

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

*Bold Feminist Leadership*





## About Us

# We're on a mission!

Established in 2009, Women for a Change (Wfac) started as a national feminist advocacy and awareness raising organisation working with and for women and girls sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), leadership and development. Today, Wfac has rebranded itself as a sub-regional feminist advocacy and awareness raising organization working with and for grassroots women and girls sexual and reproductive health, leadership, and development within the context of climate justice and environmental sustainability across the central Africa subregion. Over the past decade,

Wfac has committed in building and coaching intergenerational feminist movements including facilitating their meaningful participation in strategic policy spaces.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2025 was not a neutral one. It was a year that called for bold feminist actions and leader. Across Cameroon, Central Africa, and the wider continent, women navigated an increasingly complex landscape marked by protracted conflicts, rising living costs, climate-related shocks, US terror on civic participation, and philanthropy and above all persistent gender inequality. These challenges did not exist in isolation. They intersected — shaping women’s safety, health, economic security, and ability to participate meaningfully in decisions that affect their lives.

In this context, bold feminist leadership was not optional. It was necessary. For us in Central Africa, Cameroon in particular, it meant: Ubuntu. With this in mind, we entered 2025 with a clear understanding that women’s voices — particularly those of grassroots women, young women, and women from conflict-affected and climate-vulnerable communities — bearing the heaviest consequences of insecurity, environmental degradation, and economic injustice, while simultaneously sustaining families, communities, and informal economies, must be central in shaping global policy.

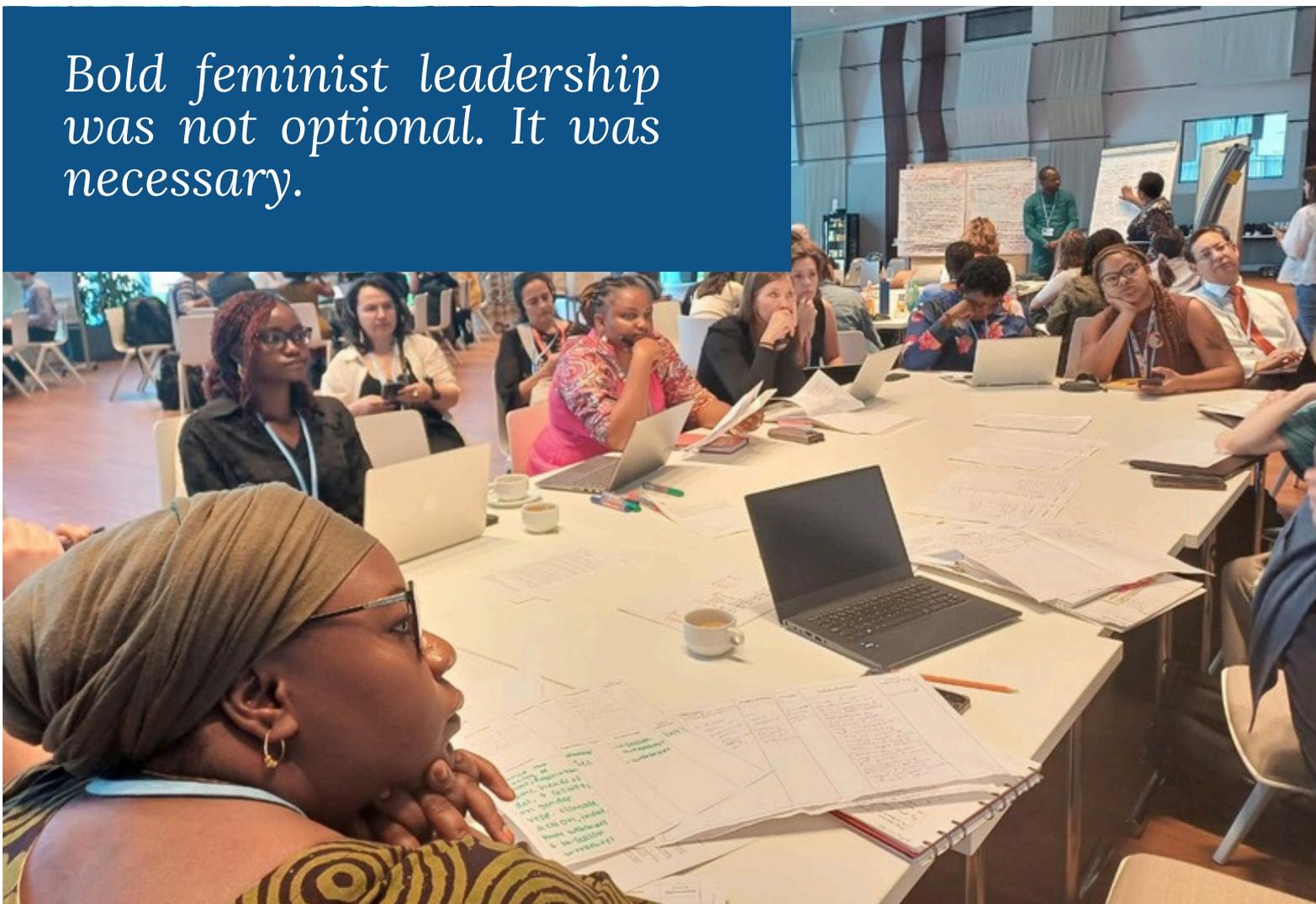


The question guiding the year was not simply how to participate, but how to completely dismantle the glass ceiling. In our reflections of the year, we asked ourselves questions such as: How could feminist perspectives from Cameroon and Central Africa shape conversations on peace, climate, economic justice, health, movement building and governance – not as afterthoughts, but as central pillars of sustainable solutions? How can Wfac connects women and girls from the subregion to more opportunities which aligns with broader movements for gender justice?

As a response to these questions, early engagements and planning was vital. Through which, it helped sharpen priorities around women’s leadership in peace building, the recognition of women’s labor, unpaid care work, climate accountability, and the need for inclusive, accessible feminist spaces through solidarity, bold feminist leadership and alliance building across borders, generations, and sectors.

