



“Since I was trained by [Héritiers de la Justice] on human rights, I have been equipped and have had enough background to help others.... My family and I are a role model to our neighbours and the church. The girls and boys in my church have understood that housework is everyone’s business. Following these teachings, they begin to carry out this work together. Today the boys draw water, clean the house. The men meet once a week and they have a structure called “model men” for behavior change.”—Reverend Jean Paul Mukulu, who developed “model men” after his training with Héritiers de la Justice.

KAIROS Women of Courage: Women, Peace and Security

YEAR FIVE AT A GLANCE
April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

Rev. Mukulu’s experience speaks to a remarkable emerging development within the KAIROS Women of Courage: Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Program. Partners’ work with male allies is bearing fruit in Year 5 and becoming an innovative, effective, and celebrated part of the program.

The six-year WPS Program is designed to work with women human rights defenders and women’s rights organizations. The partners provide women impacted by war and violence with legal, psychosocial and human rights supports to empower them to participate effectively in processes to build equitable, just and sustainable peace from local to international levels. It is built on the partners’ long-standing work and supports their emerging priorities, including this work with male allies as well as the growing nexus of conflict, gender and climate.

The male allyship component was new to partners when the WPS Program launched in 2018. Over the past five years, the partners have demonstrated remarkable innovation and progress in this area – working with men to



KAIROS Women of Courage: Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Program partners:

- Héritiers de la Justice (HJ), Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- Organización Femenina Popular (OFP), Colombia
- South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC), National Women’s Programme
- Wi’am: the Palestinian Conflict Transformation Centre, (Wi’am) West Bank



understand and address systemic barriers that harm and disempower women and girls. Exciting new alliances are emerging as a result, such as Model Men in the DRC and HeForShe in the West Bank.

This work comes at a critical time, when gender-violence and patriarchy are on the rise and women's rights, gender equity and feminisms are being suppressed. It also exemplifies how partners' work is very much a story of resiliency and defiance against injustices in troubled times.

Despite the rise in violence and insecurity, often resulting from intersecting factors such as economic and food insecurities, climate threats and political and civil unrest, all four partners were able to reach the women and communities they serve and, in many cases, to exceed their Year 5 goals.

Buttressing the program's quantifiable progress are the stories of change that speak to transformational experiences, stories such as Rev. Mukulu's that exemplify the impact of one program on one individual – one of many – who has helped change a family, a church, a community and – we hope – a country and the world.

GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA FUNDING

In 2018, Global Affairs Canada approved funding for this program, injecting \$4.5 million over what has become six years to support the work of grassroots women-focused organizations. This funding is made possible with matching funds from KAIROS' member churches and agencies, religious communities, individual donors, labour unions and other supporters.

KAIROS has appreciated the flexibility from Global Affairs that has allowed partners to adjust and pivot activities and timelines, enabling them to implement program outcomes in very challenging contexts, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

YEAR FIVE RESULTS

In Year 5, partners continue to report a significant increase from the previous year's results, except for a slight decrease in the number of women receiving psychosocial support. This was probably the result of several factors including security challenges faced by partners and program participants that affected mobility and participation.

Some specific results in Year 5 include:

- Partners organized teams and committees, providing individual and group counselling and psychosocial support in 40 communities and municipalities.

- 922 women and youth received psychosocial counselling and medical accompaniment after experiencing gender-based violence.
- Partners organized 45 workshops on national human rights law and international frameworks that relate to women in conflict - including CEDAW, UNSCR1325 and other resolutions - for 688 participants (540 women and 148 men).
- 818 human rights defenders (771 women, 47 men) were trained as workshop facilitators on international human rights frameworks and national laws, using a train-the-trainers model.
- 13 trainings with 329 participants, including 173 male allies, trained advocates in international human rights frameworks and national laws that relate to women's rights.
- 279 women were served by legal clinics that provided critical counseling, services for women victims and survivors of human rights abuses.
- 46 advocacy initiatives, including meetings with governments, letters and press releases and monthly prayer rallies were carried out by partners.

KAIROS published 37 communications and advocacy strategies related to the program including op-eds, letters-to-the-editor, blogs and letters to the government. KAIROS organized 44 meetings with government officials, policy makers and parliamentarians on the women, peace and security and partners' priorities. Outcomes and lessons from exchanges and international meetings disseminated on social media included 33 blogs, 1 podcast, 3,020 gender justice subscribers, and 1261 video views.

GATHERINGS AND EXCHANGES

South-South gatherings and exchanges are a pillar of this program, allowing partners to exchange experiences and knowledge, develop strategies and build common cause. While we embraced digital tools to connect during the pandemic, we were also excited to travel and gather in person once again for more meaningful exchanges when restrictions were lifted. In the first half of 2023, KAIROS staff visited and met with all WPS partners in Colombia, South Sudan and West Bank. Because we were not able to attain visas for the DRC, we met up with HJ staff in Kigali, Rwanda.

