



Agnes Wasuk Petia (SSCC) and Chantal Bilulu at HJ Financial M&E reporting workshop in Nairobi, 2019

# KAIROS Women of Courage: Women, Peace and Security

**AT A GLANCE—  
A LONG GLANCE AT SIX YEARS  
2018–2024**



SSCC and HJ partner exchange, July 2023

*"I am now a capable, strong woman and active in my community. I can now understand the issues women are facing and urge them to work together to find peaceful solutions."*

—A MEMBER OF WOMEN'S LINK, UPPER NILE REGION—MALAKAL, SSCC.

In 2018, KAIROS and its Women of Courage partners embarked on what became a six-year transformative journey to support women survivors of gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict areas, and to create conditions for women to participate in peacebuilding processes in their respective communities and countries.

Funded by Global Affairs Canada and Canadian donors, the **KAIROS Women of Courage: Women, Peace and Security (WPS)** Program was based on a theory of change: when women are provided with opportunities to heal, restore self-esteem, and claim their rights, they can become key voices in peace building processes.

After six years, KAIROS and its WPS partners, who are based in Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Palestine and South Sudan, attest unequivocally that this theory of change works, despite many challenges and risks. And, it requires a relatively small financial investment.

KAIROS' WPS partners include Héritiers de la Justice (HJ), DRC; Organización Femenina Popular (OFP), Colombia; South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC), National Women's Programme; and Wi'am: the Palestinian Conflict Transformation Centre (Wi'am), West Bank. Their capacities to work at community, institutional and policy levels have made them essential partners for the WPS program, which began on April 1, 2018, and ended on March 31, 2024.

These women-led organizations and programs are part of the fabric of their communities. They are on the frontlines of formidable and intersecting challenges that include conflict, gender-based violence, climate change and increasing food and economic insecurity. It has been proven time and time again that peacebuilding processes that involve women are more effective, lasting and equitable than processes that don't include them.

And yet, too often their work in addressing these challenges is undervalued or unseen.



KAIROS delegation with Wi'am group in Jericho, 2019

*"I was in a room with women who were suffering the same problems as myself, and they were sharing them openly.... They helped me in understanding that what I was taught was not necessarily true, and that I am a strong independent person who can make a difference. I knew a woman was beautiful, but now I know not only how they are strong, but that I am as well. I will continue with this group and bring this change to my home, especially to my daughters and son, so that they understand the power and role women have in changing society for the better."*

—A WI'AM PROGRAM PARTICIPANT.

Partners offered legal and psychosocial support to victims and survivors of gender-based violence. They provided human rights training so women know their rights and are able to defend themselves and the rights of others. Partners advocated for women's rights at all governance levels and worked in networks and with allies, including men. They worked to uphold and change legislation nationally and internationally, to increase the number of women in peacebuilding and human rights processes, and to strengthen their voices.

Through education, training, and workshops, women and men were equipped with new and necessary skills and knowledge to be active and transformative members of their communities.

The numbers and stories of change speak for themselves. Over six years, the partners served 32,816 participants, more than 26,000 of whom were women. The four partners reached 40 communities and municipalities and 39 national and regional networks. As a result of the male allyship work, 1,518 men became advocates for women's role in peace and security.

Partners work in very difficult contexts of conflict and human rights violations at the best of times. During the six years of the program, they faced additional challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic and post pandemic realities such as increased violence against women and girls, and regional and national civil conflict.

Yet even in the face of these grim realities, WPS partners were able to adapt and pivot programming to reach communities they serve. They restricted the service areas when travelling became too dangerous and pivoted service delivery online when they could. They collaborated with other organizations to serve populations out-of-reach for them whether due to security threats or extreme weather events. They also used radio and TV, toll-free phone lines, as well as public areas like markets to share information about women's rights.



Human Rights workshop at Wi'am Centre





Women's Economic Empowerment workshop, Héritiers de la Justice, DRC

*"Considering the work done by our organization within the framework of the Women, Peace and Security project, some people from our community have managed to change their approach and behaviour about restricting the rights of women/girls. In certain primary and secondary schools, the rate of female students is increasing, instead of girls being sent into early marriage."*

— A HJ PROGRAM PARTICIPANT AND GRASSROOTS NETWORK LEAD IN WALUNGU TERRITORY.