As the year progressed, Wfac’s approach remained anchored in one principle: advocacy must travel both ways. Global frameworks and policy commitments only matter when they resonate with women’s lived realities, and community experiences gain power when they inform the gender agenda and decision-making spaces.

*Bold feminist leadership was not optional. It was necessary.*





This belief shaped how the organization moved throughout the year – between international negotiations and local outreaches, or closed-door policy discussions and public acts of resistance, data sovereignty, stories, and community actions. Our bold feminist leadership in 2025 took many forms. While in some instances, it took the forms of street protests, marches, co-convenings, media studios, workshops, consultations, and cultural spaces, where narratives were challenged and reshaped. In other instances, it appeared in negotiation rooms, where women articulated demands for justice and accountability. While others, in public spaces, where women lamented for peace and recognition. It also appeared quietly – in moments of mentorship, reflection, and collective care that sustained the movement through a demanding year.

The chapters ahead trace how a year shaped by crisis also became a year of coordination, courage, collective power and above all bold feminist leadership. These chapters show how women moved from dialogue to action, and how that action strengthened feminist influence across peace, climate, and justice spaces – in Cameroon, across Central Africa, and beyond. Wfac ends the year on a high note, having been granted two additional United Nations accreditations with the UNCCD and UNCBD. This milestone brings the organization's total to five UN accreditations, alongside its official status as an NGO in Cameroon.

# CHAPTER 1

January – March 2025

## GROUNDING VISION AND STRATEGY

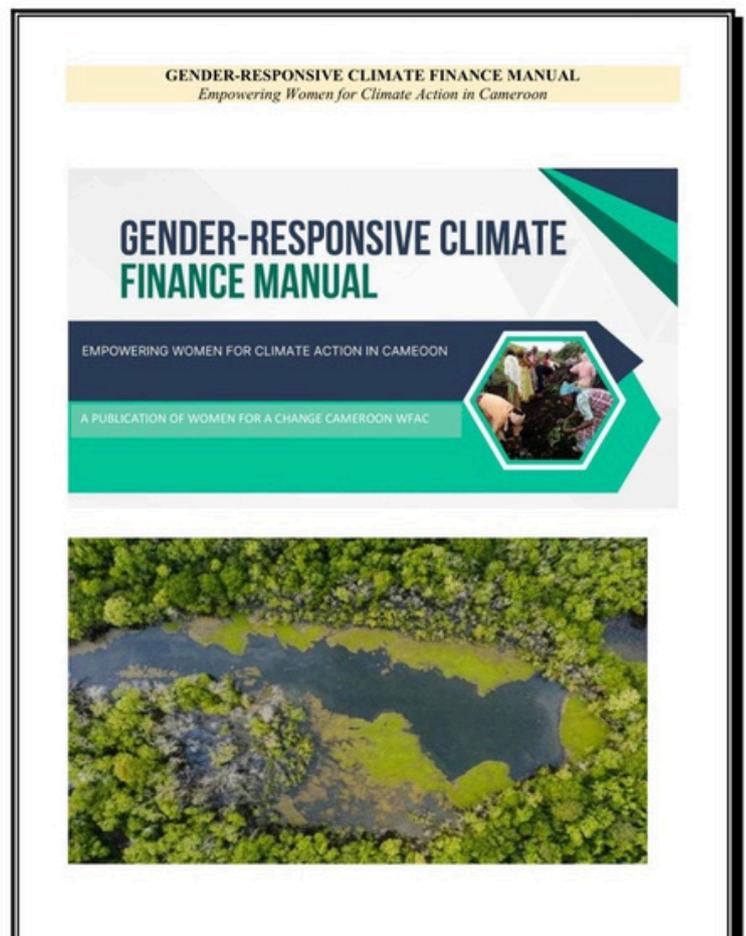
The first quarter of 2025 was a season of alignment and strategy — where global dialogues and formal planning set a feminist compass for the year’s work.

The year opened with the African Women in Dialogue (AFWID) 2025 in Johannesburg, South Africa — a continental arena where feminist actors convened around women’s voice and power. This engagement was more than attendance; it was affirmation. Cameroonian feminists carried stories from the field into conversations on peace, justice, climate, and economic dignity — ensuring that voices from the ground shaped collective understanding and future action.



Back home, Wfac took part in the launched of the maiden version of the Southwest Northwest Women’s TaskForce (SNWOT) Peace building Manual. Developed with tangible resources that deepens community gender responsive peace building actions, engagements and movement building. This tool would later guide workshops, advocacy, and coalition-building throughout the year.

At this stage, Wfac also launched the Climate Finance Action (CFA) Working Group in Cameroon, with a clear purpose: localize climate finance conversations and ensure that marginalized communities understand and can engage with climate funding mechanisms. The CFA working group brought together activists, researchers, media practitioners, agriculture and health professionals, feminist leaders, and public and private sector actors – underscoring Wfac’s conviction that climate justice demands a broad, cross-sectoral coalition & financing green accountability framework.



In February, Wfac’s engagement with global policy spaces deepened through Pre-CSW69 activities, preparing voices to meaningfully contribute to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). This preparatory work was deliberate and inclusive, fostering reflection on key issues such as women’s leadership, peacebuilding, economic justice, and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

By March, Wfac had anchored its strategic vision in major global policy moments. At CSW69, Wfac’s representation ensured that Central African feminists’ priorities were understood not as peripheral, but integral – situating lived realities within global policy discourse. Parallel to CSW69, Wfac engaged in COP29 debriefing and planning for COP30, and gShe outreaches, converting silence to climate commitments and justice with steps toward accountability, transparency, and equity.



# CHAPTER 2

## FROM GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS TO COMMUNITY REMEMBERING

April – June 2025





Wfac began the quarter with a week long community outreach and peace crusade together with the National Women’s Convention for peace in Cameroon. Leading to the adoption of the Bemenda Peace Declaration calling for a violence-free 2025 presidential elections.

