



Build community resilience against GBV for sustainable development

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN!!

#WorldYWCA  
#EndSGBV  
#feminist



AWARENESS | AGENCY | ADVOCACY | ACCOUNTABILITY

2024  
IMPACT BRIEF

# PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD



*\*Note: Variance between funding and expenditure reflects cash flow timing; covered by FY2025 funds.*



## WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS AND FAITH-BASED ORGANISATIONS (WROS & FBOs) REACHED

EGYPT

**Primary**  
10+ WROs & FBOs

**Secondary**  
Expanded collaboration via RiseUp! and SEAH trainings with 20+ orgs

### KEY LAWS & POLICIES WORKED ON IN 2024

Domestic violence laws, SEAH policies, guardianship rights, political participation



## WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS AND FAITH-BASED ORGANISATIONS (WROS & FBOs) REACHED

KENYA

**Primary**  
8 WROs & FBOs

**Secondary**  
15+ secondary partners via CSO Networks, policy coalitions

### KEY LAWS & POLICIES WORKED ON IN 2024

Two-thirds gender rule, GBV policies, Kisii & Migori gender policies, Sexual Offences Act.



## WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS AND FAITH-BASED ORGANISATIONS (WROS & FBOs) REACHED

PALESTINE

**Primary**  
5 WROs & FBOs

**Secondary**  
20+ grassroots orgs and local councils supporting RiseUp! Leadership training

### KEY LAWS & POLICIES WORKED ON IN 2024

Child marriage exception, domestic violence laws, SEAH policies, youth participation.



## WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS AND FAITH-BASED ORGANISATIONS (WROS & FBOs) REACHED

SOUTH SUDAN

**Primary**  
3 WROs & FBOs

**Secondary**  
Expanded collaboration via RiseUp! and SEAH trainings with 20+ orgs

### KEY LAWS & POLICIES WORKED ON IN 2024

Anti-GBV Bill, Maputo Protocol, Family Law Bill, Girl Child Education Bill, 35% representation.

# YW4A OPERATING CONTEXT AND STRATEGIC FOCUS IN 2024

- In 2024, the Young Women for Awareness, Agency, Advocacy, and Accountability (YW4A) Programme remained dedicated to advancing young women's leadership and tackling sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) across Egypt, Kenya, Palestine, and South Sudan.
- This year, the programme continued in highly restrictive environments shaped by significant socio-political upheavals, conflict, economic instability, and extreme weather events.
- Despite these conditions, and guided by the YW4A Theory of Change, partners remained focused and made substantial progress across four key areas:



