



KAIROS Women of Courage: Women, Peace and Security

YEAR FOUR AT A GLANCE
April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022



"Before my engagement in different programs of SSCC, I could not stand up to speak freely. Now, I say what I would like to say without fear, thanks to the trainings we undertook."
—participant in the South Sudan Council of Churches National Women's Program (SSCC-NWP).

This testimony epitomizes the increased confidence and empowerment felt by women participants of the **KAIROS Women of Courage: Women, Peace, and Security program**. Year 4 survey results also reveal long-term positive impacts, despite the pandemic and other challenges faced by program partners: Héritiers de la Justice, DRC, Organización Femenina Popular (OFP), Colombia, South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC), South Sudan, and Wi'am: The Palestinian Conflict Transformation Centre, the West Bank.

Outcomes include higher levels of participation in peace processes and increased knowledge of human rights and gender rights, coupled with enhanced confidence in applying this knowledge.

The pandemic did exert a toll, reflected in partners' results. Although overall self-confidence indicators increased in Year 4, there was a leveling off of a sense of autonomy and self-esteem among program participants, possibly as a result of the long-term impacts of the pandemic, including on mental health.

Despite different contexts, after two years of the pandemic, partners identify common challenges – higher unemployment, deepened economic and food insecurity, more gender-based violence, and greater political instability. As a result of these multiple and intersecting crises, partners report increased displacement of communities and, overall, heightened insecurity, particularly for women. Partners express difficulty in simply surviving as local organizations. Yet, partners and participants also demonstrate great resilience and strength, and a strong sense of pride in overcoming adversity.

Encouragingly, more male allies are participating in WPS programs and partners' campaigns and strategic work, helping to advocate for women's rights and participation

at a political level. Partners received several testimonies from male allies, including Imam Sheikh Maher Assaf in the West Bank: "This [WPS] programming sends a clear message, that the strongest protection we can offer women is through the limiting and ending of the patriarchal system. And, more so, that one of the greatest tools we have for empowering our communities is through ensuring that the voice of women is not simply heard, but that it is welcome for all of society, because she is one of our strongest voices."

GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA FUNDING

In 2018, Global Affairs Canada approved \$4.5 million in funding for this program to support the work of grassroots women-focused organizations. In 2021, in response to the pandemic, the program was extended from 5 to 6 years, to March 2024. This funding is made possible with matching funds from KAIROS member churches and agencies, religious communities, individual donors, labour unions, and other supporters.

KAIROS acknowledges and is appreciative of the flexibility from Global Affairs that has allowed partners to adjust and pivot activities and timelines, enabling them to implement program outcomes during the pandemic.

YEAR 4 RESULTS

With deepening and pervasive gender-based violence, the partners' psychosocial and legal programs are more important than ever. Despite a slight decrease in the number of women receiving psychosocial counselling, participants identified clear outcomes in terms of confidence and participation. Legal support and human rights training have enabled partners to use national and international human rights frameworks and laws to advocate for their rights. Moreover, partners' strategic work with key stakeholders, including male allies, is increasing overall capacity to advocate for women's rights and participation in peace processes at a political and systemic level.

The results in Year 4 are significant:

- Partners provided individual and group counselling and psychosocial support in 61 communities and municipalities.
- 922 women and youth received psychosocial counselling and medical accompaniment after experiencing gender-based violence.

- 460 women and 230 men were reached through 30 gender awareness training sessions.
- Partners organized 61 training sessions on national and international human rights frameworks for 1,273 women and 119 men.
- 29 human rights facilitator training workshops were organized for 277 human rights defenders, including 200 women, 44 men, and 33 youth.
- 240 male allies, civil society actors, and government and public officials were trained as advocates in international human rights frameworks and national laws related to women's rights.
- Partners participated in 21 networks related to women, peace, and security.
- Partners participated in 64 campaigns advocating for legislation, law reform, and the implementation of women's rights, including meetings with governments, letter-writing, communiques, and monthly prayer rallies.
- KAIROS organized 30 meetings about partners with government officials, policy makers, and parliamentarians.
- KAIROS published 49 communications and advocacy strategies including OpEds, LTEs, Blogs, and letters to the government.
- In Year 4, KAIROS launched the **Women of Courage podcast** to highlight the voices and work of partners – women-led human rights organizations, women peacebuilders, land defenders, and environmental activists.