Worthy of note is the fact that as April turned into May, Wfac’s year of feminist leadership began to take shape beyond institutional floors, into lived community spaces. In May, Menstrual Health and Dignity (MHD) Campaigns took center stage. Wfac’s outreach work in Buea brought conversations on menstrual health and dignity into public awareness and EndPadTax advocacy – recognizing that bodily autonomy is foundational to gender equity and intersects with broader issues of dignity, justice, and inclusion. The campaign aligned with Wfac gender, Sexuality/society and Health Education (gShe) program reaching over 10,000 young women and girls, transforming abstract rights into daily-relevant practice.

June on the other hand was marked by a distinct duality, notably, addressing both -the global climate spaces and local civic arenas. For instance, the global space such as the UN Climate Negotiations (SBI62 in Bonn), where Wfac ensured that climate policy discussions went beyond technical language and included references to human realities – secure lives, safe homes, clean water, dignified healthcare, and economic resilience. These engagements were captured in Wfac’s daily bulletins, which communicated complex negotiations in accessible and community-centered terms, while calling out european/western countries on their double standards, restricting access and the meaningful participation of young people and women with visa biases.

Locally, however, conversations were held in localizing some of the UN outcomes especially around the Gender Action Plan which was meant for adoption at COP30 in Belem, Brazil. Still in local conversations, Wfac deepened its commitment to climate justice through the Climate Finance Action, CFA Workshop, in Buea, with series of accompanying Press Conference in Yaoundé. The workshop brought together members of the CFA working group – including community leaders, environmental defenders, academics, and activists – to review climate finance manual drafts and strengthen capacity around gender-responsive climate budgets.

The Yaoundé press conference served a complementary purpose: elevating these processes into public consciousness via national media. It signaled that climate justice is not a topdown conversation, confined to policy corridors, and well ventilated offices with comfy rotatory armed chairs – but a lived experience shared by communities faced with devastating outcomes of inequalities and discriminations etc.



# CHAPTER 3

## WHEN WOMEN TAKE THE STREETS, PEACE AND TRANSFORMATION IS GUARANTEED

July – September 2025



By mid-year, the work of feminist leadership that had been grounded in strategy and translation now surfaced in public visibility, collective action, and civic engagement.

The months of July through September reflected a turning point: women moved early 2025's global conversations into public arenas where communities could see, hear, and participate in feminist leadership themselves.

In July, Wfac played a central role together with the National Women's Convention in mobilizing women in commemoration of African Women's Day through the Women's March for Peace. This was more than a symbolic event. The march brought together 500 women from diverse backgrounds – young activists, peacebuilders, mothers, students, and community leaders across the southwest regions of the country – to make a public claim that peace is a shared priority, not an abstract policy goal.



July was also marked by important institutional engagement with partners and allied groups visiting Cameroon. These partnerships deepened inter-organizational learning and signaled growing support for feminist advocacy across sectors.

Across August, Wfac continued to bridge local experience with global policy platforms. The organization participated in the INC5.2 negotiations (Geneva, Switzerland) – a key forum where environmental and climate governance intersected with justice and human rights. Representing women from Cameroon and Central Africa at this forum reinforced the idea that women’s voices are integral to environmental policymaking, not peripheral to it.



---

In September, the energy intensified and expanded.

First, Wfac coordinated UNGA80 watch parties in Cameroon, creating communal spaces for people to interpret global diplomacy through local lenses. Engagement at these watch parties helped connect global debate with local expectations, underscoring Wfac's belief that policy matters only when its meaning is understood and translated back home.

That same month Wfac led the CSO Central Africa Consultation, bringing 100 civil society actors together to articulate shared regional priorities.

While in Buea, the Women's March for Peace (World Peace Day) transformed yet again into a moment where public advocacy met collective demand for sustainable peace. Complementing these actions, Wfac engaged in peace advocacy with diplomatic missions in Yaoundé, holding national and international representatives accountable to the people they serve.

Also in September, Wfac led a delegation of 5 women from 4 central african countries, notably, Gabon, DRC, Chad and Cameroon for a 3 days Continental Workshop in Accra, Ghana. Meanwhile, in Addis Abeba, 10 additional delegates were concurrently attending the Africa Climate Summit 2 / Africa Climate Week in Ethiopia as well as the Gender Action Plan (GAP) Technical workshop in designing the 10 year GAP – worth noting that at these events Wfac ensured that the outcomes were anchored in evidence and community experience.

In Cameroon, national media engagements – including platforms such as CRTV – amplified the voices of women demanding justice across peace, climate, health, and economic equity.

Across these activities, the narrative was clear: women were not enough – they need to be visible, vocal, and strategic. They shaped public discourse, molded civic energy, and linked diverse actions into a growing momentum for peace and justice.



# CHAPTER 4

October – December 2025

## FROM PRESENCE TO POWER: INFLUENCE AND AGENDA SHAPING



SEEK OUT  
NEW ACTORS =  
MAKING CHANGE IN THE  
CIVIL SOCIETY SPACE

NOUS REFUSONS  
UN « AVENIR VERT »  
CONSTRUIT SUR LE  
SACRIFICE DES NOIRS  
ET DES BRUNS...

"PEACE IS  
PERSONAL + SHARED.  
IT STARTS WITHIN,  
THEN RIPPLES OUT."

THE  
CLIMATE  
CRISIS

WE NEED TO SPEAK  
TO THE  
REALITIES WE'RE FACING

---

Dear gender reader,

As the year approached its close, Wfac's work revealed what happens when presence evolves into influence – when feminist participation becomes sharp, shaping, conspiring, steering, and imposing accountability on powerful agendas is ultimate.

In October, Wfac joined peers and partners at Peace Connect in Nairobi, Kenya – a gathering focused on peacebuilding across African contexts. Engagement in this forum underscored Wfac's evolution from responding to crises to helping define what peace must look like regionally, particularly for women and young people. While ahead of the 2025 Presidential Elections, the Wfac team joined the Women's Situation Room (WSR) initiative led by the Women in International Peacebuilding Forum (WIFP) to monitor, document, and respond to incidents with the potential to escalate into violence—particularly those affecting women and youth.

Wfac played two critical roles in this national effort:

1. Field Monitoring and Reporting: Serving as trained field monitors and reporters within the Women and Youth Monitoring Room.
2. National Peacebuilding Engagement: Contributing directly to coordinated national peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts.