Héritiers de la Justice staff with beneficiaries of inheritance case, DRC

Six years of predictable funding from Global Affairs Canada and KAIROS allowed the work to grow, and partners to adapt and pivot in the face of the pandemic. In addition, new work emerged to support and enhance peacebuilding, including economic empowerment for women peacebuilders, women-led responses to climate change, as well as strategic alliances and male allyship.

Six years also gave partners time to build bridges with and learn from one another. KAIROS facilitated this relationship building through a series of South-South gatherings and exchanges in Canada and partners' countries. In Canada, partners met with Canadian Parliamentarians to showcase these outcomes and advocate for support for women peacebuilders. KAIROS also facilitated partner participation at important world conferences such as the UN Commission on the Status of Women, World Council of Churches and UN Climate Change Conferences, including organizing a delegation of partners to COP27.

Through these exchanges, partners mentored one another, and staff members gained confidence and strengthened capacity, allowing them to take these new skills to their communities. As well, partners discussed common strategies and developed new programming focusing on peace, climate justice and gender equity.

Partners have also advocated for more policy and resources for the nexus of conflict, climate, and gender. They call for political and financial support for their efforts to address that situation, including supporting climate change adaptation, advocacy, education, and humanitarian assistance for populations displaced by conflict.

Clearly their work must continue and grow. KAIROS seeks government and other donor support for this evolving work.

These women-led grassroots organizations and organizations have proven to us time and time again that they are effective agents in laying the groundwork for sustainable, just and equitable peace and environmental sustainability.



*“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.”*

—A HJ PROGRAM PARTICIPANT.



Youth group, OFP, Colombia

*It makes me very happy to be part of the OFP's youth movement, because not only do I learn from art, culture, I stay animated and entertained, but I feel that my life has a meaning, a struggle, an expression of transformation. In my house, my dad motivates us a lot, my mom too and my sister is my example, she is also in the OFP. I have been very motivated to study, to create and now I think of all the possibilities that I have in my life.”*

—AN OFP YOUTH LEADER.

## RESULTS IN NUMBERS

KAIROS' WPS program directly reached more than 30,000 people, and countless more indirectly. Here are program outcome highlights:

- 4,850 women victims and survivors of gender-based violence received psychosocial and medical counselling and care.
- 1,567 women used legal services provided by partners.
- 6,044 women and 3,189 men participated in gender awareness training.
- 312 human rights training sessions were held on national and international frameworks in which 6,184 women and 913 men participated.
- 146 human rights facilitator training workshops were held in which 3,907 women and 147 men participated.

### Partners' advocacy:

Partners participated in 303 campaigns advocating for legislation, law reform, and implementation that relate to women, peace and security, and 252 educational campaigns directed at male allies in government, multilateral organizations, and media.

### KAIROS advocacy and communication

KAIROS published 198 communications and advocacy strategies related to the program including op-eds, letters-to-the-editor, blogs and letters to the government. KAIROS organized a total of 183 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 182 blogs, and 13,499 WPS video views.

Organizationally, there were a total of 554K web-users; a Facebook reach of 323K and a Twitter reach of more than 550K.

The story and results of this program are also illustrated in the infographic on page 6.



KAIROS staff and partners at COP27, 2022

*"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. I am also involved in law-making at the legislature."*

—CHRISTINE ANITA PHILLIP, MEMBER OF THE SSCC NATIONAL WOMEN'S PROGRAM AND WOMEN LINK, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.



Women's group in Thabra, Wiam, 2019

*"I was a victim of gender-based violence from my partner, and I have received support from the OFP for two years now. Ever since I got involved with the OFP, my life has changed a lot. I have learned many things: to know my worth as a woman, to love myself....I feel more empowered, and I now demand my rights so that other women do not suffer the way I did."*

—AN OFP PROGRAM PARTICIPANT.

## GATHERINGS AND EXCHANGES

South-South gatherings and exchanges were a pillar of the WPS Program, enabling partners to exchange experiences and knowledge, develop strategies and build common cause.