## PATHWAY 1

*Strengthening advocacy and organisational capacity*



## PATHWAY 2

*Expanding transformative leadership opportunities for young women*



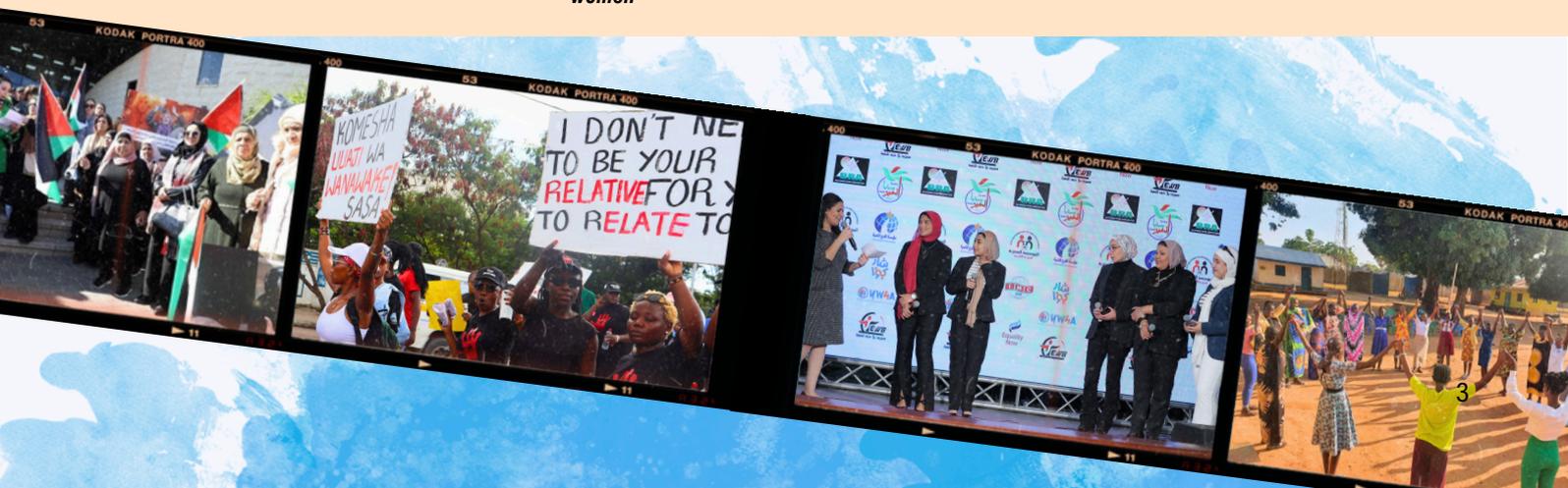
## PATHWAY 3

*Promoting gender-transformative norms in partnership with faith-based actors*



## PATHWAY 4

*Driving legal and policy reforms for long-term change*



# PATHWAY 1

## Strengthening advocacy and organisational capacity

### Our work in 2024:

We strengthened women's rights organisations (WROs) locally and internationally through targeted training workshops and coalition-building opportunities.

### Our aim:

To deepen advocacy skills, expand policy influence, and build powerful, sustainable movements led by and for young women.

### Our strategy:

YW4A continued to strengthen the organisational vitality and advocacy capacity of WROs through digital and legal advocacy trainings, policy engagement, and legal reform participation. These interventions were shaped by each WRO's AOCA mid-term self-assessment, which identified strengths, gaps, and strategic needs.

### Achievements per Country

Egypt



- Boosted WRO capacity to participate in **national gender policy dialogue**
- Collaborated with the Hurra Coalition to elevate **collective impact**

Kenya



- Formed a **15-member** WRO coalition promoting young women's leadership in decision-making
- Engaged with the SOAWR Coalition to strengthen **regional advocacy**

Palestine



- Provided legal advocacy **training on GBV and discriminatory laws**
- Engaged **Sharia and Ecclesiastical court judges** for family law reform
- Partnered with the Hurra Coalition for **regional momentum**

South Sudan



- Supported WROs to **mobilise** communities against harmful traditional practices
- Strengthened **regional ties** through the SOAWR Coalition

# 23

WROs partners across 4 countries engaged

# 17

of these WROs engaged since programme began inception

Focused capacity-building driven by WRO-defined priorities



Media advocacy training in Alexandria, Egypt.



YW4A East African colleagues joined other SCS partners in the East Africa Linking and Learning Event facilitated by the Dutch MFA.

# PATHWAY 2

## Providing young women with transformative leadership opportunities

### Our work in 2024:

Through Riseup! Leadership training, we reached 3,693 young women in Egypt, Kenya, Palestine, and South Sudan. Despite challenges in Palestine due to the security situation, engagement remained strong. In total, 13,549 young women have now participated in the programme—99% of our target of 13,700.

### Our aim:

To give young women the tools, support, and space they need to grow as leaders and drive change in their communities and beyond.

### Our strategy:

We helped young women build their leadership and advocacy skills through the RiseUp! model, giving them the agency to take the lead in advocacy, community decision-making, peace efforts, and learning across generations.

### Achievements per Country

Egypt



- **2,129 young women** were engaged, bringing the total to **4,302**.
- Mentorship initiatives connected young women with experienced professionals, encouraging intergenerational learning and support.