Prior to deployment in October, a series of structured trainings were conducted in Douala and Yaoundé in collaboration with UN Women, UNDP, and GIZ. These sessions focused on:

- Understanding cycles and drivers of violence
- Identifying trends in electoral-related gender-based violence (GBV)
- Applying standardized reporting and response mechanisms

On 11 October 2025, trained field monitors were deployed across various regions to identify and report early warning signs of potential conflict. Reports were submitted to the Women and Youth Monitoring Room, where incidents were documented and forwarded to the Analysis Room for verification and fact-checking. Confirmed cases were then escalated to the Response Room, enabling authorities and partners to coordinate timely interventions aimed at preventing escalation. Nationwide, approximately 2,000 incidents were reported during the monitoring period, with over 1,000 cases receiving response interventions.

As one of the few English-speaking organizations represented in the Monitoring Room, Wfac played a vital role in ensuring coverage of the Northwest and Southwest regions while also contributing to national-level reporting and coordinated response efforts.



In November, Wfac brought its feminist voice to UNFCCC Climate Conference in Belem, Brazil, as well as the 3rd UN Tax negotiations on global tax architecture in Nairobi, where it made clear, evidence-based interventions calling for tax justice and gender responsive COP30 outcomes. In the same period, the organization participated in Pre-CSW70 Meetings in Ethiopia, carefully shaping the statement that would articulate Central African priorities at one of the United Nations' most influential gender policy spaces.

By the last weeks of November, Wfac attended the 3rd Feminist Republic Festival in Nairobi, a safe creative space that offers opportunity for feminist leaders and advocates to heal, dialogue, re-imagine/think/create society free from patriarchy, insecurity, exploitation.

The end of November formally launched the 16 Days of Activism campaign – a global initiative against gender-based violence. In Cameroon, Wfac advanced this campaign through outreach and partnership events such as the powerful “Building Peace Piece by Piece” Photo Exhibition at FES Cameroon in Yaoundé. These exhibition translated years of advocacy and community action into visual narratives that touched public consciousness and policy interest alike.

December maintained the momentum, recording the 16 Days Campaign with its 50 gShe students and adolescents in schools. These outreaches synchronised with global call-to-action rhythms, amplified through collaboration with government actors, civil society partners, and international allies.

Meanwhile Wfac carried its peace and justice priorities into critical environmental governance spaces through participation in UNEA7 and the UNEP General Assembly (Kenya). These forums highlighted that feminist peace and climate justice are inseparable when the environmental security of women, girls, and future generations is at stake.

Finally, the 4th African Girl Summit in Ethiopia marked a powerful chapter in centering the voices of young women and girls – recognizing that their insights, leadership, and futures are essential to transforming national and continental agendas.

# CLOSING THE CIRCLE: WOMEN AND GIRLS AT THE CENTER OF THE FUTURE

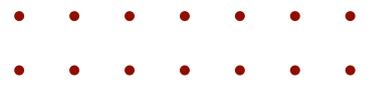
**December 2025**

As the year drew to a close, Wfac’s work returned to where it began — with women and girls — but with deeper clarity, stronger alliances, and expanded influence.

December was not a pause; it was a continuation of momentum. The 16 Days of Activism Campaign extended into the final weeks of the year, reinforcing the message that gender-based violence, insecurity, and inequality cannot be addressed through short-term action alone.

Community engagements, advocacy messaging, and partnerships with University of Buea Department of Women and Gender Studies(WGS) sustained public attention on women’s rights and safety, ensuring that the campaign’s energy translated into reflection and resolve.