GATHERINGS AND EXCHANGES

In Year 4, KAIROS organized three key online international exchanges and capacity building opportunities.

South-South Gathering

The July 2021 KAIROS South-South gathering was another example of partners' grit and resilience. Partners discussed developing programming on the nexus of women, peace, and security, the climate crisis, and economic insecurity. Since then, KAIROS has worked with partners on **Women peacebuilders build with environmental and economic security**, a concept paper that was developed into a full proposal and submitted to Global Affairs Canada. Partners also identified training and capacity needs and priorities.



Partner Workshops at KAIROS' 20 Anniversary Gathering

WPS partners participated in the KAIROS 20 Anniversary Gathering youth event, as well as in the plenaries and workshops. Two WPS workshops were organized: **Women of Courage: Women, Peace, and Security - A Roundtable with partners**, and **Women, Peace, and Security includes land defense and mitigating climate change**. The latter workshop was conducted in French with English and Spanish translation. About 200 people participated in these online workshops and plenaries.

UN Commission on the Status of Women

KAIROS hosted a virtual parallel event at the 2022 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) on March 22. The workshop, **Women peacebuilders build back with environmental and economic security**, focused on the intersection of Women, Peace, and Security, economic injustice, and the climate crisis. Partnership staff and four partners participated in the panel which reached an international audience of almost 100 people.

STORIES OF CHANGE

Stories of Change and testimonies from program participants and allies continue to illustrate the outcomes and impact of this program. Excerpts from these Stories of Change in Year 4 are included here:

Héritiers de la Justice

"The teachings of Héritiers de la Justice and the different documents of laws received from them help us know our rights and how to fight against sexual gender-based violence. Some women are applying a gender approach in their families, especially in the education of their children. They have broken the silence and are no longer afraid to denounce human rights violations and have become involved in the search for security and peace within families and in the community."—Héritiers de la Justice participant in human rights training.

Organización Feminina Popular

"I have learned a lot from the OFP. Because of them, I have realized the need to include problems that affect women on the public agenda. Security must be seen as that which happens to women in family settings. From my role as Councillor, we must work to ensure the Mayor's Office provides services to victims and survivors of gender-based violence. I found the OFP's participation in local debates on femicide very important because it allows us to understand the seriousness of the problem—its causes, consequences, and measures that must be adopted."—Francisco Javier González Gamboa, local Councillor in Bucaramanga.

South Sudan Council of Churches – National Women's Programme

"I have learned to help others and speak up for the rights of others. I established a small business to earn a living, using the skills that I had learned from Women Link. I thank the Women Link programme at SSCC and the supporters of this women's project in South Sudan."
—Women Link member and parishioner at St. Kizito Parish, Juba, South Sudan.

Wi'am

"Through this programming I have discovered how powerful and strong I am. I have learned to contribute outside of my family and to make my voice heard, and now teach my daughters to be strong and independent, and my son to be respectful and honourable. We colour our futures, and I want my children to have a better future than our present."—Participant in the psychosocial support and training on CEDAW and UNSCR1325, Wi'am, Palestine.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Value of Project.....	\$5,782,860.00
Total Global Affairs contribution.....	\$4,456,516.00
KAIROS contribution	\$1,326,344.00
Project start date	April 1, 2018
Project end date.....	March 31, 2024

Year 4 (2021-2022) financial information

Total project costs	\$828,214
Global Affairs contribution	\$638,256
KAIROS contribution	\$189,958

Women of Courage

#16DaysOfActivism | Women's Rights Organizations Deliver Change Globally



KAIROS continues to be deeply grateful to its partners for their courage, tenacity, and persistent hope, often in the face of extreme risk and adversity. This program would not be possible without the support of member churches, donors and supporters, and Global Affairs Canada. For this, KAIROS is profoundly thankful.

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives



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