Kenya



- **392 young women** were newly trained in 2024, bringing the total to **4,406**.
- Many of these young leaders are active in county-level youth advisory councils.

Palestine



- **845 young women** were reached in 2024, bringing the total to **2,642**, despite significant challenges posed by the security context.

South Sudan



- **327 young women** received training, contributing to a total of **2,199** reached.
- Many took part in peacebuilding dialogues and national reconciliation processes, influencing governance and conflict transformation.

# 3,693

Young women reached in 2024

# 13,549

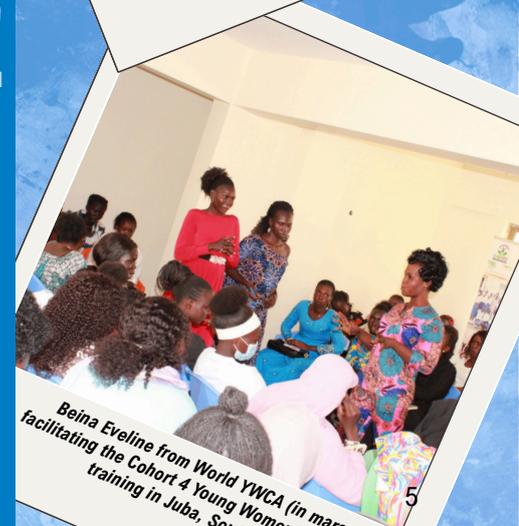
Total young women reached to date

# 99%

Progress toward endline target of 13,700



Monica Aziz, the World YWCA MENA Technical Programme manager facilitating a session on PFA with young women in Alexandria, Egypt.



Beina Eveline from World YWCA (in maroon) facilitating the Cohort 4 Young Women's Leadership training in Juba, South Sudan.

# PATHWAY 3

## Promoting gender transformative norms in partnership with faith-based actors

### Our work in 2024:

Young women worked with faith leaders and institutions to challenge gender inequality, address GBV, and promote gender justice. Interfaith and intergenerational dialogues were central to shifting harmful norms and encouraging inclusive practices in religious settings.

### Our aim:

To challenge harmful gender norms and promote gender equality by working with young women and faith-based actors, including religious leaders and institutions.

### Our strategy:

We worked with young women and faith leaders through interfaith and intergenerational dialogues, gender-sensitisation workshops, training on positive masculinities, community awareness campaigns, and faith-based comms materials.

### Achievements per Country

- Collaborations with Al-Azhar and the Coptic Orthodox Church led to gender-sensitive policies; disseminated manual on **political participation and women's rights** in Islam to imams and church leaders.
- Al-Azhar scholars developed a training toolkit, **Women Leadership in Islam**
- Faith leaders in Meru, Migori and Kisii collaborated with young women's groups to promote **inclusive practices within religious and community settings**
- **Interfaith forums** resulted in religious leaders participating in consultations to align the Family Protection Bill with Sharia principles, easing public resistance
- Religious leaders **publicly opposed early & forced marriage**, citing scripture
- For the first time, a woman—**Arafa S. Juma**—was elected to a top Muslim leadership role, now heading Gender, Child, and Social Welfare at the South Sudan Islamic Council

Egypt



Kenya



Palestine



South Sudan



# 15

Interfaith dialogues and forums held across the 4 countries

# 30+

Faith actors (religious leaders and institutions) actively participated in community dialogues and SBCC activities

# 4

Programme sites integrated faith-based messaging into radio, theatre, and sermons to promote gender-just values

Scripture-based anti-GBV messages were developed and disseminated in the 4 countries adapted to local faith contexts



Young women and faith leaders in the programme at the National Independent Church of Africa Kenya Gender Policy validation meeting in Meru County, Kenya.



Judge Scarlet Bishara, first female judge in the Evangelical Lutheran Ecclesiastical Court; Minister Muna Khalili, Palestinian Minister of Women's Affairs; and Judge Somoud Damiri, first female Chief Prosecutor and Shari'a Court of Appeal judge are active in the programme work.