Over the course of the program, KAIROS facilitated 28 South-South gatherings and exchanges in person and online with 149 partner staff and participants, including 112 women and 37 men. These reached thousands of people in person in partner countries and Canada.

KAIROS supported partners' participation in international and multilateral trainings events and conferences. Some of these learning opportunities included the Equitas Training in Montreal (2019, 2023), Women Deliver (2018, 2023), UN Africa Climate Change (2023), UN Commission on the Status of Women (2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023), COP27 (November 2022) and COP28 (December 2023), World Council of Church Assembly in Germany (August 2022), Centre For Gender, Peace & Governance Training of Trainers workshops in Nairobi (March 2023) and Ecumenical Network on South Sudan (January 2024).

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Value of Project.....\$5,782,860

Total Global Affairs contribution.....\$4,456,516

KAIROS contribution .....\$1,326,344

Project start date .....April 1, 2018

Project end date.....March 31, 2024



# Women of Courage

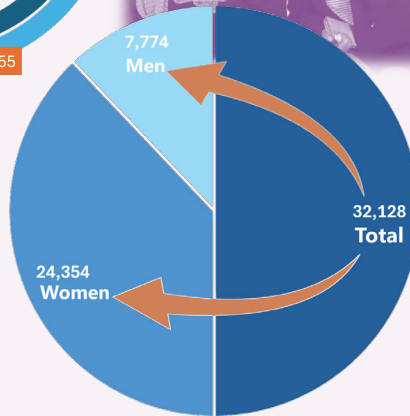
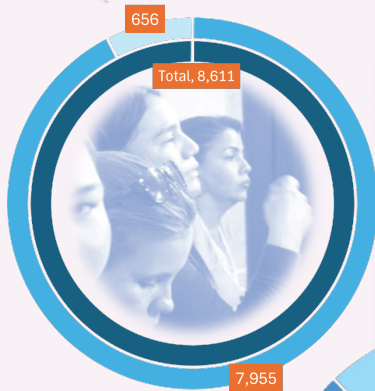
Women, Peace and Security 2018-2024

The data comes from the Final Report's cumulative results, annual reports, end-of-program interviews with program partners and consultations of several documents produced by KAIROS and partners over the life of the program. Throughout these reports the terms "program participants" and "beneficiaries" are used to refer to women, men and youth who participate in partners' programs. In this Infographic only "program participant" is used.



**4 organizations (OPF, HJ, SSCC, and Wi'am)\*** in **4 countries (Colombia, DRC, South Sudan, and Palestine)** respectively embarked on a transformative journey, a project to support women survivors of gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict areas.

In **6 years** the program empowered women, transforming them into **Peacebuilders**, community leaders, and human rights advocates.



**40 communities/municipalities served, 34**

**Community-based clinics, and 39 national or regional networks** that partners participate in related to women, peace and security.

**485 Human Rights workshops and trainings for trainers**

**936 Advocacy and education campaigns** including some directed at male allies in government, multilateral organizations and media.

**1,518 men** became advocates of women's rights.



## Time line

All Partners Gatherings  
Exchanges, International meetings and Partners visits

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024



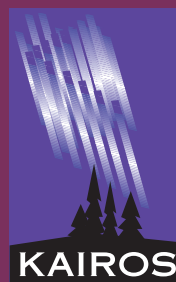
Women's rights and gender justice workshop, Wi'am Centre, West Bank

*"I know that patriarchy is not about protections, but instead about fear and control, and I also learned that we are better as a community when we are equal, not just in theory, but more so in practice. I now know that it is gender-based discrimination, when the teacher only calls on the men to participate, or when we are expected to engage, and women are expected to be silent."*

—A MALE PARTICIPANT OF WI'AM'S UNIVERSITY GENDER-SENSITIVITY TRAINING PROGRAM.



OFP's Purple Tents campaign to address gender-based violence, San Paolo, Colombia



**KAIROS:**  
Canadian Ecumenical  
Justice Initiatives

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**KAIROS** is 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 generous support of member churches, donors and supporters and Global Affairs Canada. For this, **KAIROS** is profoundly grateful.

**KAIROS** acknowledges that the Toronto office is on the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Seneca and Mississaugas of the Credit Indigenous Peoples.