j’ai un excellent témoignage à partager sur WFAC. En fait, j’ai découvert WFAC en 2021 grâce à GENEALITEECCAS. Lorsque j’ai connu WFAC, j’étais complètement novice, je ne savais rien du tout sur la lutte pour les droits des femmes et du féminisme en général. Aujourd’hui, je suis une personne différente, je suis reconnue, j’ai acquis de l’expérience, je participe à des grandes conférences et je me sens désormais capable de faire une différence.

Je tiens à remercier WFAC pour son soutien constant, que ce soit au niveau personnel ou financier. J’ai même eu la possibilité de mettre en place de petits projets grâce à leur aide. Si je devais utiliser d’autres mots, je dirais que WFAC est mon mentor professionnel, et je suis devenue la professionnelle que je suis aujourd’hui grâce à leur accompagnement. Voilà ce que cela représente pour moi.”

Binti Olga Bakari

Coordonnatrice de Projet, IJEFA

Hilux Fokou Ngoumo

I am Hilux, and I am passionate about leveraging technology and leadership to promote gender equality, climate action, and youth rights. I have been mentored by WFAC for years now, and this support continues through projects and through Mifali and various impactful activities that we do. I have had the privilege of benefiting from WFAC’s funding and support for accreditations, which enabled me to attend international conferences that I would not have been able to access otherwise. Through these experiences, I have acquired valuable skills in leadership and advocacy for gender equality and youth rights. Thanks to WFAC, I have also contributed to impactful initiatives that have positively influenced many people. These opportunities have not only enriched my academic journey but have also laid a strong foundation for my future career.

Hilux Fokou Ngoumo

Comms. Assistant Wfac

TCHUENGUIA SEUHOUE FRANCK MICHEL

Volunteering for Women for a Change Cameroon was a transformative experience that profoundly impacted my personal and professional growth. The opportunities provided by Dr. Zoneziwoh and Mr. Ndobombi not only enhanced my career but also allowed me to witness significant educational advancements....

...Serving as the logistics coordinator for the Beijing +30 event in Cameroon was a highlight, where I had the privilege of networking with participants from across Africa and learning about their diverse cultures and feminist perspectives.

My time with Wfac significantly boosted my understanding of gender dynamics, equipping me with the skills to organize Watchparties for UNGA sessions. The event planning expertise I gained enabled me to successfully coordinate the 16 Days of Activism event at the University of Buea Campus in collaboration with other organizations. Additionally, I had the honour of assisting in mobilizing AFWID participants in Cameroon.

Moreover, I was trained as a gShe facilitator and had the opportunity to attend various training sessions. This further deepened my knowledge and capabilities, allowing me to contribute more effectively to the cause.

Overall, my experience with Women for a Change Cameroon has been incredibly enriching, empowering me to contribute meaningfully to gender equality and women's rights initiatives.

TCHUENGUA SEUHOU FRANCK MICHEL

Volunteer Wfac

Ndefon Beatrice



As a gender equality activist and member of Women for a Change, Cameroon, I can confidently say that this organization has significantly boosted my self-confidence and strengthened my capacity to advance gender equality. Women for a Change has empowered me in various ways, from grassroots mobilization and advocacy to cross-border collaborations aimed at empowering women and girls, particularly those in vulnerable communities.

Through my work with Women for a Change, I have gained resilience and confidence, broadening my network and improving my access to resources, including financial support for initiatives such as projects with the Urgent Action Fund and Safe Sisters. The platform has provided me with invaluable exposure to diverse perspectives by connecting me with women from different contexts and backgrounds, such as during a cross-border visit to Chad.

These cross-border engagements allow us to identify issues of gender inequality in specific contexts, document the experiences of grassroots women, and present recommendations to key stakeholders, including policymakers and government representatives....

...These activities bridge the gap between marginalized communities and decision-makers, ensuring grassroots voices are amplified in policy discussions.

My engagement with Women for a Change has also strengthened my skills in public speaking and presentations. For instance, over the past three years, I have facilitated meetings and preparations for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). These opportunities have greatly enhanced my professional development, and I am grateful for the mentorship and collaboration of the Executive Director, who has played a pivotal role in building my self-esteem, personality, and leadership capacity. Women for a Change's multifaceted approach to social issues is inspiring. Beyond addressing gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health rights, the organization also focuses on climate change, economic empowerment, information technology, and leadership development. This diversity strengthens its impact and makes its work more comprehensive compared to organizations with a narrower focus.

I admire the organization's commitment to feminist principles, including sisterhood, empowerment, trust, honesty, and collaboration. Members are given the freedom to express themselves, contribute ideas, and grow both personally and professionally. The monthly meetings are enriching, providing a safe space for open dialogue and knowledge-sharing.

One of the unique aspects of Women for a Change is its mentorship approach. Members are educated on frameworks such as the Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW, the Maputo Protocol, and UN Security Council Resolution 1325. These tools enable us to promote gender equality effectively and hold governments and institutions accountable for violations of these principles.

In conclusion, I can say that Women for a Change is an outstanding feminist organization. For anyone passionate about advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, this is the platform to join. It equips you with knowledge, builds your capacity, and connects you with a network of like-minded change makers.

Ndefon Beatrice

Executive Director, Solidarity Health Foundation



Plans for 2025

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Towards B-COP30 Campaign

In preparation for the all-inclusive and peoples-led COP30 in November 2025 in Belem, Brazil, we have launched a grassroots campaign theme **"#TowardsBCOP30"**. This campaign brings in both the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration as well as the 30th edition of the UNFCCC COP conferences. The campaign will assess the state of climate finance within the context of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Agriculture and Food Security in Cameroon. And also how these discussions get captured in the NDCs/NAPs of the country.



SDGsFootVacance

In commemoration of the Beijing30 anniversary, 20 years of the UNSCR1325 and 10 years of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 2025 will witness the 6th edition of the **#SDGsFootVacances** initiative, designed under the backdrop that sports contribute to one's well-being regardless of age, gender or ethnicity and that sports are enjoyed by all, and its reach is unrivalled. The 2025 edition of SDGsFootVacance will run during the long holidays and will bring together about 100 young girls and adolescents into a joyful & awareness-raising competition within the community around the SDGs Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).



Partners & Acknowledgments

We wish to take this opportunity to say Thank You!
Thanks to our partners, staff, and volunteers for contributing
in bringing Wfac's dreams to fruition. Though not yet there but
we are confident that we are slowly walking towards our
vision for a gender just society



MINPROFF



**The African Women's
Development and
Communication Network**



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It was indeed an honour to work with each one of you.
We value all our collaborations and the collective efforts
towards our shared goals.

Stay In Touch

We appreciate your commitment !

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