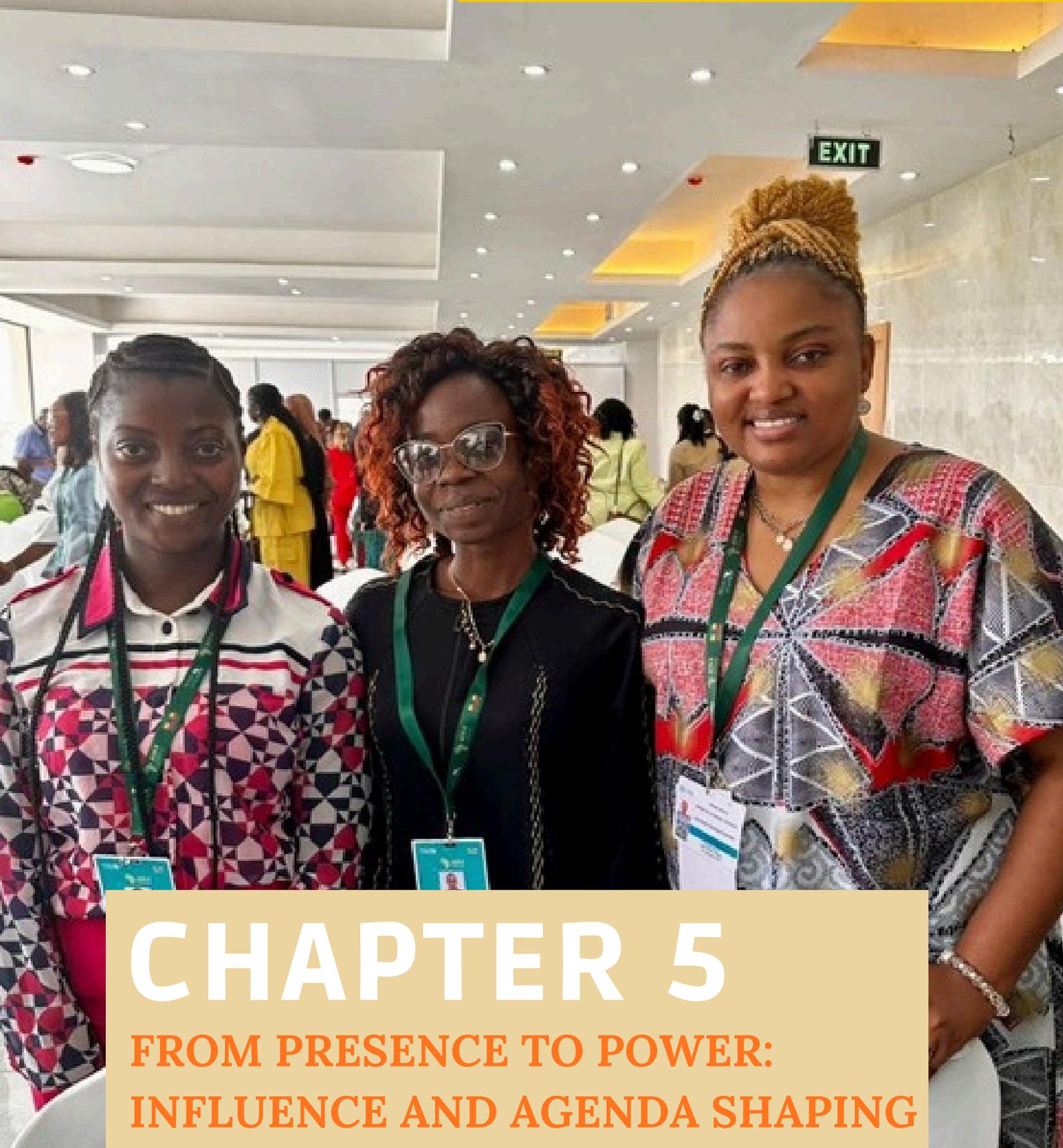


At the global level, Wfac carried feminist priorities into UNEA7 and the UNEP General Assembly in Kenya, recognizing that environmental governance is inseparable from peace, justice, and gender equality. Participation in these spaces reaffirmed a central truth echoed throughout the year: environmental decisions affect women’s livelihoods, health, and security first and most deeply – and therefore women must be part of shaping those decisions.

The year concluded with engagement in the 4th African Girl Summit in Ethiopia, where girls’ leadership, rights, and futures took center stage. This moment symbolized continuity across generations. It reinforced Wfac’s commitment to ensuring that feminist advocacy does not end with the present, but intentionally invests in the leadership of girls and young women who will shape the years ahead.



*“It is the little things that citizens do that make the difference. My little thing is planting trees” - Wangari Maathai*



# CHAPTER 5

## FROM PRESENCE TO POWER: INFLUENCE AND AGENDA SHAPING

# 5.1 WHAT CHANGED BECAUSE OF OUR WORK

## Impact Across Communities, Movements, and Policy Spaces

The impact of 2025 cannot be measured solely by the number of events held or spaces entered. Its significance lies in how women’s voices moved, where influence was exercised, and what shifted as a result.

Across the year, women experienced increased confidence and visibility — whether speaking in international policy forums, addressing the media, marching publicly for peace, or leading community conversations. Feminist narratives became more visible in national discourse, particularly around peacebuilding, climate justice, menstrual health, and economic equity.

At the movement level, Wfac strengthened alliances across Cameroon, Central Africa, and the continent. Regional consultations, working groups, and collaborative platforms fostered shared strategies and mutual accountability among civil society actors.

IMPACT ACROSS ALL SPHERES

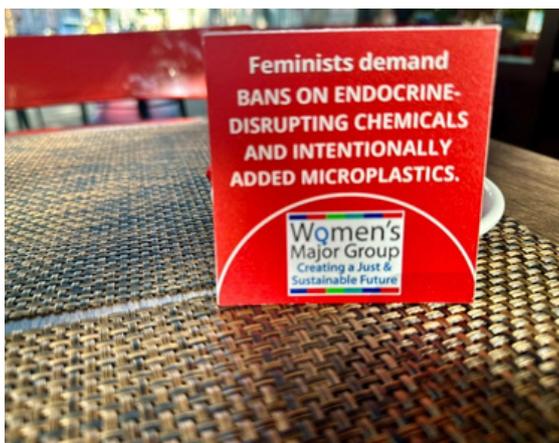


## 5.2 STORIES THAT CARRIED THE YEAR



Behind every activity, consultation, and march were individual women whose experiences carried the year forward.

There were women who stepped into international spaces for the first time and discovered that their lived realities mattered in policy conversations. There were young women and adolescent girls who found confidence in collective action, and women / girls with disabilities who claimed visibility in spaces that often exclude them. There were market women, activists, journalists, and peacebuilders who translated lessons from global forums into conversations at home, in communities, and on the streets.



These stories were not uniform — but together, they formed a shared narrative of courage, learning, and solidarity. They reminded us that feminist leadership is not abstract. It is personal, relational, and rooted in everyday acts of resistance and care.

Throughout the year, these voices reinforced a single truth: when women are given space, resources, and trust, they do not remain silent. They organize, speak, lead, and build.