# PATHWAY 4

## Advancing critical legal and policy reforms to drive sustainable change

### Our work in 2024:

YW4A supported young women in leading legal and policy advocacy across Egypt, Kenya, Palestine, and South Sudan. Working alongside WROs and FBOs, they pushed for reforms to protect and promote young women's rights.

### Our aim:

To advance legal and policy reforms by supporting young women to take the lead in advocacy efforts that promote their rights and influence decision-making at all levels.

### Our strategy:

We supported young women and WROs to engage with national and international decision-makers, drive legal and policy reforms, and lead community-based advocacy initiatives.

### Achievements per Country

Egypt



- Young women independently led a **UN CRC submission** and **peer-to-peer campaigns on political participation**.
- Young leaders **co-designed** and launched digital campaigns & training manuals.

Kenya



- Influenced the **Sexual Offences Act** through lived-experience submissions on marital rape and age of consent; directly engaged with the **Two-Thirds Gender Principle Working Group** and county governments in Meru, Migori, and Kisii.

Palestine



- **Theatre, radio, podcast, and video** used to document child marriage and GBV.
- A young woman led a **memo to the UN office** in Ramallah calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and protection of women in conflict

South Sudan



- Young women participated in the **constitution-making process** and joined the technical working group finalising **Anti-GBV and Family Law Bills** with the Ministry of Gender

# 10+

laws and policies influenced across the 4 countries

# 51

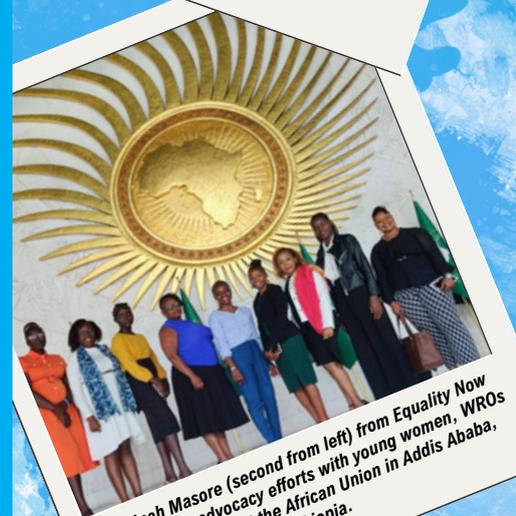
Young women self-led advocacy initiatives, e.g. policy papers, digital campaigns, art and theatre activism, legal awareness efforts, community dialogues, media projects, and infrastructure improvements

Young women led the development and submission of reports to international human rights bodies such as the UN CRC, HRC56 and CSW68

Strengthened WRO engagement in national and regional coalitions e.g. SOAWR and Hurra Coalition



Young women and the Equality Now MENA Director, Dima Dabbous (third from right) at a Hurra Coalition meeting.



Peninah Masore (second from left) from Equality Now coordinating advocacy efforts with young women, WROs and colleagues at the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

# CONFLICT SENSITIVITY

## Highlights

### Egypt

- Advocacy was coded in neutral language to avoid state backlash.
- Meetings are held in private venues and require pre-approvals.
- Digital campaigns became a safer channel for mobilisation.

### Kenya

- Protests against tax hikes led to security concerns. Activities were paused during demonstrations and shifted online when needed.
- Young women received guidance on safe protesting practices, preserving civic participation and well-being.

### Palestine

- Shifted to hybrid models (online + in-person) amid mobility restrictions.
- Used WhatsApp security alerts and decentralised planning to maintain engagement.
- Trained young women on GBV documentation and digital safety for advocacy under surveillance conditions.

### South Sudan

- Programming limited to stable areas (e.g., Juba); transport only via air in volatile regions like Yei.
- Conflict mapping used to adjust schedules and ensure safety.
- Peacebuilding dialogues facilitated by young women in post-conflict areas.