Partners also attended three in-person international exchanges and capacity building opportunities involving 29 partners and eight KAIROS staff and reaching hundreds of people in-person and online:



1 WCC Assembly

Representatives from KAIROS and WPS partners - SSCC and Wi'am - attended the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Karlsruhe, Germany, August 31 to September 8. The representatives were Aisha Francis and Jane Thirikwa of KAIROS, Jackcilia Salathiel of SSCC and Zoughbi Zoughbi of Wi'am. They blogged about their experience and delivered the workshop—*Lessons from women peacebuilders on transformation to more peaceful, just and sustainable relationships among all peoples and with Creation*.



2 WPS partner participation at COP27 climate conference

KAIROS and For the Love of Creation sent a 10-person delegation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's Conference of the Parties 2022 (COP27) which took place in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, November 8-18. The delegation was framed around the theme, **Decolonizing Climate Action**, with a goal to bring the voices and experiences of women peacebuilders, land defenders, youth and Indigenous peoples to COP27 to raise awareness of their critical role in addressing climate change. They called on governments to support the leadership and solutions of communities most impacted by the climate crisis and hosted a [KAIROS Blanket Exercise](#).



The delegation included representatives from all four WPS partners who spoke about their work on gender, conflict and climate change. They were featured in an event co-hosted by KAIROS and the Equality Fund at the Canadian Pavilion: *Global Perspectives on Climate, Conflict & Peace and Gender Equality*.



3 UN Commission on the Status of Women

WPS partner, Lucy Talgieh, representing Wi'am, and Cheryl McNamara, representing KAIROS, participated in the 67th UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) during its first week: March 6-11. The conference focused on digital access and security for women and girls. Lucy and Cheryl sent an International Women's Day greeting from CSW67 and blogged about their experiences.

Women, Peace and Security and Climate Change

Another example of the tenacity and resilience of women peacebuilders is seen in their response to the climate crisis. Partners have been living and responding to the nexus of conflict, gender and climate at a local level. Now, they are calling for more recognition of their role and experience in policy, program and financing related to climate. The participation of WPS partners in the COP27 delegation centred these voices in discussions of climate change. The Organización Femenina Popular was a recipient of the 2022 Civil Society Leadership Award from Global Affairs Canada, recognizing their work on Women, Peace and Security and Climate Change. Jacqueline O'Neill, Canada's Women, Peace and Security Ambassador, presented this award to the OFP on June 12, 2023. It was a win for the whole program.

STORIES OF CHANGE

Héritiers de la Justice

"There is a change in our economic situation. The members of our structure have received training on empowerment and are progressing well. We no longer have to transport stones from the quarries because each of us is now taking care of our own trade and breeding animals to survive. As far as laws are concerned, each member of our structure knows her rights. We receive information and teach it to others."—Participant in HJ human rights training and its economic empowerment program.

Organización Femenina Popular

"I suffered from gender-based violence and received psychological support from the organization. I consider myself a woman of courage because I have managed to start my life without depending on anyone."—Yennis, OFP participant.

South Sudan Council of Churches – National Women's Programme

"I have witnessed personal impacts in my life and community through my participation in the women's program at SSCC. When I joined other women at Women Link, my commitment and participation at the church and my community led to my first appointment as a Minister in the now defunct Yei River State for two years.... I worked at SSCC's Psychosocial Support Centre for some time before my appointment as a current Member of Parliament. I carry the voices of women and messages of peace in the community, church and in government, urging everyone to work together to bring peace to South Sudan."—Christine Anita Phillip, member of the SSCC National Women's Program and Women Link, Member of Parliament.

Wi'am

"I work at home, but now I want to work with others, including our municipality to adopt CEDAW and UNSCR1325 and to teach and respect these rights, especially in communities where they are attacked. The thing that shocked me the most is that these trainings have changed the way I speak with my children and family. I am more confident, but also more understanding because I know my rights and what is wrong and right. And that is how I want my kids to be."

—Participant in training program on International Law, Wi'am.

Financial Report

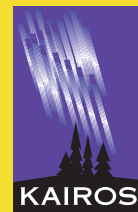
Total Value of Project.....	\$5,782,860.00
Total Global Affairs contribution.....	\$4,456,516.00
KAIROS contribution	\$1,326,344.00
Project start date	April 1, 2018
Project end date.....	March 31, 2024

Year 5 (April 1, 2002–March 31, 2023) financial information

Total project costs	\$871,787
Global Affairs contribution	\$671,836
KAIROS contribution	\$199,951

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 grateful.

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives



Toronto Office
80 Hayden Street
Suite 400
Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2
Tel: 416-463-5312
Toll Free: 1-877-403-8933

Contact

Rachel Warden, Partnerships Manager
rwarden@kairoscanada.org

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