## 5.3 LOOKING AHEAD: WHY THE WORK CONTINUES

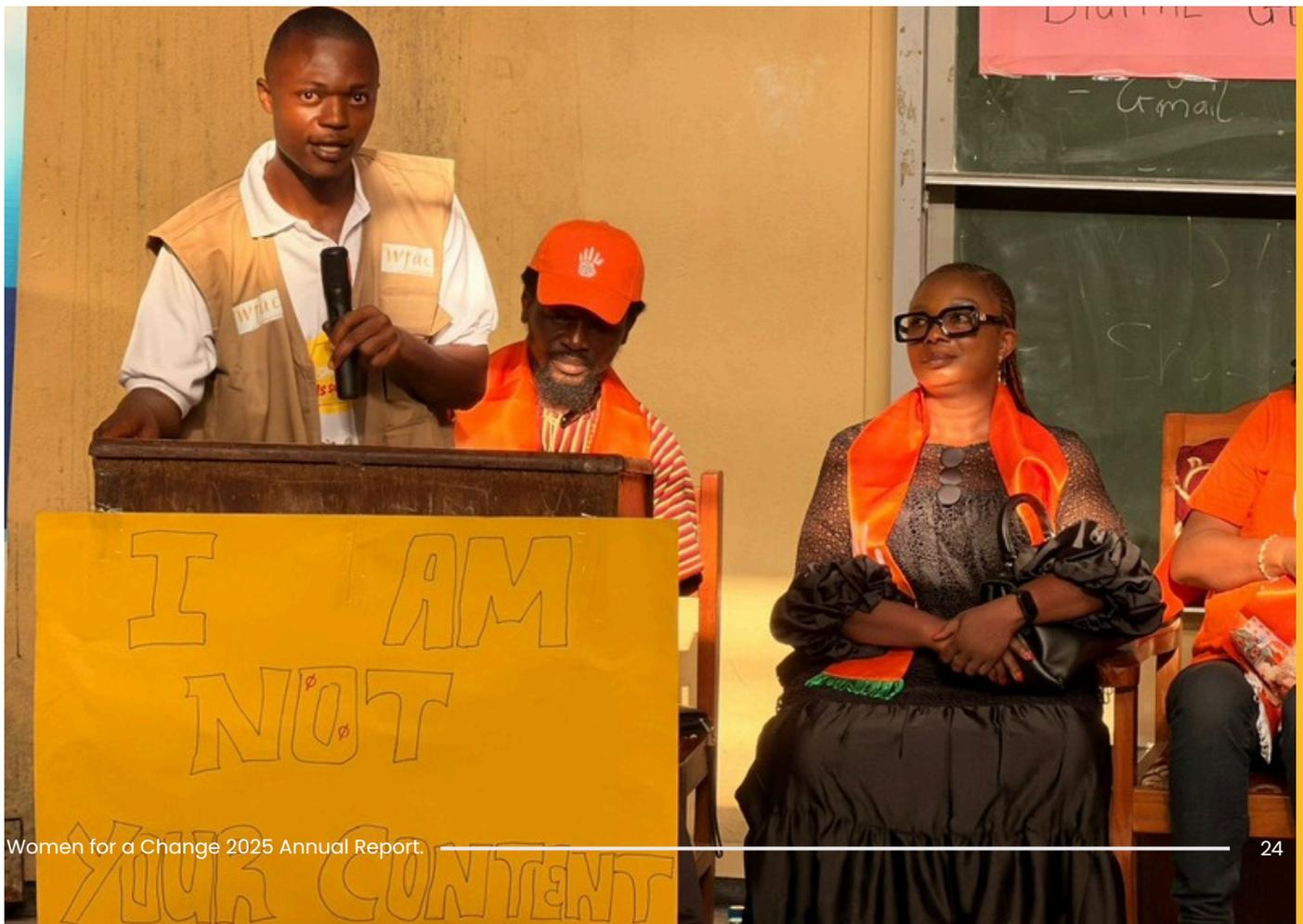
The work of 2025 revealed both progress and persistence — gains made, and challenges that remain unresolved.

Conflict, climate change, visa restriction, economic injustice, and gender-based violence continue to shape women’s lives across Cameroon and Central Africa. These realities demand sustained feminist leadership that is bold, inclusive, and strategic.

Looking ahead, Wfac remains committed to deepening policy influence, expanding grassroots engagement, strengthening feminist coalitions, and centering women and girls in peace and climate governance.

The experiences of 2025 provide not a conclusion, but a foundation — lessons that inform future actions, partnerships, and advocacy.

The coming years will require continued courage, creativity, and collaboration. They will require holding institutions accountable, amplifying marginalized voices, and refusing to allow feminist priorities to be sidelined in times of crisis.





## 5.4 Gratitude and Solidarity

This year's journey was not walked alone.

Wfac extends deep gratitude to the women and girls who shared their stories, time, and leadership throughout 2025. Including our gShe students, host institutions and partners. Their courage and commitment shaped every chapter of this report. Appreciation is also extended to partners, allies, donors, civil society organizations, media practitioners, and institutions who supported and amplified feminist action across local, regional, and global spaces.

Solidarity — across borders, generations, and movements — made this work possible. It strengthened voices, expanded reach, and sustained momentum in challenging moments.

As this report closes, the message remains clear: feminist leadership is not seasonal, and justice is not negotiable. The work continues — carried forward by collective power, shared responsibility, and unwavering belief in women's right to shape the future.

No. 246 Monday June 9, 2025 Page 5

## Environment

### Working Group Presses For Climate Finance Actions Ahead Of COP30

By Tarhyang Enwiblah Tabo

Members of the Working Group for Climate Finance Actions-Cameroon have met in Buea for a strategic meeting with the aim of pressing for climate finance actions ahead of COP30.

According to members of the working group, as the world prepares for COP30 this November in Belem, Brazil, Climate Finance Actions (CFA) are needed now more than ever.

The members are positive that for Cameroon, sustainable climate finance actions will help the country adapt and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change, which accounts to over 130 million USD loss in economic values annually.

The group believes that Cameroon must strengthen its frameworks, engage stakeholders, and improve communication and accountability around climate finance initiatives.

It is on the basis of this that the members met in Buea for a one day workshop seminar seeking to create space for inclusive dialogue and critical discussions around key issues and strategies to monitor and assess the state of climate finance within the context of agriculture and food security. SRHR (WASH) and gender equality in Cameroon, strengthen capacities and gender responsive climate finance and budgeting for the implementation, monitoring and reporting of NAPs, GIAPs and NDGs.

A key outcome from the event was a review on the draft Climate Finance Manual drawing on public's understanding of the subject, and its intersection to WASH, MIM, Food sovereignty and Gender Justice.

The meeting also aimed to discuss and analyze the state of climate finance research report in Cameroon, contribute strategic inputs into the Climate Finance Manual and prepare advocacy engagements ahead of COP30 via SRHR/ACW and climate related processes.

Speaking to the Executive Director of Women For A Change, a member of the Working Group, Dr. Zoneziwoh Mbongdulo-Wondieh, said as at now the working group is actively following the deliberations at SRHR2 especially as it pertaining to climate finance, health and gender.

Dr. Zoneziwoh Mbongdulo-Wondieh, said as at now the working group is actively following the deliberations at SRHR2 especially as it pertaining to climate finance, health and gender.

The Climate Finance Actions (CFA) working group in Cameroon, constitutes of 20 individuals representing diverse constituencies - ranging from farmers, agriculture, academia, adolescent girls, young people, elder women, indigenous leaders, environmental activists, ecofeminists, policy makers, journalists, health personnel etc. The project is a one-year programme supported by the World Resources Institute (WRI) under the Green Accountability Fund.