# SAFEGUARDING AGAINST SEAH

## Context-Specific Adaptations

### Egypt

- No SEAH incidents. Policies reviewed before each activity; informed consent processes rigorously followed.
- WROs trained on complaints and referral systems.

### Kenya

- SEAH incorporated into all RiseUp! trainings for cohorts 3 & 4.
- Teachers, Lead ToTs, and partners trained.
- Psycho-social support and Pre-Event Risk Assessments ensured a safe environment.

### Palestine

- YWCA updated and shared safeguarding policy mid-year.
- Preparations underway for 2025 review of SEAH tools and dissemination practices.

### South Sudan

- Orientation before African Union events prepared young women to identify and report SEAH risks.
- CAPaD included safeguarding against SEAH training in every major engagement.



## Sustaining Impact Beyond 2025

### Egypt

- Young women trained under YW4A now lead peer-to-peer sessions in communities and online
- A young women's committee, supported by WROs and women's clubs, will sustain these efforts
- RiseUp! manual, SEAH policies, and positive masculinity curricula integrated into FBO and WRO programming
- National advocacy coalition under discussion, subject to funding availability

### Palestine

- YWCA Palestine integrating YW4A tools into core programmes despite ongoing conflict
- Key outputs include GBV referral matrix, human rights training, and digital advocacy resources
- Forthcoming documentary highlights the impact of war on young women
- Tools aligned with national advocacy strategies
- Continued support for digital organising, interfaith collaboration, and young women's mental health

### Kenya

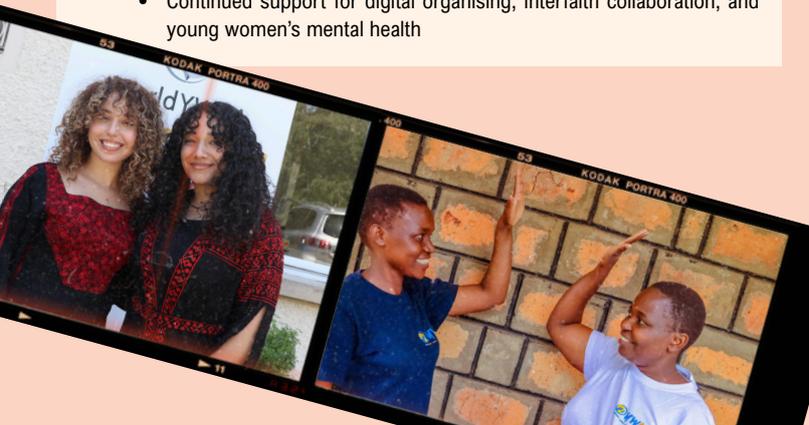
- Over 45,000 young women engaged through FEMspaces are being supported to sustain their activism
- YWCA Kenya has opened membership to FEMspace alumni
- Legal guides, advocacy tools, and updated RiseUp! manuals distributed for continued use
- WROs and FBOs received resource mobilisation support and links to proposal opportunities
- Refresher trainings held on Psychological First Aid and Feminist Consultation Methodology
- Interfaith partners working to institutionalise gender-responsive practices and positive masculinity sessions

### Palestine

- Final cohort of young women trained in partnership with schools, FBOs, and YWCA Juba
- WRO coalitions to continue providing mentorship, advocacy, and technical support
- Programme assets (e.g. laptops, vehicles, materials) retained by local partners
- Trained religious leaders to continue promoting community safety, interfaith dialogue, and positive masculinities
- Young women to remain engaged in civic spaces and constitutional development processes

### Cross-cutting Impact

- Leadership, tools, and structures embedded in local institutions across all countries
- Young women now leading, organising, and mobilising through safe spaces, clubs, and digital platforms
- A growing movement is in place, equipped, connected, and sustained beyond YW4A





In cooperation with



Ministry of Foreign Affairs