The key focus of the project includes but not limited to: Increased transparency and accountability in climate finance. Strengthened gender-responsive budgeting for climate adaptation. Policy recommendations through policy briefs, analysing the state of climate finance in Cameroon and Empowerment of stakeholders through capacity-building and knowledge-sharing.

The Climate Finance Action Working Group Partner Organizations, include African Humanitarian Development & Peace Organization (AHDPO), Ajezalehu SRH Health (AJESH), BRIDGES, Creative Artists for Nature & Sustainable Development (ANSUD), Cameroon Women's Convention for Peace, Committee of Women Workers (COWEM), Environmental Protection & Development Association (EPDA) Hemptropay, Gen'galitec-CAS, MIFALL, Solidarity Health Foundation (SHF) and Women for a Change (WFAC).



Members of Working Group Pose After Buea Meeting



Work in Progress



Members Take Notes

The Advocate Newspaper, For Us, By Us

## Menstrual Dignity Efforts to Ensure Free Pads

■ Civil society organizations have galvanized support to conquer menstrual stigma and call for tax-free sanitary pads.

In the days ahead, activities will be carried out in the Littoral region to strengthen communities and groups to end tax on sanitary pads and transform harmful social and cultural norms, beliefs, and practices that perpetuate menstrual shame, stigma, taboo, fear, pain, violence, isolation, or discrimination into dignity, justice, and health.

This initiative aligns with the project "Advocacy Campaign to End Pad Tax-Now & Advance Menstrual Dignity & Justice in Cameroon" under the "Sang pour Sang" initiative. Supported by the Agence française de Développement (AFD), the project aims to increase awareness and shift away from menstrual shame to dignity and justice. The 18-month advocacy campaign, co-led by Women for a Change (WfAc) and 10 national partners, including Lesley Foundation, Girls Excel, "Association pour une meilleure insertion socioprofessionnelle des filles au Cameroun", Vision in Action Cameroon (VIAC), and "Handicapés et Fiers", will work across diverse themes and constituencies.

Speaking to Cameroon Tribune on Wednesday September 24, Dr. Zoneziwoh Mbongdulo-Wondieh, Executive Director of WfAc, emphasized that menstrual dignity is a matter of rights and justice, not a privilege. She highlighted that the project builds on existing efforts to ensure menstrual products are available, affordable, and accessible to all who need them.

"Because of poor sanitation and lack of sanitary products, girls often miss classes during menstruation, losing over 200 hours of the 800 hours of annual class time," she said. "If products are available, accessible, and affordable-meaning without tax, schools can provide pads and ensure a clean environment for menstrual dignity."

The expected outcomes after 18 months include removing taxes from menstrual products, ensuring schools and communities provide clean water for girls to stay in school, transforming negative behaviors toward menstruation, and moving away from menstrual shame to justice and dignity.

On her part, Sendy Forlemu, Communications Officer at Vision in Action Cameroon, noted, "At a time when the humanitarian crisis deepens inequalities, advancing menstrual dignity for marginalized groups, including sex workers and other minority populations, is not only urgent but essential for justice, inclusion, and community health."

The project will be implemented across the Littoral, South-West, North-West, and Far North regions of Cameroon, using innovative advocacy strategies, community engagement, learning and exchanges, policy-shaping activities, storytelling, and research to ensure women, girls, and young people can exercise their right to menstruate with dignity.

**LIENGU ETAKA ESONG**



Stop stigma

No. 258 Tuesday September 23, 2025 Page 11

## CSO News

### Women For A Change, Partners Launch Campaign To End Pad Tax Now

By Kam Scraphine Sangha

Leading Gender-Sensitive Civil Society Organization Women for a Change (WfAc), in collaboration with national partners, is proud to announce the launch of the Menstrual Dignity & Justice program in Cameroon.

Supported by Agence Française de Développement (AFD) under the Sang Pour Sang initiative of Fof's Feminista, the project aims at increasing awareness and shifting away from the narrative of menstrual shame to dignity and justice. This is an eighteen (18) months advocacy campaign, co-led by Women for a Change together with some 10 national partners including, Lesley Foundation, Girls Excel, Association pour une Meilleure Insertion Socioprofessionnelle des Filles au Cameroun, Vision in Action Cameroon (VIAC), Handicapés et Fiers, all working across diverse themes and constituencies.

The goal of the project is to strengthen communities, and groups to be able to end tax on sanitary pads as well as transform harmful social and cultural norms, beliefs and practices that perpetuate menstrual shame, stigma, taboo, fear, pain, violence, isolation, or discrimination into dignity, justice, and health.

According to Dr. Zoneziwoh Mbongdulo-Wondieh, Executive Director of WfAc, "Menstrual dignity is not a privilege but a matter of rights and justice. This project builds on existing efforts and actions that seeks to ensure that menstrual products are available, affordable and accessible to all in need of it."

She further adds: "In one of our studies, we noticed that a girl may spend approximately 270 hours managing her menstrual cycle. Without adequate facilities such as access to clean water, disposal bins, she is most likely to miss 270 hours of school. The 810 hours of classes annually. This significant loss of learning hours has a profoundly negative impact on her academic performance and overall educational outcomes. And is most likely to also spend almost 2 million frs on menstrual products from the day she starts menstruating till when she gets to menopause."

Meanwhile, Michele Sojip, founder of Handicapés et Fiers Association alludes reiterates that "Women and girls with disabilities face double discrimination that exacerbates their menstrual vulnerability. The inaccessibility of sanitary facilities, particularly in schools, deprives them of their right to education and bodily autonomy."

It should be noted that the high cost of menstrual products adds to the additional family costs and burden due to one's disability. This is the reason why project team is throughout this project, the association, Handicapés et Fiers seeks to denounce the invisibility of the specific needs of women with disabilities in education for menstrual dignity and justice, including others means of disability friendly communications such as developing educational materials in braille, sign language, or easy-to-read format.

The intersectional approach of the Sang pour Sang project recognizes that these oppressions accumulate and require coordinated responses to preserve menstrual dignity for all.

According to Sendy Forlemu, Communications Officer, Vision in Action Cameroon "At a time when the humanitarian crisis deepens inequalities, advancing menstrual dignity for marginalized groups, including sex workers and other minority population is not only urgent but essential for justice, inclusion, and the health of our communities."

The project is implemented across the regions of Littoral, South-West, North-West, and the Far North, and will involve innovative advocacy strategies, community engagement practices, learning and exchanges, as well as policy-shaping activities, storytelling, and research to ensure women, girls, and young people in all their diversity can exercise their right to menstruate with dignity.



INTRODUCING Sang Pour Sang PROJECT IN CAMEROON



BREAK THE END THE STIGMA #NO SHAME JUST FLOW



The Advocate Newspaper, For Us, By Us

No. 270 Monday December 22, 2025 Page 2

## News

### Women For A Change Cameroon Releases Gender-Responsive Climate Finance Manual

By Shing Tim

The non-governmental organisation Women for a Change Cameroon, WfAc, has unveiled the first gender-responsive climate finance manual with a particular focus on the context of the Central African sub region. It was presented during a meeting in Buea on Wednesday 17 December 2025 to review and validate the manual.

The new manual presents a rare opportunity for environmental and gender activists to have a guide tailored to their realities in the sub region. "... we will be having a manual that particularly looks at climate finance from within the context of the central African sub region" explained Dr Zoneziwoh Mbongdulo-Wondieh, the Executive Director of WfAc.

It has a guide on how individuals, communities, women groups, civil society, academia, researchers, and others can collectively contribute towards addressing climate change. It addresses issues on challenges faced by women in accessing financing and the opportunities available for them.

Addressing guests during the workshop, Dr Zoneziwoh said financing within the context of climate change was critical in addressing climate change and advancing climate smart solutions. "There is a close connection within climate change and armed conflict especially the farmer-grazier conflict visible in the grass field areas of our country"

The manual will enable communities assess their contributions towards addressing climate change and give them the ability to calculate how much human capital they are contributing towards addressing climate change.

On his part, Godwin Tanda, one of the stakeholders in the production of the manual said the focus on the feminist perspective was because it was a more transformative approach to ensure inclusiveness.

The climate finance manual is a set piece looking at a feminist perspective on funding climate initiatives globally locally and nationally. It looks generally at the barriers women face in assessing climate finance and provide strategies on improving women's access to climate finance.

It uses indigenous practices common in the sub region so people can build on those community-led actions towards addressing climate change. Exercises in the climate in the manual to display knowledge about climate finance and individual commitments, state commitments and the steps in assessing them.



The Validation Session



Satisfied Dr. Zoneziwoh

# The Advocate

Editorial Adviser: Dr Daniel Know Bisong  
Managing Editor: Lawson Sally Makoko  
Yaounde Bureau: Louisa Kinoyip  
Fako Bureau Chief: Mfonida Lizzy Noel  
Littoral Bureau Chief: Aijing M  
Special Reports Editor: Ndongo Nora Makang

Layout: Tarhyang Enwiblah Tabo  
077170762  
Contact: camedjpc22@gmail.com  
Tel: 077170762

# Meet the Team Behind Wfac



**Frida Brown**  
Board Co-chair



**Hysantine Array**  
Board Co-chair



**Zoneziwoh M-W**  
Executive Director



**Abdoulaye Addafini**  
Project Officer



**Njilli Mercy**  
AGYW Board Rep



**NancyMakeoh**  
Community Outreach  
Manager



**Ngimou Victorine**  
Climate Justice Lead



**Atanga Glory**  
WPS Team Lead



**Fokou Ngoumo H.**  
Communication Officer



**Joyce Membong**  
Menstrual Dignity  
Team Lead



**Michel Franck T.**  
gShe Coordinator



**Emmanuel Ndabombi**  
Volunteer Manager

# GALLERY



# OUR FOUR-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN (2025 - 2028)

## 01 Strengthen Community Solidarity, Women's Leadership, & Participation

**Build & strengthen community solidarity, especially in crisis and humanitarian settings, and reinforce grassroots women's leadership and participation in political, peacebuilding, and other critical decision-making spaces.**

## 02 Advocate for Positive SRH Laws

**Lobby and advocate for progressive norms, laws, and policies that upholds the rights of women, girls, and marginalised groups to make informed decisions and fully enjoy their sexuality, bodily autonomy, and reproductive rights.**

## 03 Support Feminist Organising, Movement Building, & Knowledge Sharing

**Strengthen and mentor feminist movements, deepen collaboration, and expand knowledge exchange to advance women's rights and drive transformational change.**

## 04 End Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Girls

**Support actions, partnership efforts and community mobilization eliminate all forms of gender-based violence.**

to

## 05 Advance Feminist Climate and Tax Justice

**Promote and Ensure a feminist response to the climate crisis and advocate for equitable tax justice frameworks that recognises the needs and protects the rights of women and girls at all levels**

A nation grows when girls don't miss school



Scan this QR code to learn more about our advocacy campaign to End Pad Tax in Cameroon



A Tax on pad means treating menstruation, a natural & unavoidable function, as something to profit from

**#FromMenstrualShame2Dignity**  
**#EndPadTaxNow**

contact:

[comms.wfac@gmail.com](mailto:comms.wfac@gmail.com)

Une nation se développe lorsque les filles ne manquent pas l'école.



Scannez ce code QR pour en savoir plus sur notre campagne de sensibilisation visant à mettre fin à la taxe sur les tampons hygiéniques au Cameroun.



Une taxe sur les serviettes hygiéniques revient à considérer les menstruations, une fonction naturelle et inévitable, comme une source de profit.

**#FromMenstrualShame2Dignity**  
**#EndPadTaxNow**

contact:

[comms.wfac@gmail.com](mailto:comms.wfac@gmail.com)



## **CONTACT**

**TEL:(237) 686 859 652**

**WHATSAPP: (237) 667 047 533**

**EMAIL: PROGRAMS.WFAC@GMAIL.COM**

**WFACCAMEROON.ORG**

Women for a Change (Wfac)  
BP 149, Buea, SWR, Cameroon